

Unapproved Minutes of the U.S. National Conference

East 39th Street Community of Christ
Independence, MO
October 13, 2018

Vice President David Whiting reconvened the business meeting at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, October 13. The approval of the minutes from the October 11, 2018 business session was the first item of business. David Newman moved and Rex Curtis seconded the motion to approve the minutes. It was noted that the vote for the resolution on Terms of Quorum Officers was incorrectly reported as unanimous. With this as the only correction, the minutes were approved.

The Credentials Committee report for the US conference was shared by conference recorder Janice Jordison. A total of 11 branches sent delegates to the conference representing a membership of 505 members. There were registrants from 20 branches and one study group. There were 30 branch delegates, four branch alternates, 84 members and seven friends registering for the conference for a total of 125 people. There were 50 priesthood members registered.

Cheryl Phipps moved and BJ Jordison seconded the motion to approve the Credentials Committee report. The motion carried.

Reports were then shared from the quorum meetings that were held as part of the conference.

Report from the High Priests

Presented by David Whiting

October 13, 2018

To the US National Conference:

The Quorum of High Priests and the Order of Patriarch/Evangelists met in regular session on October 11-12, 2018. After prayer and review of the agenda items to be covered, discussion began regarding the three recent revelations to the church as provided in the Conference booklet.

In reviewing the "Go and Do" list provided, each member shared their reflections on a number of personal challenges identified by the revelations. Each member committed to diligently pursue more discipline and obedience to the challenges in the revelations.

As a Quorum, several actions were offered:

1. Encourage attendance at branches other than our home branches
2. Search for opportunities to teach covenants within and outside of the membership
3. Support definitive actions to develop unity between branches
4. Become more active in inviting and promoting the message of Zion and gathering
5. Actively pursue gathering High Priests from multiple restoration groups
6. Convene a High Priest retreat / gathering to assist in amplifying the role of the High Priest

A resolution was approved to have the President of the High Priest Quorum coordinate with the President of the Quorum of Apostles to convene combined quorum meetings to discuss the continuation of the role of Bishop within the JCRB.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Whiting

Quorum Secretary

Report from the Apostles

Presented by Gary Whiting

We met on Thursday, October 11 and Friday October 12 at the scheduled quorum times. One member of our quorum supported the men and Aaronic priesthood meeting each day.

On Thursday, October 11, the conversation was primarily limited to the action items identified in the supplied list for discussion. These three items were discussed:

Item #3. Fast and pray for calls to the office of Apostle.

Item #4. Bringing the Saints into one body.

Item #5. Call people to gather.

Comments on Item #3 included: Pray and fast about what God wants to do with the quorum. Pray and fast about what God wants the quorum to do. Does He want the quorum filled? Does He want us to exercise presidential authority? There was discussion about calling three more apostles and where they should come from. Three more men called from the Quorum of Seventy would further deplete that quorum. Are there three men from outside the JCRB who would accept a call to Apostle if they were called?

Items #4 and #5 were a little more difficult. While it was readily agreed that we have the responsibility to do that, there was not necessarily agreement on how. There is a need for Saints and branches to provide us with contact information for inactive Saints or people who are interested in hearing about the Restoration gospel.

There was discussion on the use of Aaronic priesthood to bring ministry to Saints in scattered branches where priesthood members are few and where Aaronic ministry is missing completely. Perhaps if branches lacking Aaronic priesthood were agreeable, a team of Aaronic priesthood, perhaps from the Center Place, could spend a week of concentrated ministry in the homes of the Saints. It may bring needed ministry to those saints and perhaps activate any local Aaronic priesthood. It would likely benefit the visiting team to strengthen their priesthood abilities.

There was some concern expressed that we should not be using Aaronic priesthood on missionary trips. There was also discussion about using non-priesthood youth, and the need to move forward on the Youth Missionary Corps. It was suggested that we should labor to grow/strengthen outlying/scattered branches and then teach them about the gathering. There seemed to be agreement that we needed to develop a process for accomplishing our responsibility to bring the Saints into one body and calling people to gather.

On October 12, the discussion was focused on the duties of the Quorum. This involved stewardship testimonies and a statement about Brazil and the plates.

Submitted by Gary R. Whiting, Quorum President.

Report of Seventies

Presented by Jim McKay

The members of the Seventy present at the conference came to several conclusions from their discussion.

We believe the underlying cause of the problems that are to be addressed in the “Go and Do” instruction can only be accomplished by an educated and willing priesthood.

We will ask the Lord to open opportunities to accomplish and fulfill our ministry.

We believe that members in a branch need to uphold the priesthood with prayer and support. Members have a responsibility and obligation to invite the priesthood into their homes as well as responding positively when priesthood desire to come into their home.

Report from the Elders

Presented by David Newman

The Elders Quorum spent the first day discussing the questions asked of it by talking about what could be done to help priesthood succeed in fully accomplishing their assigned tasks.

- Be led by the Holy Spirit in any priesthood office.
- Understand the duties of the office.
- Elders should assist Aaronic priesthood in their duties.
- Members of the branch could invite priesthood to come to their home.
- Members could pray for the priesthood.
- Priesthood should all work together.
- Church family reunions are an opportunity for ministry.
- In everything we should be constant in prayer.
- Trust in the Lord.
- Know the need and talents of members and friends and support them in these things.
- Get involved in your community as a witness for Christ.
- Be approachable and encouraging.
- Don't have a “better than others” attitude.
- Be and teach charity.

The second day the elders talked about the need for laying a firm foundation in the body of Christ. As priesthood we should look forward, not backward. The fracturing of the church in the 1980's affected everyone. A discussion was held on who has the responsibility for unifying groups again in Christ's gospel. Looking to Aaronic priesthood to teach the basics is greatly needed in the body of Christ.

Richard Hoff was acclaimed by the elders to remain the Quorum president.

Report from the Aaronic Priesthood/Men's Group

Presented by Levi Vickery

The Aaronic Priesthood and un-ordained men met together to receive encouragement and insight on how to better serve in their respective offices and roles in the church. Brothers

Rex Curtis and Patrick McKay shared with us about their service as Aaronic ministers, some of what the Quorum of Twelve Apostles have been and are doing around the world, and reiterated how important the work the Aaronic priesthood is to fulfilling the law and the purpose of the church in bringing about Zion.

We also discussed the provided material and how we could be more effective in our stewardship of our ministry to and for the people to which we are called to service.

Those gathered were invited to attend an Aaronic Priesthood retreat that will be held on November 2-4, 2018. This event is open to all restoration Aaronic priesthood regardless of affiliation.

Respectfully submitted by Levi Vickery, Mass Meeting Chairman

Report from the Women's Group

Presented by Rita Woolery

To the National Conference

We were blessed by worship services led by Sister Karen Bates and Rita Woolery. Sister Barbara Giertz led our discussion on portions of the three documents speaking to the Saints:

1. Live Stewardships leading to Zion which are our Time, Our Talents, our Gifts and Our Finances. These are personal, individual, and family issues of preparation for Zion.
2. Be Ye One leading to Zion which is an outward public expression of our Life Stewardship. This is how we commit to dealing with one another in a godly manner.
3. The Cause of Zion the Beautiful which is the culmination of our lives.

We recognized that this group could not set goals for each individual because the understanding of what each needs to do is between them and the Lord. However, we found general agreement on points that would be worthwhile goals.

1. We should evaluate how we spend our time to discover what things we are doing that are not kingdom building: remove it and replace it with something that is. This is repentance.
2. We can be more valiant in testimony by taking advantage of opportunities to share the love of God.
3. We can write our testimonies, so they are not forgotten and can be passed on to children and grandchildren and others.
4. We can commune with the Lord early to be more sensitive and intimate with the Holy Spirit, which will bring us greater unity as the Spirit becomes our connection with one another and shows us the needs of others.
5. We can look for and focus on what we have in common with others, not on our differences.
6. We can invite priesthood to our homes.
7. We can speak the truth in love, choosing to think on the love of God over other thoughts we have. If we speak love, we will do love.
8. We can listen with the intent to understand even when we don't agree.

9. We can volunteer for things in church. Service increases our love for Him and for one another.
10. We can replace complaining with blessing, testimony, encouragement and prayer.
11. We can replace our focus on the needs of ourselves and our own families with a greater focus on the needs of others.

We listened to the spiritual needs presented by the women of Malawi and sister Betty Vickery shared about the spiritual maturity these women have because of their intense care for those in need.

It is time to Stop Trying and Start Doing.

We closed with prayer by Sister Giertz.
Respectively submitted,
Betty Vickery

Janice Jordison made the motion and Marilyn James seconded the motion to accept the reports as presented and the motion passed.

NCR18-02 Resolution to Replace JCR #49 General Conference/National Conference was the next item of business, with a new version of the resolution being offered in place of the one originally submitted.

Resolution NCR18-02

Resolution to replace JCR #49 General Conference/National Conference

Submitted by Doug Patterson and Randy Vick

Whereas, JCR #49 requires the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches to convene a U.S. National Conference in October in Independence, Missouri for all branches and missions in the United States; *therefore*

Be it Resolved, that JCR #49 be amended by substitution, as follows:

1. The General Conference shall encourage and assist branches in close proximity to form districts.
2. The General Conference shall lend assistance by providing training and presiding ministers for organizational meetings.
3. Resolutions approved at district conferences may be forwarded to the General Conference secretary for consideration by the General Conference.
4. Minutes and/or reports of District Conference activities shall be forwarded to the General Conference Secretary for publication in the General Conference notebook and on the General Conference website.
5. An international General Conference of the church will be convened annually, in April, in the Center Place, where the entire church shall come together to direct the work.

Be It Further Resolved, that this resolution be forwarded to the General Conference in the Spring of 2019 for further consideration and possible adoption.

Doug Patterson made the motion and Randy Vick seconded it to approve the resolution. After a good deal of discussion, the motion was approved. It will be recorded as NCR-11:

Resolution NCR#11

Resolution to replace JCR #49 General Conference/National Conference

submitted by Doug Patterson and Randy Vick

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5. An international General Conference of the church will be convened annually, in April, in the Center Place, where the entire church shall come together to direct the work.

Be It Further Resolved, that this resolution be forwarded to the General Conference in the Spring of 2019 for further consideration and possible adoption.

Next item of business was Resolution NCR18-03 Resolution to Cease Convening US National Conference and Replace It With a US National Reunion, with Doug Patterson moving and Randy Vick seconding a revised copy of the resolution.

Resolution NCR18-03

Resolution to cease convening of US National Conference and replace it with a US National Reunion

submitted by Doug Patterson and Randy Vick

Whereas, there is no scriptural basis for the establishment of or functioning of National Conferences; and

Whereas, conferences authorized by scripture and church law are branch, district, stake and general conferences; *therefore*

Be it Resolved, that pending an amendment to JCR #49 by the General Conference of 2019, the US National Conference will cease to convene as an annual conference; and

Be it Further Resolved, that this US National Conference 2018, establish a US national reunion committee, in anticipation of a proposed amendment to JCR #49, to organize a US National

Reunion to be held sometime after April in 2019 and annually thereafter if desired by those in attendance at the US National Reunion.

After some discussion on the matter, Randy Vick moved and Rex Curtis seconded a motion to refer the matter to the Quorum of High Priests with a report back to the US National Conference in 2019. The motion to refer carried.

With the action on NCR18-03, the chair ruled that NCR18-05 Resolution to Form a US National Reunion Committee was unnecessary at this point.

Resolution NCR18-06 Resolution to Contribute Funds to Saints Affected by Hurricane Michael was the next item of business.

NCR18-06 Resolution to contribute funds for Saints affected by Hurricane Michael

Submitted by Barbara Giertz and Debbie Newman

Whereas, the recent Hurricane, Michael, has wreaked great destruction and placed terrible burdens on people in the Southeast United States including many Saints living around the Mariana, Florida, area; and

Whereas, many of the Saints affected by this hurricane are even now traveling to the Geneseo, Illinois, area to stay at the Geneseo campground for a time; *therefore*

Be It Resolved, that all funds collected at this 2018 U.S. National Conference that exceed the budgetary requirement for this conference, be forwarded to the Geneseo Restoration Branch for the benefit and use in meeting the expenses of the Florida Saints staying at the Geneseo Restoration Branch campground.

Debbie Newman moved the resolution and Fred Greene seconded it. There was a good deal of discussion on how the matter should be handled. Treasurer Marilyn James noted that before the final offering, there was a surplus of \$2,864 available.

The discussion carried the business meeting past the time for the final worship service of the conference so it was moved by Alicia Negaard and seconded by Dave Drummond that the business session reconvene following the service. The motion carried.

The meeting reconvened following the service with a substitute resolution offered for NCR18-06. Gary Whiting moved and David Drummond seconded the amended motion.

NCR#12 Resolution to contribute funds for Saints affected by Hurricane Michael

Whereas, the recent Hurricane Michael has wreaked great destruction and placed terrible burdens on people in the Southeast United States, including many Saints living around the Mariana, Florida, area; and

Whereas, many of the Saints affected by this hurricane are even now traveling to Geneseo, Illinois, area to stay at the Geneseo campground for a time; and

Whereas, there may be other future emergencies where Saints are in jeopardy;

Be it resolved that the President of the National Conference appoint a three-member crisis response team who shall perform the following tasks:

1. Seek out Saints who are victims of natural disasters.
2. Determine their needs for food, clothing, shelter, money as well as ministry
3. Coordinate the delivery of defined needs to the victims.

4. Work as much as possible in coordination with the JCRB conference bishop to meet these needs
5. Report on the needs and distribution of aid through sources which may include the Beacon or the JCRB website.

Be it further resolved that the US National Conference

1. Create a Crisis Relief Fund to which donations to meet these needs could be made.
2. Place all funds collected at this 2018 U.S. National Conference that exceed the budgetary requirement for this conference in this relief fund.

In addition it was suggested in discussion that a similar fund might be set up in for the General Conference to help with disasters in other countries as well.

The motion was approved.

The election of US National Conference officers was the next item on the agenda. When it was time for the election of conference president, secretary H. Alan Smith was asked to read a report from the Mass Meeting of Melchizedek Priesthood.

Minutes of the Mass Meeting of Melchizedek Priesthood

The Melchizedek priesthood met in a mass meeting to nominate a president for the US National Conference Thursday, October 11, at 11:35 a.m.

Vice President David Whiting opened the meeting and Jim Noland offered a prayer.

The floor was opened for nominations. Joel Loving was nominated but declined the opportunity to serve again. Other nominations included David Whiting and Jim Noland.

The chair was turned over to secretary H. Alan Smith for the vote. David Whiting was elected to be the nominee for president of the US National Conference from the mass meeting of Melchizedek priesthood.

Rex Curtis moved and David Newman seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Alan Smith, Secretary, US National Conference

Officers elected for the 2019 US National Conference were David Whiting, president; Fred Greene, Vice President; David Bates, Secretary; Marilyn James, Treasurer, and Jan Jordison, Recorder.

Elected to serve on the Logistics Committee for the 2019 US National Conference were Wilynda Nelson, Barb Giertz, Kent Pedersen, BJ Jordison, Chris Taylor, Duane Newman, Miranda Kibbe, Lisa Newman, Betty Vickery and Rob Rolfe.

Elected to the Credentials Committee were Glen Vreeland and Todd Nelson.

Marilyn James moved and David Drummond seconded the motion to hold a US National Conference in October 2019. The motion carried.

David Drummond moved and Penny Curtis seconded the motion to adjourn, and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Alan Smith, US National Conference Secretary