

CONFERENCE REPORTS – U.S. National Conference Discussion Summary

MEMORANDUM

TO: General Conference Attendees

FROM: Fred Greene, JCRB President

SUBJECT: Issues to Consider From The 2016 National Conference

Attached is the summary of a discussion held at the end of the 2016 US National Conference. All conference attendees participated in the discussion and added their thoughts to the discussion topics. We believe this to be an important document for thoughtful consideration during this General Conference. The overall discussion topic was based on the question: “What can we do as a conference, in terms of what the 2016 revelations are telling us, to effect change in the way we are doing business?”

1. What specifically should we as a Conference be repenting from?
2. How can we develop our faith and use it as a mortar to bind us together?
3. What should we be looking for (anticipating) at the next conference?

We have structured much of this conference around the results of these discussions. It is hoped that you will engage yourself in offering further insight into these and other topics that will aid in uniting in our faith, generate spiritually rewarding worship experiences and growth to this and all future conferences.

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Guiding Question: “What can we do as a conference, in terms of what the revelations are telling us, to effect change in the way we are doing business?”

Related Video of Discussion: <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/92266072>

A. Growing in Strength:

What Specifically Should We, As a Conference, Be Repenting From:

1. Making decisions without asking the will of the Lord first
2. Pointing the finger (at others)
3. Skepticism of what the Lord gives to us
4. Finding fault with what the Lord gives to other people
5. PRIDE:
 - a. Stepping on someone else to make you look better
 - b. Rejection of the word of God
 - c. Taking personal credit for what the Lord has done
 - d. Self-centered
 - e. Not accepting what God tells us about ourselves
 - f. Justifying our faults so we feel better about ourselves
 - g. Covetousness
 - h. Thinking exclusive
 - i. Not paying our tithing; not following the law of stewardship
 - j. Failing to testify
 - k. Our interpretation cannot be expanded (God is in a box)
 - l. Thinking of the church as the United States, or putting the U.S. before the rest of the world
 - m. Regional silos
6. Not being committed enough; other priorities before God
7. Being tied to Babylon
8. Being hard-hearted
9. Putting ourselves before Christ
10. Not giving up baggage (and hurts/disappointments) of the past
11. Poor understanding of Church heritage/message; Need to reinstitute basic teachings of the church
12. Going straight from church to TV and media
13. Lack of obedience to witness
14. Making conference participation available (and appealing) to younger generations
15. Lack of understanding and study of scriptures

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16. Unscriptural tradition
17. Disproportionately low attendance from those in the center place
18. Not feeding people who live outside the center place the gospel (things as simple as how to get organized, or how to care for children, etc.)
19. Not being willing to change course and admit when you were wrong
20. Negative thoughts
21. Not anticipating increased attendance at conferences (801 vs 108 persons)
22. Feeling outside the rules - like they don't apply to us; being unwilling to change
23. Not being joyful
24. Talking the talk, but not walking the walk. Not being convicted to action
25. Not feasting on the words of Christ (not knowing the commands of God)
26. Not praying before actions
27. Not being prepared for the gathering (not prepared to gather, nor to receive those gathering)

B. Uniting in our Faith:

How Can We Develop Our Faith and Use it as a Mortar to Bind Us Together?

1. Host a conference event (like the Book of Mormon symposium) to invite all of like faith
2. Develop a plan on how to accommodate (procedurally) others joining us at General or National conferences
3. We should walk in Love
4. Pray that those in and outside conference branches will be open to communicate with us and be willing to share member information so we may be in contact with them
5. General Conference study of the gifts (prophecy, tongues, healings, etc.)
6. General Conference discussion of the blessings of the church through ordinances (patriarchal, baby, communion, etc.)
7. Work with other groups (factions) to develop common resources, activities and events
8. Expect the gifts to come
9. Remember/pray for/be a blessing to Israel (and the House of Israel)
10. Host a Music Event/Concert
11. Have specific times of year where the conference is unified in prayer
12. Pray about how to overcome the things that divide us
13. Seeking a common testimony
14. Pre-conference scripture studies to unite us in focus
15. Homes of saints in center place open to those traveling to conference (open our hearts more)

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C. Preparation Through Anticipation:

What should we be looking for (anticipating) at the next conference?

1. That Christ will be there
 - a. Need to make sure that we invite (ask) Christ to be in attendance (privately and corporately)
2. That we will be ready to receive Christ
 - a. Need Saints to study/fast/pray, and therefore be able to abide Christ's presence (and evil be rebuked)
3. That other Bishops will be ordained
4. That our Youth will be prepared for and engaged during the conference
5. That those who have tarried will join us
6. Being joined by others (those currently not credentialed with the conference)
7. That we will have issued personal invitations (inviting other Branches to join us as brothers and sisters)