

Unapproved Minutes

From the April 7, 2017 General Conference

Joint Conference of Restoration Branches
Good Shepherd Community of Christ, Independence, MO
April 7, 2017

The business session was called to order by president Fred Greene.

The minutes of the April 2, 2017 business session were brought forward for consideration. Several editorial corrections were noted when the minutes were presented and three more were offered from the floor – adding the word “moved” in the seventh paragraph of the minutes, correcting the name of Martha Van Nordstrand in the 11 paragraph, and deleting the words “and until a bishop shall be appointed” in item 7 d. of the approved resolution. Dale Wilson moved and Martha Van Nordstrand seconded a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was approved.

Conference reports from the mass meeting of Melchisedec priesthood and the quorums that met during the conference were then shared.

Alan Smith presented the minutes of the Mass Meeting of Melchisedec Priesthood.

Minutes of the Mass Meeting of Melchisedec Priesthood

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Conference Vice President Dan Sherer called the meeting to order. The order of business of the mass meeting of Melchisedec priesthood was to nominate a candidate for president of the general conference of the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches.

Following prayers by Erwin Schnettler, Anando Rao and Chris Taylor, Vice President Sherer had secretary Alan Smith read the protocol for the meeting as it had been amended in the opening business session of the conference.

Apostle Gary Whiting read a statement to the priesthood from the Apostles on their view of the leadership for the conference under present circumstances (see attachment). Following the reading of the statement, Vice President Sherer asked Apostle Randy Vick to offer a prayer.

Nominations for president were opened and those nominated included Gary Whiting, Randy Vick (who withdrew his name from consideration), Ron Smith, Fred Greene and Sherman Phipps. Gary Whiting made a statement in response to the nomination.

When no person received a majority of the votes, another vote was taken between the top two vote getters from the first vote. Sherman Phipps received 28 votes to 20 for Fred Greene.

A final vote of acclamation that Sherman Phipps be the nominee from the mass meeting was made.

Prayers were then offered by brother Fred Greene, who serves as the president of the conference through the final business meeting, and brother Sherman Phipps, the new nominee from the mass meeting of Melchisedec priesthood.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Alan Smith

Conference Secretary

On the Question of the President of the JCRB and the Apostles

April 5, 2017

With the approach of the Mass Meeting of the Elders of the JCRB to make a nomination for President to the body of the General Conference, the topic of this selection process was discussed among the Apostles (Gary Whiting and Randy Vick) and the six Seventies who have pending calls to the office of Apostle (Kent Pedersen, Doug Patterson, Hugh Caldwell, Rex Curtis, David Drummond and Patrick McKay).

We understand that there is an elevated sense of anticipation among the participants in the 2017

General Conference regarding the ministry of the Apostles. There are some items we feel are important for the elders, delegates and voting members of the General Conference to consider before voting to place an apostle in the role of the President of the JCRB at this time.

1. There is no organized Quorum of Apostles at this point. Two ordained Apostles are not a sufficient number to organize a quorum of apostles.

2. We are confident that the men who are called to be Apostles will achieve General Conference approval and be ordained, but it has not yet taken place.

3. Assuming all of the called men are ordained, they need to meet and formally organize as a Quorum. This must be at some time after the ordinations take place.

4. After the Quorum is organized it will have sufficient numbers to function as a quorum, but it will not be full. A full quorum consists of 12 ordained Apostles.

The distinction between a quorum at sufficiency (greater than 6 members) and a quorum that is full (12 members) is important in view of the counsel of the Lord given through Brother Greene to the General Conference of 2016. In that counsel the Lord said,

When the Quorum is filled, the Presidency of the JCRB shall reside in the Twelve. This shall constitute the standing Presidency of the JCRB for the current time.

The Quorum is not now filled, it is in fact, not organized and cannot be until after this General Conference has concluded. In our view, this means the provision to use the Quorum of Apostles as a standing presidency cannot be implemented at this conference. If the Quorum is filled by the General Conference of 2018, then this provision may be implemented, if it is the will of the body that this is the case.

Scripture defines the particular and unique duties of the Apostles:

The twelve traveling councilors are called to be the Twelve Apostles, or special witnesses of the name of Christ, in all the world; thus differing from other officers in the church in the duties of their calling (D&C 104:11c).

The Twelve are a traveling, presiding high council, to officiate in the name of the Lord, under the direction of the Presidency of the church, agreeably to the institution of heaven, to build up the church and regulate all the affairs of the same, in all nations; first unto the Gentiles, and secondly unto the Jews (D&C 104:12).

The apostles are also instructed to provide direction for the Seventy (D&C 104:13, 16) and in large branches they may ordain evangelical ministers as directed by revelation (D&C 104:17).

The Apostles are named as a “quorum equal in authority and power to the three presidents previously mentioned” (D&C 104:11d) when their decisions are unanimous. There is a provision that a majority may form a quorum when circumstances render it impossible to be otherwise.

Notwithstanding the resolution which amended the instructions to the Mass Meeting of the Elders about the preference of selection, the selection of an Apostle at this point has no particular advantage over any other High Priest. It may be an advantage for this year to consider a High Priest because of the work the Apostles have before them in organizing the quorum, establishing planning and ministry coordination channels with the Seventy and the need to make various ministry trips.

It is very important for the elders and the General Conference to consider the meaning of a standing presidency. There is scripture to suggest that the Lord’s instruction to have the Apostle eventually be the standing presidency of the JCRB does not require an Apostle as the elected president of the JCRB as defined in our rules.

There should be no conflict or jealousy of authority between the quorums of the church; all are necessary and equally honorable, each in its place. The Twelve and Seventy are traveling ministers and preachers of the gospel, to persuade men to obey the truth; the high priests and elders holding the same priesthood are the standing ministers of the church, having the watchcare of the membership and nurturing and sustaining them, under the direction and instruction of the Presidency and the Twelve (D&C 120:3a-c).

Also from the Acts of the Apostles:

Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word (Acts 6:2-4).

The role of presiding as a presidency is not necessarily equivalent to filling the specific office of president of the JCRB. We recognize the instruction given to the elders as legislated in the rules. In our prayerful consideration of this decision, we believe there are reasons to consider that it may not be wisdom to jump to the conclusion that the instruction and counsel given last April applies at this moment.

It is the desire of the ordained Apostles, and the potential Apostles, to make you aware of the current status of the Apostles in terms of organization. We do ask you to consider the concept of sufficiency of numbers organize a Quorum and the Quorum being filled.

We recognize the desires of many of the Conference delegates and officers regarding the Apostles and the work of the General Conference. Certainly, the elders may nominate any of the Melchisedec priesthood for the position of Conference President. This is your privilege to act as the legislated instructions designate. Your nominations need to be made with an understanding of what can now be provided through the office of Apostle to the General Conference.

Gary Whiting presented the report of the Apostle meetings.

Report of the Apostle Meetings

The Apostles, Gary Whiting and Randy Vick, met together on Tuesday, April 4, 2017. They discussed areas of ministry and how to work with the new Apostles once they are ordained and the General Conference concludes.

The two Apostles were joined by the six men with calls to the office of Apostle on April 5 and 6. These men are Kent Pedersen, Doug Patterson, Hugh Caldwell, Rex Curtis, David Drummond and Patrick McKay.

The discussion on Wednesday, April 5, included finalizing a budget for 2017-2018. We discussed the approval process for trips and the need for accountability. All travel by the Apostles will be approved by the Quorum President except when he is traveling or his unable to handle a request. The trip approval will then be done by the next most senior Apostle in the Quorum. These men are, respectively, Gary Whiting and Randy Vick.

Reporting and travel budgets will be done using the paperwork now used by the Seventy for their travel.

The details of the ordination service were discussed and arranged. Due to family circumstances, Kent Pedersen will be ordained on Friday at the close of business.

The Apostles and the men called worked through their understanding of the roles of the Apostle in the JCRB today. These ideas were summarized in a paper delivered to the mass meeting of the elders on Thursday, April 6, 2017.

After the mass meeting of the elders, the Seventy returned to deliberation. The first topic on April 6 was a resolution which asks for the CRE to call a solemn assembly in which the JCRB will participate. We concluded that this resolution was premature and we did not support its current form. In our discussion we did consider composing a request for the Conference Officers for 2018 to consider calling for a day of solemn prayer as part of the pre-conference activities, perhaps the Sunday before the General Conference convenes. This idea was unanimously favored in our meeting.

A possible text of such a letter would include wording such as:

"We want a mechanism through which God will guide us and bring us together. For example, The Sunday prior to the 2018 Conference, we ask the people to come together in a solemn assembly to pray for the healing of the land of Zion and the unifying of the Lord's people."

We will address this after the Quorum is formally organized.

Our meetings were marked by warm fellowship and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our time together. It is with great anticipation that we look forward to working as a Quorum of Apostles for the welfare of Zion and the restoration of the House of Israel through the preaching of the gospel and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

In Gospel Bonds,

Gary R. Whiting, Apostle

Alan Smith presented the High Priest Quorum Report.

High Priest Quorum Report

Several actions were taken by the Quorum of High Priests during their pre-conference retreat and the three days of quorum sessions this week which the quorum felt should be shared with the conference.

First, the quorum elected new leadership, which we are asking the conference to sustain. President of the Quorum is Rob Rolfe and secretary of the quorum is David Whiting.

Named to the Missionary Funding Committee from the Quorum were member Dan Sherer and alternate Tom Beem.

The quorum spent some time in reviewing its guidelines for “Receiving and Processing Calls to the Office of Melchisedec High Priest.” It now reads:

“We recognize that before the RLDS Church was divided due to changes in the ordinances, there was in place a specified procedure for calls to the office of Melchisedec High Priest. Now that the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches has authorized and accepted current calls to this office, it is deemed wise that the High Priests Quorum establish a procedure for any future calls to that office.

1. We recognize that it is a duty of the Twelve (Apostles), in their responsibility as a high council, to call and ordain men to the office of High Priest.
2. Calls to the office of High Priest may also be processed by the Quorum of High Priests.
 - a. All members of the High Priest Quorum will be advised of a potential call and have opportunity for input into the consideration.
 - b. Until a Quorum Abroad can be established, no call shall be presented to a candidate without the approval of a minimum of two thirds (2/3) of quorum members in attendance at a High Priest Quorum meeting, following proper notice of the meeting. If there is a strong or otherwise legitimate concern in the remaining one third (1/3), the call shall be delayed until the concern is removed or upheld.
 - c. All communications regarding calls shall be done by phone, mail or being present at a meeting where a vote is being taken. No communications regarding calls to the office of High Priest shall be done via email, Twitter, Facebook, or any other social electronic media, except as approved in advance by the Quorum.
 - d. The High Priest Quorum will notify the Quorum of Twelve when a candidate is initially presented to the High Priest Quorum for consideration.”

The quorum prayed and discussed the calls for the six men to the office of Apostle and voted to support the calls for Kent Pedersen, Doug Patterson, Hugh Caldwell, Rex Curtis, David Drummond and Patrick McKay.

In response to the question on what our quorum’s commitment to eliminating contentions and promoting unity, the quorum pledged to emphasize our own prayer and fasting for the humility necessary to allow the spirit to direct us in these efforts. We will labor to help the Saints prepare for things God wants to give us that we are not in a condition to receive. We recognize our responsibility as high priests to “succor the weak, lift up the hands which hang down and strengthen the feeble knees.” We will seek any opportunities we can and encourage branches to seek opportunities for interaction and shared worship and fellowship opportunities with other parts of the Restoration.

In terms of our response to the question about the call to follow the laws of stewardship, the quorum agreed members would commit themselves to exploring and better understanding the true meaning of stewardship, while trying to comply with this important responsibility as fully as we can.

Ron Johnson presented the Seventy Quorum report.

Seventy General Conference Report

The First Quorum of Restoration Seventy submits the following General Conference Report.

The First Quorum of Restoration Seventy met for instruction, education, worship, deliberation and fellowship on March 21st and April 1st just prior to the General Conference.

The Quorum met regularly during the General Conference week. Actions included deliberation on Quorum business; bearing of testimonies of their work in the field over the past year; the potential and action plans for prosecuting the missionary work into additional fields; instruction; and fellowship.

The Presidents of Seventy after a period of inquiry, discussion and prayer, coupled with the spirit of wisdom and revelation reported the names of Brother Kingsley Zacharias from Malawi, Rereao Foster from Tahiti and Mike Meier from Sibley, Missouri to the Quorum.

Each Seventy was instructed to complete a budget for 2017-2018. A budget totaling \$119,270.00 was submitted to the General Conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald L. Johnson, Jr. Quorum President
The First Quorum of Restoration Seventy

Chad Nestman presented the Elder's Quorum Report.

Elder's Quorum Report

The Elders Quorum met on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of Conference Week. On Tuesday, Brother Chad Nestman began the meeting by asking one of the brothers to offer a prayer of invocation that the spirit of the Lord would be the quorum as we worked through the target questions and comments posed by the Conference President. It was obvious to all of the brothers that there was a spirit of disunity and contention within the quorum, even though considerable time was taken to review, explain, and comment on the April 2016 revelation to the Conference. It was suggested and accepted by the brethren that we each, in turn, place the problem before the Lord in heartfelt prayer. As we began to pray the spirit of renewal was felt by everyone, and by the time we had completed all of our prayers the spirit of darkness that had permeated the room was dispelled. In its place was the spirit of love, goodwill, and a desire to serve our Lord without rancor or discontent. We ended the Tuesday quorum session with a desire to have Bros. Neil Simmons and Jerry Vickery to attend the beginning of Wednesday's session to enlighten the brethren on the meaning of the revelations they had received as it pertained to the quorum, conference, members and branches.

On Wednesday, the quorum open our meeting with prayers from three brothers asking that the same spirit that was with us at the close of Tuesday's meeting would remain with us and that God would direct us in his will. Following these prayers Bro Neil Simmons proceeded to give the quorum insights into his interpretation of what some of the revelation meant to him, and by extension to the Elders in general. Bro. Jerry Vickery also provide keen insights into the revelation. Following Bro. Simmons' enlightenment, Bro Vickery spent a few minutes discussing the revelation he had received. At the conclusion of the comments by Bro Simmons and Bro Vickery, the quorum was polled whether there were any other concerns or issues that needed to be discussed about those two revelations. What proceeded was an ad hoc discussion of how we as individual members of the quorum, and as a body of elders, eliminate contention and increase unity among the church. Unfortunately, there was no easy answer to the question. What was expressed was a willingness to listen more to what others were saying, have a more open mind in the opinions expressed, and work toward common consent. However; the concept of common consent is not well understood by the quorum with several definitions being provided. Nevertheless, it is believed that it will only be through common consent that unity and contention can be remedied.

Part of the common consent question focused on two issues: revelations being made available to all quorums and branches BEFORE being read at conference. This would sufficient dialogue to occur before conference thus allowing informed voting at conference. In essence, what this means is that some wanted a way to reconcile themselves to revelation content before the vote such that they could vote in the affirmative even though disagreement existed in some areas of the revelation. The quorum meeting ended with three brothers offering benedictory prayers.

On Thursday, brother Chad Nestman was unable to attend. After determining there was no vice-chairman or secretary present to lead the meeting, the brethren of the quorum agreed to allow brother Jerry Skotak lead the meeting. After a prayer for the meeting was offered by brother Sherrie Wages, the first order

of business was the nomination and election of a Quorum President for the next year. Brother Jerry Skotak was elected to be the 2018 quorum president. Nominations were then opened for Secretary. Brother Will Howen was elected Quorum Secretary for 2018. The next order of business was to elect representatives of the Elder's Quorum for the Missionary Funding Committee. Brother David Newman and Patrick Phelps were elected. They are to confer among themselves to decide who will be the primary and alternate representative.

Respectively Submitted,
C. H. Nestman, President, JCRB Elder's Quorum

David Frye presented the Aaronic Quorum Report.

Aaronic Quorum Report

April 5th, 2017

We, as the Aaronic priesthood, recognize that we are servants to the Bride of Christ. It is our responsibility to protect her, to guide her, and to serve her to the best of our abilities. The Aaronic priesthood have special gifts given to them to perform these responsibilities. Far too long has the bride looked to the Melchizedek priesthood as the only light to the church. It would be a great blessing to the bride to allow both the Aaronic and Melchizedek priesthoods to function in their specific duties and responsibilities.

We recognize that the Aaronic ministry has languished and we ask forgiveness. Few of us still remain that can remember a fully functioning church. We also recognize that the members of this church hold the most important office and hope to support them in their ministry.

The church has far too long stood as individuals through the storms of life. Mosiah 9:39-40 says that as members we should have the desire to bear one another's burdens, mourn with those that mourn, comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times, in all things, and all places that ye may be redeemed of God. We feel that it is the responsibility of the Aaronic priesthood to know of and to help take care of the temporal needs of the church. The adversary has used his darts of fear and pride very well and it is evident as we look at the dwindling numbers of the Body of Christ.

In response to the recently received revelations, we as the Aaronic priesthood feel that we have an important role to fulfill in the near future and that the Lord is asking His church to finally live up to its true potential and bring forth the Kingdom of God in these final days. In congruence to this we are planning an Aaronic priesthood retreat to further our spiritual growth that we may be more equipped to serve the body of Christ. We have also discussed the resolution that was given to us to discuss and are in favor of a solemn assembly to bring "The Church" together.

Respectfully Submitted by.
The Aaronic Quorum

Debbie Newman presented the Member's Quorum Report.

Members Quorum Report

In response to the Memorandum to the Quorum:

Recognizing strife comes from pride, we, as women, will commit to providing materials that help our members identify and remove pride and understand how to not take offense. We will continue to invite and encourage women of the Restoration branches to participate together in activities that promote fellowship, service and worship.

On at least the first Sunday of every month, we will pray for an increased stewardship response of individuals and families that the Lord places on our hearts, and diligently pray and study for guidance on personal stewardship response.

A correction was made in the elder's report, which is included in the version above, and a motion was made George Knotts and seconded by David Newman to accept the reports. The motion was approved.

Randy Vick read a note from Brother Deward Kubuya from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the conference. It read: "Take our cordial love form the anchor of our heart. We thank you so much for the invitation to participate in the general conference, which is held for understanding the instruction on church law and doctrine, sharing testimonies and speaking about the work of the church. We are very sad to not get the USA visa to participate, but we delegate Brother Randy Vick to represent the Democratic Republic of the Congo."

Approval by vote was then given to adjourn until after lunch.

The conference reconvened following the lunch break and president Greene asked for the report from the Youth Quorum, which had been overlooked in the morning session. Chris Taylor presented the Youth Quorum report.

JCRB Youth Quorum Report

Approximately twenty-three youth met on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Grace Pederson, Shelly Taylor, and Chris Taylor assisted with these sessions. Christopher Vickery brought his guitar and led us in song, and Hailey Norman was of immense assistance as well.

On Tuesday we discussed revelation and how God speaks to man by way of His Holy Spirit. On Wednesday Barb Giertz distributed tithing booklets and talked about what tithing is and how important it is to God's work. On Thursday we discussed the elements of prayer and many of the youth shared their testimonies regarding how their prayers have been answered. We also reviewed the notion of repentance and several of the youth were able to discuss it and reveal how important it is in terms of our relationship with God.

In addition to these classes, the youth enjoyed participating in various types of crafts each day. They also played basketball, volleyball and bowling. In summary, the three-day quorum offered review of basic concepts of our faith as well as provided a lot of fun. We are thankful to Valle Smith for providing the church gym to us as it more than served our needs.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Taylor

Chad Nestman made the motion, seconded by Patrick McKay, to accept the Youth Quorum Report. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by David Drummond, seconded by Rose Wiseman, to change the order of business to move item E "Sustaining of Bishop Carl Cederstrom" forward in the agenda. The motion carried by a two-thirds vote.

A letter from Brother Cederstrom was read by Alan Smith, which included a short report and a request that the conference sustain him as a bishop. A moiton was made by David Drummond and seconded by Jerry Vickery to sustain Brother Cederstrom. The motion was approved.

Benjamin Pedersen of Benjamin Pedersen Accounting Services presented the Unaudited Financial Reports for the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches. An audit report will be provided to the conference following the end of the fiscal year.

The report showed that the assets of the conference had increased from \$259,253 on February 29, 2016 to \$315,962 on February 28, 2017. Brother Pedersen noted that the giving to the conference had increased in the past year.

David Newman moved and Sherrie Wages seconded the motion to approve the financial report.

The budget for the General Conference for the week was brought up to be approved again. The budget included \$9,250 for general expenses and \$19,660 for delegate travel for a total of \$28,910. Dave Wilson moved and Martha Van Nordstrand seconded a motion to approve the budget. The motion was approved.

Next on the agenda was the fiscal year budget for the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches for 2017-18. The budget totaled \$458,070 for the year including \$86,100 for the Apostles, \$26,000 for the Evangelist-Patriarchs, \$46,400 for the Presidents of Seventy, \$119,270 for the Seventy, \$71,600 for the Facilities Budget, and \$108,700 for other budgets. Rex Curtis moved and Julie Skotak seconded the motion to approve the budget.

A correction was made in the detail of the Restoration Seventy budget. The figure of \$15,000 for Dan Norman was for ministry in Tahiti and \$3,400 was for ministry in Latin America. The figures had been reversed in the printed budget.

Randy Vick suggested an amendment to the budget to increase the budget for the Beacon and Other Communications by \$2,000 to allow distribution of the Beacon to English speakers in areas outside the United States and the budget for literature by \$2,000 to provide some funds for production of the materials in languages other than English. This raised the Beacon budget to \$20,000 and the Literature budget to \$2,500. Phil O’Camb made the motion and Patrick McKay seconded it. The amendment was approved.

With the amendment, the budget total was increased to \$462,070 for the coming year. The vote on the amended budget was approved.

The remaining resolutions for the conference to discuss were then brought forward.

The first resolution was 2017-2 Budget for the Order of Evangelists.

2017-2 Budget for Order of Evangelists

(From The Order of Evangelists)

Whereas, The duties of this office are to be an evangelical minister; to preach, teach, expound, exhort, to be a revivalist, and to visit branches and districts as wisdom may direct, invitation, request, or the Spirit of God determine and require; to comfort the Saints; to be a father to the church; to give counsel and advice to individuals who may seek for such; to lay on hands for the conferment of spiritual blessing, and if so led, to point out the lineage of the one who is blessed. (D&C 125:3a,b)

Whereas, The Evangelists/Patriarchs are called to be Spiritual Fathers to my people and bring ministry that heals their spirit and reinvigorates their faith as well as reestablishes Zion principles among them. (Rev 2016 General Conference)

Whereas, The Evangelist/Patriarch are referred to as a “Traveling Minister” (D&C 125:4:a,b)

Whereas, The Seventy have been told to continue to seek out new vineyards through prayer and fasting where my gospel must be heard, for many await hearing the words of their salvation in this land and foreign places...(Rev. 2016 general conference)

Be It Resolved That, The Evangelist/Patriarchs present a proposed yearly line item budget, to help with traveling expenses as they exercise part of their duties as “Traveling Ministers” in this land and foreign places.

Be It Further Resolved, Request for traveling ministry be made to the Order of Patriarchs (At present: Fred Greene, Neil Simmons, Jerry Vickery, Dan Sherer and Ron Smith) who will discuss and pray about the request.

Be It Further Resolved, If the Order of Evangelist/Patriarchs are in agreement upon the request, and funds are available, details and plans for the request will be worked out. The

Evangelist/Patriarchs will consult with the Apostles and Presidents of Seventy in coordinating plans for the traveling ministry request.

Be It Further Resolved, That an additional yearly line item dollar amount be budgeted for obtaining a common place for the storage of Blessings, possible materials for traveling ministry, and the like.

Duane Newman moved and Jerry Skotak seconded the motion that the resolution be adopted. After brief discussion, the resolution was adopted as presented and will be included as JCR#135.

Next the conference took up resolution 2017-3 Education Committee.

2017-3 Education Committee

(From the Education Committee)

Whereas, prior JCRB General Conferences have defined the JCRB Education Committee as an elected committee, and

Whereas, the JCRB Education Committee requires members knowledgeable and skilled in curricula and course creation, project management, editing, and layout it is therefore

Resolved, that the Officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary) of the JCRB Education Committee be elected and other members be appointed by the committee officers.

And be it further Resolved, that branches and quorums be encouraged to appoint a liaison to the JCRB Education Committee to better allow the identification of future education needs, improve resource sharing, and share in the development of new educational material.

And be it further Resolved, that this resolution replace JCR#57.

A motion was made by Dave Drummond and seconded by Gary Whiting to approve the resolution. The resolution was approved and will be included as JCR#136.

Next the conference looked at resolution 2017-4 Unite in Prayer and Fasting for the Bringing Forth of Zion.

2017-4 Unite in Prayer and Fasting for the Bringing Forth of Zion

(From the Keosauqua Restoration Branch)

Whereas, given the movement of God to prepare many Christians to receive the fullness of the gospel in America; and, given this period of grace God has given us in this past election; and, given the spirit to move forward the missionary work in America,

Be it resolved that the Church unite, fast, and pray diligently for the Restored Church to grow, especially within the United States in preparation for the bringing forth of Zion and the gathering of Israel.

Dale Wilson moved and Chris Wiseman seconded a motion to approve the resolution. Hugh Caldwell suggested an amendment that to add a second resolved: "Resolved that this be done on the First Sunday of every month."

The amendment was moved by Dale Wilson and seconded by Chris Wiseman.

Another suggestion was made the Latter Day Saints' Beacon be used to remind branches of the resolution but editor Gary Whiting said he would to that without the need of another amendment.

The amendment was approved and the resolution approved as amended.

JCR#137 Unite in Prayer and Fasting for the Bringing Forth of Zion

(From the Keosauqua Restoration Branch)

Whereas, given the movement of God to prepare many Christians to receive the fullness of the gospel in America; and, given this period of grace God has given us in this past election; and, given the spirit to move forward the missionary work in America,

Be it resolved that the Church unite, fast, and pray diligently for the Restored Church to grow, especially within the United States in preparation for the bringing forth of Zion and the gathering of Israel.

And be it further resolved that this be done on the First Sunday of every month.

Next item of business was resolution 2017-5 Tithing Statement Filing and Missionary Funding Committee Travel.

2017-5 Tithing Statement Filing and Missionary Funding Committee Travel

(From The First Quorum of Restoration Seventy)

Whereas, the Missionary Funding Committee (MFC) exists to help offer financial assistance to those engaged in evangelism, and

Whereas, the First Quorum of Seventy hold a seat on this committee, and

Whereas, the Seventy cannot travel with conference funds unless they are current with their tithing (filed within the last 12 months), therefore be it

Resolved, that any saints wishing to use conference funding through the MFC be current in the filing of their tithing statement through the JCRB within the previous year.

Rose Wiseman moved and Rex Curtis seconded the motion to approve the resolution. There was a good deal of discussion for and against the resolution. Those against the resolution questioned the using the coercion in filing a tithing statement that the resolution called for.

Lorena Herod moved and Julie Skotak seconded a motion to amend the resolution by adding the word “preferably” between “MFC” and “be” in the last resolved.

After more discussion, Vernon Pearson moved the previous question on the entire matter. A vote was taken and the motion to move to the vote on the amendment and the motion was approved. The amendment was defeated and the resolution was defeated.

Calls for seven men to be ordained to the apostle was then presented and Dale Wilson moved and Jim Crawford seconded the motion to approve the calls. The calls for Kent Pedersen, Doug Patterson, Hugh Caldwell, Rex Curtis, David Drummond, Patrick McKay and Avilio Herrera were then brought up one at a time, with each man given the opportunity to share their testimony and acceptance of the call. Time was then given for others who wanted to speak about the calls. A vote was then taken individually on each man’s call. The vote appeared to be unanimous in each case.

Two calls to the office of High Priest were then presented from the Quorum of High Priests for Terry Chown and Joel Loving. David Drummond and Gary Whiting moved that the calls be approved. Brother Chown had asked that action on his call be delayed. A statement of acceptance of the call from Brother Loving was then read, followed by the opportunity of others to share affirmation of the call. The call for Brother Loving was approved.

A request was made from the First Quorum of Seventy that Ron Johnson be sustained by the conference as the President of the Quorum of Seventy. Dale Wilson moved and Rose Wiseman second the motion to approve the request for sustaining Brother Johnson. The motion was approved.

A request from the Quorum of High Priests that Robert Rolfe be sustained as president and David Whiting be sustained as secretary of the quorum was also approved by the conference.

Officers for the conference were then elected. The name of Sherman Phipps was presented in a report from the mass meeting of the Melchisedec priesthood. There were no other nominations and Brother Phipps was elected as president of the conference.

The only nomination for vice president was Fred Greene, and he was elected to the post.

Alan Smith as secretary, Nathan Sherer as treasurer and Doug Patterson as recorder were re-elected by the conference.

The meeting was then adjourned for a supper break.

Following the supper break, the conference reconvened to elect and sustain members for general conference committees.

Results included:

Youth Activities Committee – Jackie Sherer and David Frye were elected to terms expiring in 2019. Grace Pedersen was name chairperson of the committee.

Restoration Women’s Ministry Committee -- Barb Giertz and Lorrie Turner were sustained to terms ending in 2020 and Rita Woolery was sustained for a term ending in 2019.

Missionary Funding Committee – A motion was made that the Missionary Funding Committee be expanded to include representatives from the Quorum of Apostles. This motion carried. Sustained on the committee were Apostle Designee Doug Patterson and Apostle Alternate Rex Curtis, High Priest Designee Dan Sherer and High Priest Alternate Tom Beem, Elder Designee David Newman and Elder Alternate Patrick Phelps, Seventy Designee Jim Noland and Seventy Alternate George Mefford.

Logistics Committee – Elected to the Logistics Committee were Cheryl Phipps, Sally Simmons, Kent Pedersen, Lisa Newman, Duane Newman, Jan Jordison, Alissa Hughes, Barbara Giertz, Levi Vickery, Debbie Newman, Barb Jordison and Chris Taylor.

Finance Committee – Chris Pedersen and Paul Sinclair were elected to one-year terms.

Credentials Committee – Eric Woolery and David Bates were elected two terms ending in 2019.

Education Committee – Chad Nestman was named chairman, Genie Simmons as vice chairman and Julie Skotak as sectary for the committee, in response to the resolution passed by the conference.

Communications Department Committees – These appointed committee members were sustained.

A final recorder’s report on conference participation was presented. There were a total of 209 people registering for the conference, with a total of 34 branches represented and a total of 10 countries represented. There was a total of 1,722 votes. There were 34 branch delegates with a total of 850 votes. There were 17 branch alternates registered, with one vote each. There were 129 other members registered with one vote each. There were 12 international delegates with votes totaling 651 and a proxy delegate with a vote of 75. A total of 16 guests also were registered for the conference.

Alan Smith asked for a point of person privilege to thank president Fred Greene for his years of service to the conference and the important leadership he has provided in helping the conference move forward. He noted that his service as vice president in the coming year would continue to be important. The conference responded with a standing vote of thanks and a round of applause.

The conference was then adjourned until the general conference of 2018.