

... I will build my church,

and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

[Matthew 16:19]

And the Lord called his people Zion,
because they were of one heart and one mind,
and dwelt in righteousness;

[DeCt Sec. 36:2b]

Behold, this I have given unto you a parable,
and it is even as I am: I say unto you,
Be one; and if ye are not one, ye are not mine.

[DeCt Sec. 36:6a]

"Of course they were all independent branches
and had no uniform identification one with the other,
but at the time of the conference of 1852, there were
representatives from all of them assembled there at that
conference. There were resolutions passed there to
recognize all the branches, wherever six or more members
assembled together, who had been members of the
old organization, as members of the Reorganized Church."

[Testimony of Edmund C. Briggs - The Temple Lot Case - 1 page 206]

The Same Church:

"Yes, sir, I maintain that if a church organization...,
that is, it would be the same unless there was a radical change
made in its organic structure, or faith and doctrine; but it would
be the same body if the rules and regulations added were in
harmony with its organic laws, and particularly would this be
the case if the same body of people substantially remained with
it and came under the government of these rules and regulations.
So that it is the same church even if it has additional or added
rules for its government in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants,
so long as they are not in conflict with its organic laws and
fundamental principles.

CONFERENCE OF RESTORATION BRANCHES PURPOSES

- 1) TO CREATE ORDER; but NOT a new church.
 - For any organization not to constitute a new church, it must be an organization of an existing church. When the first conference occurred in June, 1852 it was a conference of branches from the existing church that Joseph the martyr restored. That is why those saints said they were not forming a new church: "There was no intention at this time of organizing a new church, but these men were acting as members and officers of the original church, regulating and setting in order the church..." (CH, Vol 3: 211). For any joint conference to not be a conference for a new church, it must be a conference of branches from the Reorganized Church.
 - The first conference of the Reorganization enacted 9 resolutions to bind themselves together as the church of Jesus Christ (CH, Vol 3:209-211).
 - There were no higher offices. It was not a new church. The conference only had the power that they the members gave it outside of conference. It had no control over the branches but what the branches gave it.
- 2) TO ANSWER WHO IS THE CHURCH—WHO ARE THE MEMBERS.
 - To identify and proclaim ourselves as the body of Jesus Christ; to be the lawful succession of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.
 - To claim all the rights and privileges as legal heirs of the RLDS church.
 - To provide a united testimony:
 - 1) to the Lord, from a United Body, for His joy;
 - 2) to those within the Church, as to who is the church, for our joy and knowledge;
 - 3) to the world, that they might know.
 - To provide a corporate body to which the international churches especially (and US) can affiliate as part of this church. It is very difficult for the churches in foreign lands to not be able to say who are their brothers when so far away, and very difficult for those asking to sense who is the church.
- 3) TO ANSWER WHO ARE THE AUTHORIZED PRIESTHOOD OF THE CHURCH.
 - To grant assurance who are recognized members and priesthood to represent the church between participating branches as transfers and exchange of ministry occur.
- 4) TO ASSURE UNITY OF DOCTRINE.
 - As independent branches, it is easy to create divergent interpretations of doctrine.
 - A Conference of Restoration Branches will help to create and maintain a consistent interpretation of doctrine.
- 5) TO COOPERATE TOGETHER IN ACTIVITIES:
 - (For ex: Reunions, Retreats, Youth, A Credit-Union, Storehouse, Zion-Building Associations)
- 6) TO COOPERATE TOGETHER IN PREACHING THE GOSPEL TO THE WORLD.
 - To establish a united plan that can and will be supported by those who approve it.
 - To create the communication necessary so that it can and will be done.
- 7) TO GATHER THE SCATTERED BRANCHES IN ONE, AS THEY CHOSE.
 - The parts of the body (legs, arms, feet, hands) lie separated, not attached one to the other.