

**Joint Conference of Restoration Branches
Stone Church
Independence, MO**

Conference Resolutions, November 11, 2005

Resolution #1, Conference Officer Requirements, submitted by the Logistics Committee

Resolved that Conference officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary/Clerk, Treasurer) chosen from the standing ministry, High Priests and Elders (Doc. & Cov. 122:9b), must be from a participating Restoration Branch; and

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

Resolution #2, Rules of Representation, submitted by the Credentials Committee; amended under JCR #19 by Credentials Committee, December, 2005; approved April 6, 2006; revised April 22, 2011, by Credentials Committee proposal and amendment by Seventy Randy Vick and Elder Alex Vun Cannon

Rules of Representation

Rules of Order

Representation of Restoration Branches

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, 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 to priesthood offices, the serving of the sacrament to persons without authoritative baptisms, the ordaining of men to priesthood offices other than elder, priest, teacher, or deacon. Any branches previously associated with an organization which participated in such practices are encouraged to renounce the same in order to function as an independent Restoration Branch.

2. Representation of Restoration Branches. *Each Restoration Branch shall be entitled to one (1) delegate.*

3. Representation of Restoration Branch members. *Each Restoration Branch shall be granted one*

(1) additional delegate for each 25 members or portion thereof listed in the branch's official membership list. **Example:** A properly organized Restoration Branch will be granted one (1) delegate, (preferably its branch president or other Melchisedec priesthood member) based on organization alone. An additional delegate will be allowed for its membership up to 25 members. One (1) more delegate will be allowed for each 25 members or portion thereof beyond the first 25 members. Thus, a branch of 35 members will be allowed 3 delegates.

4. Super-Delegates. Super-delegates may be used by any body of membership that exists outside the United States that, due to logistical or financial obstacles, cannot be fully represented by delegates defined in paragraph 3 of this section.

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

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

6. 7. 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 Independence, MO. 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. A delegate nominated in this fashion shall represent only one branch.

7. 8. 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.

9. Super-Delegate votes. Properly seated delegates representing international members shall be designated by the conference Credentials Committee with a distinguishing badge and shall cast a vote equal to no more than the number of actual members represented. If more than one super-delegate represents a single body of membership, each super-delegate shall cast an equal number of individual member votes.

10. Authorization of Restoration Branches. Restoration Branches seeking representation in the Joint 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, and ministers who officiated in the ordinances; and
3. An official delegate list as allowed by Rule #3 and certified by a branch officer.

Representation of Members

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

Resolution #3, Rules of Order, submitted by the Logistics Committee; amended April 6, 2006 as recommended by Logistics Committee; amended April 4, 2007, as recommended by the Logistics Committee

Rules of Ordering the Conference

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 prior to any legislative session. The JCRB president shall call the meeting to order and appoint the JCRB secretary/clerk to take minutes.
- 2. Presiding Protocols.** As directed in a mass meeting of elders on November 10, 2005, the Conference President shall be chosen from among the Melchisedek 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 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/Clerk to prepare a report of the meeting of the elders and election results for the Conference as the first order of Conference 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 presiding officer as recommended by the High Priests and Seventy 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 President shall be chosen 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 three officers: Vice-President, Secretary/Clerk, and Treasurer.
- 7. Officers, Terms, and Duties.** The Conference shall be fully organized when a President, Vice-President, Secretary/Clerk, and Treasurer are elected. Officers shall be elected to serve from spring Conference to spring Conference. New officers shall assume their responsibilities at the close of the Conference at which they were elected. The duties of the officers are as follows:

President: Following the directions of the high priests and seventies, the President shall be elected to preside over the deliberative sessions of the Conference. He shall also serve as the chair for the Logistics Committee in planning and coordinating preparations for the next Conference.

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 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.

Secretary/Clerk: The Secretary/Clerk shall be chosen from among the Melchisedek priesthood (Doc. & Cov. 17:25b) to keep a record of the activities and deliberations of the 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. As chair of the Credentials Committee, he shall oversee the credentialing of delegates and members and, until the Conference elects a Recorder, maintain membership records. 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.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be chosen from among the Melchisedek priesthood and shall preside over the Finance Committee. He shall receive all Conference monies and shall disburse all financial obligations. He shall report on budgetary items, as requested, and provide an annual report of Conference income and expenses for the Conference. In all his duties and until a bishop is appointed, the Treasurer is accountable to the Conference. The Treasurer shall draw from among the eldership to assist him in transacting his responsibilities.

8. Parliamentary Procedures. The 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 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. Conference Rules. When the Conference has been properly organized with the elected officers in place, the President shall call upon the Secretary/Clerk 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 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/Clerk. 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, this Conference declares that any lawful Restoration Branch that is represented in this or any other 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/Clerk 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/Clerk of agreement with or of opposition to any Conference proceedings. The President, Vice-President, Secretary/Clerk, and Treasurer 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 Conference participation. No official response will indicate acceptance and approval of conference actions.

Resolution #4, Special Representation Rules, submitted by the Credentials Committee

Whereas, the Rules of Representation clearly state that delegates from participating branches must be members of that branch (Rules of Representation #4 & #5), and

Whereas, these rules were adopted to ensure that delegates would adequately represent the will of the branch in Conference deliberations and that delegates could then return to the branches with a fair assessment of the Conference activities, and

Whereas, some branches have been desirous to participate in this Conference but have been unable to provide a delegate from among their membership who has the ability to make the journey to Independence, MO; therefore be it

Resolved that Credentials Committee shall take into consideration the special circumstances surrounding applications from such Restoration Branches as noted above; and be it further

Resolved that, 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; and be it further

Resolved that the nominated delegate shall represent only one branch.

Resolution #5, Seating of Joseph F. Smith, submitted by the Credentials Committee

Whereas, Joseph F. Smith is the great grandson of Joseph Smith, Jr.; the grandson of Alexander Smith, first presiding patriarch of the Reorganization; the nephew of Frederick A. Smith, second presiding patriarch of the Reorganization; and was baptized and confirmed by his father, Arthur M. Smith, an elder enrolled in the RLDS church until 1925/1926; and

Whereas, Br. Joseph F. Smith claims his authoritative baptism traces to the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in accord with Rule of Representation #8; therefore be it

Resolved that this Conference recognize Br. Joseph F. Smith's lineage and the authority of his baptism and extend to him the hand of fellowship and invite him to participate in this conference as a member with voice and vote.

Resolution #6, Fellowship with all faithful members and branches, submitted by the Restoration Seventy

Whereas: We recognize the rights of both branches and individuals to decide whether to participate in the conference, therefore be it

Resolved: That this conference pledges to extend the hand of fellowship to all those faithful members and branches not represented with delegates at this conference; and be it further

Resolved: That the members of this conference will pray for all members of the body of Christ, and ask for their support in prayer.

Resolution #7, Referral of controversial issues to quorums, submitted by the Restoration Seventy

Whereas: Due to the limitations of time and information, past conference of the Saints have made decisions that were unwise and divisive (example: 1984 World Conference),

And whereas: The time in this joint conference of restoration branches is very limited and valuable,

And whereas: resolutions of a controversial nature should be presented to the various quorums of priesthood for discussion and debate before being acted on by a conference (Times and Seasons, Vol. 5, p. 649),

And whereas: when the various quorums of priesthood are given opportunity to study and research items, a wiser and more detailed examination of the issues could be made,

Therefore be it resolved: The joint conference of branches may refer matters to any or all of the various quorums of priesthood that the conference designates.

And be it further resolved: Such matters are to be discussed, debated, and researched so that a full report, including majority and minority views, can be published to the various branches, in a timely manner, before reconsideration.

Resolution #8, Conference recognizes no president of the church, submitted by the Logistics Committee

Resolved, that this conference recognizes no person who currently claims to be President of the Church of Jesus Christ restored under Joseph Smith, Jr., as a legitimate president of the High Priesthood or Prophet, Seer, and Revelator; and be it further

Resolved, that this conference holds itself separate from their administrations.

Resolution #9, Changes to gospel/ordinances are apostasy/abomination, submitted by the Logistic Committee

Resolved that this conference regards all changes to the restored gospel (as originally taught and practiced in the Church of Jesus Christ restored under Joseph Smith, Jr., and reorganized under Joseph Smith III) and the alteration made to its ordinances as apostasy and an abomination in the sight of God.

Resolution #10, Conference of Restoration Elders, submitted by the Logistics Committee

Resolved, that the Conference of Restoration Elders receive an affirmation from the Conference of Restoration Branches that we recognize the work of their councils and invite them to develop a working relationship with the Conference of Restoration Branches.

Resolution #11, Working harmony with other organizations, submitted by the Logistics Committee

Resolved, That the various conference committees of this conference, in planning activities intended to benefit the body of Christ and promote the kingdom of God on earth, work together with existing organizations in the restoration that share similar and common goals. Because of the presently scattered condition of the body, to avoid competition and unnecessary duplication of effort, the committees of this conference work with organizations currently existing in the restoration.

Resolution #12, RLDS is lawful successor, submitted by the Zarahemla Branch

We believe that the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints as reorganized by Joseph Smith III is the lawful successor to the Church founded by Joseph Smith, Jr.

Resolution #13, Church exists where saints are organized according to the pattern, submitted by The Independence Branch

Resolved that we believe that the Church of Jesus Christ, organized on April 6, 1830, and continued in the Reorganization on April 6, 1860, exists wherever six or more saints in good standing are organized according to the pattern in the Doctrine & Covenants, Articles of Incorporation of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints (1872), and A Manual of Practice and Rules of Order and Debate for Deliberative Assemblies of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (1876, 1891, 1904).

Resolution #14, No priesthood authority for women, submitted by the Zarahemla Branch

We do not recognize the office nor ordinances of record of any woman who claims priesthood authority.

Resolution #15, Duty of saints/priesthood, submitted by The Independence Branch

Resolved that it is the duty of the saints to turn their hearts and their faces towards Zion and supplicate the Lord for such deliverance and it is the duty of the elders, priests, teachers, and deacons of the church to cry repentance and remission of sins to this generation, through obedience to the gospel as revealed in the Holy Scriptures (Inspired Version), the Book of Mormon, and the Doctrine & Covenants and not to faint in the discharge of their duty.

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Resolution #16, Affirm Doc. & Cov. 119:4, substitute motion submitted by Elder Gary Whiting

We affirm the invitation of Doc. & Cov. 119:4 and believe that the Melchisedec priesthood has been called to administer in spiritual things (Doc. & Cov. 104:7) and each person returning to the church of Christ that apply for readmission on their previous baptism and ordination and be considered on a case by case basis by local presiding Melchisedec priesthood by the Spirit of revelation and difficult cases should be referred to the Conference of Branches.

Resoluion #17, Points of general agreement for Restoration Saints, submitted by Mt Ayr Restoration Branch; Amended April 10, 2008, on motion by Waldo Restoration Branch

The Proposal

We affirm that the Church of Jesus Christ consists of all who will repent and come unto Him. As members of the Church of Jesus Christ, we do not intend to create a test of faith or a creed that must be agreed upon by all members of

the church. Nevertheless, we uphold the following points as items of general agreement within the Church of Jesus Christ.

Epitome of Faith and Doctrine

We uphold the articles of faith written by Joseph Smith, Jr., found in "Times and Seasons," Vol. III, page 710, 1842. They are as follows:

We believe in God the Eternal Father, and in his Son Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.

We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression.

We believe that through the atonement of Christ all mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel.

We believe that these ordinances are, first, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, repentance; third, baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

We believe that a man must be called of God by "prophecy, and by laying on of hands" by those who are in authority to preach the gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.

We believe in the same organization that existed in the primitive church: viz., apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc.

We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, etc.

We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe that Book of Mormon to be the word of God.

We believe all that God has revealed, all that he does now reveal, and we believe that he will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes, that Zion will be built upon this continent, that that Christ will reign personally upon the earth, and that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisaic glory.

We claim privilege of worshiping Almighty God according to the dictates of our conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may.

We believe in being subject to kings, president, rules, and magistrates in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law.

We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul, "we believe all things, we hope all things," we have endured many things, and hope to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.

Priesthood Authority

*We uphold priesthood authority as documented in the scriptures, especially in the Inspired Version of the Bible (IV Bible) Ephesians 4:11-13, Book of Mormon (BOM) 1 Nephi 3:113-114, Doctrine & Covenants (DC) 26:2-3b, DC 83:5, and DC 104. We do not recognize the office nor the ordinances of record of any woman who claims priesthood authority. **We believe the priesthood have the responsibility of preaching the gospel and inviting all to come unto Christ (DC 42:4; 53:2b; 50:4, 5a, 6c; 65:1b).***

Ordinances

We uphold to practice as specified in the scriptures, with proper authority and procedure, the following ordinances as holy prescribed practices of the church:

Ordination of Priesthood (BOM Alma 9:63-65, 69, 72; Mosiah 9:51, 59; Moroni 3:1-3)

Baptism by Water (DC 17:21; BOM 3 Nephi 3:69; BOM 3 Nephi 5:21-26)

Laying on of Hands to Receive the Holy Ghost (DC 53:2b; BOM 3 Nephi 5:21-26)

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (BOM 3 Nephi 8:30-46, 60-61)

Blessing of Children (BOM 3 Nephi 8:12-27)

Administration of the Afflicted (DC 127:2d; IV Bible Genesis Matthew 10:1, 7)

Patriarchal Blessing (DC 125:3-6; 107:29b)

Marriage Covenant (DC 49:3a-c; IV Bible Genesis 2:23, 28-30; IV Bible Hebrews 13:4)

Law

We acknowledge the law initially given to this movement to govern the church as documented in DC 42; in essence, preach the gospel, establish a storehouse with a bishop, and abide the basic commandments. We agree to work toward submitting more fully to this law by establishing a storehouse to be used as prescribed in the scriptures.

Resolution #18, Conference in April, 2006, submitted by the Logistics Committee

Resolved that a Conference of Restoration Branches be organized for the first week in April, 2006, for all branches of the church.

Be It Further Resolved that the Logistics Committee work with the Conference of Restoration Elders Coordinating Council to plan joint and/or concurrent activities.

Resolution #19, Credentials Committee organization, submitted by 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 Conference Secretary/Clerk until such time as the Conference shall deem it necessary to elect or appoint a permanent Recorder who shall then serve as the Credentials Committee Chair and assume all duties of maintaining statistics and records.*
- 2. The Chair of the Credentials Committee should be a member of the Logistics Committee.*
- 3. Four other committee members shall be elected by the Conference to the committee from among the Elders of the Conference of Branches. Appointments shall be staggered two year terms (initially, two 1-year appointments and two 2-year appointments) so that two members are appointed annually.*
- 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.*

Resolution #20, Publication of missionary materials, submitted by the Evangelism Committee

Resolved that this Conference authorize the Evangelism Committee to create and publish missionary materials for foreign lands as well as domestic and in conjunction with other groups so engaged in order to avoid duplication of efforts; and be it further

Resolved that the Evangelism Committee work under the direction of the Restoration Seventy in discharging this duty.

Resolution #21, Evangelism efforts encouraged, submitted by the Evangelism Committee

Because “the field is white already to harvest; and it is the eleventh hour, and for the last time that I shall call laborers into my vineyard. And my vineyard has become corrupted every whit; and there is none which doeth good save it be few; and they err in many instances, because of priestcrafts, all having corrupt minds. And verily, verily I say unto you, that this church have I established and called forth out of the wilderness; And even so will I gather mine elect from the four quarters of the earth, even as many as will believe in me, and hearken unto my voice; Yea, verily, verily I say unto you, that the field is white already to harvest; wherefore, thrust in your sickle, and reap with your might, mind, and strength. Open your mouths and they shall be filled; and you shall become as Nephi of old, who journeyed from Jerusalem in the wilderness; Yea, open your mouths and they shall be filled, saying, Repent, repent and prepare ye the way of the lord, and make His paths straight; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand; Yea, repent and be baptized every one of you for the remission of your sins; yea, be baptized even by water, and then cometh the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. (Doc. & Cov. 32:1d-2g)

Therefore be it Resolved that

- 1. The Evangelism Committee be sustained and work under the direction of the Restoration Seventy and with the Patriarchs as appropriate*
- 2. The branches be encouraged to support the Evangelism and Missionary efforts currently taking place and those taking place in the future through Tithes and Offerings and*
- 3. The Conference put a line item in the budget to support the Evangelism efforts of the conference.*

Resolution #22, Logistics Committee organization, substitute motion moved by Brother Ben McLean, amended by Elder Tyler Crowell

Moved that the **Logistics Committee** be sustained as a permanent committee in of 15 members including all Conference officers and all other committee members elected to 1 year terms of until the next Conference.

Resolution #23, Finance Committee organization, moved by Seventy George Knotts

Moved that the **Finance Committee** be sustained as a permanent committee with the Conference Treasurer as its chair and two other members elected for 1-year terms or until the following conference.

Resolution #24, Evangelism Committee organization, moved by Elder Russell Reid

Moved that the **Evangelism Committee** be sustained as a permanent committee with nine elders, three members to serve terms of 3-years; three members elected for 2-year terms; and 3 members elected for 1-year terms.

Resolution #25, Joint Activities Committee organization, moved by Elder Greg Thomas, amended by Deacon Paul Sinclair and Elder Jack Evans

Moved that the **Joint Activities Committee** be a permanent committee with the responsibility of coordinating activities as well as future conference activities and with six members elected annually at Conference.

Resolution #26, Committee for referral of R3f, moved by Seventy George Knotts

Moved that the President of the Conference appoint a Committee of Elders for the referral of **R3f**.

Resolution #27, Approval of conference budget, moved by Sister Barbara Wilkinson

Moved to accept the budgeted items for conference expenses totaling \$8,750 including Supplies-Materials (binders, badges, miscellaneous) at \$2830 plus an additional \$2000 to cover costs of mailings.

Resolution #28, Approval of additional budgeted items, moved by Elder Gary Metzger, amended by Elder Jack Evans

Moved to establish a line items for the evangelism budget of \$30,000, miscellaneous \$2,000, and funds for next conference \$10,000 with all missionary expenses be approved by the Seventy.

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JCR #29, Representation by Delegations from Outside the United States, submitted by the Credentials Committee

Whereas, the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches invites branches, districts, and national churches from around the world to be represented by sending delegates to the Conferences; and

Whereas, travel restrictions by various governmental authorities and/or financial hardships impose impediments to full representation for branches outside the United States; therefore be it

Resolved that branches located in countries other than the United States may be represented in this Conference by one (1) official delegate who may cast a vote equal to twenty-five (25) member votes plus the number of members resident in that branch as documented on the official branch roster provided to the Credentials Committee; and be it further

Resolved that local branch conferences, whether district or national, may determine the proper ratio of members to delegates that provides representation of the official membership of that local conference as provided to the Credentials Committee; and be it further

Resolved that delegate voting ratios from countries outside the United States shall be approved by the Credentials Committee at least two (2) weeks before the Conference convenes; and be it further

Resolved that the Credentials Committee shall take appropriate measures to see that recording of the votes of these delegates are properly counted.

Resolved that the resolution on those delegates representing more than 25 members be in place for this conference only, further study and recommendations to be brought to the next conference.

JCR #30, Seating of the delegation from the Honduras National Conference submitted by the Credentials Committee

Whereas, the JCRB encourages participation by delegations from countries outside the United States as noted in the rule on Representation from Delegations Outside the United States; and

Whereas, sixteen branches and missions in Honduras held a conference and elected 3 delegates to represent them in this Conference; therefore be it Resolved that the National/District Conference of Honduras with a total membership of 420 saints—250 of which are designated as active—shall be represented by Socorro Vasquez, Antonio Orellana, and Charles Sperry with the equivalent of 83 member votes each.

JCR #31, Resolution on Sustaining Higher Priesthood Officers, Evangelism Committee

Whereas, it has been the practice of the church conferences to vote whether to sustain or not sustain the men of the priesthood whose calling had been approved by conferences greater than that of a single branch; and Whereas, it is proper and scriptural for the priesthood who are ordained to the offices of High Priest, Seventy, Bishop and Patriarch to be presented to the conference of the Saints so that they may or may not be sustained in their office and calling; and

Whereas, The Book of Mormon declares the reason for submitting to the vote of the people.

35 Now it is not common that the voice of the people desireth anything contrary to that which is right; but it is common for the lesser part of the people to desire that which is not right;

36 Therefore this shall ye observe, and make it your law to do your business by the voice of the people.

37 And if the time comes that the voice of the people doth choose iniquity, then is the time that the judgments of God will come upon you; (Mosiah 13:35-37)

See also this small sample of precedents:

D&C 121:1a, and 126:12 Requiring sustaining vote.

RLDS C.H. Vol. 1 Chapter 24:642, A refusal to sustain.

RLDS C.H. Vol. 3 Chapter 4:116 Presidents of Seventy sustained.

RLDS C.H. Vol. 3 Chapter 4:118 Bishops sustained; and

Whereas, for more than twenty years there has been no representative conference of the church members that could vote to sustain or not sustain these men of the priesthood; therefore,

Be It Resolved that the priesthood: Seventy, High Priests, Bishops, and Patriarchs are invited to submit their names individually to the Secretary/Recorder of the Conference, to be sustained and supported in their office and calling by the vote of the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches.

Conference Resolutions, April 7, 2006

JCR #32, Limitations on conference and officers, submitted by Zarahemla Branch

No Joint Conference nor any of its officers has the right or authority to regulate the internal affairs of participating branches by virtue of office or position in the Joint Conference.

JCR #33, Resolution on Traveling Elders, submitted by the Evangelism Committee

*Whereas, traveling elders have been authorized by past Church conferences (“Moved that the traveling elders go two and two”—*Times & Seasons*, Vol. 4, Page 93; “traveling elders who have recently labored within the bounds of this conference.”—*Church History* Vol. 1, Chap. 21, p. 563); and*

*Whereas, traveling elders have been supported by the Church and Church conferences (“report to the president of this conference; that a fund be formed for the support of the traveling elders.”—*Church History*, Vol. 3, Chap 27, Page 503; “this conference recommend the members . . . supply the traveling elders with tracts for distribution,”—*Church History*, Vol. 3, Chap. 24, Page 469.; “Resolved, that the sisters of this branch organize themselves into a sewing society, to furnish worthy traveling elders with such clothing as they need;”—*Times & Seasons*, Vol. 6, Chap. 3:807); and*

*Whereas, just as in the early days of the Church, the work in the field calls for more laborers (“we intend to lay before our readers in their proper time and place . . . HELP! HELP! In almost every letter we receive from the travelling Elders, strong solicitations are made for other Elders to come to their assistance, as the work of the Lord is pressing its way into almost all parts of the land; from city to city, from town to town.”—*Times & Seasons*, Vol. 1, Chap. 4:57); and*

*Whereas, the success of traveling elders in advancing the work of the Lord was well documented (“We have several communications from the traveling Elders, all giving cheering intelligence of the mighty spread of the work of the Lord, thousands having been added to the church, of late.”—*Times & Seasons*, Vol. 2, Chap. 2:224); and*

Whereas, it was the custom and practice of the early Church to appoint, sustain and set apart traveling elders (“At this conference the following resolutions were adopted: Resolved: . . . that we sustain Richard Thomas, Lewis

Williams, David Griffiths, John Watkins, as traveling elders.”—*Church History*, Vol. 3, Chap. 28, p. 548; and “that the usual custom of setting foreign missionaries apart by laying on of hands and blessing be observed . . . after which Brethren Joseph Smith, W.W. Blair, A.H. Smith, and E.L. Kelley laid their hands upon him and set him apart.”—DC 123:28a); therefore be it

Resolved that the Restoration Seventy, in consultation with Restoration Branch Presidents/Presiding Elders, and various missionary committees; and after a period of fasting and prayer, nominate certain Elders to function as traveling elders to promulgate the work of the Kingdom, in North America, as well as abroad. And be it further

Resolved that the Conference, by voice and vote, will sustain Elders which shall be set apart and sent forth to spread the gospel. And be it further

Resolved that the Evangelism Committee of the Conference, in consultation with the Restoration Seventy, will assign the traveling Elders to areas of responsibility to insure that the Restoration Gospel goes forth to all nations, including this nation, the Land of Zion. And be it further

Resolved that the Joint Conference of Branches recognize fifteen (15) areas of responsibility for traveling elders:

1. English Speaking North America: Canada, USA and indigenous “nations”
2. Mexico and Central America (Meso-America) and the Caribbean
3. Spanish speaking South America
4. Brazil
5. Israel
6. Eastern Africa
7. West Africa
8. Southern Africa
9. Australia and the islands of the Pacific
10. India
11. Nepal, Tibet and Southern China
12. North China, Philippines, Taiwan
13. Europe
14. United Kingdom
15. Russia and the Ukraine

JCR #34, Greater European Ministries Resolution submitted by the Evangelism Council

Whereas, Greater European Ministries (GEM) has carried the gospel in the European nations for many years as finances and missionaries have been available, and much good has been accomplished by the diligence and devotion of this organization; and

Whereas, GEM has approached the Evangelism Committee to come under the direction of the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches; therefore be it

Resolved, Greater European Ministries shall become a subcommittee of the Evangelism Committee, with representation and voice at Evangelism Committee meetings; and be it further

Resolved, GEM be directed by the Restoration Seventy through the Evangelism Committee of the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches, and recommend missionaries and provide evangelism for European missions, until such time as a revelation and the ordering of the church render GEM unnecessary.

Conference Resolutions, April 8, 2006

JCR #35, Financial Limitations, submitted by the Finance Committee

Whereas the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches (JCRB) is organized exclusively for a religious purpose; and

Whereas the Internal Revenue Service Code requires certain obligations of a religious organization under section 501(c)(3); and

Whereas the JCRB will adhere to the above mentioned code; therefore be it

Resolved that the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches absolutely ensures that no part of its net earnings shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, officers, or other private persons; and be it

Resolved that the JCRB absolutely refrains from participating in the political campaigns of candidates for local, state, or federal office; and be it further

Resolved that upon dissolution of the JCRB, assets and earnings shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any

future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

JCR #36, Conference of Restoration Youth, moved by Priests Alex Vun Cannon/Ben McLean

Whereas the Joint Activities Committee has held the Conference Youth Forum three times thus far to teach the youth about parliamentary procedure and how church conferences function and operate; and

Whereas the youth attending the Conference Youth Forum have expressed a desire to continue meeting as an actual youth-run organization.

Be it resolved that the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches sustain the current Conference Youth Forum as the "Conference of Restoration Youth"; a youth-run organization under the authority of the Joint Activities Committee. The Conference of Restoration Youth will exist for the purpose of providing an environment for learning about the business affairs of the church; as well as for the planning, running, promoting and supporting of various activities and services. The youth will also prepare resolutions for submission to the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches for the edifying of the church as a whole.

JCR #37, Motion for Spring Conference, 2007; moved by Elder Tom Beem

Resolved that the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches Logistics Committee plan a Spring Conference for the year 2007 working in conjunction with the Conference of Restoration Elders and publish those dates to the church in a timely manner.

JCR #38, Appointment of Joint Conference of Branches Recorder, submitted by Credentials Committee

Be It Resolved that the President of the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches shall appoint a Recorder from among the elders of participating branches to assume all duties as specified in JCR #19; and

Be it Further Resolved that such appointment shall be based on individual qualifications and the direction of the Spirit; and

Be It Further Resolved that such appointment shall be subject to Conference approval annually.

JCR #39, Motion to Extend Committee Appointments thru Spring Conference, 2007; moved by Elder Russ Reid

Moved that all current committee appointments except the Finance Committee continue until the next Conference and from spring to spring thereafter beginning with the Spring, 2007, Conference.

Conference Resolutions, April 4, 2007

JCR #40, RLDS in organizational disorder, Succession Committee

Resolved, that the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is in organizational disorder.

JCR #41, COC is a new church, Succession Committee

Resolved, that the Community of Christ is a new church, culminating over 40 years of doctrinal changes to the church's formulated creed and well understood faith.

JCR #42, JCRB practices ordinances as originally restored, Succession Committee

Resolved, that the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches and its participating branches preach the gospel and practice the ordinances as originally restored and taught in the scriptures.

Conference Resolutions, April 5, 2007

JCR #43, Adoption of RLDS rules thru January 1, 1958, Succession Committee

Resolved, that the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches and its participating branches adopt the scriptures, resolutions, rules of order, and quorum decisions of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints as they existed on January 1, 1958; and

Resolved, that the JCRB and its participating branches reserve the right to rescind or modify any doctrinally incorrect resolutions, rules of order and quorum decisions; and

Resolved, that the JCRB and its participating branches reserve the right to adopt any scriptures, resolutions, rules of order, and quorum decisions that are in harmony with the established law of the scriptures; and

Be it further Resolved; that all of this be done by the prayerful deliberation, voice and vote of the conference.

JCR #44, Mission of the Church, Succession Committee

Resolved, that the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches work together to fulfill the mission of the original church, which is to seek to bring forth and establish Zion (D&C 12:3a) and to gather the remnants of Israel to the lands of their inheritances by preaching the restored gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue and people, especially among the Lamanite descendants.

JCR #45, Affirmation of Scriptures, Succession Committee

It is therefore the recommendation of the JCRB Succession Committee that the Doctrine and Covenants through Section 144 be affirmed by the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches as being part of the organic law of the church, along with the Inspired Version of the Bible and Book of Mormon.

Conference Resolutions, April 6, 2007

JCR #46, The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, originally proposed by Succession Committee with modification by Mt. Ayr Restoration Branch and special committee of High Priest Rob Rolfe, Elder Alan Smith, Elder Bob Moore, and Elder Brad Gault

Whereas, participating branches of the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches believe and uphold the original precepts of the gospel; and

Whereas, the Conference of June 12, 1852 affirmed, *“That we recognize the validity of all legal ordinations in the Church, and will fellowship all such as have thus been ordained, while acting within the purview of such authority; Resolved, That we believe that the Church of Christ, organized on the 6th day of April, A.D. 1830, exists as on that day, wherever six or more Saints are organized, according to the pattern in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants.”* (The Messenger, Vol. 2, p. 9); and

Whereas, the Conference of June 12, 1852 also affirmed, *“Where evidence of a legal baptism once having been received, and in the absence of expulsion or apostasy, it was not admissible to require a re-baptism, to be identified with the Reorganization; but that in such cases it was optional with the persons themselves – a matter of conscience with them alone.”* (The Messenger, Vol. 2, p. 37); and

Whereas, that the participating branches of the JCRB agree with the position of the 1852 conference that re-baptism and re-ordination were not required for membership in the Reorganization; and

Whereas, re-baptism and re-ordination are still not required for membership in the Restoration Branches: therefore be it

Resolved, that the participating branches of the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches, an unincorporated ecclesiastical organization, claim that we are a continuation of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and not the organization of a new church, in the same way that the Reorganization is the continuation of the original church known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. And be it further;

Resolved, that we believe that any branch formed according to the pattern specified in Article 1 of the Articles of Incorporation of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which states, "A 'branch' may be organized at any time, or place, by the concurrence of six or more resident members in good standing, of said Reorganized Church, one of whom must be an elder, priest, teacher, or deacon," is a lawful branch of the Church of Christ as organized on April 6, 1830 and reorganized in April 1853, with all the rights and privileges of such branches, including, if it so chooses, the use of the name Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Conference Resolutions, April 7, 2007

JCR #47, Joint Activities Committee member terms of office, Joint Activities Committee

Whereas conference to conference terms will leave the Joint Activities Committee distressed by recurring conferences, a conference should elect new members to take office each April to provide continuity in the committee between conferences.

Be it resolved that that Joint Activities Committee be a permanent committee with the responsibility of encouraging, coordinating and organizing activities between restoration branches and between organizations both inside and

outside of the Independence area that share mutual purpose in the areas of fellowship, worship, study, and service. Each committee member will serve a 3 year staggered terms.

Be it further resolved, that the committee wishes to have the conference sustain 2 of the current members to serve 2 years with 2 of the remaining 4 members to serve 1 year from the date of the April 2007 conference. The remaining 2 members should be elected/sustained at this conference for a term of 3 years. Each term shall have a beginning and ending date corresponding with a yearly conference held in the month of April, or, a conference held as soon as practicable after the month of April for reelection of members for expired terms.

JCR #48, Joint Conference of Restoration Branches for April, 2008, Logistics Committee

Resolved that the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches plan a conference during the week of April 6, 2008 in Independence, MO.

Be it further Resolved that the Joint Conference of Branches hold a fall conference to consider the following items only:

- 1) Do we want the Seventy to form a Quorum?
- 2) Do we want the High Priests to consider their presiding responsibilities?
- 3) The four resolutions from the African Conference (TN 1 thru TN 4).

Conference Resolutions, April 7, 2008

JCR #49, General Conference/National Conference, US National Conference

Resolved that the JCRB shall encourage and assist in the formation of national conferences to be convened in October of each year or more often if necessary; and be it further

Resolved that the JCRB shall lend assistance in the form of providing presiding ministers for organizational purposes; and be it further

Resolved that such conferences may authorize the formation of quorums for the support, training, and guidance of the ministry; and be it further

Resolved that minutes and resolutions approved at these conferences shall be forwarded to the JCRB secretary and that a report shall be made to the JCRB identifying actions requested by these conferences; and be it further

Resolved that the JCRB shall organize an October conference in Independence, MO, for all branches and missions in the United States; and be it further

Resolved that the JCRB shall convene an international, General Conference each April in Independence, MO, where the entire church shall come together to direct the work.

Conference Resolutions, April 8, 2008

JCR #50, JCRB Fiscal Year Change, submitted by the Finance Committee

Whereas: The Joint Conference of Restoration Branches annual Conference is at the end of the currently established Fiscal Year which goes from April 1st to March 31st of each calendar year.

And Whereas: The timing of the current Fiscal Year severely effects impacts the Finance Committee's ability to provide from providing an accurate up-to-date statement of the financial affairs of the JCRB to the conference without making several last minute amendments to this report.

And Whereas: The time constraints associated with the preparation of the Conference has added to the difficulty in providing this information to the Member Branches, Delegates and Saints.

Therefore: Be it resolved that the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches hereby change its Fiscal Year from April 1st-March 31st, to coincide with the calendar year and run from January 1st through December 31st. To transition to this new period of time the current Fiscal Year beginning April 1st, 2008 will end on December 31st, 2008.

Conference Resolutions, April 9, 2008

JCR #51, Authorization of Presidents of Seventy Ordinations, moved by Seventy George Knotts on behalf of the Seventy, seconded by Elder Jim McKay

Whereas: Under the requirement of law of the Lord, which says of necessity there are presidents arising out of these quorums of priesthood, The majority of the Seventy are pleased to bring to this Conference the names of Four brethren of the Seventy whom we testify have been called to preside over the Seventy. In accord with

the requirements of the law of the Lord, we entrust these men to your consideration for the conference's approval.

The Restoration Seventy move the following resolution.

The four seventy: Neil Simmons, Frank Frye, Ron Smith and Steve DeVera be approved by this conference to be set apart by the laying of hands to serve as Presidents of Seventy.

And be it further resolved, that each one shall be considered individually by this conference.

Conference Resolutions, April 10, 2008

JCR #52, Missionary Support, submitted by the Evangelism Committee

Whereas, the Evangelism Committee of the Joint Conference of Branches has studied the material on missionary support, it recommends the following:

After consideration of the mission, the circumstances, the missionaries required, and other issues, the Seventy, the Evangelism Committee and the Finance Committee, will work together in fasting and prayer to determine the spiritual, temporal and financial requirements for each mission; and
Therefore, be it resolved, that the priesthood be admonished to consider the Lord's pattern of preaching the gospel, and should begin to experiment on his word which says to go out "without purse or scrip" when preaching the gospel to the world, depending on the Lord for their support; and
Be it resolved, that means of support be developed to financially assist the families of traveling priesthood while they are away preaching the gospel; and
Be it resolved, we ask the conference not to place any legislative restrictions on these decisions; and that the work be under the direction of God's Holy Spirit to determine our action in these matters; and
Be it resolved that the Evangelism Committee and the Seventy should take steps to educate the priesthood on the scriptural patterns for evangelism and other necessary education so that priesthood who are sent out will be prepared in all matters, and that the gospel may be preached in its purity.

JCR #53, Resolution to set aside illegal administrative/judicial actions, forwarded by US National Conference

Whereas, during the dark and cloudy days leading up to the present division in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, numerous brethren were silenced without cause, without proper labor on the part of the church, and without opportunity for due process in an objective appeal procedure; and
Whereas, other brethren were expelled from the church by court actions which violated established church court procedures, i. e., failure to perform and document labor prior to bringing a charge, appointment of courts by parties with interest in the case, allowing administrative officers to participate as prosecutors and witnesses, failure to require subpoenaed witnesses to testify, etc. ; and
Whereas, these and other actions were precipitous, not edifying to the body of Christ, divisive, retaliatory, and a terrible mark on the record of the church; therefore be it
Resolved that this Joint Conference of Restoration Branches deprecates and denounces the tactics and policies used by those administrative officers to discredit and vilify honest and honorable ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ during this latest generation; and be it further
Resolved that those brethren who were wronged in this manner shall be recognized by this Conference as members and ministers in good standing under the provisions of JCR #16

JCR #54, Receiving Members on Previous Baptism/Ordination, originally submitted by Zion's Outpost Restoration Branch, substituted by Elder Patrick McKay, seconded by Elder Jim McKay

Every person returning to the church of Christ that applies for readmission on their original baptism and/or ordination be considered on a case by case basis by the local presiding officer by the Spirit of wisdom and revelation and difficult cases may be referred to a conference (Branch, District, Special, National or General).

Conference Resolutions, April 11, 2008

JCR #55, W. B. Smith right to name successor, Zarahemla Branch

As long as Wallace B. Smith is alive, no one else can name a successor to the Presidency of the High Priesthood.

JCR #56, Call for Fasting and Prayer on Second Sunday of Each Month, Evangelism Committee

Whereas; many of the saints are confused because of the many voices calling for their allegiance and commitment; and

Whereas; the only way to receive direction is to humble ourselves and call on the Lord in mighty prayer and fasting, (Alma 12:5); and
Whereas; those who call themselves the Lord's church, (II Chronicles 7:14), will be led out of this confusion by humbling themselves and praying; and
Whereas; the trumpet in Zion is blowing uncertain sounds, when the sound from the Centerplace should be very clear, (Joel 2:1,15); and
Whereas; missionary needs are great and the missionary effort is blessed when the call is to pray for, and witness to, those that know not the Christ, (Alma 4:6);
Therefore be it resolved; *that the General Conference of the Church encourage branches, missions and study groups throughout the world, to set aside the second Sunday of each month for fasting and prayer.*

JCR #57, Education Committee, moved by Elder Nathan Sherer/seconded by Elder Dan Sherer

Whereas: Saints outside the Centerplace have more difficulty obtaining church materials and resources,
Be it resolved: the JCRB will form an Education Committee in order to address the resource needs of Saints in outlining and secluded areas.
This committee shall be comprised of seven members, one of which will be a member of the Evangelism Committee and the chairperson will hold the office of Elder.

Conference Resolutions, April 12, 2008

JCR #58, Seventy Ordinations at the Same Conference, moved by Sister Yvonne Galusha/Elder Tim Johns

Moved that the Seventy be removed from any perceived restriction that would limit them from being called and ordained at the same Conference.

JCR #59, Quorum Organization, forwarded by the US National Conference

Whereas the Aaronic Priesthood desire to organize themselves into quorums, and
Whereas Doctrine & Covenants 118:1c says we must have conference approval to form quorums;
Therefore be it resolved that this conference approve by voice and vote and direct the conference leaders to organize the elders, priests, teachers, and deacons into quorums within three months. (Doctrine & Covenants 118:1c & 104:40b).

JCR #60, Communication with Restoration Branches, submitted by Albany-Schenectady, NY, Restoration Branch

Whereas: Branches and Members of the JCRB who are located outside the Independence area are anxious to fully participate to the extent possible in the consideration of actions known or are likely to be on the Agenda of JCRB Conferences, and,
Whereas: Branches and Members of the JCRB who are located outside the Independence area need to rely on timely and open communication from JCRB Officers and other individuals for information regarding actions known or are likely to be on the Agenda of JCRB Conferences, be it hereby,
Resolved: JCRB Officers and members responsible for creating and/or gathering and assembling information regarding actions known or are likely to be on the Agenda of JCRB Conferences should use every available means (e.g., JCRB Web Site, e-mail, postal service, newsletters, telephone) to provide this information prior to said Conferences in a timely and open manner to Branches and Members known to be associated with the JCRB, and be it further resolved,
Information regarding actions known or are likely to be on the Agenda of JCRB Conferences should include proposed resolutions and the names of the Branch or individuals proposing the resolutions as well as reports of JCRB Officers, and Committees, including the names of committee members.

JCR #61, Referral of Doctrinal Issues to Elders Quorum, moved by Elder Jon Tandy on behalf of the Elders

Resolved that this Conference direct the President, with the consent of the Conference, to refer all resolutions that deal specifically with doctrinal issues to the elders for their consideration prior to being brought up for discussion on the Conference floor; and be it further
Resolved that upon referral of any resolution, the elders may recommend consideration by the Conference, amend the original resolution or propose a substitute for consideration by the Conference, or recommend tabling the resolution indefinitely; and be it further

Resolved that the elders shall report to the Conference a synopsis of their discussions and subsequent actions.

JCR #62, Approval of calls to the Office of Seventy, by the Seventy

Resolved: Seventy Neil Simmons be set apart by the laying on of hands as the Senior President of Seventy.

Be it further resolved: The following men be approved for ordination to the office of Seventy:

<i>Randy Vick</i>	<i>Arturo Gomez</i>	<i>Greg Thomas</i>
<i>Hensley Mbanaso</i>	<i>Joe Essary</i>	<i>Richard A. Smith</i>
<i>Tim Canfield</i>	<i>Gary Wilson</i>	<i>Mark Deitrick</i>
<i>Rex Curtis, Jr.</i>		

And be it further resolved, their ordinations to the office of Seventy shall take place as soon as possible or at the National Conference of their respective areas of ministry.

And be it further resolved, that each one called to the office of Seventy be given consideration for approval individually, by the Conference.

Conference Resolutions, April 7, 2009

JCR #63, Amendment to General Conference Resolution # 966, Presidents of Seventy

Whereas, Under procedure followed in the past, all selections by the Presidents of Seventy for ordination to the office of Seventy, after concurrence of the First Presidency and Council of Twelve, have been submitted for approval to the General Conference, and

Whereas, There is no specific law requiring action by the General Conference in such matters, and such reference often precludes or postpones the ordination of acceptable candidates or nominees for the office of Seventy between Conferences, now, therefore be it and it is hereby

Resolved, that the ordination of Seventies may be authorized during intervening conference periods on selection by the Council of Presidents of Seventy and consultation with the First Presidency and Council of Twelve.

And Be it Further Resolved:

Until the First Presidency and/or the Council of Twelve be restored to the Church, that the ordination of Seventies may be authorized on selection by the Council of Presidents of Seventy and submitted for approval to a National Conference, or a Special Conference called for this purpose; and all ordained Seventy (active in their quorum) shall be submitted to the approval of the next General Conference.

JCR #64, Support of Devon Park in defense of RLDS name, Independence District

Whereas, a successful defense of Devon Park's use of the RLDS Church name will secure the right of this Conference and its branches to publicize that it is a portion and continuation of the RLDS Church; and

Whereas, a significant number of disheartened and lost church members retain an affection for the RLDS Church – its traditional presentation of the gospel and the warm, welcoming camaraderie of fellow saints; and

Whereas, dissatisfied members of other Restoration churches, such as the Utah Mormon Church, are more likely to investigate a church using the RLDS Church name; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the General Conference consider contributing to Devon Park's defense of the COC's law suit against them for using the RLDS Church name.

JCR #65, Global Women's Ministries, Restoration Women's Ministries

Whereas, the U. S. National Conference of 2008 voted to establish the Restoration Women's Ministries (see USNCR 13), and

Whereas, there is a need for a committee to support the affairs of the women on a global level,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Restoration Women's Ministries be sustained by this General Conference to act in this capacity.

JCR #66, Encourage Branch & District Organization, USNC

Resolved that the church exists today as it did on April 6, 1830 wherever 1) six or more authoritatively baptized members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints are organized into a branch according to the pattern specified in the Doctrine and Covenants and 2) said branch teaches the original doctrines of the restored church and observes the ordinances as traditionally observed in the Reorganization; and be further

Resolved that the Conference encourages all members of the church to attend a local branch of the church, or if no local branch exists, to regularly meet with fellow church members with the goal of forming a local branch of the church; and be it further

Resolved that the Conference encourages all branches of the church to join other nearby branches, whenever they exist to form a district of the church, which district can pool the resources of member branches to better serve the saints and spread the gospel within its region.

JCR #67, School of the Restoration, USNC

Whereas: In the History of the Reorganization there was a department in the church called the “The School of the Restoration,” this department was responsible for the training of Priesthood and Members. Specifically, it trained “Appointees” some of which were Missionaries of the church and served as a general Missionary Training Center .

Whereas: This department was abandoned by the Church in favor of the “Temple School”.

Whereas: This school was recently reconstituted for the aforementioned purpose by a group of Saints and Priesthood with the desire to educate and train missionaries for the promulgation of the Gospel. Further it is a 501c3 “Not for Profit” organization and the name is registered in all 50 states.

Therefore: The School of the Restoration wishes to join with the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches and retain its name in the conference and all 50 states.

JCR #68, Appointment of a Conference Historian, USNC

Whereas: The Lord has on many occasions commanded his people to “write and keep a regular history.” (See D.C. 47: 1,2; DC 69:1b; DC 123:7-8; I Nephi 2:93; Jacob 1:2-3), and,

Whereas: JCR #3, paragraph 7, makes provision for a Conference Historian, and,

Whereas: We often wish John Whitmer and his successors had been more diligent in recording the history of the Restoration, including the details of and/or background for events that occurred in the early days of the Restoration and even details of actions taken during the days of the Reorganization, and,

Whereas: Minutes of meetings, though valuable, are by nature rather sterile and largely devoid of the details and circumstances that lead to any given Conference action, be it hereby,

Resolved: This National Conference authorizes the immediate appointment, by the Conference officers, of an Acting Historian to serve until the next General Conference. And be it

Resolved: The National Conference herein petitions the General Conference to create a permanent position of Historian. And, be it further,

Resolved: The Historian shall collect and preserve important documents including written, oral and visual (both audio and visual) recordings, and shall write the official history down for current and future generations to read, understand, debate and critique. He/she should also be an advocate for recording and preserving important historic events, e.g., recording the "setting apart" services at the Zarahemla Branch on January 27, 2008, and the setting apart of Brother Neil Simmons as Senior President of the Council of Presidents of Seventy on April 13, 2008. He/she shall gather information from all relevant sources and subsidiary organizations including branches, districts, quorums, etc. And, be it further,

Resolved: In consultation with the Officers, the Historian shall be able to draft capable people to assist in the gathering, writing, and preserving of the history of this Church. And, be it further,

Resolved: The Historian shall report to the Conference of the church from time to time, be responsive to input from the many quarters of the church, and be free of undue influence from individuals or officers of the church. And, be it further,

Resolved: We will leave a documented, written history “of all the important things which he (the Historian) shall observe and know concerning my church” (D.C. 69: 1b) so that our children and our children’s children down through all succeeding generations shall know of the events that surrounded the establishment and going forth of the Church of Jesus Christ in this last dispensation of time.

JCR #69, Dissolution of Evangelism Committee, Evangelism Committee

Whereas, according to Section 104:7, “The high priest and elder are to administer in spiritual things, agreeably to the covenants and commandments of the church; and they have a right to officiate in all these offices of the church when there are no higher authorities present.”

Whereas, according to Section 104:13a, the Seventy are to act in the name of the Lord, under the direction of the Twelve, or the traveling high council, in building up the Church, and regulating all the affairs of the same, in all nations; first unto the Gentiles, and then tot the Jews; and

Whereas, there is no history or precedence of a committee of members directing the Seventy and/or approving or disapproving their activities; and

Whereas, there is now, under the authority of the General Conference an organized Quorum of Seventy with 19 active Seventy responsible for the overall Evangelism/Missionary work of the Church; and

Whereas, the members of the Evangelism Committee are willing to assist the Seventy in the execution of their scriptural responsibilities to direct the Evangelism work; therefore be it;

Resolved, that the Evangelism Committee be dissolved during the April Conference of 2009 and be it further

Resolved, that the General Conference create a Missionary Funding Committee to oversee the funding of all expenditures for Evangelism/Missionary work throughout the world; and that the Missionary Funding Committee be comprised of one member of the bishopric, one member of the Quorum of High Priests, one member of the Quorum of Seventy, and one member of the Quorum of Elders (appointed by each quorum) and be it further

Resolved, that the Evangelism Committee turn over any documents and/or materials and/or information regarding past, present or future missionary efforts so that there may be a smooth transition of responsibility from the Evangelism Committee to the Missionary Funding Committee.

JCR #70, Proposed Modification of Rules, Independence District

Resolved, that the Independence District recommend that the General Conference modify General Conference Rules 44 to 49 and 59, as attached hereto.

VII. Districts

44. District organization. Districts are organized by the First Presidency or a member of the Council of Twelve or by the common consent of two or more contiguous branches. They may meet for mutual improvement, and for the permanent organization and direction of the local ministry.¹ Reasonable notice of the organization meeting must be made available to all who are concerned, stating purpose, time, and place of meeting.

45. The district president is the co-ordinating administrative officer of the church in the district over which he presides. He is entrusted with the care and direction of the branches and district missions through the properly constituted officers of these branches and district missions, and of the nonresident members of the district directly or through the nonresident pastor. It is his duty to plan the extension and development of the work of the church within the district. All of these duties are subject to the district conference.

All district officers should report to the district president and hold themselves subject to his general direction and counsel. District bishops and bishop's agents have specific trustee responsibilities in which they are subject to the direction and counsel of the Presiding Bishopric, but, where either a bishop or a bishop's agent serves as trustee of a district or branch, he is responsible for such trusteeship to the district or branch conference, and to the district or branch president according to the provisions of the district or branch budget.

The district president should be kept fully informed of the condition of all branches of the district and should have frequent consultation with the branch presidents concerning their plans and difficulties. He should be informed of the business meetings of the branches of the district and invited to attend and offer any suggestions or nominations he may desire to present. In emergencies, and especially when the branch president is incapacitated or the branch shall have fallen into decay, he may request or call a branch business meeting; in this or any other necessary situation he may recommend procedure, present nominations for office, or do such other things as will best protect the interests of the church. When these interests shall require, he may take over direction of the branch for a time, administering the work thereafter—either directly or indirectly—until a more permanent arrangement can be made. If the district president is thought to have proceeded unlawfully in any of these matters, appeal is to the next higher administrative officer or to a district conference convened by a majority of the branch presidents of the district. In all his work the district president may be assisted by one or more counselors chosen from among the elders and sustained by the vote of the district, provided always that the responsibility of decision in the district presidency shall rest on the district president and shall not be transferred from him to a majority of the district presidency by any action of that presidency.

The district president should seek the counsel of the General Church officers concerned, and should respect this counsel, subject to the appeal provided in the law.²

46. District conferences are authorized to transact business relating to the maintenance and spread of the work within the district boundaries, but subject always to the resolutions of General Conference and to the advice of the general authorities in matters committed to these authorities under the law. Notice of such conferences should be sent to the First Presidency, the apostle in the field, and to such other general officers as might be concerned with the business to be transacted.

47. Who shall preside? The district president presides over the district conference. At his request, or in his absence, his counselors may preside. Members of the First Presidency or Council of Twelve, or their authorized representatives, may be asked to preside as a courtesy or in view of special circumstances.³ The presiding officer is always subject to the approval of the conference.

48. Duty of the presiding officers. It is the duty of the presiding officers to bring to the attention of the conference such matters as require the consideration or action of the body; to require observance of the rules of order with decorum and propriety; and to secure, as far as he is able, a due respect and regard for the laws governing the church as contained in the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and General Conference enactments.

49. An appropriate order of proceedings for a district conference is as follows:

Opening worship

Reading and approval of the minutes

Reports, communications, and suggestions from the presiding officer

Communications or reports from the First Presidency, the minister in charge or his assistant, the Presiding Bishopric, or other

General Church officers (with precedence in the order named)

Reports of the officers of the district, other than the presiding officer

Reports of standing and special committees

Business made the special order of the meeting Unfinished and new business

Business deferred subject to call

Election of officers

Action on time and place of the next meeting

Adjournment

1. *Doctrine and Covenants 120:1; General Conference Minutes 1930, page 130*

2. *Doctrine and Covenants 120:4*

3. *General Conference Resolution 580*

IX. Further Instructions Concerning Branches and Districts

59. In both branches and districts the presiding officers should be considered and respected in their offices. Nevertheless, the traveling presiding councils of the church, being made by the law, their calling, and the voice of the church the directing, regulating, and advising authorities of the church, and representing it abroad, should when present in either district or branch be regarded and considered as the leading representative authorities of the church, and be respected as such. Their counsel and advice should be sought and respected when given. In cases of conflict, or extremity, their decision should be listened to and regarded, subject to the appeal and adjudication provided for in the law.

He that heareth him that is sent heareth the Lord who sent him, if he be called of God and be sent by the voice of the church.

In these matters there is no conflict in the law.

In matters of personal importance and conduct arising in branches or districts, the authorities of those branches and districts should be authorized and permitted to settle them; the traveling councils taking cognizance of those only in which the law and usages of the church are involved, and the general interests of the church are concerned. "Where cases of difficulty are of long standing, the council may require local authorities to adjust them; and in case of failure to do so, may regulate them as required by their office and duty; and this that the work and church may not be put to shame and the preaching of the word be hindered."¹

Branches and districts are to be conducted according to the rules given in the law as directed in a former revelation: "They shall take the things which have been given unto them as my law to the church to be my law to govern my church. And these affairs are not to be conducted by manifestations of the Spirit unless these directions and manifestations come through the regularly authorized officers of branch or district. If my people will respect the officers whom I have called and set in the church, I will respect these officers; and if they do not, they can not expect the riches of gifts and the blessing of direction."²

As all things are to be done by common consent within the church, all general conference actions shall be forwarded to the branches, districts, stakes, and missions for their discussion and concurrence.

1. *Doctrine and Covenants 120:4, 5, 6, 7*

2. *Doctrine and Covenants 125:14*

JCR #71, Counsel of Joseph Smith III for district presidents, Independence District

Resolved that the Independence District requests that the General Conference adopt the direction for District

Presidents (CH 3:561-564) given by President Joseph Smith III as guidance for District officers in conducting the business of the church in districts.

Much inquiry and controversy arose about this time regarding the duties of district president, and President Smith was solicited to define said duties, which he did, as follows:—

"The presiding officer of a district should seek to obtain the good will of the congregations, and the individuals of which his district is composed. In securing this good will, he should be humble, faithful, and diligent. His first duty toward those under his charge is to seek unto the Lord for wisdom, that he may be aided and instructed to direct the affairs intrusted to him successfully. He should be a firm friend to the truth. His duty under this head would imply that he must speak the truth himself, encourage it in others, and reprove the disregard and the want of it in others. He must be gentle. In this light he must not be heady, high-minded, or obstinate, neither in his preaching to the world nor in his demeanor to the saints. He must be an open, avowed, and honest enemy; to wrong, oppression, false doctrines, and false practices. Under this rule of conduct he is authorized to silence elders preaching in his district, transient or local, if they preach false doctrine, or if they transgress the rules of morality which are known to obtain in the church and by which the members should be governed. He should preach and secure the preaching of others within his district. If at all practicable, he should travel in his district constantly, opening new fields of labor, filling stated appointments,

and securing, by a guarded, careful walk and conversation, the favor of the people, that they may be induced to listen to the preaching of the word. He must realize that upon him to a great extent rests the entire moral responsibility of the district. He is supposed to be the representative of the saints comprising the district. As such a representative, if he is dirty in person, and disorderly and unclean in his dress, so will it be understood are his constituents. He must therefore be clean. If he be rough in language, profane, light, using foul and indecent language in private, and uncouth language in public, of just such material will it be understood is his congregation of saints composed. He must therefore be chaste and clean in his conversation.

“He must be impartial as a judge. Under this rule he must be closely discriminating in his choice of elders to take charge of congregations upon special occasions. He must not assume a right which is not his. He may preside at branch meetings, but it is not his right so to do. He may preach in a branch, and may call upon the branch authorities to call special meetings. It is their duty when requested by him to call meetings to do so at once, without delay. He has a right to inquire into the standing of any member in the branch, but it is his duty to make his inquiry of the officers of the branch. It is his duty to notify officers of branches of that which he requires of the branch; of all baptisms and confirmations to which he attends in their respective branches. He should give official notice of all specific changes in the business of the district conferences and other matters of general importance. He should see that all branches under his charge are properly instructed as to time and place of holding conferences, and should himself attend the sessions of conference. It is his duty to encourage the talent in the various officers of the various branches, and upon all suitable occasions call out and uphold those who are of lesser priesthood and talent. It is his duty to hear every official and proper complaint. It is his duty to discourage and refuse to hear every unofficial and fault-finding complaint, more especially should he do this in the priesthood, more especially still in the elders. It is his duty to keep his opinion of the merits of individual quarrels and differences to himself, except when called upon to decide officially; in fact, he is not fit to preside in the trial of any cause concerning the merits of which he has expressed an opinion. He should be a thorough Christian. Under this rule we embrace the following list of duties: It is his duty to be a good son, if he have parents; a good husband, if married; if not married he should be a gallant, but virtuous gentleman; a good father, if he have children. It is his duty to be courteous and friendly to all, remembering this rule more especially ‘to the household of faith.’ Remark: No natural churlishness of temper will make this rule any less imperative. It is his duty to be studious, active, energetic, unflinching; true as a brother, friend, neighbor, citizen, and child of God. It is his duty to be frank, kind, and firm; neither swerving from direct duty by entreaty of friends nor threats of enemies. It is not his duty to be eloquent and a great speaker, though if he possess these gifts it will be to his advantage. It is his duty to be sober. No drunkard or dram drinker is fit for this position, and should neither be chosen nor sustained. It is not his duty to boast or wrangle with those placed under his authority, nor assume dictatorial power. It is his duty to be outspoken against vice. He should give it neither countenance nor quarter; nor while he condemn it, should he rail at individuals. It is his positive duty to refrain from hearing and retailing [telling or retelling] slander; nor should he circulate evil tales though they be true.”—*The Saints’ Herald*, vol. 17, pp. 80-82. (CH 3:561-564)

JCR #72, Insurance needs to local churches, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, the General Conference adopted GCR #800 on April 17, 1919. Which looked “with favor upon the Church carrying its own insurance on Church properties”. And

Whereas, the Bishopric has determined this to be directive in nature. Therefore be it

Resolved, that GCR #800 be rescinded and the Churches (Branches, Districts and Stakes) and the JCRB be authorized to choose to contract with private insurance carriers to meet their insurance needs.

JCR #73, Expense reports for travelers, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, the General Conference adopted GCR #804 on April 18, 1919, Which directed “That each general officer and Conference appointee shall keep an itemized account of all receipts and expenditures for personal and traveling expenses...”. Therefore be it

Resolved, that GCR #804 be amended to include that “any person who travels for/by direction of the Church, Conference or JCRB shall report all funds they receive from all sources to the Bishop or Treasurer of the JCRB. Expense reports will be furnished to the Bishop or Treasurer of the JCRB as soon as practical after the travel has been completed.”

JCR #74, Affirm Law of Stewardship, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, the General Conference adopted GCR #847 on October 13, 1923, which outlined the belief and direction to the Saints regarding the Law of Stewardship by Filing an Inventory, Paying Tithes, Paying a portion of Their Surplus, Making offerings and Giving an Annual Account of Their Stewardship as required by the Law of God. Therefore be it

Resolved, that we affirm the acceptance and direction given to the Church by GCR #847 and that this direction is still in effect.

Be it further Resolved, That the level of Church organization that exists today does not in any way absolve the saints from complying with the Law of Stewardship and providing an accounting of their Stewardship.

JCR #75, Property acquisition at local level, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, the General Conference adopted GCR #954 on April 9, 1947, referring to the acquisition of property requires "...approval is first had of the First Presidency, the Presiding Bishopric, Apostles directly concerned and General Church Architect or other approved architect. Therefore be it

Resolved, that GCR #954 is rescinded. And be it further

Resolved, That there is no requirement for any Branch, District or Stake of the Church to gain any further approval of the Church except from the members of the organization considering such a purchase.

JCR #76, Ministry to Indians, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, the General Conference adopted GCR #955 on April 12, 1947, which Resolved "That the Joint Council of First Presidency, Quorum of Twelve, and Presiding Bishopric be requested to give earnest consideration to the needs of the Indian members of the Church...". Therefore be it

Resolved, that GCR #955 be amended to include the "Brethren of the Seventy and the Missionary Funding Committee of the JCRB are hereby incorporated into this GCR as amended". And be it further

Resolved, that this GCR remains good and wise council to the Church and those who are endeavoring to minister to the Lamanite peoples wherever they may be.

JCR #77, Accountability of Conference Treasurer, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, the General Conference adopted GCR #82 on April 8, 1867, directing the actions of the Presiding Bishop and the use of an auditing committee. Therefore be it

Resolved, that GCR #82 is hereby rescinded. And be it further

Resolved, that the Bishop shall instruct the Treasurer of the JCRB to provide, in detail, to each annual General Conference, his accounts with the Church, and that an auditing committee shall be appointed by the Bishop to examine and report the same, a summary of which shall be published in the Conference Binder and in other locations available to the Saints. This auditing committee is accountable to the Bishop. No member of the auditing committee shall be a member of any standing committee of the General Conference or the JCRB.

JCR #78, Reporting of offerings, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, the General Conference adopted GCR #261 on September 26, 1882, directing the actions of the ministry to report all monies received by them to the Bishop to prevent complaints on the part of those who contribute. Therefore be it

Resolved, that GCR #261 is hereby rescinded. And be it further

Resolved, that all persons who receive funds to support their ministerial efforts shall report all Church monies received by them to the Bishop or Treasurer of the JCRB together with the names of the person who gave the funds, so far as possible, and that they draw for their expenses the approved amount directly from the Bishop or the Treasurer of the JCRB.

JCR #79, Ordering of Quorums, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, the General Conference adopted GCR #311 on April 12, 1886, addressing the ordering of the lesser quorums of the Church and referring the matter back to the Conference and the Twelve. Therefore be it

Resolved, that GCR #311 is hereby rescinded. And be it further

Resolved, that JCR #58 adopted by the conference on April 12, 2008 has addressed this issue and provided direction in this matter.

JCR #80, Priesthood Ordination Approval, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, the General Conference adopted GCR #312 on April 13, 1886, addressing the requirement "That in organized districts, no one be ordained to the office of an elder, without the voice of the district or conference be had ordering such ordination, or by sanction of the Missionary in charge." Therefore be it

Resolved, that GCR #312 is hereby rescinded. And be it further

Resolved, that the Scriptures, specifically Doctrine and Covenants Section 17 Paragraph 12 and 16 is the Law of God and the Church in this matter.

JCR #81, Privacy of Contributions, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, the General Conference adopted GCR # 446 on April 7, 1898, requiring "That our present practice of publishing an itemized account of all monies placed in the hands of the Bishop be continued". Therefore be it

Resolved, that GCR #446 is hereby rescinded. And be it further

Resolved, the monies placed in the hands of the Bishop or the Treasurer of the JCRB remain unpublished to protect the privacy of the individual donor.

JCR #82, Encourage Support of Local Branches, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, the General Conference adopted GCR #455 & #456 on April 14, 1898, directing the Saints to unite with Branches most convenient to the place where they reside. Therefore be it

Resolved, that GCR #455 and GCR #456 is hereby rescinded. And be it further

Resolved, the Saints are encouraged to unite with a Branch of the Church within a reasonable traveling distance from the place where they reside.

JCR #83, Ordinations by Law of God, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, The General Conference adopted GCR #646 on April 15, 1910, requiring "...that no ordination to any office in the priesthood shall obtain until the "call" has been approved by those holding Melchisedec priesthood and in authority, whether it be in stakes, districts or branches." Therefore be it

Resolved, that GCR #646 is hereby rescinded. And be it further

Resolved, that the Scriptures, specifically Doctrine and Covenants Section 17 Paragraph 12, 16 and 17, are the Law of God and the Church in this matter.

JCR #84, Rescind GCR #785, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, The General Conference adopted GCR #785 on April 10, 1918, requiring that "no church site be chosen or edifice erected by any branch without first conferring with the Presiding Bishop or Church Architect". Therefore be it

Resolved, that GCR #785 is hereby rescinded.

JCR #85, Auditing Committee, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, The General Conference adopted GCR #787 on April 11, 1918, authorizing "the Presidency to appoint one or more auditors to audit the church accounts". Therefore be it

Resolved, that GCR #787 is hereby rescinded. And be it further

Resolved, that an auditing committee shall be appointed by the Bishop to examine and report on the church accounts.

JCR #86, Seventy to teach Law of Tithing, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, In accordance with Doctrine and Covenants Section 120, Paragraph 3d, which states, "The Seventy when traveling by the voice of the church, or sent by the Twelve to minister the word where the Twelve cannot go, are in the powers of their ministration apostles-those sent-..." And

Whereas, In accordance with Doctrine and Covenants Section 114, which states, "1 a. In order to place the church in a position to carry on the promulgation of the gospel, and as a means of fulfilling the law, the Twelve will take measures in connection with the Bishop, to execute the law of tithing; b. and let them before God see to it, that the temporal means so obtained is truly used for the purposes of the church,..." Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Seventy will fulfill their role in the powers of their ministrations as Apostles, and they will, in their duties, teach, expound and exhort the Saints to comply with the Law of Stewardship, the financial law of the Church along with all the other laws that God has placed with us.

JCR #87, Inclusion of Bishop's Counselors as Trustee, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, The US National Conference adopted USNCR #1 on October 18, 2007, which directed, "...That the presiding Bishop and his counselors shall serve as trustees for the corporation when the JCRB appoints this council; and until that council is appointed, a man of sterling character holding the office of bishop or high priest shall be named as the trustee of the corporation; and the treasurer and vice-president of the JCRB shall serve as assistant trustees." And

Whereas, to better define the authority and responsibilities of the assistant trustees and to incorporate the councilors of a bishop in USNCR #1. And

Whereas, this amendment will allow the bishop and his counselors to function as a bishopric within the Law of the Church. Therefore be it

Resolved, that the last resolved of USNCR #1 be changed to read: “That the Treasurer and Vice-President of the JCRB, and the counselors of the Bishop, shall serve as assistant trustees with the same rights individually or collectively with the same rights as the Trustee.”

Conference Resolutions, April 8, 2009

JCR #88, Calling of High Priests, High Priests Roger Gault, Dean Falconer, Rob Rolfe ; rescinded by JCR #101

Whereas: Calls to the office of High Priest should originate with a council of High Priests sustained by the General Conference.

Whereas: The church is now in an only partially organized condition. The scriptures indicate that procedures for calling and ordination of priesthood are different in the following circumstances: 1) No church exists and is beginning to be restored; 2) the church is partially restored, 3) the church is fully restored and all quorums are filled, and, 4) the call originates in unorganized areas. Confusion and contention over the procedure arises because the saints do not recognize the options presented in the law. For example, by what quorum, council or conference are calls to High Priest to be approved? There is more than one answer to this question, depending on the circumstances then existing in the church.

Whereas: When the RLDS Church was fully organized and functioning with all General Officers, Quorums, and Orders - calls to the office of High Priest were initiated through a Stake President, District President, or the Apostle in charge of a designated geographical area. The call, if initiated by a Stake President - was forwarded to the Apostle in charge, and from him to the First Presidency. If initiated by a District President - was (Starting approximately in 1970) forwarded to the Regional Administrator, then to the Apostle in charge and from him to the First Presidency. If initiated by an Apostle - it went directly to the First Presidency - with consultation with the Stake President or District President. After approval at all steps indicated above, the man was contacted for his acceptance. If he accepted, the call was presented at the Stake or District Conference for acceptance. In unorganized areas the call would be submitted to the First Presidency by the Apostle in charge of the geographical area. There being no conference to accept the call - the Apostle would make any further arrangements necessary for the ordination.

Whereas: Under our current District organizational structure - having no higher authority, i.e., Apostles, Stake Presidents, or First Presidency - the District Conference is the highest local authority, and the General Conference the highest legislative General Church authority. Within the structure of the Independence District, the office of High Priest is the highest priesthood authority, and within the structure of the General Church, the General Conference is the highest legislative authority.

Whereas: The approval of a General Conference is a necessary step because the High Priest is a General Church officer, with the right and the responsibility to bring ministry any place in the world.

Whereas: Based upon the scriptures and the law of the church, it is the opinion of the High Priests that the organization of the church is only partially restored.

Therefore be it resolved: That upon presentation of the names of a proposed council of high priests to the General Conference, to be organized by all high priests who are willing to meet, that said General Conference sustain said council of High Priests to call and ordain other High Priests, if approved by the General Conference.

Be it further resolved: That this conference affirms that the law of the church permits the ordination of High Priests whose calls have originated with a council of High Priests and have been approved by a General Conference.

JCR #89, Affirmation of Law of Tithing, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, the General Conference adopted GCR #174 on April 10, 1875, affirms “That the Law of Tithing is binding upon the Church in its scattered condition”. Therefore be it

Resolved, that we affirm the acceptance and direction given to the Church by GCR #174 and that this direction is still in effect.

Be it further Resolved, That the level of Church organization that exists today does not in any way absolve the saints from complying with the Law of Stewardship and providing an accounting of their Stewardship.

JCR #90, Law of Tithing Applicable, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, the general Conference adopted GCR #210 on September 11, 1878, affirms “That the Law of Tithing ... is applicable to the Church in its present condition, and should be observed”. Therefore be it

Resolved, that we affirm the acceptance and direction given to the Church by GCR #210 and that this direction is still in effect.

Be it further Resolved, That the level of Church organization that exists today does not in any way absolve the saints from complying with the Law of Stewardship and providing an accounting of their Stewardship.

JCR #91, Financial Accountability of Traveling Ministry, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, the General Conference adopted GCR #321 on April 17, 1886, requiring the traveling ministry to report to the Bishop all money received to support the ministry. And the Conference deplors the failure to properly account for all monies received. Therefore be it

Resolved, that we affirm the acceptance and direction given to the Church by GCR #321 and that this direction is still in effect.

JCR #92, No Provision to “Pay” Ministers, Submitted by the Bishopric

Whereas, the General Conference adopted GCR #606 on April 15, 1908, requiring any financial aid paid to the ministry from the Church will be based upon his actual needs. Therefore be it

Resolved, that we affirm the guidance and actions of GCR #606 and we recognize the absence of any provision to “PAY” ministers for their work in accordance with the law.

Conference Resolutions, April 9, 2009

JCR #93, Formation of a Communications Department, Conference Officers

Resolved, that the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches authorize the formation of a Communications Department, and be it further

Resolved, that the Department initially consist of three divisions, Periodicals, Information Technology, and Publishing. Additional divisions may be added as the need arises in the future, and be it further

Resolved, that each division be organized with a Director, appointed by the Conference President. Directors may organize sub-divisions and appoint staff as needed to fulfill the demands for their services, and be it further

Resolved, that the Communications Department be managed by a Communications Committee consisting of the JCRB officers and the Division Directors, and be it further

Resolved, that the Communications Committee will work closely with the Bishop and the Finance Committee to provide budget planning and funding for the Communications Department, and be it further

Resolved, that the Communications Committee will provide an annual report to the General Conference.

JCR #94, Formation of Rules & Resolutions Review Committee, Conference Officers

Whereas, the General Conference Resolutions (GCRs) are written to help interpret and apply God’s law to govern the church. Over a thousand GCRs, including those omitted by conference action, have been passed since June 1852. It is imperative that the body of the church, the priesthood and General Officers, have a clear understanding of their meaning, and

Whereas, over time they become difficult to interpret or lost to memory because of the volume of GCRs, and

Whereas, they may become diluted or their meaning lost entirely, e.g. one GCR may be affected by preceding or subsequent GCRs which can affect the overall meaning of the intent of the original GCR covering the topic in question, and

Whereas, to avoid confusion and to simplify the legislative law of the church, it is desirable to concisely compile the body of the GCR’s to enhance corporate memory of the Church for a more effective use of the GCRs, and

Whereas, it is commonly believed that if laws are simple, direct and to the point, they are easier to understand, leading to better application, a greater acceptance of the law and to preserve an accurate corporate memory of our legislative law, therefore be it

Resolved, that a committee be formed to consolidate the Rules and the GCR into general categories, combine GCRs that are on the same subject into a condensed format and for a concise, more easily understood law. This committee is to bring its findings and recommendations to the next General Conference and future General Conferences, as needed, for approval by said body.

JCR #95, Limitation on General Conference Officers, Seventy Randy Vick/ Steve DeVera

Whereas it is extremely important that the Saints in the United States take every precaution not to assume a position of authority, or a perception of authority over our brother and sister Saints in far away lands; and

Whereas, there continues to be much confusion regarding the lack of distinction between the U.S. National Conference which is held in the Fall of the year in Independence, Missouri and the General Conference which is held in April of each year in Independence, Missouri; and
Whereas, this confusion blurs the distinction not only in the minds of delegates in attendance but saints worldwide, between the U.S. National Conference and the General Conference, as well as National Conferences held in Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Belize and other national conferences that may occur in the future;
Therefore, be it resolved that in all publications of the church, including magazines, newsletters, formal programs, agendas, resolutions and minutes, etc., the U.S. National Conference shall always be referred to as the U.S. National Conference and not the Fall Conference.

JCR #96, Youth Activities Committee, Joint Activities Committee

Resolved: A Youth Activities Committee be formed for the purpose of planning and promoting annual & special activities for youth of all ages throughout the world. These activities can include Youth Camps, Youth Retreats, Reunions & Conference activities. This Committee should work closely with other youth groups. The committee will also help produce materials for youth. The committee will consist of 6 members to be elected and serve staggered three year terms in the same way as members of the Joint Activities Committee, beginning with the 2009 Conference.

Conference Resolutions, April 19, 2010

JCR #97, Neither Council nor Quorum , Elder R. Leutzinger on behalf of GC Officers/Elder Michael Beem
Resolved that the terms “quorum” and “council” be laid aside so that harmony may prevail in the work; and be it further

Resolved that this General Conference petition President Rob Rolfe to enlist his fellow high priests to complete the task laid on them by the 2009 General Conference in the spirit of wisdom and revelation; and be it further

Resolved that this body of saints uphold our fellow brethren in prayer and fasting that these ordinations may proceed as soon as practicable.

Conference Resolutions April 20, 2010

JCR #98, Letter of Invitation and Instruction submitted by Jerry Vickery, 2nded by Betty Vickery

Whereas there are members of Community of Christ who are choosing to separate themselves from under the administration of the general church authorities of Community of Christ because of changes in doctrine and practice of doctrine which have occurred and is anticipated shall soon occur; and

Whereas some of those members are seeking a home among the branches composing the General Conference, but because they did not choose to become independent of general church authorities of Community of Christ at an earlier time, they are uncertain as to if and how they might be received by this conference of branches; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the presiding officers of the General Conference of restoration branches, along with other members of the conference which they may appoint to aid them, write a letter of invitation and instruction on becoming members of the General Conference that may be generally and widely circulated and be it further

Resolved that the letter be brought back to this conference for approval before being published

JCR #99 Letter of Invitation to CRE and POZ submitted by Devon Park Branch

Whereas, the Lord has said that, ‘If ye are not one, ye are not mine.’ (D&C 38:27) and,

Whereas, one of the main goals of the JCRB is to give voice and vote to all members of the church including all priesthood with authority given through the heritage of angelic ministry and all members with authoritative baptism, and

Whereas, our goal is to unify the branches and individual members who wish to build up the Kingdom of God on earth through the laws and doctrines received from God through Joseph Smith, Jr. and continued through Joseph Smith, III, and

Whereas, there are several groups at this time who claim to have these same goals but in recent years have become distanced from one another and from the JCRB for various reasons, and

Whereas, the only actions this body of saints (the JCRB) can take in meeting our goal of unity is to continually pray and invite our brothers and sisters to join us and request that all saints everywhere be discouraged from rhetoric and actions that cause division among the saints and instead encourage all saints to be unified and of one body,

Therefore be it resolved, that the JCRB extend the hand of fellowship by sending an open letter of invitation from this body to the Pastors of Zion and the Conference of Restoration Elders to join together in unity of purpose, asking them to adopt a policy of unity among the saints and to reject any rhetoric of division, and **Be it further resolved,** that this letter be written, sent and published by the end of April 2010, and be updated, published and sent again before the 2011 CRE conference.

Conference Resolutions, April 19, 2011

JCR #100 Resolution for Quorum of High Priests, U. S. National Conference

Whereas, the High Priests in a meeting on April 18, 2011, with the potential increase in their number, have determined that it is timely to function as “The Quorum of High Priests” according to accepted General Church procedure;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the General Conference of Branches, as a continuation of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, authorizes the High Priests to form a quorum of High Priests.

JCR #101 Resolution to Rescind JCR #88, originally from the Independence Branch, amended by Seventy Bob Moore, seconded by Seventy Mark Deitrick
Resolved that JCR #88 be rescinded.

Conference Resolutions, April 20, 2011

JCR #102 Resolution to affirm Doc & Cov 120:2; originally from the Independence Branch; Substitute from Elder Chuck Perry on behalf of the High Priestss

Whereas men were nominated for ordination to the office of high priest on motions brought directly to a General Conference of the RLDS Church between 1857 and about 1873 at which time nominations originated with the High Priests Quorum; and

Whereas Doctrine & Covenants 120:2 states:

[Sec 120:2a] A branch may be presided over by a high priest, an elder, priest, teacher, or deacon, chosen and sustained by the vote of the branch.

[Sec 120:2b] Districts may be presided over by a high priest, or an elder, who shall be received and sustained in his office by the vote of the district.

[Sec 120:2c] If a branch, or district be large, he who is chosen to preside should be an high priest, if there be one possessed of the spirit of wisdom to administer in the office of president;

[Sec 120:2d] or if an elder be chosen who may by experience be found qualified to preside, as soon as practicable thereafter he should be ordained an high priest by the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the one ordaining, and by direction of a high council, or General Conference, as required in the law.

Resolved that consideration be given by the Quorum of High Priest to ordaining the president of any recognized district in the Church and General Conference to the office of high priest.

Conference Resolutions, April 22, 2011

JCR #103 Resolution For Accepting Members and Credentialing Priesthood in Branches from First Quorum of Elder—Independence District; amended by Seventy Bob Moore, second by Deacon Steve LaHue

Whereas Priesthood was restored to the Earth in 1829 before the Church organization was created; and Whereas factions (GCR 71 & 72) neither add to nor take away from priesthood authority (RLDS Church History 3:433); and

Whereas authority is conveyed by the power of the Holy Ghost in the one performing the ordination (DC 17:12);

Therefore let it be resolved that:

- 1) All lawful ordinations initiated within the RLDS church through 1984 be considered valid in accordance with GCR 4 & 90. Should the legality of the ordination be in doubt, a branch, district, priesthood quorum or any other conference may request that an elders' court be convened to ascertain the correct action (JCR 16 & 54 and Rules and Resolutions Appendix G).
- 2) Ordination to the office of elder, priest, teacher and deacon after 1984 be considered valid if:
 - a) the ordained man is not currently under any legal restriction by a church court having jurisdiction or administrative silence;
 - b) the ordination was performed in accordance with the law (D&C 17:12,16) and with valid authority derived from the 1860 Reorganization; and
 - c) The ordaining ministers' ordinations have not been compromised by the doctrine of women's ordination to the priesthood.
 - d) Should the legality of the ordination be in doubt, a branch, district, priesthood quorum or other conference may request that an elders' court be convened to ascertain the correct action.
- 3) All lawful ordinances performed by these sustained priesthood (in 1 & 2) are also valid if performed in accordance with the law (GCR 71,72, 90). Thus:
 - a) Members of these branches will be received on their authoritative baptism in the everlasting covenant (D&C 20).
 - b) All authoritatively baptized members in good standing have voice and vote in branch, district, national, and General Conferences, in agreement with the rules of representation at each conference.

JCR #104 Resolution for Accepting General Officers into the Conference of Branches from First Quorum of Elder—Independence District

- 1) Lawful ordinations effected in the RLDS Church to the office of seventy or high priest (or others based on the office of high priest) may be received on their original ordination by application to the appropriate governing quorum of seventy or quorum of high priests, respectively, to assure there is a positive testimony and witness of the individual and his calling. Where confirmation is received, these names will be submitted to be sustained by the voice and vote of the church in General Conference. This resolution supersedes JCR 31.
- 2) Ordinations effected outside of the RLDS Church (in accordance with GCR 71 & 72) to the office of seventy or high priest (excluding the offices of apostle, prophet, evangelist and bishop) may be referred to the council of presidents of seventy or quorum of high priests, respectively, to receive a confirming testimony and the witness of the individual and his calling. Where confirmation is received, these names will be presented to be sustained by the voice and vote of the church in General Conference, and if approved would be ordained. In the interim, such individuals would be recognized in their last ordained office of elder, priest, teacher or deacon.
- 3) Ordinations effected outside of the RLDS Church to the offices of apostle, prophet, evangelist and bishop will not be accepted for review at this time.

Conference Resolutions, April 23, 2011

JCR #105 Stewardship Accounting Day, moved by Seventy Mark Deitrick, seconded by Priest Dennis King; amended by High Priest Roger Gault, seconded by High Priest Chuck Perry

Whereas the General Conference has designated that the financial affairs of the church will be administered by a budget, and

Whereas it is very difficult to work from a budget without a projected income and it is impossible to project an income when annual Tithing Statements are sent in at all times of the year, Therefore be it,

Resolved, that March 31st of every year be designated as Stewardship Accounting Day and be it further Resolved, that all Saints are encouraged to file their annual Tithing Statements by this date.