Kirtland Ohio Sept 26th 1835

The council of the Presidency of the Church of the Latter Day Saints, consisting of Joseph Smith Junr. Sidney Rigdon David Whitmer, Wm. W. Phelps John Whitmer, Hyrum Smith & Oliver Cowdery met to take into consideration, the case of the twelve who had been previously reproved in consequence of certain letters, and reports coming to the ears of the council.

First: the items contained in Elder W. A. Cowdery's letter in connexion with certain other reports derogatory to the character and teaching of the twelve were taken up. From the testimony of several witnesses (the twelve) it was proven before the council that said complaints originated in the minds of persons whose minds were darkened in consequence of covetousness or some other cause other than the spirit of truth.

Secondly: An item contained in Elder Wm. E. McLelins letter to his wife expressing dissatisfaction with President Rigdon's school. Elder Orson Hyde was also designated with Elder McLelin, or blamed with him in the matter. In the same they were found to be in the fault, which they frankly confessed and were forgiven.

Sept. 29th 1835

Counsellors

Sidney Rigdon	Joseph Smith Junr.
John Smith	Joseph Smith Senr.
Thomas B. Marsh	John Johnson
Samuel H. Smith	Jared Carter
Roger Orton	Levi Jackman
Newel Knight	Orson Pratt.

Oliver Cowdery, Hyrum Smith & John Whitmer Presiding

Names of counsellors called, and all present. Council opened by prayer.

President O. Cowdery then rose and named the order of the day and of the council with a solemn charge to the same relative to their duty, which remarks and instructions were received by the councellors, which they signified by the uplifted hand. Six counsellors were chosen to investigate the cases that were to be brought before them (Viz.) Three for, and three against the accused or in behalf of the church, 1st Charge preferred by the twelve, against Gladden Bishop for advancing heretical doctrines which were derogatory to the character of the Church of the Latter Day Saints.

Much altercation followed, whether his case could be legally brought before this court or not, which was decided in the affirmative.

Elder Wm. Smith called as testimony testified as follows concerning the two witnesses spoken of in the Prophecies. That he observed to a brother with whom he was talking, he might be one of them & he might be one himself. That he intended to prophecy the night that an advertisement was put up by an enemy saying that the Mormon Prophet and others were to be sold at auction in public. That he would not be surprised if the man that put up the advertisement should die at the time of the sale. Elder Young corroborated the above testimony that said that [Gladden] Bishop was very erronous in his tenets of faith. Elder Boynton called, and gave evidence in corroboration of the above.

Elder Marsh testifyeth that said [Gladden] Bishop frequently told of women falling in love with him, that he observed frequently when passing people that they felt his spirit. That he was indolent, so much so, that his presence was oppresive and his absence desirable.

Elder L. Johnson testified as follows that on a former trial before a council of the twelve for error in Doctrine. That he might be one of the two witnesses spoken of in the Prophets, that he ought not to travel and preach on account of the women so often falling in love with him. That he was not humble when reproved but justified himself and preferred a charge against the counsel for treating him so harsh as they had.

Elder Wm. Smith testified that said [Gladden] Bishop after taking a stand against them finally said, that it was all right, that they had dealt with him in righteousness.

Elder Marsh acquiesced with the above, and states also that he believes him capable of teaching in righteousness if he would.

Also B. Young corroborated the above, that he yielded after being overcome and that he is capable of magnifying his calling if he would.

Elder Kimballs testimony corresponds with the above, also that said [Gladden] Bishop said after he saw that his case was hopeless, that the council had turned him wrongside out, that he is capable of magnifying his calling if he would.

Eld. J. P. Green corroborated the above testimony in full, also in addition to the above, that he was so indolent, that he would not help himself to a drink of water. That he proposed to establish the Authority of the Book of Mormon and did not. That is not from the Bible.

Cause submitted. Council adjourned for one hour.

After noon counsellors names called, all in their seats. Pleading commenced and the cause ably defended on both sides, & concluded and submitted the cause to the court for a decision.

Br. Bishop then rose and made an humble confession for his transgression and asked forgiveness of the High Council and all the church. That he intended to learn wisdom from the revelations that God has given and submitted himself to the decision of the court, being perfectly satisfied with the whole course of the trial. After much good instruction delivered by the Presidency they decided that the travelling council of twelve on his case, was in righteousness, also that his confession be published in the Messenger & Advocate & he be received in full fellowship and receive his ordination and license again as before. Submitted to the 12 counsellors. They also decided that they acquiesce in the decision of the Presidency Council adjourned for one hour.

Met on the adjournment and called the counsellors who were all in their seats, except one whose place was supplied. The court then proceeded to ordain Brother G. Bishop to the office of an Elder.

W. Parrish Clerk

Charges preferred against Lorenzo L. Lewis for adultry according to general report amongst the Brethren by P. R. Cahoon

The accused plead not guilty to the charge preferred above. The accusation is now preferred of an illicit intercourse with a female. The Defendant confesses that he has disgraced the girl, himself & the church but plead not guilty to the charge of illicit intercourse.

Elder T. Marsh called as testimony and sayeth,

when called upon to ordain said Lewis to an official station in the church said that his feelings revolted at the idea of his being ordained, yet submitted although president of the council an account of brother Potters saying that he had the testimony of the Spirit of the Lord that he should be ordained.

Elder McLelin testifies that brother Lewis told him of his engagement to marry, but said on his advising him to do so, he chose to procrastinate the time and did not tell him of the circumstances that he was in [in] consequence of his intercourse with her.

Elder D. W. Patten [testifies] That he (Lewis) should have married in a short time if he had not been called off.

Elder Wm. Smith testifieth that brother Lewis desired to return home from Fredona and not go out on a mission on account of his engagement to marry, but they, the counsellors insisted on his going on a mission.

Elder McLelin saith that Brother Lewis wrote a letter after he started to his intended wife, & family, that he should not be at home for some time.

Pleadings on both sides were heard. The accused called upon to make remarks, but submitted the cause. The accused was called upon & confessed that he had done wickedly & had made all the reparation he could in his confession in the early part of this litigation and requested his name to be taken off from the Church records, or dispose of him according to the mind of the Spirit and submitted to the decision of the court.

The Presidency decided that Brother Loyd L. Lewis be cut off from the Church, being satisfied that the charge preferred is substantiated by evidence & the spirit of the Lord, but if he repent and humble himself to the satisfaction of the church, he shall be received

into it again, and receive his license. The counsellors aquiesce in the above decision.

Council adjourned till tomorrow morning 9' oclock

W. Parrish Clerk

Tuesday morning 10 o clock council met. Counsellors names were called, all in their seats except one whose place was supplied.

Council opened by prayer.

1st Charge preferred against Allen Avery an appealed case from an Elder Court in Zion who took away his license for rebelling against their decision. Brother Avery came forward & frankly & readily complied with the requisitions of the council to the entire satisfaction of all & the court decided that he be restored to full fellowship & receive his license that is the office of an Elder. The counsellors aquiesced in the above decision and he was ordained accordingly.

2d Elder P. H. Youngs case called in question. Charge preferred against him by Z. S. Cole.

Accuser & Accused present.

Elder P. H. Young accused of uncristian like conduct. The accused states as follows, that he left this place to go East on a Mission to preach the 24th June last, had three Books of Mormon, sold one to Brother Babit, and disposed of one more. Afterwards obtained two more of Mr. Harris. Went to Madison and left one with Ruth Judd, not sold, obtained one of Mr. Childs and told him if he returned that way he would have it, if not, he would give him another when he should visit his friends in Kirtland.

That he after obtained the one he left with Mrs. Ruth Judd by her consent, & sold it, that he on his return, returned Mr. Childs his book, & took his receipt, which he exhibited to the court.

Cause submitted to the court for their decision.

They decide that there is not cause of action upon the charges preferred, and that he is honorably acquitted & shall receive his license again.

The counsellors acquiesced in full with the above decision. Court Adjourned for one hour.

W. Parrish Clerk

Afternoon, Council met on adjournment, Counsellors names called, all present.

Charge preferred against Lorenzo Young, which is this[,] that poor men ought not to raise up seed or children. Preferred by W. W. Phelps.

President O. Cowdery testified that the above declaration fell from the lips of said Young at the home of President J. Smith Junr. also that he believed it was right to have sexual intercourse notwithstanding. President J. Smith Junr. corroborates the above testimony, also that he did not intend to have any more children. After hearing [the evidence], The case was fairly laid open by the counsellors on both sides. The accuser made his remarks. The accused then arose and made an humble acknowledgement to the satisfaction of the Presidency & counsellors who retian him in full fellowhip as an Elder in the church of the Latter Day Saints. Council adjourned Sine Die

W. Parrish Clerk

Minutes of a High Council met Oct 3d. 1835

Presiding Presidents, H. Smith & D. Whitmer.

Counsellors

Sidney Rigdon	Joseph Smith Junr.
John Smith	Joseph Smith senior
William Smith	J. Johnson
J. Carter	S. H. Smith
R. Orton	Luke Johnson
Noah Packard	O. Johnson

Opened as usual by Prayer.

Charge preferred against Elder John Gould & Dean Gould as follows, ["]Joseph Smith Junr. President of the church of the Latter Day Saints, Greeting

Sir, I prefer certain charges against Elder John Gould, (Viz.) of making expressions which is calculated to do injury to the great cause which we have expoused and manifesting a very strong dissatisfaction against the teachings of the Presidency of the church. Also Dean Gould for using wrong expressions and threat[e]ning the Elders of the Church.

yours &c.

Kirtland Oct. 2d 1835 R. Cahoon["]

After conversing on this subject, it was agreed by Complainant & Defendant, that the matter should be talked over, and no doubt entertained but an amicable adjustment of this matter could be effected. After diguting [discussing] the matter all difference of feelings was allayed and the wound was healed. Charge preferred against Dean Gould, That he spoke unadvisedly against S. Rigdon. Dean Gould acknowledged his wrongs & was forgiven.

Closed in prayer by John Whitmer Clerk

Kirtland Oct. 29th 1835

This day a High Council was called at E. Bosleys for the purpose of trying certain cases.

Names of the counsellors present

David W. Patten	John Smith
Brigham Young	Wm. E. McLellin
John F. Boynton	Orson Hyde
Joseph Coe	Simeon Carter
Lyman Sherman	Alpheus Cutler
James Emmitt	S. J. Griffin

After the council had taken their seats according to their respective numbers President O. Cowdery opened the council by prayer.

A charge was read against David Elliott & wife preferred by Elder Wm. Smith for abusing their daughter by beating and whipping her. Two counsellors on each side were appointed to speak. (Viz.) David W. Patten and Brigham Young on one side and on the other John Smith & Wm. E. McLellin. Witnesses on part of complainant were Aaron C. Lyon & his wife Roxana.

Aaron C. Lyon testified that said Elliotts girl came to his house and complained that her father had abused her, and whipped her & that some marks were found upon her arms, body &c. when she had been whipped. This circumstance took place about ten days since. The girl was about fifteen years old, and that she said she would, or had a mind to make away with herself, hang herself or something of the kind to get rid of her trouble and affliction. The testimony of Roxana Lyons was that Mrs. Elliott threatened to take the broomstick and kill her, and also confirmed the testimony of her husband.

Sister Osgood testifies, that some three years since she (Sister Osgood) lived at said Elliotts and that

the girl told her that she was sorry that sister Osgood was going to leave her father, for said she, ["]I know how I shall fare when you leave, I shall run away or destroy myself[,]["] and went down into the well for the purpose of drowning herself but was prevented by sister Osgood.

Testimony of Erastis Babbit was that the people of Chagrin where the circumstances took place, were much excited about the affair, and that it was a topic of public conversation.

The testimony of President Smith was that he was at their house in Chagrin and talked with the girl, and with her parents, and that he was satisfied that the girl was in the fault, and that the neighbors were trying to create a difficulty.

Testimony of Brother Elliotts father was that the girl was refractory and stubborn, and would sometimes vary from the truth and had never seen brother or Sister Elliot abuse her. After the Counsillors had made their observations, the accuser and the accused were heard. The Presidents then proceeded to give the following decision. That the complaint was not without foundation, Yet the charge had not been fully sustained, but he has acted injudiciously and brought a disgrace upon himself, upon his daughter & upon this Church, because he ought to have trained his child in a way, that she should not have required the rod at the age of 15 years.

Council adjourned till candle light.

Council again convened and Hezekiah Fisk was appointed in the room of Alpheus Cutler, who was absent and Almon Babbit in the place of Joseph Coe. After the Council was organized, a charge was

preferred against Mary Elliot for abusing said E[lliott]s daughter as referred to before, and also abusing the rest of her children, by Wm. Smith.

Six were appointed to speak on this case. Testimony of Sister Childs was that she lived in the house with Sister Elliot confessed her wrong and promised to do so no more[,] consequently the council forgave her. Brother Elliott made his confession and was forgiven, and both he and his wife were restored to fellowship.

Council Closed by prayer by President Rigdon.

Orson Hyde Clerk

A council of High Priests & Elders of the Church of Latter Day Saints held at New-Portage, Ohio Nov. 18th 1835. Ambrose Palmer, J. B. Bosworth & Thomas Gordon, High Priests. Salmon Warner, Wm. Fry, Jeremiah Moley, Anthony Cooper, John McLay, Michael B. Welton & Julius Black Elders and some private members.

Ambrose Palmer presided at said council.

This council has been called together and is prepared to hear and try a difficulty between brother Joseph Keeler and sister Clarissa Matthews.

Sister Clarissa Matthews brings a complaint against brother Elder Reuban Keeler, as follows. For prosecuting in a court of Law and taking their property on execution: Notwithstanding that he had received his pay or the most part of it, and refusing to allow them for what they had paid to him, also forfeiting his word as he had previously stated to her, that he would not take their property in such a manner, and also for oppressing her family in an unchristian like manner.