Supplement to the General Conference Resolutions, April 6, 1913

## Compilation of

# General Conference Resolutions.

## Adopted April 7, 1911.

No. 657. "Whereas, it is reported that the Jews in Russia are being treated with inhuman cruelty; and

"Whereas, such treatment we hold to be an outraging of the modern conception of the rights and privileges which are justly due all mankind; in which all men are allowed the right "to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"; and,

"Whereas, while this unjust treatment of these unfortunate people in the Russian Empire is allowed to continue without the protest of Christian civilization, this neglect or indifference would make such largely responsible with those who perpetrate such barbarism; therefore be it

"Resolved, That we, the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, assembled in the fiftyeighth annual General Conference, at Lamoni, Iowa, April 7, 1911, do hereby voice our most earnest protest against these Russian atrocities to the Jewish people; and be it further

"Resolved, That a copy of these preambles and resolutions be forwarded to the President of the United States and the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives, that this grave matter may be dealt with diplomatically, having in view the amelioration of these conditions."

## Adopted April 8, 1911.

No. 658. The Louisville, Kentucky, Branch was annexed to the Southern Indiana District.

v No. 659. That the Church Secretary be instructed to prepare and have printed in convenient form the credentials committee report, as complete as may be practical, to be ready for distribution at the opening session of General Conference.

#### Adopted April 10, 1911.

No. 660. The Presidency, the Presiding Bishop, the Manager of the Herald Publishing House, the President of the Religio Society, and the Superintendent of the General Sunday School Association were appointed a committee "on translation of church literature into foreign languages."

No. 661. The report of Zion's Religio-Literary Society, including the following resolutions therein, were adopted:

1. That we accept the offer of the return of the German translation fund, and request that all the translation funds now on hand be turned over to the general treasurer of the society.

2. That all previous action taken by this society is hereby repealed.

Subject to the approval of the General Conference, Be it further resolved, 1. That the cost of translating and publishing the present edition of the Book of Mormon in German, not to exceed two thousand copies and not to exceed the sum of eight hundred dollars, be forthwith donated to the general church.

2. That this society will continue its effort to raise a translation fund, the raising of the funds to be in charge of the executive committee of this society. The selection of the language, the work of translation, and the preparation of the plates is to be in charge of such committee or committees, body or bodies, as the General Conference may designate.

3. That we guarantee a fund of five hundred dollars to pay the necessary cost of translation, versification of translation, and preparation of plates of the Book of Mormon in one foreign language. When the work or any integral part thereof, shall be completed, the necessary amount shall be paid over promptly to such persons as the General Conference may appoint to have charge of such work. Any part of said sum, not used, shall remain in the translation fund. The plates shall be at all times the property of the general church.

4. That if the General Conference approves the plan, but finds the wording of these resolutions objectionable,

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the following committee is authorized to make clerical changes, to be effective till the next general convention: The convention named the executive committee as the one provided in this section.

## Adopted April 10, 1911.

No. 662. That the Board of Auditors or a majority of them be instructed to audit the college accounts July 1, 1911, at the close of the year's business.

No. 663. Whereas, We look with favor upon the growing sentiment throughout the civilized world in favor of peace and against war, and a resort to arbitration in both international and national disputes, and

Whereas, The Lord has commanded the church to "renounce war and proclaim peace," also to "lift up an ensign of peace and make a proclamation of peace unto the ends of the earth," therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the ministry and delegates of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in conference assembled at Lamoni, Iowa, this 11th day of April, 1911, unreservedly commit ourselves to the conservation of world peace.

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, also the Senate and House of Representatives.

No. 664. The Presidency were authorized to appoint a delegate to represent the church at the next session of the American Peace Society in the National Peace Congress.

## Adopted April 12, 1911.

No. 665. That it be the sense of this conference that the Advisory Board of the Daughters of Zion continue as advisory committee in connection with the Bishopric of the church in assisting in carrying on the work of the Children's Home, as is proper.

No. 666. At the conference of 1909, April 16, a document was received from the First Quorum of Priests stating that diversity of opinion existed concerning where quorums locally organized should report, and asking that the conference decide whether such quorums should report to the general, stake, or district confer4

ences. The request for the decision was referred to the President and general Bishopric. This council has had the question under advisement and desires to report that in our opinion only quorums which are general in organization need report directly to General Conference. Where the quorums have been reorganized with respect to locality, then they should report to the conference of immediate jurisdiction, whether stake or district.

We think this applies not only to the Aaronic quorums, but the quorums of elders as well; and it is expected that in the reorganization work of the quorums yet to be accomplished the organization will be effected in such a way as to make it feasible for each quorum to report to some local conference.

Each quorum should in our opinion file regular reports with the First Presidency and such matters concerning the quorums as are necessary to reach the General Conference can do so through the Presidency or the local conferences.

No. 667. We recommend that the conference be requested to ask stake and district presidents to cooperate with the Advisory Board of the Daughters of Zion in making choice of a sister in each of their respective districts to look after the work of the Daughters of Zion where there is no district organization.

### Adopted April 13, 1911.

No. 668. "The committee to which reference was made for the publishing of Joseph Smith and His Progenitors, respectfully report that the request for the publication of this book in Swedish be granted and that the church appropriate two hundred dollars to be placed in the hands of the Board of Publication to aid in getting out the work, with instructions to the Board of Publication to arrange for publishing at once."

No. 669. The Bishop was authorized to appoint an additional member of the committee on Saints' Homes.

## Adopted April 6, 1912.

No. 670. That we are in favor of its [Juvenile Church History] completion in such a manner as to include the history of the Reorganization.

### Adopted April 9, 1912.

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No. 671. That the practice of theater-going should be discouraged and that members of the church should be urged to avoid the practice as detrimental to spirituality.

No. 672. That, in our opinion, the matter of using common or individual cups in the sacramental service may properly be decided by each branch for itself. But in those states of governments where the law forbids the common cup the law should be observed.

No. 673. We recommend to the General Religio Association the appointment of one member to act in conjunction with one member of the General Sunday School Association, and one from General Conference, if approved, to form a working committee to be known as the Social Purity Board, whose work shall be the meeting of men's problems relating to social purity.

#### Adopted April 10, 1912.

No. 674. 1. That all unorganized territory in southeastern Missouri be annexed to Southern Missouri District—counties of Iron, Reynolds, Carter, Ripley, Madison, Wayne, Butler, Stoddard, Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Cape Girardeau, Scott, Mississippi.

No. 675.—2. That Callaway County, Missouri, be annexed to the Northeastern Missouri District.

No. 676.—3. That Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, and Gilliam counties, Oregon, be annexed to the Portland District.

No. 677.-4. That Grundy and Livingston counties, Missouri, be added to the Far West District.

No. 678.—5. That the petition of Northeastern Illinois District be granted, and that the boundary lines of that district be as follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of the State of Illinois and running west to the west line of Winnebago County on the northern State line; thence south on a kine with the west line of Winnebago County to Bureau, and from there to the north line of Mason County. The Illinois River shall be the western boundary line, thence east on the south line of Tazewell, McLean, Ford, and Iroquois counties to the Indiana State line; thence north on the east line of Illinois to the northeast corner of the State, the starting point.

No. 679.—6. That Hood, Johnson, and Ellis counties, Texas, be taken from the Eastern Oklahoma District and added to the Central Texas District.

No. 680.—7. That Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, Latah, and Nez Perce counties, Idaho, be added to the Spokane District.

No. 681—8. West Virginia District. That the petition of the West Virginia District be denied, and that the entire panhandle of that State remain in the Pittsburg District.

No. 682. The Presiding Bishop was authorized to supply a sufficient amount to complete a mission house for the Chinese Mission at Honolulu, Hawaii, in connection with appropriations made by the General Sunday School and Religio societies.

#### Adopted April 11, 1912.

No. 683. That the Children's Home, of Lamoni, Iowa, known as a benevolent home, be incorporated. (Provision was made for the appointment of a Board of Trustees of said Home, three of whom should be members of the Woman's Auxiliary for Social Service; also that members thereof be designated for three, two, and one year terms.)

### Adopted April 12, 1912.

No. 684. That the matter of the nature of the services to be held in the Kirtland Temple shall be left to the discretion of the First Presidency and Presiding Bishop.

No. 685. That the matter of erection of a library building, referred to in the Library Commission's report, be referred to the Presiding Bishopric and the Library Commission with power to act.

#### Adopted April 13, 1912.

No. 686. Note.—The Articles of Incorporation of Graceland College were amended and published as

amended. (See General Conference Minutes for 1912, p. 1564.)

No. 687.—1. The mission conferences have no jurisdiction over matters of general church importance: policy, doctrine, or interpretation.

2. The legislation of such mission conferences shall be confined to matters pertaining to mission concerns; and, only in harmony with and subject to the General Conference action.

3. Annual reports shall be forwarded to such conferences from the mission officers, districts, and branches not in districts; the ministry, including general appointees, and the local ministry not laboring under district or branch supervision, and the quorums organized in the mission.

4. Constitution: All districts, branches not in districts, shall be considered integral parts of the mission conferences.

The minister in charge of the mission for the time being shall be the president of the mission and should be elected president of the mission conference unless there are good reasons to the contrary. In the absence of a minister in charge, one shall be chosen in accordance with the rules governing in such cases; viz, the one highest in authority and holding priority of ordination. The secretary shall be appointed from among the elders, who shall take charge of all the books and documents of the mission conferences and hold them for the mission; and also attend to the necessary clerical The treasurer shall have charge of the finances work. collected for the use of the mission conferences and pay out the same on order of the conference or its officers ' such sums as may be necessary to meet the liabilities.

5. The secretary of the mission conference shall report the proceedings to the General Conference through the First Presidency.

No. 688. "Resolved, That we are of the opinion as a joint council that the church should see to it that a life membership is obtained in the American Archæological Institute, such membership to be designated by General Conference, and we recommend that such membership be lodged in the Church Archæological Committee."

No. 689. Whereas, the organization known as the Leeds District (England), has lapsed,

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Be it resolved, That we hereby declare the Leeds District disorganized; and further, That the territory heretofore included in the Leeds District be added to and included in the limits of the Manchester District.

No. 690. That all libraries paid for by the church, directly or indirectly, whether special or general, should be handled in a united way by the Library Commission.

## Adopted April 15, 1912.

No. 691. That we reaffirm Resolution No. 550 as binding upon our representatives.

## Adopted April 16, 1912.

No. 692. That we request conference appointees to organize locals of the Woman's Auxiliary in their respective fields, working in harmony with the field workers where they have been appointed.

## Adopted April 19, 1912.

No. 693. That if it be found necessary to take one of the General Conference appointees from the missionary list to act as editor of the *Ensign*, such permission be granted.

## Adopted April 9, 1913.

No. 694. We recommend that the Saskatchewan District be divided in harmony with their petition, the dividing line being the line between the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and that Alberta be organized into a new district.

No. 695. That the petition of the Spring River District be granted and that the counties of Cowley and Butler be severed from the Spring River District and annexed to the unorganized territory of Southern Kansas.

No. 696. That the petition from the Central Michigan District, concurred in by the Southern Michigan and Northern Indiana districts, be granted and that Gratiot County be annexed to the Central Michigan District.

No. 697. That the petition of the Northern Nebraska District be granted, and the name changed to Northeastern Nebraska District.

No. 698. That the petition from the Seattle and British Columbia District be granted, and that portion of Kittitas County lying west of the one hundred and twenty-first meridian be annexed to the Seattle and British Columbia District.

No. 699. Owing to a division of one of the counties in the Panhandle of Idaho, it becomes necessary for us to correct our records and record the two new counties, Lewis and Clear Water, organized from what was formerly Nez Perce County, along with what is now known as Nez Perce County, as a part of the Spokane District.

No. 700. That the dividing line between Eastern Oklahoma District and Central Oklahoma, the ninetysixth meridian, be continued south to the north line of the Central Texas District, and that portion of Texas lying west of this line which was formerly in Eastern Oklahoma District be annexed to Central Oklahoma District.

No. 701. That the ordinance of blessing should not be administered to children who are old enough to be bap-tized.

No. 702. Touching the kind of wine to be used in sacrament services of the church, we are of the opinion that fermented wine should not be used, but that either unfermented wine or water should be used, and so be in harmony with the spirit of the revelations. See Doctrine and Covenants 26:1; 86:1; 119:5.

#### Adopted April 14, 1913.

No. 703. That the Rules of Representation be so amended as to provide that the basis of representation shall be one delegate for every one hundred of the membership of the church.

[Note.—The chair ruled that districts, and all branches not in districts having less than one hundred members, would be entitled to one delegate.]

#### Adopted April 15, 1913.

No. 704. The appointment of a General Chorister for the church, by the Presidency, was approved.

No. 705. A question arising in one of our districts touching what is required of a candidate requesting baptism and the method to be pursued to make that desire known....

Resolved, That we are of the opinion that all that is necessary is for the candidate to satisfy the church authorities that he is worthy, and that it is not necessary to make a public request.

No. 706. That when a member changes his residence from one branch to another it shall be the duty of the officers of these branches to see that his membership is transferred as per Conference Resolution number 456, and that Certificate of Transfer when issued be sent directly to the president or clerk of the branch to which the transfer is made.

No. 707. The revelation of April 14, 1913, was adopted.

## Adopted April 16, 1913.

No. 708. The Joint Council of the Presidency, Twelve, and Bishopric present the following to you for your indorsement relating to the appointment of bishop's counselors who are required to travel in the field:

1. Can a counselor to a bishop travel in the interests of the bishopric work?

Answer. Yes; when the exigencies of the case or the interests of the work demand.

2. If so, under whose direction and jurisdiction does he travel and to whom does he report?

Answer. When opportunity permits a consideration of the name of the counselor for appointment before the Joint Council of Presidency, Twelve, and Bishopric in their annual assembling, his appointment should be made by concurrent consent of these councils; but where exigencies arise in the interim of conferences and the necessity for the appointment of a counselor to do continuous church work becomes apparent, then his appointment may be made by the Presidency and Presiding Bishopric on recommendation of the bishop to whom he is acting as counselor. However, in cases of emergency, or where to protect the interests of the church immediate action is required, then a bishop should feel free to send a counselor on the mission required and make report at as early a moment as possible to the Presiding Bishop for approval or otherwise. In other words, in all instances where an emergency exists, every

church officer is supposed to use his best judgment and act in the interest of the church according to his best wisdom.

In the matter of reporting, we suggest that all the departments of the church which might be interested in the work of the counselor should be recognized by proper official courtesy: that is to say, if the work of the traveling counselor is confined entirely to the work of the bishopric, then it is sufficient that his work shall be reported to his superior officer and through him reach the Presiding Bishopric and Presidency; but in cases where missionary work is done, then official courtesy would demand that the chief missionary officers should be recognized and an account of his work rendered to them. The same holds good where the fields presided over by local officers are entered.

3. In regard to his ministerial conduct, to whom is he amenable?

Answer. In cases of misconduct or delinquency, such a counselor would be amenable to the usual church courts; but where in the process of hearing such a case would come before a bishop's court, it is clear, according to the opinion of this council, that such case should not be heard by the bishop's court of which said counselor is a member.

4. Who stipulates the allowance?

Answer. In cases where the counselor is appointed by the Joint Council of the Presidency, Twelve, and Bishopric, then the allowance should be fixed by said council the same as other missionaries. In cases where the appointment is made interim of conferences by concurrence of First Presidency and Presiding Bishopric, then the allowance should be fixed by the Presiding Bishopric and the bishop under whom the counselor labors.

#### Adopted April 18, 1913.

No. 709. Whereas, the collection of prophecies and statements other than those which are accepted and approved by the general church, claiming to be of spiritual origin, some of which may be of doubtful character, and the records of what may be regarded as miracles, and the publishing of such in books or pamphlets and so parading them before the public, partakes of the nature of boasting, which is contrary to the instruc-

tion of the Master: "But a commandment I give unto them, that they shall not boast themselves of these things, neither speak them before the world; for these things are given unto you for your profit and for salvation" (see Doctrine and Covenants 83:11; 102:4); and,

Whereas, we believe that such publications are detrimental to the best interests of the church and encourage an undue desire for such experiences; therefore be it,

Resolved, That we look with disfavor upon such publications and recommend that the resolutions which are already on record have the respectful consideration and observance of the brethren who are affected thereby. (See General Conference Resolutions numbers 288, 368, 550, and Conference Minutes of 1912, page 1622.)

No. 710. The Bishopric, to whom was referred the resolution touching the interpretation of the term the "Bishopric of the Church," . . . present to you the following for your consideration:

The term "*The Bishopric*," as used in the revelations to the church, refers to the Presiding Bishopric, and also to the association of men holding the office of bishop under a presiding head; therefore,

1. Be it resolved, That when reference is made to the Presiding Bishop and his counselors, the term "The Presiding Bishopric" be employed.

2. Be it further resolved, That when reference is made to the bishop of a stake and his counselors, the title "Stake Bishopric" should be used.

3. Be it further resolved, That when the association of all the bishops and their council is referred to, the term "The Bishopric," or "Order of Bishops" be applied.

No. 711.—1. Regarding the rights of districts to hold reunions within the territory limited to other districts without the consent of said districts; we find that it is the custom of the church to define boundaries within which the district organization operates, and over which prescribed territory within the boundaries as thus defined, the district authorities have local supervision.

2. Further, Resolution number 83, General Conference Resolutions, provides, that "district conferences do not have authority to send missions beyond or outside of their respective limits."

3. This being so, it is clear that district reunion com-

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mittee (a creature of the district conference) would not have a right that could not be enjoyed by the parent body.

4. We decide, therefore, that a reunion of one or more districts would not be acting consistently with our laws and customs to arrange its location and provide for its services within such territory which by General Conference action had been placed under the local control of another district organization, unless having the consent of said district so to do.

5. It should also be understood that this must not be interpreted to sustain any arbitrary act by any district which could interfere with the welfare of the general church.

No. 712. The Joint Council of the Presidency and Twelve have had under consideration for some little time the special report of the Auditors which was made to this body, and we are instructed to report the following as their action on said report, and touching the financial policy of the church:

1. The Bishop assures us that he already has measures in hand to meet the increased demands of his work by reason of the settlement of the Saints and the extended missionary work; and we recommend that these measures be prosecuted and that the financial department of the church be rearranged and the work of the department put upon a thoroughly up-to-date business basis. We recommend that the necessary departmental help be secured; that Bishop Blakeslee, in harmony with the late revelation, give as much of his time as is possible to the work of the Presiding Bishopric; and that the Bishop select some other man in whom the church has confidence to assist him in this work.

2. The Bishop assures us that he has under consideration the formation of an organization that can hold properties and still be within the provisions of the laws of Missouri, and we recommend that this organization be completed within the conference year and necessary transfer of titles be made, and in this matter the Presiding Bishopric cooperate with a committee of the Presidency and Twelve, as suggested by the Bishop.

3. The Joint Council recommends that the Presiding Bishop's annual report embrace the several reports of the church institutions, known as the College, Sani-

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tarium, and Church Homes, and also a statement or budget outlining so far as practicable the minimum amount that may be required for the ordinary work of the ministry, the general church administration, and the several institutions named.

## Adopted April 19, 1913.

No. 713. That in cases of adultery where the guilty member has repented, and the matter is not publicly known, a written confession duly signed and witnessed by one or two officers of the church shall be sufficient to establish the fact of the first offense; said confession, and associated statements by the officer or officers, to be forwarded to the First Presidency's office to be filed in the archives, which are not open to any other officers than the Presidency. The offense should not be made a matter of record in the home branch or district and should not be published by these officers receiving the confession.

"If, however, the person should later fall into delinguency, then there should be some way to protect the interest of the church in the operation of the law which requires that the second offense of adultery shall not be forgiven, but there would be no way for the first offense to be known unless there was provision made whereby the officers could be acquainted with the first offense. This can be reached in the instance above cited if the request recently made by the First Presidency will be complied with by local officers; namely, that whenever charges of a serious character are preferred against a member, the Presidency shall be immediately notified of the charges. This would enable the Presidency to notify the officers in the case they had record of a previous offense unknown to the officers who had formulated the later charges. We think the filing of the confessions with the Presidency would be safer than having them filed with either branch or district presidents, as there is less likelihood of them becoming public property if lodged there than if lodged with a local authority.

No. 714. That the Presidency and the General Church Secretary constitute a committee to provide for the printing of all reports that it is possible to have made up before the convening of General Conference.

No. 715. That the General Chorister be authorized to appoint district choristers.

## Adopted April 21, 1913.

No. 716. Elder F. A. Smith was ordained Presiding Patriarch and Evangelical Minister to the church.

No. 717. Elder G. T. Griffiths was ordained President of the Quorum of Twelve.

No. 718. That this representative body—the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is the true exponent of the faith and doctrine of the New Testament Scriptures, as left by Jesus Christ, as corroborated by the blessing of direct revelation in all its forms to us and our immediate predecessors in these latter days.

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