

COLBERN ROAD RESTORATION BRANCH
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
As approved May 17, 1992

ARTICLE I Branch Name

The name of this organization shall be Colbern Road Restoration Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE II Mission Statement

We believe we are commissioned to perpetuate and practice the doctrine as taught by Jesus Christ and restored to the earth through the prophet Joseph Smith. We believe the Inspired Version, the Book of Mormon and those portions of the Doctrine and Covenants that are in harmony with the Inspired Version and Book of Mormon which contains the law and commandments we are to follow.

ARTICLE III Membership

Any person who wishes to become a member of the Branch may become so as prescribed by Branch policy as follows:

1. Persons baptized in the Branch.
2. Persons whose prior baptism is accepted by the Elder's council.
(Article V, C & F)

ARTICLE IV Governing Policy

A. Final authority and power of the Branch is vested in the membership of the Branch. The members may direct the Pastor and his counselors as well as the Elder's council in their duties or override decisions or replace elected officials by a majority vote at a regularly scheduled business meeting.

1. Notice of all business meetings must be given by written notice at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
2. The Branch Pastor will normally call all business meetings.
3. A business meeting can be called by:
 - a. A majority of the Elder's council
 - b. 25% of the membership

- B. The Branch shall, in June of each year at a business meeting called for that purpose, elect or sustain a Branch Pastor. The candidate that receives a majority (51%) of the participating votes will be elected to that office. If a majority is reached on the first vote, then a second vote will not be needed. If a second vote is necessary, then it will be taken between the two candidates from the first vote who received the most votes. The counselors to the Pastor shall be sustained by a vote of the body. The Pastor and counselors shall take office on the first day of September of that year.
- C. The Branch shall, in July of each year at the business meeting called for that purpose, elect or sustain all branch officers not covered in Article IV, paragraph B. Those candidates that receive the most votes on the first vote will be elected to that office. No second vote will be taken. These officers shall take office on the first day of September of that year.
- D. A roster of consenting nominees shall be printed and given to each member or member family one week prior to a business meeting being called for the purpose of electing a Branch Pastor and/or branch officers. Nominee(s) for Pastor must be contacted prior to a business meeting and consent to serve in order to be nominated. Other officers may be nominated at a business meeting but must be present or have previously consented to serve if nominated. The method of voting at all branch business meetings will be the "raised hand". Priesthood will be used to count votes should additional assistance be needed.
- E. Each year the Elder's council shall recommend a nominee (not more than two) for pastor. Nominations may also be made by the Branch membership. Nominees must be contacted and have consented to serve before nominated.
- F. By-laws will be approved or amended only by the Branch membership through a properly scheduled business meeting. By-laws require a 2/3 majority vote of those members present to be approved or amended.
- G. Each year the Treasurer will prepare a proposed budget with input from the Branch Pastor, the department heads and Elder's council. The Elder's council will review the proposed budget before it is presented to the Branch for approval. Prior to the budget meeting, the Treasurer shall submit the financial records to an accountant to be sure they are in order.

(The above article IV now stands as it was amended at the meeting dated April 21, 1996.)

ARTICLE V Governing Policy of the Elder's Council

- A. The Elder's council will be composed of Branch members who hold the Melchisedec priesthood. They shall form long term programs and examine programs in effect that are not meeting Branch needs.
- B. The Elder's council shall be presided over by a chairman elected in September of each year by the Elder's council. The chairman of the Elder's council cannot be the Pastor or his counselors.
- C. When the Elder's council shall meet to conduct business, there must be a minimum of nine members present. A minimum of a 2/3 majority vote of those nine present will be necessary for any legislation to be passed.
- D. The Elder's council shall conduct education classes on a regular basis to assist the Melchisedec and Aaronic priesthood in developing knowledge and skills to bring optimum ministry to the Branch. They shall also provide education classes for the newly ordained priesthood.
- E. The Elder's council shall select five of its members to review and approve priesthood calls initiated by the Pastor before they are submitted to the Branch for approval. These council members cannot be the Pastor or his counselors. These five men shall be selected by the council when the Pastor has indicated that he has a priesthood call(s).
- F. The Elder's council shall review and approve membership applications; review and approve transfers of priesthood into the congregation.
- G. The Elder's council shall handle cases dealing with unchristian conduct or problems within the branch that are jeopardizing branch unity or spiritual growth. They shall form an Elder's court if necessary.

ARTICLE VI The Pastorate

- A. The Pastor shall be elected for a one year term. This term to begin the 1st of September.
- B. The Branch Pastor shall appoint a minimum of two (2) counselors to assist him. They shall require a supportive vote of the membership at a regularly called business meeting.
- C. The Pastorate shall abide by the by-laws and guidelines that are accepted by the Branch.
- D. The Branch Pastor is responsible for the day to day operation of the Branch.
 - 1. He is responsible to see that worship services are scheduled and well planned.

2. He is responsible for the scheduling and utilization of priesthood in their respective offices.
 3. He is responsible for the functioning of the different departments to see that they carry out their respective duties.
 4. He is responsible for many operations of the branch that are varied and difficult to define, but the ongoing progress and welfare of the Branch and families will be his primary concern.
- E. The Pastorate and Elder's council will work cooperatively to implement goals and objectives.
- F. The Pastor is responsible for initiating priesthood calls.

ARTICLE VII Priesthood

- A. Priesthood calls from the Branch Pastor shall be presented to the Elder's council for review and approval (Article V, E.), then to the candidate for his acceptance. Final approval and acceptance comes from the membership. In all cases these calls are to be kept in confidence until presented to the body.
- B. The Elder's council shall issue priesthood licenses reflecting the date of their ordination. Priesthood licenses will be signed by the Pastor and chairman of the Elder's council.
- C. Priesthood from outside the Branch that are invited or requested to participate in the ordinances must be approved by the Pastor and his counselors. If concerns exist, then the matter should be referred to the Elder's council.

ARTICLE VIII Records

- A. The Branch secretary shall keep records of all business meetings.
- B. The secretary shall maintain for safekeeping, Branch by-laws and other official papers.
- C. The Branch recorder shall keep records of the names of each member and priesthood member.
- D. The recorder shall record all blessings of babies, baptisms, marriages and ordinations to the priesthood performed in the Branch.
- E. The secretary and recorder shall duplicate all of the above to be retained by the Branch historian as a second copy against a possible loss.

ARTICLE IX Dissolution

In the case of dissolution of the Branch, all assets shall be distributed to a nonprofit organization or organizations as the Branch shall decide by a 2/3 vote of the membership who are present at a business meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE X Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the procedural guidelines when an impasse is reached.

ARTICLE XI Governing By-Laws

These by-laws supersede all other articles and by-laws that have previously been voted on and accepted by the Branch.

ARTICLE XII Guidelines

Guidelines will be developed by the Elder's council as soon as possible. These guidelines shall provide job descriptions, procedures and policies provided for by these by-laws and shall be implemented upon approval by the branch membership.