

Oak Grove Restoration Branch

Zionic Living Review & Action-Planning

Purpose

This outline is designed to help us review what we have agreed to concerning how we, His saints at OGRB, can and should be living Zionically in the present, identify areas that need attention, and then formulate a practical action plan for the coming year.

The three central questions we focused on were:

- I. What more can we do *to be a people of one heart and one mind*?
- II. What more can we do *to dwell in righteousness, individually and collectively*?
- III. What more can we do *to have no poor among us*?

Our current task is to prayerfully identify a few things that God may be calling us to do this year—and then faithfully do them.

AREA I — Being a People of One Heart and One Mind

The original discussion identified that being of one heart and one mind was more than just seeking to be unified. It connected being of one heart and one mind with our baptismal covenant, and with becoming Christ-centered. We expressed that our current response should involve having a meaningful relationship with Christ and each other, pray and fast that the Holy Spirit would be consistently in our worship, participate in Spiritual Stewardship Groups, and revitalize home ministry.

Actions to assist us with, *being a people of one heart and one mind*.

I. Enhance Our Relationship with Christ and Become More Christ-Centered

The first priority is personal: strengthen our relationship with Christ through daily prayer, study, service to one another, and keeping His commandments. [Scriptural considerations: 4th Nephi 1:15; Doctrine and Covenants 34:1; John 17:21–23; Romans 15:5–6; Colossians 3:14–17.]

II. Develop More Meaningful Relationships with Each Other

We are encouraged to see one another through Jesus' eyes—to practice charity, patience, kindness, support, and meaningful engagement with one another. [Scriptural considerations: Moroni 7:51–53; Ephesians 4:24–32; Colossians 3:12; Galatians 6:2, 10; Philippians 2:1–5; Hebrews 10:24–25.]

III. Pray and Fast for Greater Spiritual Power in Our Worship

The purpose is to prepare our hearts and minds to receive the Holy Spirit and to pray for those who lead our services to be filled and led by that Spirit. [Scriptural considerations: Acts 1:14; Acts 2:46–47; Doctrine and Covenants 109:16; 3 Nephi 18:19–20; Matthew 18:19–20; Alma 6:6.]

IV. Revive and Participate in Spiritual Stewardship Groups

The stated purpose of these small groups is to increase our understanding of how to love the Lord and our neighbor with all our heart, might, mind, and strength. Emphasized is the potential for greater peace and the Holy Ghost through small family groups. [Scriptural considerations: Psalm 133:1; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 1:27; Acts 2:1, 46–47.]

V. Revitalize Home Ministry

Members and priesthood are encouraged to be engaged in home ministry so that meaningful relationships are strengthened and the needs of individuals and families are known and met. [Scriptural considerations: Doctrine and Covenants 17:10b; Deuteronomy 6:6–7; Acts 5:42; Luke 10:5–7; 3 Nephi 8:52.]

AREA II — Dwelling in Righteousness

The discussion described dwelling in righteousness as both an individual and collective way of life. The priorities are centered on prayer, obedience, humility, sacrifice, living peaceably together, and living sacrificial lives.

Actions to assist us with, *dwelling in righteousness*.

1 — Pray with All the Energy of Heart that We May be filled with His Love

Pray unto the Father that we may be filled with the love He has bestowed upon true followers of Jesus Christ. [*Scriptural consideration*: Moroni 7:53.]

2 — Listen and Obey God's Commandments

Develop a willingness to listen for God's direction and respond in obedience as He speaks in our lives. [*Scriptural consideration*: Alma 3:68.]

3 — Live a Humble and Sacrificial Life Focused on Christ

Place Christ and His purposes ahead of self-interest, practicing humility and willing service.

Scriptural considerations: Doctrine and Covenants 10:6; Matthew 16:25–29.

4 — Live Peaceably and Sacrificially

Live peaceably points to the people in **4th Nephi 1**: *because of the love of God in their hearts, there was no contention*. **James 3:12-13** describes God's wisdom as *pure, peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and hypocrisy*. **Colossians 3:12-13** identifies what it means to live as the elect of God. **Romans 12** encourages us to live sacrificial lives and provides a practical pattern for dwelling in righteousness:

1. Present ourselves as living sacrifices; 2. Renew our minds; 3. Recognize that we are members of one body; 4. Use our differing gifts in service; 5. Let love be genuine—without hypocrisy; 6. Reject evil—embrace good; 7. Love and honor one another, putting others before yourself; 8. Be diligent and fervent in serving the Lord; 9. Rejoice in hope, endure trials patiently, and remain faithful in prayer; 10. Meet the needs of others and practice hospitality; 11. Bless those who mistreat you; do not curse them; 12. Share in the joys and sorrows of others; 13. Live in unity and humility with one another; 14. Don't seek status or think yourself wiser than others; 15. Return no one's evil with evil; live honestly before all; 16. Live peaceably with everyone whenever possible; 17. Do not seek revenge; leave judgment to God; 18. Care for your enemies and respond to their needs with kindness; 19. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

AREA III — Having No Poor Among Us

The discussion identified 'no poor among us' as a practical expression of Zion living, both temporally and spiritually. It includes caring for immediate needs, building longer-term financial resilience, helping people develop their abilities, connecting members with existing resources, and cultivating a culture in which people can ask for help without shame and others are ready to respond.

Actions to assist us with, *being a people of one heart and one mind*.

1 — Create Funds That Strengthen Immediate and Future Well-Being

Two concepts were identified: an '**Improve Upon Talents Fund**' to help develop gifts, skills, education, and opportunities—particularly for youth and young adults—and a '**Rainy Day Fund**' to help the community respond to unforeseen hardships. [*Scriptural considerations*: Doctrine and Covenants 81:4e–g; 2 Corinthians 8:13–15.]

2 — Improve Our Ability to Identify and Meet Needs

Strengthen priesthood involvement in homes, create a private and confidential way to request assistance, and establish clear guidelines for basic necessities. The discussion identified goals including: **1. no one goes hungry; 2. no one lacks adequate clothing; 3. everyone has a safe place to live; 4. everyone has a means of making a living; 5. everyone has an opportunity to contribute to the Kingdom; 6. everyone comes to a knowledge of God's laws; and 7. no one bears life's burdens alone.**

3 — Connect Members with Available Resources

Become better informed about charitable organizations, social services, and community assistance programs, and help individuals and families access resources that can supplement congregational support.

4 — Promote Stewardship, Self-Reliance, and Financial Education

Offer practical education on money management and stewardship, encourage wise use of resources, and help members think about long-term financial planning.

Putting It All Together — Choosing Our Priorities and Activities for this year

After reviewing all three areas, and the associated action priorities, prayerfully select the priorities that appear most important, & identify 1 or 2 actions for the coming year. Do not assume that we need to address every possible action.

AREAS	PRIORITY #	PROPOSED ACTION ACTIVITY FOR THIS YEAR
One Heart and One Mind	I.	1.
		2.
	II.	1.
		2.
	III.	1.
		2.
	IV.	1.
		2.
	V.	1.
		2.
Dwelling in Righteousness	I.	1.
		2.
	II.	1.
		2.
	III.	1.
		2.
	IV.	1.
		2.
No Poor Among Us	I.	1.
		2.
	II.	1.
		2.
	III.	1.
		2.
	IV.	1.
		2.

General Questions for Discernment

What does God seem to be calling OGRB to do now?

What should we START doing?

What should we STOP doing because it is not producing the desired fruit?

What should we CONTINUE doing because it is bearing good fruit?

What can we realistically accomplish faithfully during the coming year?

What one or two actions, if faithfully carried out, could make the greatest difference (temporal or spiritual)?