

Conferences.

Semi-Annual Conference.

Minutes of the Semi-Annual Conference of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, held at Parks' Mills, Iowa, Sept. 12th to 15th, 1872.

President Joseph Smith called the assembly to order.

On motion Elders D. H. Bays and R. M. Elvin were appointed secretaries.

Opened by singing 718th hymn. The Almighty was invoked for his blessings upon the conference by the president.

The following brethren were appointed as police force: Hugh Lytle, superintendent, Dan. Hougas, Washington Bays, J. R. Badham, Dan. Shearer, John Condit, B. J. Wicks and Alma Newberry.

Sung 55th hymn.

On motion, adjourned till 2 P.M. Benediction by the president.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment, and opened by singing 721st hymn. Prayer by Elder Joseph C. Clapp. Sung 19th hymn.

The president stated that it was expected to hear reports of districts and missions, to sustain our officers, also to send missionaries to help spread the gospel if practicable. Much instruction of value and worth was presented in that urbane manner that inspires the saints to renewed efforts of sustaining and proclaiming the words of salvation.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

Gallands Grove, by Elder Thomas Dobson, 364 membership, in middling good condition, the elders are doing well, but neglect to report, more calls for preaching than can be filled.

Northern Illinois, per letter of Henry A. Stebbins, presiding elder, as follows: there are 12 branches in this district, and their total aggregate of members is 520, including the following 87 officials, namely, 1 of first presidency, 2 apostles, 1 presiding bishop, 9 high priests, 7 of the quorum of seventy, 49 elders, 10 priests, 10 teachers, 7 deacons. During the six months since the report to the Annual Conference of 1872 there have been added by baptism 15, by letter 6, making an increase of 21. 17 have removed by letter, 4 have died, 3 have been expelled, making a decrease of 24. The condition of the majority of the branches and of the district is fair and the prospect is for better, as the measures

being taken, and the general feeling show that the time is coming nearer when sin and indifference will not pass so unnoticed, and when they who desire to live as saints must be more actively engaged. Some are becoming awake to the fact that if they would not be counted with the slothful and the evil-doers they must show the line of separation.

South West Missouri and South East Kansas, 6 branches, including 1 seventy, 26 elders, 7 priests, 7 teachers, 6 deacons and 182 lay members, total membership 229. B. V. SPRINGER, *Presiding Elder*.

An accompanying letter was read, placing himself at the disposal of the conference. A letter from D. S. Mills, recommending Br. David Phillips, for a mission to Wales, was read.

Pottawattamie district, reported by Br. C. G. McIntosh, the district is not in so good condition as I would like to see it, still it might be worse, the aggregation of membership is 380. There have been 5 additions by baptism and some by letter.

Br. Joseph C. Clapp, of Los Angeles, Cal., gave a very interesting report, preached the word, held one discussion, baptized some, was at the disposal of the conference.

The following report read, and on motion accepted and ordered spread on the record:

Financial report of the Publishing House of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints from November 1st to June 17th, 1872.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand November 1st, 1871.....	\$12.50
From subscription for <i>Herald</i> , <i>Hope</i> , free subscriptions, sales of books, tracts &c., donations to Hope Roll of Honor, and "Press Fund," and from job work.....	5,904.56
	\$5,917.15

EXPENDITURES.

For wages of all engaged in the office.....	3,546.25
Printing paper and stationery.....	1,045.07
Book binding.....	271.87
Type, &c., &c.....	86.30
Books for sale.....	44.10
Poor of Plano, charged to I. L. Rogers' ac.....	27.75
Missionary purposes.....	40.00
Store and fixtures.....	14.26
Postage stamps.....	241.66
Paid Steward & Henning on account.....	56.50
Paid R. Huntly.....	160.00
Paid sundries, including freight charges, drayage, expressage, royalty on mailing machine, daily paper, lumber for floor of basement, fuel, light, and expenses of the editor and foreman on business for the office, &c.....	214.98
Cash on hand June 17th, 1872.....	168.41
	\$5,917.15

LIABILITIES.

Notes given for borrowed money.....	2,000.00
Due N. Kennedy for labor.....	228.35

Due R. Warnock for labor.....	51.38
Accounts payable, principally balances from New Translation Ledger.....	3,173.85
Due on rent, one year.....	325.00
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	\$5,078.58
ASSETS.	
Cash on hand June 17th, 1872.....	168.41
Accounts receivable, some of which are of doubtful value.....	3,013.13
Footling of Inventory, taken June 14, 1872.	15,567.97
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	\$18,749.51

The President made honorable mention of the extent and the locality of the good that is being accomplished. Prayer meeting appointed for evening. Adjourned till early candle lighting. Closed by singing doxology; benediction by the President.

EVENING SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment, Br. Thos. Dobson in the chair, meeting opened in the usual form; the saints enjoyed a social season in which the good Spirit was present, the gifts were manifest. Adjourned to meet to-morrow at 10 A. M. Closed by singing; and a benediction by the chairman.

SECOND DAY, SEP. 13TH.

MORNING SESSION.

Opened by singing to the praise of God the 31st hymn; prayer offered by Elder J. Chatburn; sung 4th hymn. Minutes of 12th were read and approved. Portions of the minutes of the Annual Conference of 1872 were read.

Fremont District was reported by Elder Wm. Redfield. There are in the district 8 branches, with an aggregate membership of 288, including 4 high priests, 2 of the seventy, 29 elders, 10 priests, 10 teachers, 7 deacons, increase since last report 9, total membership 292, some little trouble, but the prospect is fair and promising.

Des Moines District, no report.

Southern Nebraska District, reported by Elder James Kemp, 5 branches, including 116 lay members, 3 deacons, 4 teachers, 6 priests, 14 elders, total membership 143. Baptized since last report 11, deaths 2, and expelled 7; one branch organized since last report, feeling not good, and needs something done, as there are no district officers.

North West Missouri District, by Elder A. J. Blodgett, 10 branches, 1 branch disorganized since last report and 2 branches organized, there is an aggregate of 281 members, including 1 high priest, 1 seventy, 43 elders, 13 priests, 8 teachers, 7 deacons and 208 lay members, error in last report, 10 officers and 10 members.

Increase for six months 62. some of the elders refuse to work in the ministry on account of the difficulty existing in the district, a better feeling is existing with them now and in the district, and a prospect of a great work being done. Some of the branches are not in a very good condition.

President Joseph Smith presented instructive remarks, and explained the cause of much of the troubles in the districts along the Missouri river.

A letter of Br J. Ells read; and a statement was made by the president, that Brs. David H. Smith and A. D. Boren were laboring in Utah, and that Br. Alexander H. Smith was preparing to go to California.

Decatur District, by Elder A. W. Moffet, 3 branches, including one organized since April report, with an aggregate of 160 members, including 3 high priests, 3 seventys, 11 elders, 6 priests, 4 teachers, 2 deacons and 131 lay members. Since last report there is an increase by baptism of 14, and by letter 22; district in a prosperous condition.

On motion adjourned till 2 P. M. Closed by singing 615th hymn. Benediction by the President.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment, opened by singing 720th hymn, prayer offered by Br. Wm. Redfield; sung 718th hymn.

Central Nebraska District, no report, but statement that the district was dissolved at its quarterly conference in August. There were 5 branches. After considerable discussion the following was adopted:

Resolved that the Eastern Nebraska District appoint a convention to ratify the action of the conference in dividing the Central Nebraska district into three districts.

In the matter of adverse claims of Nodoway and Decatur Districts, the following was duly adopted.

Resolved that Harrison county, Mo., be considered a part and parcel of the Decatur District.

Nauvoo and String Prairie District, no report.

Little Sioux District, by Elder J. C. Crabb, 9 branches, 320 members, 4 high priests, 1 bishop, 4 seventys, 46 elders, 10 priests, 7 teachers and 4 deacons.

Elder Nicholas Stamm reported his labors at Pella and elsewhere in Iowa. The Spirit had given strength, he was at the disposal of this conference.

On motion the conference adjourned till

candle light, and Br. Joseph Smith was requested to preach. Closed by singing a doxology. Benediction by the President.

EVENING SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Opened by singing 58th hymn. Prayer offered by Elder Z. Martin. Sung 1084th hymn.

Preaching by President Joseph Smith, subject, Practical instruction to the saints; and what the gospel is expected to do and what it will accomplish.

On motion adjourned to meet to-morrow at 9:30 A. M. Closed by singing the doxology. Benediction by the president.

THIRD DAY, SEPT. 14TH.

MORNING SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment. The congregation sang 981st hymn. Prayer was offered by Elder J. M. Putney. Sang 1025th hymn. It was then, upon motion, Resolved that the conference entertain the proposition to consider the propriety of adopting articles of association and incorporation. The articles of association were then read.

On motion of Br. H. J. Hudson, it was Resolved that the conference do now proceed to consider the articles—article by article.

The preamble was then read; and on motion of Brn. E. Robinson and E. B. Gaylord, it was adopted.

Article 1, section 2, read, and, on motion of Brn. H. J. Hudson and A. J. Blodgett, senior, was adopted.

Section 3, read, and on motion of Brn. E. Banta and A. J. Fields, was adopted.

Section 4, read, and on motion of Brn. Z. S. Martin and Thos. Dobson, was adopted.

Section 5, read, and on motion of Brn. F. Hanson and A. J. Fields, was adopted.

Section 6, read, and on motion of Brn. A. J. Blodgett and J. Broadbent, was adopted.

Section 7, read, and on motion of Brn. E. Banta and J. Kemp, was adopted.

Section 8 was read. After considerable discussion, on motion of Brn. H. Palmer and J. Kemp, it was adopted.

Section 9 was read, and after discussion, on motion of Brn. J. R. Badham and S. S. Wilcox, it was adopted.

Section 10 was read, and on motion of Brn. E. Banta and W. W. Wood, it was adopted.

Section 11 was read, and on motion of Brn. F. Hanson and H. J. Hudson, was adopted.

Section 12 was read, and on motion of

Brn. E. Banta and A. J. Fields, was adopted.

Section 13 was read, and on motion of Brn. W. T. Bozarth and J. Broadbent, was adopted.

Section 14 was read, and on motion of Brn. F. Hanson and R. McKinzie, was adopted.

Section 15 was read, and on motion of Brn. A. J. Blodgett and R. M. Elvin, was adopted.

Section 16 was read, and on motion of Brn. Joseph C. Clapp and E. B. Gaylord, was adopted.

Section 17 was read, and on motion of Brn. H. J. Hudson and A. J. Fields, was adopted.

Section 18 was read, and, after being amended, on motion of Brn. J. C. Clapp and J. R. Badham, was adopted.

Section 19 was read, and on motion of Brn. J. R. Badham and A. J. Blodgett, was adopted.

Section 20 was read, and, after amendment, on motion of Brn. F. Hansen and G. Hatt, was adopted.

Section 21 was read, amended; and on motion of Brn. A. W. Moffit and A. J. Fields, was adopted.

Section 22 was read, and on motion of Brn. H. Palmer, and A. J. Fields, was adopted.

Section 23 was read, and on motion of Brn. F. Hansen and I. L. Bear, was adopted.

On motion of R. M. Elvin and H. J. Hudson, it was then Resolved that we adopt the articles as read, amended, and adopted, section by section as a whole, which was carried unanimously.

Adjourned to meet at 2 P. M. Closed by singing 939th hymn. Benediction by the President.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Congregation engaged in singing 165th hymn. Prayer by the President.

An appeal from the action of the Southern Nebraska District signed by John Mathers, Sarah Mathers and David Mathers was presented, and on motion of James Kemp and James Thomsen, that a committee be appointed to adjust matters in Nebraska City, the chair, on motion of Brn. E. Banta and E. B. Gaylord, appointed the following elders as said committee: S. W. Condit, Wm. Redfield, and D. B. Harrington.

A letter from Elder C. W. Lange reporting his labor in Wisconsin was read by the President.

On motion of James Kemp and James Thomsen, the Southern Nebraska District was united with the Fremont District, subject to the approval of both districts.

Resolved that we sustain Br. M. H. Forscutt as president of the European mission, and the brethren laboring in connection with him.

Resolved that we sustain the brethren laboring in the Utah mission.

Brethren laboring in the Southern mission were sustained.

Brethren of the Canada mission were sustained.

Brethren of the Michigan District sustained.

On motion, Br. Joseph C. Clapp was requested to labor in Western Iowa for a season, and then to go on to Kentucky.

On motion, Br. Nicholas Stamm was continued on his mission to Pella, Iowa.

On motion of Mrs. E. C. Brand and A. J. Fields, Br. I. L. Bear was sent to Germany and Switzerland, to report to Br. M. H. Forscutt in England.

Bishop I. L. Rogers appointed the following as the "Board of Publication," Joseph Smith, E. Banta, John Scott, and David Dancer.

On motion, Bishop I. L. Rogers was added, and such motion was approved.

Resolved that when this conference adjourns, it does so to meet at Plano, Ills., April 6th, 1873.

A letter from Br. W. W. Blair was read, stating the necessity of building a house of worship in Salt Lake City. A letter from Br. J. Ells, on the same subject was also read.

On motion of Brn. H. J. Hudson and E. C. Brand, it was

Resolved that a Utah Chapel Fund be established, and that contributions be solicited thereto, and that the erection of a suitable building be authorized, said building to be erected as soon as practicable.

Resolved that the church recognize in the death of Br. Wm. Marks, senior, a serious loss to the quorum to which he belonged, and that the prayers of the entire church be earnestly requested that his successor be early appointed.

On motion, Br. Jason W. Briggs was sustained as President of the Quorum of Twelve.

On motion, Br. W. W. Blair was sustained as a member of the Quorum of Twelve.

On motion, Br. E. C. Briggs was sustained as a member of the quorum of Twelve.

On motion, Br. J. Ells was sustained as a member of the Quorum of Twelve.

On motion, Br. S. Powers was sustained as a member of the Quorum of Twelve.

On motion, Br. I. Sheen was sustained as President of the High Priests' Quorum and as Church Recorder.

On motion Br. Joseph Parsons was sustained as Counselor to Br. I. Sheen.

On motion, Br. A. Wilsey was sustained as President of the Quorum of Seventys.

On motion, Br. E. Banta was sustained as President of the First Quorum of Elders.

On motion, Br. John S. Patterson was sustained as Counsellor to Br. E. Banta.

On motion, Br. David H. Smith was sustained as President of the Second Quorum of Elders.

On motion, Br. P. Cadwell was sustained as Counselor to Br. David H. Smith.

On motion, Br. I. L. Rogers was sustained as Presiding Bishop.

On motion, Br. Henry Goodcell, jr., was sustained as Church Secretary.

On motion Joseph Smith was sustained as President of the whole church.

On motion of Brn. E. Robinson and E. C. Brand, it was

Resolved that the presidents of branches be requested to take up collections immediately for the Utah Chapel Fund, and remit the same to Bishop I. L. Rogers, and continue to do so until a sufficient amount be obtained.

On motion, Brs. J. Ells and A. D. Boren, with three others whom they shall select, were appointed a building committee of the proposed Utah Chapel.

A petition was read from the North West Missouri District, requesting that Br. A. J. Blodgett should be appointed as their Bishop.

On motion, he was requested to act as bishop's agent till further arrangements are made.

Adjourned to meet at early candle light for prayer and testimony meeting, and Br. Wm. Redfield was requested to take charge of the meeting.

Closed by singing doxology. Benediction by the President.

EVENING SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment, Br. Wm. Redfield in the chair. Opened by singing 30th hymn. Prayer by the President. Sang 31st hymn. The saints enjoyed the freedom of testifying of the goodness of God, the gifts were manifested to the solace of the children of faith.

Adjourned to meet at 9:30 A. M. to-

morrow. Closed by singing the 898th hymn. Benediction by the President.

FOURTH DAY, SEPT. 15TH.

MORNING SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment, opened with prayer by Elder E. C. Brand.

On motion, a meeting of the church at Plano, Illinois, was ordered to be held the 7th day of October, 1872, for the purpose of ratifying the articles of incorporation, to be filed in Kendall county court of record.

On motion, a vote of thanks was extended to the police force.

On motion, a vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Parks for the use of camp grounds.

Eastern Kansas district reported by Elder Hugh Lytle, 6 branches, including 1 high priest, 16 elders, 3 priests, 3 teachers, 2 deacons and 80 lay members. Total numerical strength 105, some 12 or 15 scattering members. They are all in good standing.

Kewanee District reported by letter, 12 branches, 1 branch organized since last report; but little change since annual conference.

On motion, Br. J. H. Hansen was continued and sustained on his mission.

On motion, Br. C. G. Lanphear was sustained.

On motion, E. C. Brand was sustained in his mission under the presidency.

On motion, Br. Z. S. Martin was released from his mission.

The following requests were made of the conference:

That the spring conference adjourn its session to meet at Farm Creek, Mills Co., Iowa, the second Wednesday of September, 1873.

That the spring conference adjourn its session to meet at or near Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie Co., Iowa, the second Wednesday of September, 1873.

Sang 729th hymn. Preaching by Br. Alexander H. Smith from 2 Cor. 4: 3, followed by Br. Joseph C. Clapp. Adjourned to meet at 1:30 p. m. Closed by singing 1063d hymn. Benediction by the President.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Opened by singing 443d hymn. Prayer by Elder E. Banta.

On motion, Robert Ross and Sarah Jane Ross were admitted on their original baptism into full fellowship of the church.

Minutes of sessions held on the 13th

and 14th were read, corrected and approved.

Sang 938th hymn. Preaching by Br. R. W. Briggs, followed by Br. Joseph Smith, subject, The eternal unchangeableness of the established laws of God.

On motion, adjourned to meet at early candle light for prayer meeting.

Closed by singing doxology. Benediction by the President.

EVENING SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment, Br. E. B. Gaylord was chosen chairman, *pro tem*. Opened by singing 1019th hymn. Prayer by R. M. Elvin. Eight that had been baptized during recess, were confirmed by Elders Wm. Redfield, E. Robinson and R. J. Anthony. Congregation engaged in singing to the praise of God 126th hymn. The saints exercised their privilege and the gifts were enjoyed. Several sick were administered to, and two children were blessed.

On motion, conference then adjourned.

Closed with benediction by Br. E. B. Gaylord.

JOSEPH SMITH, PRESIDENT.

DAVIS H. BAYS, }
ROBERT M. ELVIN, } *Secretaries.*

Miscellaneous.

Kewanee District.

Notice is hereby given to the saints of the Kewanee district, that the Conference to convene at Kewanee, the first Saturday and Sunday in December, will convene as early as the first Friday in December at 10:30 A.M., thus allowing Friday and Saturday for Conference business. We urge a representation from every Branch, that the spiritual condition of every Branch may be made known to the Conference.

We trust that each Presiding Elder of the several Branches will see that his Branch is properly represented, *without fail*, at the coming Conference.

H. C. BRONSON, *Pres. of Dis.*

Correction.

Br. Avondet informs me that he was at New York up to the 6th of July; but as he did not come to any of the saint's houses, and as we did not go to the Aster House to make enquiries till the 5th, and he left there on the 4th, neither Bro. Patterson