

Unapproved Minutes

From April 6, 2018 General Conference

General Conference of the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches

Good Shepherd Community of Christ, Independence, MO

April 6, 2018

Greetings to the conference from Chile, Cuba, Cameroon, Brazil, Zimbabwe and Mozambique were shared before president Sherman Phipps officially opened the business session on Thursday, April 6, 2018.

The minutes of the April 2, 2018 business session were the first item of business with Dale Wilson moving and Cathy Kline seconding the motion to approve the minutes. There were no corrections offered and the minutes were approved.

The final credentials report was offered by recorder Doug Patterson. There were a total of 203 people registered for the conference with a total number of possible votes at 2,180. There were 42 branches represented from 15 countries and there were six at large cities represented. There were 37 branch delegates, two branch alternates, 11 international delegates, nine proxy delegates, 126 members and 18 guests registered for the conference. Gary Whiting moved and Dale Wilson seconded the motion to accept the credentials report. The motion was approved. In a point of personal privilege, Randy Vick noted that if all the international saints could all be represented, there would have been over 5,000 possible votes.

Reports from the general conference quorum sessions were called for and several groups provided information.

Apostles Report

Apostle Gary Whiting gave a short report for the Apostles. He reported that the conference sessions for the apostles were educational in nature, but referenced their report to the conference noted at the opening business session for information about what they had been doing over the past year.

High Priest Report to April 2018 General Conference

The High Priests met in quorum sessions during the conference and placed a number of items before the Lord in prayer. The quorum discussions were focused on these items and the challenges before the body regarding doctrine, process and continuity of authority within the church.

Although no specific resolutions or actions came from the meetings, the unanimous consent of the quorum was that these contentious times challenge the body of the church to cautiously consider the many points of view being offered from the body. Our call is to be a refuge of truth, understanding and compassion to all the members of the church, so all persons have opportunity to experience forgiveness and love over the entirety of their life. This must be the first response of the church.

The Quorum elected Rob Rolfe to be the President of the Quorum and David Whiting to be the Secretary of the Quorum, which elections we respectfully request the Conference to sustain.

The Quorum named Dan Sherer to the Missionary Funding Committee with Ron Smith named as alternate.

Respectfully Submitted

David Whiting

Quorum Secretary

First Quorum of Restoration Seventy

We are pleased to bring you this report of the activity within our quorum throughout 2017. We believe that the call from Mark 16:14 “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature”

is as valid today as it was over two millennia ago when it was given to the eleven remaining “faithful” apostles by the resurrected Christ.

However, even in preaching this repentance, we find death. But without this death, there can be no resurrection. Just a few weeks ago we mourned the loss of one of our brethren from the First Quorum of Seventy – Seventy George Knotts. His humor, candor and leadership will be greatly missed. Next year in Zion, our brother!

Those of us who remain consider it a privilege to be the traveling ministers called, ordained and set apart for the sole purpose of taking the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the masses worldwide. With the diverse group of men that serve in this capacity of seventy, we are willing and able to reach many different regions of the world by the mercy of our Heavenly Father. He has sustained us throughout our service and, because of the faithfulness of those saints who keep His laws, the work continues to grow and move into new areas of the world.

We can report at least 20 baptisms and dozens of others seeking to covenant with their God through Jesus Christ. The seventy in Central and South America are very active in searching out new areas of ministry and continue to bear a positive witness in their everyday travels as they minister. There are many families desirous to hear the good news of our savior requesting these men for ministry and teaching.

The kingdom continues to expand in many countries such as: Tahiti, Brazil, Kenya, Mexico, Chile, Belize, Honduras, Nigeria, Cameroon, the United States and others. (Brother Jim McKay and Patriarch Ron Smith were able to assist the church in getting registered with the government in Cameroon, no small feat.)

In the United States, there are several of our quorum very active in “bridge building missions” with members of many different sects of the restoration, some of which have remained relatively unknown to most saints throughout the church. Some of these efforts are underway in Mississippi, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Florida, Alabama and Missouri.

As the work goes forward, there becomes a need for the written word to be available in different languages. Brother Frank Frye, along with elder Tom Okeyo and other men from Kenya and with the support of many different parts and people of the restoration, were able to translate the Book of Mormon into Swahili. This was no small task but we are certain that the fruit of such endeavors will be monumental.

Seventy Rereau Foster from Tahiti has initiated the translation of the Book of Mormon into French. This will take some time going forward, but his initiative has been the driving force behind any success thus far. The work in Tahiti continues to grow as well while Brother Foster, with the help from Seventy Dan Norman, spearheads this organization of the church in French Polynesia and the surrounding islands.

With the organization of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, we the Seventy rejoice that the Lord is bringing much needed organization to the missionary work of the Kingdom. We have committed ourselves to serving throughout the world alongside the apostles.

As each Apostle has been assigned a different part of the world, each Seventy has contacted the apostle over the area in which they desire to work and will work in concert with that apostle. These two quorums have met together for worship and discussion and are striving for unity so the work will continue to prosper.

We sense the need for men in these the last days to come unto Christ and be perfected in Him. It is our desire that all members labor with us as we teach, admonish, search and claim territories for Him. In this dispensation of time, it’s imperative that we strive for unity amongst our brethren. The adversary seeks to divide, but those who unite under the banner of Christ will stand victorious in Zion. Let us all – men, women and children – be found working for Him is our prayer. We humbly submit this report in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Ron Johnson, James P. McKay, Frank Frye, Dan Norman, Hensley Nwabueze Mbanaso, Richard A. Smith, George Mefferd, Ken Simmons, Elias Martinez, James Noland, Arturo Gomez, Christopher

Pedersen, Aric Turner, Ananda Rao, Gary Metzger, Micah Bates, Jonah Bates, Erwin Schnettler, Mike Meier, Kingsley Zacharias, Rereau Foster, George Thomas and Bob Elrod.

Elder's Quorum Report

The Elders Quorum met on Wednesday, April 4 and Thursday, April 5 with 38 in attendance on Wednesday and 37 on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the meeting began with the singing of "The Old, Old Path" and "Redeemer of Israel". After a welcome by brother Jerry Skotak, brother Sherrie Wages offered an invocation. Jerry Skotak noted that there was no suggested agenda set by the conference officers at this time and other than choosing leadership for the 2019 conference we were free to proceed how we thought was the best use of our time together. Each elder in attendance was encouraged to introduce themselves and offer a brief summary of their background for the benefit of everyone present. All participated and this took the remainder of our time Wednesday. Brother Eric Woolery offered a closing prayer.

The meeting on Thursday began with the singing of "Like a Deer" and an invocation was offered by Jerry Skotak. The first order of business was to elect a quorum president for the General Conference of 2019. Nominations were opened and Jerry Skotak was nominated. There were no other nominations and Jerry Skotak was elected. Nominations were then opened for Secretary. Cliff Herod and Richard Hoff were nominated and Richard Hoff was elected. Next, nominations for representatives to the Missionary Funding Committee were offered. David Newman and Patrick Phelps were nominated and elected. They are to confer with one another and decide who will be the primary and secondary representative.

After selection of 2019 leadership was concluded, the floor was opened for general discussion. The discussion was begun by Dr. Charles Zerr concerning how we might work together to provide more effective ministry to the scattered saints. As a result of this discussion, a motion was offered by Sherrie Wages and seconded by brother Dale Wilson:

"The Elders Quorum will form a committee to research ways to organize efforts for the elders to bring ministry to the scattered saints."

Brother Chris Taylor proposed an amendment seconded by brother Glen Vreeland to add the following: "The committee will coordinate their efforts with the Apostles and Seventy."

After further discussion the question for the entire matter was called by brother Charles Zerr. The question carried and the amendment and the motion as amended passed. Volunteers to serve on the committee include Jerry Skotak, Rob McLuckie, Dale Wilson, Richard Hoff, Sherrie Wages and Dr. Charles Zerr. The meeting was concluded with a closing prayer offered by Brother Jerry Newton.

Respectively Submitted,
Jerry Skotak,
President JCRB Elder's Quorum

Aaronic Quorum and Non-priesthood men

Levi Vickery gave an oral report about the work done in the Aaronic priesthood and non-priesthood men's discussions. The group discussed the Aaronic priesthood retreat that was held last year and plans for further retreats every six months or so. The retreats offer training so priesthood can be more effective in their duties.

The next retreat is scheduled for May 6-8, 2018 at the Odessa Hills Campground in Odessa, MO. All Aaronic priesthood from any Restoration branch are invited to attend the session.

The rest of the time was spent in getting to know each other and visiting with international delegates to the conference.

Women's Quorum

Debbie Newman gave a brief report on the work of the Restoration Women's Ministries, whose full report was included in the reports presented at the Monday session. She noted that the group seeks to support Restoration women around the world.

One of the efforts of the group is to provide study material, which includes 10 lessons, plus a fellowship service for December. The material is available on USB drives and in other forms. More information is available on the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches website.

Youth Quorum

The Youth Quorum was led by David Frye, Jackie Sherer and Grace Pedersen. We had classes during the quorum time, in which we tried to incorporate the daily theme into that day's lesson.

On Tuesday, we talked about putting our trust in God so we can be faithful and obedient to him. We did a trust walk in which we had to listen to our partner in order to get through the obstacle course. We compared this object lesson to how we must learn to recognize the Lord's spirit and how it speaks to us so that we can be obedient to Him. We also discussed things that can be distractions in our life that keep us from hearing Him when he tries to speak to us. We also discussed how these distractions can affect our relationship with others around us.

Wednesday we talked about how there are many promises in the word of God and if we seek the Lord by reading our scriptures, we can recognize what is true from what is not true. The world tells us what we should do with our time, what we should look like, what we should believe and many other things. By reading our scriptures, we can know that God desires of us.

Thursday we talked about a few kinds of covenants that we can make. We discussed how God's people are like a quilt. We each are a piece of fabric and by ourselves we are unique and important but when we are quilted together we not only serve a purpose but the beauty of each piece is magnified and becomes a grand design. We also discussed ways we can serve God by making small offerings of our time and talents.

Each day we also used quorum time to practice the song "Sound of the Saints," which the youth sang during the early preaching service on Thursday.

Thursday evening we had pizza and treats. We played fun parachute games. We went on a treasure hunt as we read about the Everlasting Covenant. We searched for all the colors in the rainbow. At the end of the treasure hunt, Enoch's City came and everyone was given gold coin chocolates to represent having a piece of Zion. The evening was followed up by a campfire led by Ron Smith.

We announced at the beginning of the week that we would be giving out two U.S. camp scholarships. Youth had several ways that they were able to get their name added to the jar for a chance to receive the scholarship. They received one for coming each day, one for bringing their scriptures each day, one of participating in class and one for reading scriptures when called upon. We had 18 to 20 youth showed up every day.

In addition to the US scholarships, we have two scholarships for both East Africa and Nigeria this year. They are the only two countries that have youth camps already established. We felt that it was important to include these youth in opportunities to receive help in attending camp. The four scholarships for Africa will be determined by someone affiliated with the camps.

There were three US scholarships given. They went to Chloe Pedersen, Abby Sinclair and Olivia Simmons. Coloring books went to three of the youth who were too young to attend camp but who participated all week.

Respectively submitted,
Grace Pedersen

Dale Wilson moved and Rex Curtis seconded the motion to approve the reports. The motion carried.

Following the vote, the business session was adjourned to resume again at 1:30 p.m. Prayers to close the session were offered by Dale Wilson and Erwin Schnettler.

When President Phipps called the business meeting back to order at 1:30 p.m., Robert McLuckie offered an opening prayer.

First item of business for the afternoon was a review of the JCRB conference financial statements. Nathan Sherer presented the financial statements as provided by Benjamin Pedersen

Accounting Services. Total current assets as of February 28, 2018 were \$408,564, up from \$315,962 at the same time in 2017. For the period ending May 31, 2017, total contributions totaled \$441,766.

After the presentation, David Drummond moved and Nancy Clarity seconded the motion to approve the financial statements. The motion carried.

A budget of \$31,340 for the April 2018 general conference was presented to the conference by Brother Sherer. Of the total, \$16,730 was for delegate travel for international delegates. Rex Curtis moved and Dale Wilson seconded the motion to approve the conference budget and the motion was approved.

Brother Sherer next introduced the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches budget for the fiscal year 2018-19. The budget as presented called for expenditures of \$639,156 for the year. Glenn Vreeland made the motion to approve the budget and Jerry Vickery seconded the motion.

An amendment to the budget was proposed to increase the Apostles and Seventies budget by increasing the Europe portion of the budget by \$1,000 to \$6,000 and by increasing the Pacific Islands portion of the budget from \$38,000 to \$39,500. This increased the total budget amount to \$641,656. Patrick McKay moved the amendment and Dan Norman seconded it.

The motion to amend the budget passed.

After some clarification of other areas of the budget, the budget as amended was voted on and was approved.

Following the approval of the budget, the conference voted on sustaining Bishop Carl Cederstrom as a bishop for the conference, at his request. The motion was made by David Drummond and seconded by Phil O'Camb and was approved.

A motion was made by BJ Jordison and seconded by Phil O'Camb to amend the order of business to include sustaining of the president and secretary of the high priest quorum. The motion carried.

Rita Woolery then moved and David Newman seconded the motion to sustain Rob Rolfe as president and David Whiting as secretary of the high priest quorum. The motion carried.

Next order of business was Resolution 2018-1 Church Registration and Houses of Worship Fund from the Quorum of Restoration Apostles.

2018-1 Church Registration and Houses of Worship Fund

Whereas presently there is an open fund to receive donations for church registration and church buildings/houses of worship totaling 8,800. After evaluating the growth of the church in several nations and the necessity of complying with the laws of the various countries, the Apostles recommend the following:

Be it resolved that a line item to subsidize funds for houses of worship and church registration be added to the General Conference budget, and

Be it resolved that these requests should be made to the Apostle in charge of the region under consideration and if approved, the request will be forwarded to the Bishop and Conference Treasurer for consent and approval of the request during the conference year,

And be it further resolved that \$15,000 be added yearly to the fund until the maximum of \$50,000 is achieved.

Instead of moving to approve the resolution as originally printed, a substitute resolution was moved in its place by Gary Whiting, seconded by Dan Norman.

The substitute motion was:

2018-1 Church Registration and Houses of Worship Fund

Whereas, presently there is an open fund to receive donations for church registration and church buildings/houses of worship totaling \$8,800.00. After evaluating the growth of the church in several nations and the necessity of complying with the laws of the various countries the Apostles recommend the following;

Resolved that a line item be added to the General Conference budget for church registration and houses of worship, and be it further;

Resolved that this fund may be used to assist branches to obtain houses of worship, and be it further;

Resolved that these requests shall be made to the Apostle in charge of the region under consideration. The Quorum of Apostles will develop the criteria for approval of requests. The approved request will be forwarded to the Bishop and the Conference Treasurer for consent and approval of the request during the conference year and be it further;

Resolved that the funds in the current account be transferred to this new fund and that a maximum of \$15,000.00 be added yearly to achieve and maintain a maximum of \$50,000.00.

The substitute motion was approved and will be included in conference resolutions as JCR#138.

Brother Sherrie Wages rose to a point of clarification and noted that with the approval of the resolution the general conference budget would need to be amended to include the \$15,000 payment. The amount was added to the budget total, which was raised to \$656,656 for the fiscal year.

Next item of business was Resolution 2018-2 Fiduciary Responsibility from the Finance Office, Joint of Restoration Branches.

2018-2 Fiduciary Responsibility

Whereas, a fiduciary person is legally required to handle finances for the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches (JCRB), and

Whereas, the JCRB currently as a Bishop functioning in that role, and

Whereas, a Bishop has authority to designate Agents to assist in that fiduciary capacity,

Be it resolved, that Bishop Carl D. Cederstrom be instructed to appoint, within three months, a committee of no more than three (3) persons to name an agent for the JCRB to act as bishop when events require.

The motion was made and seconded by Barb Giertz and Sherry Wages to approve the resolution.

An amendment was moved by David Drummond and second by Sherry Wages to amend the final resolved to read: "Be it resolved, that Bishop Carl D. Cederstrom be requested to appoint, within three months, a committee of no more than three (3) persons to name an agent for the JCRB to act as a fiduciary agent when events require."

Randy Vick moved and it was seconded to further amend the resolution to add a further resolved:

"And be it further resolved that this matter be sent to the High Priest quorum to develop a more permanent solution with a report to be made back to the next general conference in April 2019."

The amendments were approved and the amended motion passed. The final resolution will become JCR#139.

JCR#139 Fiduciary Responsibility

Whereas, a fiduciary person is legally required to handle finances for the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches (JCRB), and

Whereas, the JCRB currently as a Bishop functioning in that role, and

Whereas, a Bishop has authority to designate Agents to assist in that fiduciary capacity,

Be it resolved, that Bishop Carl D. Cederstrom be requested to appoint, within three months, a committee of no more than three (3) persons to name an agent for the JCRB to act as a fiduciary agent when events require.

And be it further resolved that this matter be sent to the High Priest quorum to develop a more permanent solution with a report to be made back to the next general conference in April 2019.

Election of officers was the next item of business and Secretary H. Alan Smith took the chair to read a the minutes of the Mass Meeting of Elders held earlier in the day where a nomination for president of the conference was voted on

Minutes of the Mass Meeting of Elders

Thursday, April 5, 2018

Conference Secretary H. Alan Smith called the meeting to order. The order of business was for the mass meeting of elders to nominate a candidate for president of the general conference of the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches.

Following the singing of "Breathe On Me Breath of God," patriarch Ron Smith offered a prayer.

Brother Smith then opened the nominations for president. He noted that the person should be an Apostle, High Priest, Seventy or Elder from a participating branch.

Nominations were received for Sherman Phipps, Gary Whiting and Fred Greene. Sherman Phipps received the most votes of the three.

A second vote was then held to allow all those present to show their support for Brother Phipps. Most of those present voted in the affirmative, but the vote was not unanimous.

Brother Alan Smith then closed the meeting with a prayer.

Submitted by,
H. Alan Smith

Conference Secretary

Secretary Smith then asked for any other nominations for president of the conference. There were no other nominations and Sherman Phipps was elected to serve as president of the JCRB general conference in April 2019.

Brother Phipps then took back the chair. Nominations were opened for vice president. Nominated were David Whiting and Fred Greene. Brother Whiting was elected as vice president.

Nominations for conference treasurer were opened with Nathan Sherer the only nomination. He was re-elected to the position.

Nominations were then opened for conference secretary. H. Alan Smith was the only nomination and he was re-elected to the position for another year.

Nominations for recorder was opened for conference recorder. Doug Patterson was the only nomination and he was re-elected to the position for another year.

Nominations were opened for conference historian for a three-year term running through 2021. Jerry Vickery was nominated and re-elected to the position.

The final conference agenda item was to elect or sustain members of various committees for the general conference.

Four positions were open for the Youth Activities Committee, two terms to run through 2020 and two terms to run through 2021. Six people were nominated for the positions – Haley Norman, Grace Pedersen, Miranda Kibbe, Dustin Nelson, Christopher Vickery and Rose Wiseman. Named to the committee for terms ending in 2020 were Rose Wiseman and Miranda Kibbe. Named to the committee for terms ending in 2021 were Grace Pedersen and Haley Norman.

Two positions were open on the Restoration Women's Ministries Committee. The Women's Quorum voted on the positions, electing Debbie Newman and Betty Vickery for terms to expire in 2021. There was some question about how the vacancies were to be filled and two other women were nominated before the matter was clarified. Sisters Newman and Vickery were elected to the positions.

Chad Nestman, chairman for the Education Committee, was not standing for reelection to the Education Committee and there was a suggestion that the committee be put on hold for a year if there was not enough interest to keep the committee functioning. There were a number of people who volunteered their names to serve and keep the committee functioning, however.

Elected to the Education Committee were Will Howen, chairman; Alicia Negaard, Frank Frye, Miranda Kibbe, Chari Pedersen, Sande Cromwell, Genie Simmons and Julie Skotak.

Sustained to serve on the Missionary Funding Committee were Bishop Carl Cederstrom, Apostle Designee Doug Patterson, Apostle Alternate Rex Curtis, High Priest Designee Dan Sherer, High Priest Alternate Ron Smith, Elder Designee David Newman, Elder Alternate Patrick Phelps, Seventy Designee Mike Meier and Seventy Alternate Gary Metzger.

Named to the Logistics Committee along with the conference officers were Cheryl Phipps, Kent Pedersen, Lisa Newman, Duane Newman, Janice Jordison, Alissa Hughes, Barbara Giert, Levi Vickery, BJ Jordison and Chris Taylor.

Renamed to the finance committee were Chris Pederson and Paul Sinclair.

There were no vacancies on the Credentials Committee.

Sustained for the Communications Department were Information Technology director Duane Newman and committee members Alyssa Hughes and BJ Jordison; Publishing director H. Alan Smith and members Tara Broadway and Gary Parish; and books, tracts and periodicals director Gary Whiting with editors Hugh Caldwell, BJ Jordison, Chad Nestman and H. Alan Smith, designer Tara Broadway and proofreaders Genie Simmons, Wendi Muir, Sandy Crandall, Sandy Whiting and Sande Cromwell.

President Phipps asked Rex Curtis to offer a prayer to close the business meeting for the 2018 conference, which was adjourned until the April 2019 conference.

Respectfully submitted,
H. Alan Smith
Conference Secretary