

Unapproved Minutes from the U. S. National Conference

East 39th Street Community of Christ
Independence, MO
October 14, 2016

President Greene called the conference to order with the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag and an opening prayer by Dan Sherer.

First item of business was consideration of the minutes from the conference from Thursday, Oct. 13. Jim Crawford moved and Frank Frye seconded the motion to approve the minutes. A correction was made in the spelling of the name of Cliff Herod, with the single “r” spelling correct. The minutes were approved as amended.

Jerry Vickery moved and Holly Milford seconded a motion to change the order of business to deal with NCR16-07 Credentialing of U. S. National Conference Delegates as the first resolution to be dealt with. The motion to change the order of business was approved.

Resolution NCR16-07 was then brought to the floor with Jerry Vickery moving and Bessie Schoemig seconding the motion.

Resolution NCR16-07

Credentialing of U.S. National Conference Delegates

Submitted by Jerry Vickery, Forefront Restoration Branch

Resolved, that all registered attendees of the U.S. National Conference must be residents of the United States and be credentialed in order to have voice and vote in the legislative sessions of the conference. And be it further

Resolved, that all such attendees who have been previously credentialed by the General Conference of the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches (JCRB) are considered already credentialed by this national conference.

Resolved, that a credentials committee be appointed to credential registered attendees of the U.S. National Conference who have not previously been credentialed by the JCRB, and that the criteria used by the JCRB General Conference Credentials Committee be used by the credentials committee of the U.S. National Conference.

A motion was made by Ron Smith and seconded by Jim Crawford to strike the words “residents of the United States and be” from the resolution. Smith noted that there are branches in the United States who have members from Canada on their roles as members.

After some discussion, a motion to move the previous questions was made by George Knotts and seconded by Frank Frye. The motion carried. The amendment to the resolution was approved and then a vote was taken on the resolution as amended, and it was approved as well.

The resolution as approved reads:

Resolution NCR-01

Credentialing of U.S. National Conference Delegates

submitted by Jerry Vickery, Forefront Restoration Branch

Resolved, that all registered attendees of the U.S. National Conference must be credentialed in order to have voice and vote in the legislative sessions of the conference. And be it further

Resolved, that all such attendees who have been previously credentialed by the General Conference of the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches (JCRB) are considered already credentialed by this national conference.

Resolved, that a credentials committee be appointed to credential registered attendees of the U.S. National Conference who have not previously been credentialed by the JCRB, and that the criteria used by the JCRB General Conference Credentials Committee be used by the credentials committee of the U.S. National Conference.

Next item of business was Resolution NCR16-01:

Resolution NCR16-01

U.S. National Conference Officer Requirements

submitted by the U.S. Conference Logistics Committee

Resolved, that US National Conference officers nominated are: President, Vice-President, and Secretary from the standing, Melchisedec ministry, High Priests and Elders (Doc. & Cov. 122:9b), and must be from a participating Restoration branch; and

Resolved, that the Treasurer must be one qualified by education and financial experience and may be elected from the membership; and, that the Recorder may also be elected from among the conference membership; and

Resolved, as Seventy and High Priests are not standing ministers but are representatives of the presiding councils (Doc. & Cov. 120:3,4; 122:9a), a Seventy or High Priest elected to a Conference office need not be a member of a participating branch.

Duane Newcom moved and David Drummond seconded the motion to approve the resolution.

Jerry Vickery proposed an amendment to strike the third resolved. Jared Watson seconded the motion. Cliff Herod moved and Jerry Vickery seconded an amendment to the amendment to change “must be from a participating Restoration branch” to “must be a

credentialed member of the U.S. National Conference.” When a vote was taken, both amendments were approved and the motion was approved as amended. The adopted resolution reads:

Resolution NCR-02
U.S. National Conference Officer Requirements

Resolved, that US National Conference officers nominated are: President, Vice-President, and Secretary from the standing, Melchisedec ministry, High Priests and Elders (Doc. & Cov. 122:9b), and must be a credentialed member of the U.S. National Conference ; and

Resolved, that the Treasurer must be one qualified by education and financial experience and may be elected from the membership; and, that the Recorder may also be elected from among the conference membership.

Next item of business was Resolution NCR16-02.

Resolution NCR16-02
Rules of Representation of Restoration Branches and Members
submitted by the U.S. Conference Logistics Committee

1. Restoration Branch Defined. A Restoration Branch has been organized under the legal authority granted by the Articles of Incorporation of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (1872), and in accordance with the directions in A Manual of Practice and Rules of Order and Debate for Deliberative Assemblies of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, compiled by Joseph Smith and Thomas W. Smith, and approved by General Conference action in 1876 and 1891. A Restoration Branch has three primary characteristics:

1. It has been organized by one or more priesthood members who trace their authority to the Reorganized Church;
2. Its membership is composed of six or more members who are in good standing and are under the pastoral charge of an Elder, Priest, Teacher, or Deacon (“Elder” includes the offices of High Priest, Seventy, Evangelist/Patriarch, Bishop);
3. It preaches and practices the original tenets and doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints originally founded April 6, 1830, by Joseph Smith, Jr., and perpetuated in the Reorganized Church by his son, Joseph Smith III, April 6, 1860.

A Restoration Branch has certain rights which include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The right to elect its leadership;
2. The right to identify and qualify its membership;
3. The right to administer in the ordinances of the gospel as traditionally administered by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints;
4. The right to approve priesthood calls and ordain men limited to the offices of elder, priest, teacher, and deacon;
5. The right to conduct business relative to its particular area of operation;
6. The right to associate (or disassociate) in secondary governmental organizations; and
7. The right of representation at conferences.

A Restoration Branch does not practice such doctrines as the ordination of women or practicing homosexuals to priesthood offices, or the serving of the sacrament to persons without authoritative baptisms. Any branches previously associated with an organization which participates in such practices are encouraged to cease and renounce the same in order to function as an independent Restoration Branch.

2. Representation of Restoration Branches. A properly organized Restoration Branch will be granted one (1) delegate (preferably its branch president or other Melchisedec priesthood member) based on organization alone. Additionally, each Restoration Branch shall be granted one (1) delegate for every 25 members in the branch's official membership list, and one (1) more delegate for additional members if less than 25 members. Thus, a branch of 80 members will be allowed five (5) delegates.

4. Choosing of Branch delegates. Restoration Branches shall be free to adopt rules to choose their representatives from among their membership.

5. Qualifications of Branch delegates. The only qualifications for eligibility as a delegate to this United States National Conference of Branches shall be membership in good standing and enrollment in the Restoration Branch which is being represented.

6. Special considerations for Restoration Branch representation. The Credentials Committee shall take into consideration the special circumstances surrounding applications from such Restoration Branches as have been unable to provide a delegate from among their membership who has the ability to make the journey to the conference location. With the concurrence of the Credentials Committee, the branch presidency may nominate a single delegate who, though not a member of the respective branch, will agree to visit the branch and report on Conference

actions in order to assist the branch in complying with Rule of Order #12 (Resolution #3). A delegate nominated in this fashion shall represent only one branch.

7. Standard Delegate votes. Properly seated delegates shall be designated by the conference Credentials Committee with a distinguishing badge and shall cast a vote equal to 25 individual member votes.

8. Authorization of Restoration Branches. Restoration Branches seeking representation in the US National Conference of Branches shall provide the following information to the Credentials Committee on or before the first day of the conference (preferably, at least 10 days in advance):

1. A brief history and/or by-laws which identify the official branch position regarding organization and practices;
2. A list of members in good standing and authorized by a branch officer, including names, contact information, date of baptism, and priesthood office and date of ordination, if applicable, date of birth;
3. An official delegate list as allowed by 4 and 5 above and certified by a branch officer.

Representation of Members

9. Membership qualifications. Participation by voice and vote in the conference is extended to all persons who have an authoritative baptism and are in good standing in the Church of Jesus Christ. An authoritative baptism can only be performed by a priest or elder who traces his priesthood and spiritual authority to the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. There can be no practice of the doctrine of women's ordination to priesthood in his line of authority.

10. Authorizing of members of Restoration Branches. Restoration Branch members wishing to exercise their right to voice and vote shall be named on their respective branch's membership roster as provided to the Credentials Committee. If listed on an approved branch's membership list, members shall be considered to be in good standing and be granted voice and vote in the Conference.

11. Authorizing of unaffiliated members. Church members who are unaffiliated with a Restoration Branch or whose branch chooses not to seek representation at the conference may also exercise voice and vote by applying directly to the Credentials Committee. It shall be the responsibility of the individual member to provide adequate evidence of membership by either documentation (baptismal certificate, ordination certificate) or testimony from one or more

valid, reliable witnesses. Application and evidence shall be made on or before being seated in the Conference.

Therefore, Be it Resolved that the foregoing Resolution #2 be adopted as the United States National Conference of Restoration Branches Rules for Representation.

Lorena Herod moved and Frank Frye seconded that the motion be approved. Two editorial changes were made — renumbering the resolution sections where one number had been left out and changing the word “this” to “the” in the sentence on “Qualifications of Branch delegates.”

Ron Smith moved an amendment, seconded by Jim Crawford, to change the second sentence in the final paragraph of section 1 to read: “Any branches previously associated with an organization which participates in such practices are encouraged to repent of the same in order to function as an independent Restoration Branch.”

A substitute motion to strike the whole sentence was made as a friendly amendment approved by the mover and seconder. The substitute amendment was approved.

Jerry Vickery made a motion to amend item two under the Restoration Branch defined heading to include High Priest to read “a High Priest, Elder, Priest, Teacher, or Deacon” and to strike the phrase (“Elder includes the offices of High Priest, Seventy, Evangelist/Patriarch, Bishop).” The motion was seconded by Laurie Schooley.

Jared Watson made a motion to amend the amendment so the wording of the same section would read: “Its membership is composed of six or more members who are in good standing and are under the pastoral charge of a priesthood member.”

Both amendments were defeated.

Jerry Vickery moved and Betty Vickery seconded an amendment to drop the word “limited” from the fourth phrase under rights of a Restoration branch to make it read: “4. The right to approve priesthood calls and ordain men to the offices of elder, priest, teacher and deacon.” This amendment was defeated.

Christopher Vickery moved and Levi Vickery seconded a motion to amend the third phrase under rights of a Restoration branch by changing the word “traditionally” to “scripturally.” The phrase would then read “3. The right to administer in the ordinances of the gospel as scripturally administered by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.”

Patrick McKay moved and Jim Crawford seconded a substitute amendment to read:

“3. The right to administer in the ordinances of the gospel as administered by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the days of her ministerial fidelity.”

George Knotts moved the previous question on the amendments and Vernon Pearson seconded the motion. The vote to move ahead and take a vote on the matters was approved. The substitute amendment failed and the amendment was approved.

A motion by Gary Whiting, seconded by Cliff Herod, called for the conference to take a 15 minute break. This motion was approved.

When the conference was called back into session, the whole resolution as amended was approved. The final resolution reads:

Resolution NCR-03

Rules of Representation of Restoration Branches and Members

1. Restoration Branch Defined. A Restoration Branch has been organized under the legal authority granted by the Articles of Incorporation of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (1872), and in accordance with the directions in A Manual of Practice and Rules of Order and Debate for Deliberative Assemblies of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, compiled by Joseph Smith and Thomas W. Smith, and approved by General Conference action in 1876 and 1891. A Restoration Branch has three primary characteristics:

1. It has been organized by one or more priesthood members who trace their authority to the Reorganized Church;
2. Its membership is composed of six or more members who are in good standing and are under the pastoral charge of an Elder, Priest, Teacher, or Deacon (“Elder” includes the offices of High Priest, Seventy, Evangelist/Patriarch, Bishop);
3. It preaches and practices the original tenets and doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints originally founded April 6, 1830, by Joseph Smith, Jr., and perpetuated in the Reorganized Church by his son, Joseph Smith III, April 6, 1860.

A Restoration Branch has certain rights which include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The right to elect its leadership;
2. The right to identify and qualify its membership;
3. The right to administer in the ordinances of the gospel as scripturally administered by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints;

4. The right to approve priesthood calls and ordain men limited to the offices of elder, priest, teacher, and deacon;
5. The right to conduct business relative to its particular area of operation;
6. The right to associate (or disassociate) in secondary governmental organizations; and
7. The right of representation at conferences.

A Restoration Branch does not practice such doctrines as the ordination of women or practicing homosexuals to priesthood offices, or the serving of the sacrament to persons without authoritative baptisms.

2. Representation of Restoration Branches. A properly organized Restoration Branch will be granted one (1) delegate (preferably its branch president or other Melchisedec priesthood member) based on organization alone. Additionally, each Restoration Branch shall be granted one (1) delegate for every 25 members in the branch's official membership list, and one (1) more delegate for additional members if less than 25 members. Thus, a branch of 80 members will be allowed five (5) delegates.

3. Choosing of Branch delegates. Restoration Branches shall be free to adopt rules to choose their representatives from among their membership.

4. Qualifications of Branch delegates. The only qualifications for eligibility as a delegate to the United States National Conference of Branches shall be membership in good standing and enrollment in the Restoration Branch which is being represented.

5. Special considerations for Restoration Branch representation. The Credentials Committee shall take into consideration the special circumstances surrounding applications from such Restoration Branches as have been unable to provide a delegate from among their membership who has the ability to make the journey to the conference location. With the concurrence of the Credentials Committee, the branch presidency may nominate a single delegate who, though not a member of the respective branch, will agree to visit the branch and report on Conference actions in order to assist the branch in complying with Rule of Order #12 (Resolution #3). A delegate nominated in this fashion shall represent only one branch.

6. Standard Delegate votes. Properly seated delegates shall be designated by the conference Credentials Committee with a distinguishing badge and shall cast a vote equal to 25 individual member votes.

7. Authorization of Restoration Branches. Restoration Branches seeking representation in the US National Conference of Branches shall provide the following information to the Credentials Committee on or before the first day of the conference (preferably, at least 10 days in advance):

1. A brief history and/or by-laws which identify the official branch position regarding organization and practices;
2. A list of members in good standing and authorized by a branch officer, including names, contact information, date of baptism, and priesthood office and date of ordination, if applicable, date of birth;
3. An official delegate list as allowed by 4 and 5 above and certified by a branch officer.

Representation of Members

8. Membership qualifications. Participation by voice and vote in the conference is extended to all persons who have an authoritative baptism and are in good standing in the Church of Jesus Christ. An authoritative baptism can only be performed by a priest or elder who traces his priesthood and spiritual authority to the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. There can be no practice of the doctrine of women's ordination to priesthood in his line of authority.

9. Authorizing of members of Restoration Branches. Restoration Branch members wishing to exercise their right to voice and vote shall be named on their respective branch's membership roster as provided to the Credentials Committee. If listed on an approved branch's membership list, members shall be considered to be in good standing and be granted voice and vote in the Conference.

10. Authorizing of unaffiliated members. Church members who are unaffiliated with a Restoration Branch or whose branch chooses not to seek representation at the conference may also exercise voice and vote by applying directly to the Credentials Committee. It shall be the responsibility of the individual member to provide adequate evidence of membership by either documentation (baptismal certificate, ordination certificate) or testimony from one or more valid, reliable witnesses. Application and evidence shall be made on or before being seated in the Conference.

Therefore, Be it Resolved that the foregoing Resolution #2 be adopted as the United States National Conference of Restoration Branches Rules for Representation.

Next item of business was Resolution NCR16-03 Rules of Order. Dave Drummond moved and Chad Nestman seconded the motion to approve the resolution.

Resolution NCR16-03

Rules of Order

Submitted by the U.S. Conference Logistics Committee

- 1. Mass Meeting of the Elders of Participating Branches.** Following prayer and supplication to the Lord that these activities shall be blessed with His spirit, a mass meeting of the registered elders from participating branches shall be convened. The US National Conference president shall call the meeting to order and appoint the Conference Secretary to take minutes.
- 2. Presiding Protocols.** The US National Conference President shall be chosen from among the Melchisedec priesthood of the participating branches. Preference shall be given first to the office of High Priest, then to the office of Seventy, and finally to the office of Elder.
- 3. Nomination by the Elders to the Conference for Conference President.** Having affirmed the presiding protocols, the president shall open nominations for the office of President of the US National Conference. The nominee shall be determined by a hand vote of the elders.
- 4. Closing of Mass Meeting of Elders.** The president shall direct the Secretary to prepare a report of the Mass Meeting of Elders and election results for the Conference order of business. He shall then call upon the newly elected nominee to offer a closing prayer.
- 5. Election of Conference President by the Conference.** At the announced time and place, the Secretary shall read the report of the mass meeting of the Elders to the Conference. He shall then accept the Elders' nominee and open the floor for nominations. Following the nominating process, the US National Conference President shall be elected from the eligible nominees by vote of the officially registered membership.
- 6. Ordering the Conference.** The presiding officer shall call the newly elected president (if different) to the chair charging him with the responsibility of opening the Conference with prayer and leading the people of the Lord in this sacred and deliberative assembly. Nominations shall then be opened for the remaining four officers: Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Recorder.
- 7. Officers, Terms, and Duties.** The National Conference shall be fully organized when a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Recorder are elected. Officers shall be elected to serve following the end of that US National Conference until the end of the next regularly appointed US National Conference. New officers shall assume their responsibilities at the close of the National Conference at which they were elected. The duties of the officers are as follows:

a. President: The President shall be elected to preside over the deliberative sessions of the US National Conference. He shall also serve as the chair for the Logistics Committee in planning and coordinating preparations for the next Conference. If circumstances require, the President with concurrence of the other elected officers, may call for a special National Conference to be held other than the annually scheduled Conference. If he should resign or become unable to carry out his duties as president of the conference in the interim between conferences, the Vice-President shall become the Acting President of the Conference until the election by the Conference of a succeeding president.

b. Vice-President: The Vice-President shall be subject to the same qualifications for office as the President. He shall be a member of the Logistics Committee with voice and vote and shall preside in the absence of or by the direction of the President. He shall serve as a counselor to the President and lend support and assistance. The President and the Vice-President shall function harmoniously for the benefit and welfare of the Conference. If the Vice-President should resign or be unable to carry out his duties, an Acting Vice-President shall be appointed by the President of the US National Conference until a succeeding Vice-President can be elected by the Conference.

c. Secretary: The Secretary shall be chosen from among the Melchisedec priesthood (Doc. & Cov. 17:25b) to keep a record of the activities and deliberations of the National Conference. Minutes shall be provided at each subsequent business session for approval by the body and a draft set of minutes shall be available on the day after the last business session by electronic format for distribution to all delegates and members. He shall provide guidance in parliamentary procedures for the presiding officer. He shall serve as the secretary for the Logistics Committee with voice and vote. The Secretary shall serve as the Historian until the Conference fills that office. The Secretary shall be allowed to contract with members to assist in completing these tasks. If the Secretary should resign or be unable to carry out his duties, an Acting Secretary shall be appointed by the President of the US National Conference until a succeeding Secretary can be elected by the Conference.

d. Treasurer: The Treasurer must be one qualified by education/or financial experience and may be elected from among the membership. The Treasurer shall; preside over the Finance Committee, receive all National Conference monies and disburse all financial obligations, and report on budgetary items as requested, provide an annual report of Conference income and expense for the Conference. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to establish and maintain bank accounts as needed by the Conference. The Treasurer shall not have power to refuse to write a check or dispense funds specifically authorized by the Conference to be spent. The Treasurer may refuse to do so if, in their

understanding, the expenditure is not within the authorization of the conference unless the other officers of the conference are agreed that it is authorized. If the Treasurer should resign or be unable to carry out his/her duties, an Acting Treasurer shall be appointed by the President of the National Conference until a succeeding Treasurer can be elected by the Conference. The Treasurer may draw from Conference membership or other qualified persons to assist in the performance of these duties. In all respects, the Treasurer is accountable to the Conference. The Conference President can select two persons, sustained by Conference vote, to audit the financial report and report their findings to the next US National Conference.

e. Recorder: The Recorder is chosen from among the membership and is responsible to maintain a current listing of affiliated restoration branches and their membership. The recorder may also maintain a listing of other unaffiliated restoration branches as we continue to seek unity. The Recorder serves as the Chair of the Credentials Committee, which is a standing committee of the conference, and assumes all duties of maintaining statistics and records. If the Recorder should resign or be unable to carry out his/her duties, an Acting Recorder shall be appointed by the President of the US National Conference until a succeeding Recorder can be elected by the Conference.

8. Parliamentary Procedures. The National Conference shall be ruled by order and dignity during all deliberations. In order to insure that respect and civility prevail, the final rule for parliamentary questions shall be Parliamentary Procedures in the Church (Young) subject to alterations by this National Conference. The President shall preside in the spirit of brotherly kindness and fairness to preserve the rights and privileges of the body and individual members. A Simple Chart of Motions is an adaptation from this book and shall be provided to delegates and members to help in directing the business sessions.

9. National Conference Rules. When the National Conference has been properly organized with the elected officers in place, the President shall call upon the Secretary to move for approval of the proposed Rules of Representation, the Rules of Order, and proposed Order of Business.

10. Resolutions. Participating branches and committees shall be invited to submit resolutions to the Logistics Committee prior to the National Conference, for inclusion on the Conference Order of Business. The Logistics Committee shall compile an Order of Business for the Conference based on the resolutions which have been submitted. Resolutions shall be categorized to efficiently present each general subject to the body. The Order of Business shall include a period on the first legislative day to allow Conference delegates and members to submit resolutions under new business. All resolutions shall be in written form with the names and branch affiliation of both the moving and seconding parties. The motion shall be read to

the body and then provided to the Secretary. These shall be published (at least electronically) by the Secretary for distribution and inclusion on the next day's Order of Business.

11. Voting. Voting shall be by voice or raised hand at the discretion of the President. In each case, the President shall declare the prevailing side if possible. If the outcome is not clear or a request is made from the body, the President shall call for a division of the house. He shall then request that all delegates in favor of the question raise their hands for counting; then those against. This shall be followed by the same direction to the members. The Logistics Committee shall formulate a strategy for counting the votes in an acceptable fashion and providing the tally to the President so that he may announce the results.

12. Branch Approvals and/or Concerns. President Joseph Smith III defined the Church as a theocratic democracy. It originated thru command of God and is administered by His authority thru priesthood. Sustained by the light of His Spirit, the Church exists for His purposes. Nevertheless, our Heavenly Father has provided that the Saints should have a significant role in the government of His Church: "neither shall anything be appointed unto any of this church contrary to the church covenants, for all things must be done in order and by common consent in the church, by the prayer of faith" (Doc. & Cov. 27:4). As branches are the primary and congregational organization of the Church, it is incumbent upon them to preserve these important democratic principles and encourage all Saints to take an active role in the government of the Church. To this end, the US National Conference declares that any lawful Restoration Branch that is represented in this conference has the following enumerated rights and responsibilities according to basic scriptural church law and the Manual of Practice and Rules of Order and Debate for Deliberative Assemblies, Section 4 (1876, 1891):

1. The right to petition to become a member of a conference or to withdraw from conference fellowship by the voice of the branch membership;
2. The right and obligation to have conference rules and resolutions brought to the branch by the delegates/official members/branch president for the common consent voice of the branch;
3. The obligation and responsibility by the voice of the branch at a branch business meeting, to approve or disapprove of conference rules and resolutions and the submission in writing to the conference Secretary of the branch's decision with any explanatory comments, so that church law, the spirit of revelation, wisdom, and knowledge may be shared for the mutual benefit and progression in righteousness of the Lord's work; and
4. The responsibility to notify the conference of the branch voice on conference matters, rules, and resolutions.

Therefore, within 120 days of adjournment, branches should notify the Secretary of agreement with or of opposition to any National Conference proceedings. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Recorder shall review the concerns and/or complaints and communicate with the respective branch prior to the convening of the next Conference. This may lead to responsive legislation in a subsequent conference or, in a worst case scenario, withdrawal of a branch from further National Conference participation. No official response will indicate acceptance and approval of conference actions.

Be it Resolved; that the foregoing Resolution #3 be adopted as the United States National Conference of Restoration Branches Rules for Ordering the Conference.

Jerry Vickery made the motion and Betty Vickery seconded it to amend the resolution to remove the first six rules. After some discussion, George Knotts moved and Chad Nestman seconded to move the previous question on the amendment. The amendment was defeated.

Jerry Vickery made the motion and Betty Vickery seconded it to amend the section d. Treasurer to remove “preside over the Finance Committee.” The amendment was approved.

Tom Beem, who had voted on the affirmative side of the vote, then made a motion to reconsider the matter and this was seconded by Jim Noland. The motion to reconsider was approved. When the vote was held on the amendment to remove “preside over the Finance Committee” the second time, the motion to amend failed.

Jerry Vickery moved and Gary Metzler seconded a motion to add the words “and other affiliated members at large” to the section on the Recorder to expand the responsibilities of the recorder. The sentence would read “The Recorder is chosen from among the membership and is responsible to maintain a current listing of affiliated restoration branches and their membership and other affiliated members at large.” The amendment was approved.

With no other amendments offered, the resolution was voted on as amended and was approved. The final resolution was:

Resolution NCR-04
Rules of Order

1. Mass Meeting of the Elders of Participating Branches. Following prayer and supplication to the Lord that these activities shall be blessed with His spirit, a mass meeting of the registered elders from participating branches shall be convened. The US National Conference president shall call the meeting to order and appoint the Conference Secretary to take minutes.

2. Presiding Protocols. The US National Conference President shall be chosen from among the Melchisedec priesthood of the participating branches. Preference shall be given first to the office of High Priest, then to the office of Seventy, and finally to the office of Elder.

3. Nomination by the Elders to the Conference for Conference President. Having affirmed the presiding protocols, the president shall open nominations for the office of President of the US National Conference. The nominee shall be determined by a hand vote of the elders.

4. Closing of Mass Meeting of Elders. The president shall direct the Secretary to prepare a report of the Mass Meeting of Elders and election results for the Conference order of business. He shall then call upon the newly elected nominee to offer a closing prayer.

5. Election of Conference President by the Conference. At the announced time and place, the Secretary shall read the report of the mass meeting of the Elders to the Conference. He shall then accept the Elders' nominee and open the floor for nominations. Following the nominating process, the US National Conference President shall be elected from the eligible nominees by vote of the officially registered membership.

6. Ordering the Conference. The presiding officer shall call the newly elected president (if different) to the chair charging him with the responsibility of opening the Conference with prayer and leading the people of the Lord in this sacred and deliberative assembly. Nominations shall then be opened for the remaining four officers: Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Recorder.

7. Officers, Terms, and Duties. The National Conference shall be fully organized when a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Recorder are elected. Officers shall be elected to serve following the end of that US National Conference until the end of the next regularly appointed US National Conference. New officers shall assume their responsibilities at the close of the National Conference at which they were elected. The duties of the officers are as follows:

a. President: The President shall be elected to preside over the deliberative sessions of the US National Conference. He shall also serve as the chair for the Logistics Committee in planning and coordinating preparations for the next Conference. If circumstances require, the President with concurrence of the other elected officers, may call for a special National Conference to be held other than the annually scheduled Conference. If he should resign or become unable to carry out his duties as president of the conference in the interim between conferences, the Vice-President shall become the Acting President of the Conference until the election by the Conference of a succeeding president.

b. Vice-President: The Vice-President shall be subject to the same qualifications for office as the President. He shall be a member of the Logistics Committee with voice and

vote and shall preside in the absence of or by the direction of the President. He shall serve as a counselor to the President and lend support and assistance. The President and the Vice-President shall function harmoniously for the benefit and welfare of the Conference. If the Vice-President should resign or be unable to carry out his duties, an Acting Vice-President shall be appointed by the President of the US National Conference until a succeeding Vice-President can be elected by the Conference.

c. Secretary: The Secretary shall be chosen from among the Melchisedec priesthood (Doc. & Cov. 17:25b) to keep a record of the activities and deliberations of the National Conference. Minutes shall be provided at each subsequent business session for approval by the body and a draft set of minutes shall be available on the day after the last business session by electronic format for distribution to all delegates and members. He shall provide guidance in parliamentary procedures for the presiding officer. He shall serve as the secretary for the Logistics Committee with voice and vote. The Secretary shall serve as the Historian until the Conference fills that office. The Secretary shall be allowed to contract with members to assist in completing these tasks. If the Secretary should resign or be unable to carry out his duties, an Acting Secretary shall be appointed by the President of the US National Conference until a succeeding Secretary can be elected by the Conference.

d. Treasurer: The Treasurer must be one qualified by education/or financial experience and may be elected from among the membership. The Treasurer shall; preside over the Finance Committee, receive all National Conference monies and disburse all financial obligations, and report on budgetary items as requested, provide an annual report of Conference income and expense for the Conference. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to establish and maintain bank accounts as needed by the Conference. The Treasurer shall not have power to refuse to write a check or dispense funds specifically authorized by the Conference to be spent. The Treasurer may refuse to do so if, in their understanding, the expenditure is not within the authorization of the conference unless the other officers of the conference are agreed that it is authorized. If the Treasurer should resign or be unable to carry out his/her duties, an Acting Treasurer shall be appointed by the President of the National Conference until a succeeding Treasurer can be elected by the Conference. The Treasurer may draw from Conference membership or other qualified persons to assist in the performance of these duties. In all respects, the Treasurer is accountable to the Conference. The Conference President can select two persons, sustained by Conference vote, to audit the financial report and report their findings to the next US National Conference.

e. Recorder: The Recorder is chosen from among the membership and is responsible to maintain a current listing of affiliated restoration branches and their membership and

other affiliated members at large. The recorder may also maintain a listing of other unaffiliated restoration branches as we continue to seek unity. The Recorder serves as the Chair of the Credentials Committee, which is a standing committee of the conference, and assumes all duties of maintaining statistics and records. If the Recorder should resign or be unable to carry out his/her duties, an Acting Recorder shall be appointed by the President of the US National Conference until a succeeding Recorder can be elected by the Conference.

8. Parliamentary Procedures. The National Conference shall be ruled by order and dignity during all deliberations. In order to insure that respect and civility prevail, the final rule for parliamentary questions shall be Parliamentary Procedures in the Church (Young) subject to alterations by this National Conference. The President shall preside in the spirit of brotherly kindness and fairness to preserve the rights and privileges of the body and individual members. A Simple Chart of Motions is an adaptation from this book and shall be provided to delegates and members to help in directing the business sessions.

9. National Conference Rules. When the National Conference has been properly organized with the elected officers in place, the President shall call upon the Secretary to move for approval of the proposed Rules of Representation, the Rules of Order, and proposed Order of Business.

10. Resolutions. Participating branches and committees shall be invited to submit resolutions to the Logistics Committee prior to the National Conference, for inclusion on the Conference Order of Business. The Logistics Committee shall compile an Order of Business for the Conference based on the resolutions which have been submitted. Resolutions shall be categorized to efficiently present each general subject to the body. The Order of Business shall include a period on the first legislative day to allow Conference delegates and members to submit resolutions under new business. All resolutions shall be in written form with the names and branch affiliation of both the moving and seconding parties. The motion shall be read to the body and then provided to the Secretary. These shall be published (at least electronically) by the Secretary for distribution and inclusion on the next day's Order of Business.

11. Voting. Voting shall be by voice or raised hand at the discretion of the President. In each case, the President shall declare the prevailing side if possible. If the outcome is not clear or a request is made from the body, the President shall call for a division of the house. He shall then request that all delegates in favor of the question raise their hands for counting; then those against. This shall be followed by the same direction to the members. The Logistics Committee shall formulate a strategy for counting the votes in an acceptable fashion and providing the tally to the President so that he may announce the results.

12. Branch Approvals and/or Concerns. President Joseph Smith III defined the Church as a theocratic democracy. It originated thru command of God and is administered by His authority thru priesthood. Sustained by the light of His Spirit, the Church exists for His purposes. Nevertheless, our Heavenly Father has provided that the Saints should have a significant role in the government of His Church: “neither shall anything be appointed unto any of this church contrary to the church covenants, for all things must be done in order and by common consent in the church, by the prayer of faith” (Doc. & Cov. 27:4). As branches are the primary and congregational organization of the Church, it is incumbent upon them to preserve these important democratic principles and encourage all Saints to take an active role in the government of the Church. To this end, the US National Conference declares that any lawful Restoration Branch that is represented in this conference has the following enumerated rights and responsibilities according to basic scriptural church law and the Manual of Practice and Rules of Order and Debate for Deliberative Assemblies, Section 4 (1876, 1891):

1. The right to petition to become a member of a conference or to withdraw from conference fellowship by the voice of the branch membership;
2. The right and obligation to have conference rules and resolutions brought to the branch by the delegates/official members/branch president for the common consent voice of the branch;
3. The obligation and responsibility by the voice of the branch at a branch business meeting, to approve or disapprove of conference rules and resolutions and the submission in writing to the conference Secretary of the branch’s decision with any explanatory comments, so that church law, the spirit of revelation, wisdom, and knowledge may be shared for the mutual benefit and progression in righteousness of the Lord’s work; and
4. The responsibility to notify the conference of the branch voice on conference matters, rules, and resolutions.

Therefore, within 120 days of adjournment, branches should notify the Secretary of agreement with or of opposition to any National Conference proceedings. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Recorder shall review the concerns and/or complaints and communicate with the respective branch prior to the convening of the next Conference. This may lead to responsive legislation in a subsequent conference or, in a worst case scenario, withdrawal of a branch from further National Conference participation. No official response will indicate acceptance and approval of conference actions.

Be it Resolved; that the foregoing Resolution #3 be adopted as the United States National Conference of Restoration Branches Rules for Ordering the Conference.

The next order of business was Resolution NCR16-04, with Duane Newman and Chad Nestman moving and seconding that the resolution be approved.

Resolution NCR16-04

Logistics Committee Organization

submitted by the U.S. Conference Logistics Committee

As there are many issues involved in preparation for a conference, and that this preparation involves a substantial commitment of time and energy,

Resolved; that a Logistics Committee be formed as a standing committee to prepare for the US National Conference understanding the commitment required, and be it further

Resolved; that this committee be comprised of at least 15 members to include the Officers of the National Conference as standing members of the Logistics Committee and all other committee members elected to 1 year terms or until the next Conference. The Logistics Committee Chair is free to add members through vacancies or skills needed by the committee.

The resolution was adopted as:

Resolution NCR-5

Logistics Committee Organization

As there are many issues involved in preparation for a conference, and that this preparation involves a substantial commitment of time and energy,

Resolved; that a Logistics Committee be formed as a standing committee to prepare for the US National Conference understanding the commitment required, and be it further

Resolved; that this committee be comprised of at least 15 members to include the Officers of the National Conference as standing members of the Logistics Committee and all other committee members elected to 1 year terms or until the next Conference. The Logistics Committee Chair is free to add members through vacancies or skills needed by the committee.

Resolution NCR16-05 was the next item business, with Bessie Schoemig and Bonnie Noland moving and seconding the consideration of the motion.

Resolution NCR16-05

Schedule and Purpose of the US National Conference

Submitted by the U.S. Conference Logistics Committee

The National Conference shall be held annually no later than the third week of October unless the Conference votes not to have a scheduled Conference. The purpose of the National Conference will be:

1. Be a source of education and knowledge exchange between member branches.
2. Conduct business and consider resolutions for action from member branches.
3. Encourage and uplift the Saints in the USA to empower the spreading of the gospel.
4. Identify and discuss those issues which are national in nature which affect the furthering of the spreading of the gospel in the USA and, where appropriate, pass legislation concerning those issues.
5. When national issues touch or are related to international issues, to propose resolutions affecting international issues to the General Conference for their consideration.
6. Make other recommendations in the form of approved resolutions to the JCRB General Conference for their consideration.

The US National Conference is allied with the JCRB General Conference and its adopted principles, however the US National Conference is a completely separate entity from the JCRB General Conference and the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches though it may act in concert with them in those areas where it is the will of the body to do so. It may not call upon the funds of the General Conference without making specific request approved by the membership.. It is not within the National Conference jurisdiction to pass legislation that deals with international issues, or attempts to direct or limit General Conference activities and legislation. The US National Conference has no authority or jurisdiction over member branches or members. Legislation shall not be of a nature as to dictate to branches their activities or organizations, but shall define how the conference is to act while it is in session and how it will conduct activities agreed upon by the body.

Randy Vick and Bessie Schoemig seconded a motion to amend a section of the resolution to read:

“It may not call upon the funds of the General Conference without making specific request approved by the membership of the U.S. National Conference. That request must be approved by the General Conference.” The amendment was approved.

Jerry Vickery and Ron Smith moved to amend the a phrase “that deals with international issues” from the resolution making the new sentence read “It is not within the National

Conference jurisdiction to pass legislation that attempts to direct or limit General Conference activities and legislation.” This amendment was approved.

Betty Vickery moved and Jerry Vickery seconded a motion to amend the resolution to add the words “and members at large” to the second item in the resolution so that it would read “Conduct business and consider resolutions for action from member branches and members at large.” This amendment was approved.

A vote was then held on the resolution as amended and it was approved.

The amended resolution read:

Resolution NCR-06
Schedule and Purpose of the US National Conference

The National Conference shall be held annually no later than the third week of October unless the Conference votes not to have a scheduled Conference. The purpose of the National Conference will be:

1. Be a source of education and knowledge exchange between member branches.
2. Conduct business and consider resolutions for action from member branches and members at large.
3. Encourage and uplift the Saints in the USA to empower the spreading of the gospel.
4. Identify and discuss those issues which are national in nature which affect the furthering of the spreading of the gospel in the USA and, where appropriate, pass legislation concerning those issues.
5. When national issues touch or are related to international issues, to propose resolutions affecting international issues to the general conference for their consideration.
6. Make other recommendations in the form of approved resolutions to the JCRB general conference for their consideration.

The US National Conference is allied with the JCRB general conference and its adopted principles, however the US National Conference is a completely separate entity from the JCRB general conference and the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches though it may act in concert with them in those areas where it is the will of the body to do so. It may not call upon the funds of the general conference without making specific request approved by the

membership of the U.S. National Conference. It is not within the National Conference jurisdiction to pass legislation that attempts to direct or limit general conference activities and legislation. The US National Conference has no authority or jurisdiction over member branches or members. Legislation shall not be of a nature as to dictate to branches their activities or organizations, but shall define how the conference is to act while it is in session and how it will conduct activities agreed upon by the body.

Resolution NCR16-06 was then brought to the floor with David Drummond moving it and Jim Noland seconding it.

Resolution NCR16-06

Organization of the Credentials Committee

Submitted by the U.S. Conference Logistics Committee

Resolved that the Credentials Committee be a permanent Conference Committee with the following organization and responsibilities:

1. The permanent Chair of the Credentials Committee shall be the US National Conference Recorder who shall then serve as the Credentials Committee Chair and assume all duties of maintaining statistics and records.
2. The Conference Secretary shall be a member of the Credentials Committee.
3. Two other committee members shall be elected by the US National Conference to the committee. Those elected shall serve until the next regularly appointed US National Conference.
4. The Credentials Committee shall review the Rules of Representation prior to upcoming conferences and notify the membership of rules changes or registration requirements at least four (4) months in advance of the convening of the subsequent conference.
5. The Credentials Committee shall maintain a permanent record of branch and member information and shall adopt rules for the disbursement of such statistical information. After obtaining competent legal advice, the rules shall be presented to the next Conference for approval.
6. A proposed budget shall be brought to each Conference with estimated costs for maintaining this information and providing these services.

An editorial change to the resolution made with the approval of the mover and seconder as suggested by Jerry Vickery. The words “end of the” were inserted in the third item

of the resolution. It would read “Those elected shall serve until the end of the next regularly appointed US National Conference.”

The conference approved the resolution with the change. The final resolution reads:

Resolution NCR-07

Organization of the Credentials Committee

Resolved that the Credentials Committee be a permanent Conference Committee with the following organization and responsibilities:

1. The permanent Chair of the Credentials Committee shall be the US National Conference Recorder who shall then serve as the Credentials Committee Chair and assume all duties of maintaining statistics and records.
2. The Conference Secretary shall be a member of the Credentials Committee.
3. Two other committee members shall be elected by the US National Conference to the committee. Those elected shall serve until the end of the next regularly appointed US National Conference.
4. The Credentials Committee shall review the Rules of Representation prior to upcoming conferences and notify the membership of rules changes or registration requirements at least four (4) months in advance of the convening of the subsequent conference.
5. The Credentials Committee shall maintain a permanent record of branch and member information and shall adopt rules for the disbursement of such statistical information. After obtaining competent legal advice, the rules shall be presented to the next Conference for approval.
6. A proposed budget shall be brought to each Conference with estimated costs for maintaining this information and providing these services.

Marilyn James then brought a treasurer’s report. The conference began with a balance of \$2,420 she reported. After the funds received and expenses for the conference, the treasury had a balance of \$4,310.

A short recess was held for the mass meeting of elders to hold their meeting to suggest a nomination for president of the conference.

When the conference was called back into session by vice president Dan Sherer, a report was read by secretary Smith from the mass meeting of elders.

“The mass meeting of elders met on Friday, Oct. 14, to nominate a person to serve as

president of the U. S. National Conference of the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches.

Kent Pedersen offered a prayer. Brother Fred Greene was the only person nominated for the office. He was unanimously approved as the nominee of the group. Ron Smith offered a prayer to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by H. Alan Smith, Secretary”

Brother Sherer called for any nominations from the floor to be made. There were no other nominations and brother Greene was unanimously elected.

Elected to fill the other officers for the conference for the year were:

Vice-president — Dan Sherer

Secretary — H. Alan Smith

Treasurer — Marilyn James

Recorder — Jan Jordison

A motion was made by David Drummond to sustain the current Logistics Committee. Levi Vickery withdrew his name from the list. Elected were Sally Simmons, Lisa Newman, Duane Newman, Barbara Giertz, Chris Taylor, Allissa Hughes and Barbra Jordison.

Three people were nominated for the two positions on the Credentials Committee. They were Tom Beem, Ryland Williams and Frank Frye. Tom Beem and Frank Frye were elected to serve on the committee for the next conference.

A final credentials report was provided by recorder Jan Jordison. There are 10 branches with delegates participating with a total of 30 branch delegates. There were five alternates, 80 members and five guests also registered for a total vote of 1,442.

Hailey Norman talked to the conference about a fundraiser that was being developed to raise funds for youth to help with a youth retreat and other ministry in Tahiti in the summer of 2017. It was moved by Marilyn James and seconded by Jerry Vickery to loan \$1,000 to the t-shirt fundraiser for the youth. This motion was approved.

A motion was made by Tom Beem and seconded by Randy Beem to offer another \$1,000 loan if the group needed it when the first \$1,000 had been paid back. The youth are to report on the project at the next national conference. The motion carried.

Provision was also made for the inclusion of the reports from the quorum meetings to be part of the minutes of the meeting. Groups were to provide ideas on how to improve response to the financial law and implementing Aaronic ministry in branches.

The quorum reports included High Priests, Seventy, Elders, Aaronic Priesthood and members groups.

Report of High Priest Quorum (Included Apostles and Evangelist/Patriarchs)

Submitted by H. Alan Smith

All the High Priests meeting together noted their commitment to filing their tithing statements with the Bishop and paying tithing and will ask other members of the High Priest Quorum to respond affirmatively as well. Some of the high priests are using monthly automatic checking to make tithing contributions to the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches and would offer this method for consideration of other Saints.

The High Priests suggested that an effort be made to look at what is implied by the Bishop being the president of the Aaronic priesthood and how this could be implemented to strengthen Aaronic ministry through quorum functioning. Bishop's agents in branches in outlying areas could help provide direction to the Aaronic priesthood. In smaller branches, utilize Aaronic priesthood in sharing foundational elements of the gospel in adult classes.

Report of the Seventy's Quorum

Submitted by David Drummond

Overall response to the thought, (do we limit the Lord's work when the Saints are not united) - We don't limit Him, but it does limit how the Lord will use us. See D&C 81:3b, when we don't do what he says, we have no promise.

Question # 1 Thoughts

Blessings will be lost to us, if there isn't adequate funding that does limit travel.

Ideas to help, Tithing envelope in the Beacon, Periodical reprint Bishop Cederstrom's letter on tithing. Quorum can remind / introduce this important teaching to those we are sharing with. We need more filers/payers, Remind folks that the tithing form isn't required (they can make their accounting in a way that works for them), Lastly we all need to be reminded that if we aren't good stewards there can be no entry into Celestial Glory.

Question # 2

Aaronic Ministry is vital to the life of the Church.

Ideas to help: Seventy can take Aaronic ministry with them when traveling locally. We can encourage Aaronic visiting in the homes of the Saints. When traveling we need stay longer

when possible to make sure stewardship is being taught. Make sure to introduce D&C in the field as well as the Lectures in Faith. Possibly encourage branch Pastors to have one councilor focus on home ministry, and another to focus on evangelism.

Remember the Gifts available through the Aaronic Priesthood; they help prep the Saints for the Sacrament, and help prep the Saints to receive the Blessings that the Lord wants to give them.

Report of the Elders Quorum

Submitted by Chad Nestman

1. Stewardship — As we began our conversation how we would respond individually and how we would lead our branches in being compliant to the Stewardship commandments regarding filing and paying our tithes, it became very clear that some who have only been associated with independent branches and not the RLDS church lacked a clear understanding of Stewardship basics, so we never completed the assigned task. Questions included
 - Why do I need to file?
 - Why do I need to file with a Bishop who is not affiliated with the JCRB?
 - Can't I file in my branch?
 - Will the Bishop or other people within JCRB or my branch know what I filed?
 - How do I do an assessment?
 - How do I determine the value of my inventory?
 - How do I determine how much tithing to pay? Is it 10% of gross, 10% of net or 10% of increase?
 - How do I determine increase?
 - Will someone track what I'm paying? Will someone check my inventory?
 - Where do I get the forms?
 - Who can teach about stewardship? Is it the Aaronic priesthood only?
2. Better use of Aaronic priesthood — As a general response all of the elders agreed that they have neglected Aaronic priesthood, but also agreed that they would take the initiative "adopting" at least one Aaronic priesthood member to mentor. They also agreed to try co-visiting with the Aaronic priesthood to help teach them how to a visit, and to teach them some of do's and don'ts like confidentiality, the need for consistency, the need for knowing boundaries, and how to initiate home visits. Part of this co-visiting would also include hospital visits and administrations. One of the points raised that needed further discussion by JCRB is who is the "head"/leader of the Aaronic priesthood since we have no Bishop? Without a head or leader it is believed that the Aaronic priesthood ministry will be inconsistent between branches relative to instruction, accountabilities, and responsibilities.

Report of the Aaronic Priesthood Quorum

Submitted by Rex Marchant

1. Stewardship - Discuss what you and your quorum members will commit to accomplish within the next year in your congregations in order to respond to this calling.

- Introduce ideas of stewardship and tithing to the new and young members
- Make tithing statements and forms available to everyone
- We must first be obedient and repent
- Start simple and just start and the Lord will bless you. We over complicate and are paralyzed because of over complication.
- Call the members to support the priesthood with these callings

2. Discuss what can be accomplished in your congregation to bring more emphasis to the ministry of the Aaronic priesthood, especially the office of Priest as it relates to family ministry. How can you support this endeavor?

- Be prayerful about who should be contacted and visited and the Lord will open the doors
- Establish a home ministry coordinator

Report of the Members Quorum

Submitted by Karen Bates

We were blessed with the presence of numerous men, women and young people, who participated fully. The Holy Spirit attended us in power as we discussed what we could commit to individually and in our congregations on the two questions presented. We ended with testimonies of the blessings received when we respond in these areas.

Stewardship & Aaronic Priesthood Utilization: How we will respond to this calling.

The members noted that we are talking about stewardship in both financial as well as other aspects of the term.

1. Spend time in scripture class and promote study about stewardship and priesthood duties, including member duties.
2. Provide a trusted and confidential forum for personal stewardship questions.
3. Follow up with personal response by inviting priesthood into the home.
4. Prepare for visits with the priesthood with prayer.
5. Recognize our stewardship is our total response to the ministry of Christ.
6. Develop the stewardship of caring for other women, mentoring others.
7. Care for the families of those who are traveling in ministry.

Priesthood: The members adopted the following points from the women's quorum report at the spring general conference.

The members noted that we cannot direct the priesthood, but there are things that we can do to support and strengthen them.

1. We will invite the Aaronic priesthood into our homes and share our confirming testimonies of Jesus Christ.
2. We can encourage the priesthood to gather often for fasting and prayer to seek the Lord's guidance on the direction their branch should go and support them in this with our own fasting and prayer.
3. We can be out serving in our community to identify people and needs that we can bring to the attention of the priesthood.
4. We can encourage the Aaronic priesthood to visit inactive members
5. We can do women to women visits in member homes to help identify needs and bring blessing.
6. We can show appreciation for the work that those who are functioning in their ministry.
7. We can be sure that we correctly communicate messages in a timely way to priesthood members in our homes and encourage them to go out to visit.
8. We can support the priesthood when activities are planned.
9. Be obedient to the directions given by those presiding.
10. Encourage the priesthood to study and grow in their priesthood responsibilities and mentor new priesthood members.
11. Obey the financial law and teach our children to do so.
12. Pray for resources, freedom, and the desire for the priesthood to be able to go out.
13. Commit to supporting the families of those who are field. Where possible, create a branch fund to meet material needs.

Brother Greene declared the business session closed for the conference.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Alan Smith

Secretary