

**National Conference of the United States of America
Independence, MO
November 17, 2007**

To the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches:

Dear Saints:

In response to JCR #48, a National Conference was convened for Restoration Branches in the United States of America on October 18, 2007. Although good fellowship prevailed throughout the three days of proceedings, the Spirit was particularly evident on Saturday, October 20, 2007. The Conference was originally convened to address two questions and the four resolutions from the African National Conferences. This and other business was also completed, as follows:

USNCR 1) In order to achieve legal standing and conduct business in the United States, the Finance Committee brought a resolution to allow incorporation which was approved, as follows:
JOINT CONFERENCE OF RESTORATION BRANCHES INCORPORATION
WHEREAS: The Joint Conference of Restoration Branches is an International Organization conducting business on a Global Scale; and
WHEREAS: The current, and foreseeable future of world social and political events have driven many countries, including the United States of America, to enact laws for the protection of its citizens; and
WHEREAS: These laws have seriously impeded the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches from conducting business both domestically and abroad under its current legal status; and
WHEREAS: The Joint Conference of Restoration Branches, currently operates under the Fictitious Name Statute of the State of Missouri and is unable to own real property, open new banking accounts, brokerage accounts and make agreements with other businesses necessary for the proper conducting of its business; and
WHEREAS: GCR 866 allows for a corporate body in one location to do the business of the church under the direction of one or more trustees while remaining an unincorporated association in other jurisdictions;
THEREFORE:
BE IT RESOLVED: That this national Conference of Restoration Branches hereby direct the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches Officers to incorporate under the laws of the state of Missouri as a Not For Profit Ecclesiastical Association for the purpose of doing the business of the Church; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the presiding Bishop and his counselors shall serve as trustees for the corporation when the JCRB appoints this council; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That until that council is appointed, a man of sterling character holding the office of bishop or high priest shall be named as the trustee of the corporation; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the treasurer and vice-president of the JCRB shall serve as assistant trustees.

The JCRB is asked to take note of this action.

USNCR 2) In answer to the question “**Do we want the Seventy to form a Quorum?**”, the USNC responds: “The JCRB affirms their desire to the Seventy that they form a quorum of Seventy.”

USNCR 3) In answer to the question “**Do we want the High Priests to consider their presiding responsibilities?**”, the USNC responds: “Yes.”

The JCRB is requested to note these positions during subsequent deliberations.

USNCR 4) The resolution titled **Cohabitation** from the African National Conferences (see JCRB TN

1) was amended to insert the word “rights” in the final resolve and approved as follows:

Cohabitation

Whereas:

1. We believe that one does not have to be married to be baptized and confirmed.
2. We believe that one does not have to be married to be called and ordained to the priesthood.
3. Some have erred by baptizing and confirming individuals who are not married, nevertheless they are cohabitating, as if married.
4. Some have also erred by ordaining to priesthood, members that are cohabitating.

Therefore be it resolved:

1. All caution be exerted by the church to ensure that individuals to be baptized and confirmed are not cohabitating.
2. All caution be exerted by the church to ensure that those individuals called to the priesthood are not cohabitating before being ordained.
3. Individuals that are already baptized and confirmed members of the church who are cohabitating would be guided by the church to ensure that they do all they can to make their relationship legal, and right before God.
4. Priesthood, already ordained, who are cohabitating should be guided by the church to ensure that they do all they can to make their relationship legal, and right before God.
5. Cohabitation should not be tolerated within the church. Therefore, if every effort by the church to ensure that the couple make their relationship legal, and right before God fails, the church must then ask the couple to stop their cohabitation by separating until they be joined together in the covenant of marriage.

We further resolve that if the above measures cannot be adhered to by the couple, then the church should use the church courts to make a decision on withholding their membership rights until they can demonstrate true repentance.

The JCRB is asked to approve this resolution as the law of the Church.

USNCR 5) The resolution titled Fornication (JCRB TN 2) was amended to strike the fifth and eighth points of the resolve and the word “dating” in the third whereas and to add a reference to parents in the same whereas. With these amendments, the resolution was passed:

Fornication

1. Whereas, the Church of Jesus Christ as the bride of Christ is called unto holiness and righteous living.
2. And whereas, the church has been called upon not to conform to the world but to be transformed by the word of God and to present her body as a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God.
3. And whereas, the parents and the church have digressed from this high calling by accepting worldly cultures that promote immodest dressing, limited parental guidance, the use of drugs and alcohol, the marking of the body, the break down of social order, unsupervised access to the internet, television, music and other literature.
4. And whereas, the above has led some in the Lord’s church into the sin of fornication.

We therefore resolve:

1. That God must be honored in our lives, individually and collectively as a church.
2. That we need to take a bold stand against these practices that have brought the church to dishonor.
3. That fornication and all that leads to it must not be tolerated in the church as it causes grievous harm to both the body and spirit of the individual and to the bride of Christ.
4. That the church should follow the instruction given in the Doctrine and Covenants (42:12a) on the mode of dressing and embrace modesty.
5. That the church and parents must rise up to their duty to give guidance to their youth to grow up into responsible and righteous adults. In this respect parents must supervise internet access, T.V. viewing, music listened to by their children and literature they read.

6. That the Church must institute programs that will provide opportunities for young people from needy families thus guarding against their vulnerability.

The JCRB is asked to approve this resolution as the law of the Church.

USNCR 6) The Conference approved the following resolution:

Whereas, the JCRB desires to experiment upon the word of God; be it

Resolved that this Conference authorize the president of the Conference, and two others of his appointment, to be set apart by the laying on of hands to go to Brother Wallace B. Smith and petition him, in all humility, to attend the Conference of April 2008 for the specific task of bringing to this portion of the Church the counsel from God required to set the Church in proper order and to provide for the lawful succession of his prophetic office.

The JCRB is asked to take note of this resolution and any subsequent actions.

USNCR 7) The Conference authorized the formation of Priesthood Quorums:

Whereas the Aaronic Priesthood desire to organize themselves into quorums, and

Whereas Doctrine & Covenants 118:1c says we must have conference approval to form quorums;

Therefore be it resolved that this conference approve by voice and vote and instruct the elders, priests, teachers, and deacons to so organize themselves according to Doctrine & Covenants 118:1c.

The JCRB is requested to endorse this action and recommend a procedure for recognizing priesthood quorums.

USNCR 8) The Conference, by amendment, added a definition of marriage as the first paragraph in the resolve and the bullet point beginning “Witness to the church, ...” in the next paragraph, before passing the resolution on Polygamy:

Polygamy (JCRB/ANC TN 3)

1. Whereas we in the church of Jesus Christ are called to be a virtuous and chaste people, and;
2. Whereas we believe that we are called to teach that marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman and God; one wife and one husband, throughout there lives in the world except in the case of death, and;
3. Whereas the church in times past has been brought under reproach regarding polygamy, and;
4. Whereas we believe the saving grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is extended to all whatever their circumstance, and;
5. Whereas polygamy is an abomination before God, and is not accepted in the church, and;
6. Whereas in order for those who are in the sins of polygamy to be permitted to make their covenant with the Lord through baptism,

Therefore be it resolved:

1. Marriage is the union of one man to one woman. Any other union such as polygamy or same sex unions are in disaccord with God’s law and is not recognized by the Church as a lawful marriage.
2. The polygamous husband must demonstrate true repentance by taking the following steps;
 - Recognize that he has violated his marriage covenant with his wife and with God.
 - Witness to the church, and manifest by his works, that he has separated himself from the sin of polygamy.
 - Divorce his other wife or wives, and maintain his Covenant wife.
 - Distribute the rightful portion of the family properties to the other wife or wives.
 - Accept full responsibility for the children resulting from these other marriages or relationships, and commit to support them until they can care for themselves.
 - The covenant husband may be free to enter into the covenant through baptism if these conditions are met.
3. The Covenant wife must also demonstrate true repentance by taking the following steps;
 - Recognize that she is living in the sin of polygamy.

- Witness to the church, and manifest by her works, that she has separated herself from the sin of polygamy.
 - When the Covenant wife has fulfilled these conditions then she may be received into the church through the covenant of baptism.
4. The other wife, or wives, must also demonstrate true repentance by taking the following steps;
 - Recognize that she is living in the sin of adultery.
 - Witness to the church and manifest by her works, that she has separated herself from the sin of adultery.
 - Divorce the man.
 - Allow the children (if any) unrestricted access to their father and to his emotional and material support.
 - When the other wife or wives have fulfilled the attached conditions then she may be received into the Church through the ordinance of baptism.
 5. The Elders of the Pan-African Elders Conference have prayerfully debated and considered the issue of polygamy and recognize that it is an abomination before God. We also believe that the practice of multiple divorces and remarriages is also an abomination and it is another form of polygamy.
 6. We recognize that marriage is a sacred covenant within the church, and that every effort should be made to preserve or restore a failing marriage. We believe that one man should have one wife, and they should cleave unto each other until death do they part.
 7. The children in the polygamous marriage are free from the sin of their parents. They are free to enter into covenant with the Lord, with the consent of their parents, once they reach the age of accountability.
 8. As the priesthood in the church of Jesus Christ we are called upon to represent a just and merciful God; not called to condemn, but rather to temper Justice with Mercy, while executing the laws of God in every situation with the intention of reverently reconciling the sinner to the Maker with love and respect, and God glorified. We are resolved it is in this spirit that we recognize our duty to reach out, and bring the reconciling ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ to each individual in these situations.

The JCRB is asked to approve this resolution as the law of the Church.

USNCR 9) The Conference approved the resolution of Factional Priesthood in Africa without modification:

Factional Priesthood in Africa (JCRB/ANC TN 4)

Whereas: The Church of Jesus Christ must be careful to protect the authority of the Priesthood.

And whereas: The church has been admonished not to be over careful concerning the return of those once of the Faith.

And whereas: The solemn and serious question of the authority of priesthood in the factions of the Restoration Movement cannot be resolved by the formulation of rules.

(1) Be it therefore resolved: All such cases shall be referred to the Presidency of the National Conference to determine the righteous resolution of the case.

(2) And be it further resolved: That the National Presidency's decisions in these matters be approved by the Quorum of Seventy.

(3) And be it further resolved: That the Joint Conference of Branches shall instruct the Seventy to form their quorum, not only to evaluate the National Presidency's decisions, but also to hear possible resultant appeals.

The JCRB is asked to approve this resolution as the law of the Church.

USNCR 10) The Conference approved a pending resolution on General and National Conferences by substituting the month of October for fall and the month of April for spring:

General Conference, National Conference (JCRB TB 16)

Resolved that the JCRB shall encourage and assist in the formation of national conferences to be convened in October of each year or more often if necessary; and be it further
Resolved that the JCRB shall lend assistance in the form of providing presiding ministers for organizational purposes; and be it further
Resolved that such conferences may authorize the formation of quorums for the support, training, and guidance of the ministry; and be it further
Resolved that minutes and resolutions approved at these conferences shall be forwarded to the JCRB secretary and that a report shall be made to the JCRB identifying actions requested by these conferences; and be it further
Resolved that the JCRB shall organize an October conference in Independence, MO, for all branches and missions in the United States; and be it further
Resolved that the JCRB shall convene an international, General Conference each April in Independence, MO, where the entire church shall come together to direct the work.

The JCRB is asked to approve this resolution as the law of the Church.

USNCR 11) The Conference gave direction on the RLDS name:

Use of the RLDS Church Name (JCRB TB 6)

Resolved that the JCRB cease using the RLDS name in its letter head or as the name of the conference until the conference chooses to do so by the voice of the church;
And be it further resolved that the JCRB not get involved with the legal dispute with the Community of Christ over the use of the name.

We, as a conference of branches, determine that we will consider accepting the name “Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints” if it becomes legally possible; however, if this is not possible, we resolve to come under the banner of a common name which will include the name of Jesus Christ; and furthermore, we will not let contention over the name of the church divide and separate us, but will remain together as the true and spiritual successor to the RLDS church.
And as such, with the support of the body of Christ and through the initiative of those men who have been set apart by God with the authority to do so, and following the guidelines which are clearly stated in scripture, have the authority and the obligation, when and if they so choose, to restore order to the Church of Jesus Christ that it may function organizationally as our Savior intends it to.

The JCRB is asked to note this resolution and follow the direction of the resolution.

The National Conference of the USA requests that the JCRB take specific action on USNCR 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10. These are herein forwarded as action items.

In the Lord Jesus Christ,

Elder Rudy Leutzinger, Secretary