

August 11, 2023

Thank you for registering for the Priesthood assembly at Kirtland. Your registration has been accepted and we look forward to worshipping together. As we all continue to make progress in our preparation for our time together, I wanted to briefly share a testimony with you.

For some time now there has been a committee working diligently on the planning of the Assembly in Kirtland. Never far from our mind and conversations is the experiences we shared last year in the Lord giving us instructions during the gathering on Saturday evening in the Temple.

For reference let me share an excerpt from Lord's instructions:

"The Restoration has become filled, too often, with the spirit of contention. This is unseemly to me, when I have made it clear to you so many times that you must become one. Have you not heard my voice calling to you?..."

There are two stewardships that will ensure success if you will do them.

1) As the five wise virgins did in the parable of the last days, 'Gather and sanctify your oil, before the cry at midnight'. Prepare yourself through scripture, prayer, fasting, and humble service. You must take the Holy Spirit as a guide in all things that you do in your life.

2) Be willing to remove all barriers and hindrances to the achievement of Zion. You must become one. This would include the groups and associations you have formed, and the responsibilities that you carry. Needful things will be restored. All else is inconsequential."

Given the import of those words, the coordinating council in a special meeting in early August was discussing the specifics of the Priesthood Assembly, especially as it pertains to gathering, preparing ourselves, and breaking down barriers and hindrances to the achievement of Zion.

During the conversation it became clear that we were under the influence of the Good Spirit. Our words were becoming alike, our intentions were aligned, and I believe as do my brothers of the council...we were acting in obedience to what the Lord was directing, not just negotiating a oneness.

We are acutely aware of the many concerns that arise when there is talk or planning of worship that could include other individuals attending various restoration groups. The coordinating council's shared experience under the Lord's direction led us to the place where certain individuals who wish to attend will be allowed to participate in this year's assembly, providing they come, as we are also required to come, in the spirit of humility, and repentance, having God as our focus, and without any personal agenda. However, presidors, teachers, and speakers will be priesthood members who are credentialed through the CRE.

As the Lord directed us last year to listen, we are all trying to do our very best to heed that council. We look forward to our shared experience in Kirtland. Please feel free to reach out to any of us, if you have any questions or concerns.

In Gospel Bonds,

Larry Cottrill, Chair CRE Coordinating Council
Sean Telljohann, Vice-Chair
Jay Havener, Secretary
Benji Pedersen
Doug Smith

Eric Odida
Jason Anderson
Robert Gillam
Zachary Wilson