

Conference of Branches Committee
c/o Elder Rudy Leutzinger, Clerk
15500 E. 44th Terrace S.
Independence, MO 64055
July 11, 2005

Restoration Branches
United States

Dear Saints:

Several pastors and interested elders in the Independence area have investigated the legality and viability of a joint conference of branches as a means to foster church identity and unity among Restoration Branches. That interest has drawn us together, some as representatives of our respective branches. Others, especially in other areas of the country, have become interested in the possibility and requested an opportunity to participate in planning a joint conference of branches for this fall. Since you or your branch may be interested, we are writing to invite you to join us in planning a joint conference.

The work is growing exponentially in Kenya, Nigeria, India, and Nepal and opening in Peru and Liberia. Meanwhile, God's covenant people are moving into to our own neighborhoods at alarming rates, all in need of hearing the latter-day gospel. The needs are much greater than the resources we have, either as fragmented branches or through missionary boards. While many of us do not see the overwhelming need, the saints in Nigeria do. They recently voted to send missionaries to us in hopes of convincing us to unify. Because a joint conference can provide enormous help for evangelism, the Restoration Seventy have unanimously endorsed a conference as long as it does not try to impose on the branches. A copy of their letter is enclosed.

A joint conference can provide many other benefits for Restoration Branches. In our opinion it is the only means we know by which we can fulfill the divine direction to provide voice and vote for the saints as a single body. A brochure identifying purposes and reasons for holding a conference is included herein. We hope that this might furnish some fuel for discussions among the membership of your branch.

We understand the potential that a joint conference provides for aspiring leaders. We also remember how conferences were used in the past to impose predetermined agendas. While such fears are real, they should not hinder the saints from making the attempt. The benefits outweigh the risks. If a conference makes decisions or imposes restrictions that are unacceptable to participating branches or saints, they can ignore them while working for improvements or they can withdraw. However, if a conference unifies the saints and facilitates the preaching of the gospel at home and abroad, the work will prosper and the Lord will bless us with an outpouring of confirming blessings.

We invite you or another from your branch to attend our next meeting. It will be held at Independence Branch, 707 Allen Road, Independence, MO 64050, on Saturday, August 20th at 10:00 AM. If you would like to discuss any specific point or issue, please feel free to contact any of the brethren listed below.

In Gospel Bonds,

Conference of Branches Committee

Elder Bob Moore, Chair	Zarahemla	(816) 650-4098
Elder Rudy Leutzinger, Clerk	Independence	(816) 373-1637
Elder Jim Noland	Devon Park	(816) 373-8684
Elder Carl Cogan	Washington	(816) 781-3525
Elder Steve Ferdig	Washington	(816) 630-6033
Elder Gary Metzger	Spanish	(816) 833-5140
Elder Dan Sherer	Atherton	(816) 650-9357
Elder Mark Deitrick	Geneseo, IL	(309) 737-5800
Elder Steve Marshall	Independence	(816) 254-8311
Elder Jack Hagensen	Farview	(816) 252-8410
Elder Lee Hillard	Atherton	(816) 796-8451
Elder Vaughn Cornish	Outreach	(816) 373-1826
Seventy Neil Simmons	Atherton	(816) 795-0820