

CONFERENCE REPORTS – Quorum of Restoration Apostles

REPORT: Quorum of Restoration Apostles
FROM: Gary Whiting and Randy Vick
DATE: April 2016-March 2017

To the Delegates and Saints of the General Conference,

The Quorum of Restoration Apostles was authorized by the General Conference of April 2016 based on a revelation through the Conference President Fred Greene. Based on that revelation and the confirming testimony of the Holy Spirit, Gary R. Whiting and Randy Vick were ordained as Apostles on April 16, 2016.

As Apostles, we were given three tasks. The first duty was to prayerfully seek out and call additional apostles until the Quorum was full. The second task is to promote a spirit of unity among the Saints. The third responsibility was to be prepared at some future date to become the presiding body of the Conference of Branches.

Calls to the Office of Apostle

The first task, calling ten men to be with us in the Quorum has been a preoccupying duty for us. It was made a little easier when President Greene notified us that Kent Pedersen had received a confirming testimony to his calling as an Apostle. Brother Pedersen's name was given to President Greene as part of the revelation, but his name was left out of the final document because he had not received confirmation of his call before the business session on April 15, 2016. Brother Pedersen's call was confirmed to us soon after Brother Greene notified us.

The Apostles met frequently over the past year for prayer, study and discussion. We invited Brother Pedersen to meet with us beginning at our second meeting in July 2016. We met in May and July in Independence. We held weekend meetings in December 2016 and February 2017. We also held meetings using Internet conferencing software. Letters and e-mails were frequently exchanged.

We developed a list of names over which we prayed and fasted. In late December 2016 and January of 2017, three men were contacted with calls to the office of Apostle. They were: Doug Patterson, Hugh Caldwell and Rex Curtis. Each of these men accepted their calls after receiving personal testimonies. At this writing, other men are under consideration.

Our goal from the outset has been to have at least seven men in the Quorum. We believe that this will provide a number sufficient to allow the Quorum to act as an authoritative Quorum. We have therefore, been asking the Lord for at least that many.

We realized early on that we lack a lot of knowledge and understanding about the way this Quorum should operate. We have the scriptures and the Holy Spirit as a guide, but the historical record of the Quorum in the last days is not readily available to us. In consequence, we have spent a great deal of time in study with prayer and fasting. It is important for us to understand the nature of our calling and what the Lord expects of us.

Ministry

Brother Vick has traveled to various locations in Africa over the past year. His experiences in Mozambique and Malawi are known to the Saints. By the start of the 2017 General Conference, he will have completed a trip to Liberia.

Brother Whiting has been occupied with labors in Kansas, Missouri and Iowa. He has continued working with the *Beacon*.

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Apostolic Epistle

We completed an Epistle to the Saints which was published in the Feb-March 2017 *Beacon* magazine and is included in the Conference book. This document arises out of the need for unity among the Saints and is a call to recognize the sovereignty of Jesus Christ over us. The need for a Zionite people is great now and our time is short. It is a beginning to the charge of promoting unity among the Saints.

Work with the Seventy

During the past year we have had several communications with the Presidents of Seventy. We have discussed assignments and budgets and other ministerial concerns in the missionary work. We have had excellent conversations together.

Our intent is to work closely with the Seventy according to the instructions contained in the Doctrine and Covenants. Our primary responsibility is to push forward the missionary work and the Seventy are key partners with us in that effort.

We are encouraging the Seventy who live in the Center Place to devote as much time as they can to building up the strength of Zion. This includes organizing an active missionary effort to bring new souls to Christ with a goal of establishing five new branches in the Center Place area in the next year. This is more than just a missionary effort by the Seventy. It also includes activating and training other elders and high priests in evangelism. It anticipates training and utilizing the Aaronic ministry to search out, encourage and seek to activate lost and discouraged Saints. We also anticipate that it will stimulate the general membership to be more active as witnesses of Jesus Christ.

Purpose

There are many people who have understood the calling of Apostles as an effort to recreate the former Reorganization. Some have said that it is the creation of a new church. This point of view is focused on form and structure which we believe is a view. Reconstituting the Apostolic Quorum is a significant act, but our testimony is that viewing it from the church structure viewpoint is a poor perspective on the Lord's intent.

We understand our calling is to perform the function of Apostles much more than to establish the form of Apostles. In other words, we are called to be witnesses of Jesus Christ, open missionary fields and more effectively carry the gospel into the world. According to scripture, the function of the Apostles should help the Seventy be more effective as they can be freed from many administrative duties and can be sent under apostolic authority.

We ask you to continue to pray for and with us as the Apostolic Quorum is activated and learns to function under the direction of the Lord and his word. We ask you not to prejudge by your preconceptions what this work will be, but rather that you will allow the Lord to lead us into the final, glorious days which anticipate the coming kingdom of God. There are dark days ahead of us and while recognizing this, we must also remember the promises of God in the Everlasting Covenant and endure in faith with a good testimony and firmness of mind.

In Gospel Bonds,
Apostle Gary R. Whiting
Apostle Randy Vick