

Scripture Committee G&P Updates (Chronological order).

This is taken from the following post. It is condensed to only include updates related to the G&P (SOP).

April 30, 2017 – Proposal For June 10 Meeting ([Scripture Committee](#))

GOVERNING PRINCIPLES UPDATE & SUBMISSION PROCESS

There has a lot of discussion among the body with regards to the *Governing Principles*. When first presented, we said: “*Governing Principles is a rewritten statement of principles and practices - similar to LDS Section 20 - that reflects this assembly’s efforts to preserve the Restoration. This statement is not yet completed. It requires additional inspired input from you.*” While they were presented as a proposed and unfinished set of principles useful for fellowships to govern themselves, we have been persuaded that a different approach is needed. Some have requested that Denver step in and solve the issue, but he has (thankfully) refused, as he is determined not to make the same mistakes that were made in the past (see the [Moab Conference Talk](#), p. 17; [Standing Aside](#) - note the story of the preface of the D&C). Below we will explain the proposed process for how we can, together, come up with a set of correct principles that can be used to govern ourselves.

We propose that each fellowship spend the month of May counselling about the necessary principles needed for governing our individual and collective fellowships. One purpose of this document is to assist new converts to get the basics right. These individuals will come from various ideologies and regions of the world, without a basis in the LDS tradition, and will therefore be greatly benefitted by a set of principles to assist them as they begin this journey. As a fellowship, please take time to get together and discuss questions or issues you have had, or have seen, as you began this process. **A meeting will be held the first weekend in June to draft a set of principles.** There are now three documents that have been put forth, each of which has important value and content, and we invite you to look to these as a pattern to follow in deciding how to proceed. Here are the links for [Governing Principles](#), [Guiding Principles](#) and [Alt Guiding Principles](#).

Each fellowship should elect one member of their group to represent them at a meeting to compose a set of governing principles. To reduce the number of individuals involved, we ask that **A) only those fellowships who feel inspired by the Lord to send a representative do so** and **B) if there are multiple fellowships in a city or area, that they combine to elect one individual.** While many qualifications could be proposed (i.e. silver-haired, wise, photographic memory of the scriptures vs. meek, humble, prayerful, etc.), the representative should have the fellowships’ confidence to make a decision and a heart willing to submit to the group’s decision rather than control the discussion or the outcome (2 Nephi 9:28-29). We fully believe that if we come to this task with the goal of having one heart, Heaven will guide us.

After this initial meeting, a draft will be finalized and posted on the website where it can be modified by the vote of the body for the duration of the submissions process (until July 4th). We will post an update on details, including the time and location, mid-May, and ask that you send the name, phone number and email address of your representative to us by Friday, May 19th. For those fellowship representatives which are too far to travel, video conferencing is an option.

As a side note, the concern has been raised about whether it is possible for the words of an individual, or set of individuals, can be considered “scripture.” We wrestled with this issue for quite some time before being led to RE Section 60, which says:

“*And if thou art led at any time by the Comforter to speak or teach or at all times by the way of commandment unto the church thou mayest do it, but thou shalt not write by way of commandment but by wisdom. And thou shalt not command him which is at thy head and at the head of the church, for I have given him the keys of the mysteries of the revelations which are sealed until I shall appoint unto him another in his stead.*”

And now behold, I say unto you that thou shalt go unto the Lamanites and preach my gospel unto them and cause my church to be established among them. And thou shalt have revelations, but write them not by the way of commandment.” (emphasis added)

This instruction, given to Oliver, suggests that someone besides Joseph (or in our case Denver) can *write* in scripture “by way of” wisdom. As opposed to writing revelations by commandment, which is limited to him who has the “keys of the mysteries of the revelations,” we believe that it is possible to have something written in scripture by someone who had not been ordained a High Priest after the Holy Order. In the scriptures we can often see these two types of writings (commandment and wisdom) paired together: King Benjamin’s discourse includes his words with those of the angel, Paul’s letters are a mix of heavenly teachings with wise counsel, Alma’s words of exhortation include both commandment and how to treat each other, etc. In our case, we will not have had these principles handed down to us, but they will be principles that we have created together and can therefore edit as we grow in wisdom and learning. It is our belief that if the body can agree upon a set of principles that will allow us to govern ourselves that are written A) by wisdom and not commandment (RE 60), B) by common consent (RE 111), C) by inspiration (RE 73), and D) by assignment both from the Lord and His servant, then the principles can be included in our scriptures following God’s pattern. The process described above also follows the pattern set forth in the Constitution, where imperfect people were able to write an inspired document by which they could govern themselves in equality.

June 18, 2017 – June 10 Meeting Summary ([Scripture Committee](#))

SOME LEARNING GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

Last Saturday (June 10th), 40 representatives from various fellowships met to discuss and draft a Governing/Guiding Principles document. It was a long meeting, lasting nearly 13 hours. Due to its length, only half of the representatives were able (or willing) to stay for the entire time. Of the 20 that stayed until the end, all felt a significant unity of heart and mind. Of those that had to leave early, roughly 1/3 of them expressed that they were unable to come to a point where they felt at one with the document or process. More effort is required to see what can be done on that issue, but that is how the matter currently stands. Significantly, the entire group agreed that it was not our decision to determine whether the Governing Principles should be placed in scripture, but to let the vote of the body (and the Lord) make that decision. The process of reaching common consent was messy and trying, but very rewarding. The resulting document will be posted for review by the assembly. It is a revision of the original Governing Principles and continues to bear that name.

July 2, 2017 – July 2 Meeting Finished at Midnight ([Scripture Committee](#))

PROGRESS ON GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

The second review session of the Governing Principles, is still in session as of midnight Sunday night, so the update on that portion of the project will have to show up Monday night (the 3rd).

July 11, 2017 – July 2 Meeting Summary ([Scripture Committee](#))

GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

A PDF of the final draft of Governing Principles is available for download on the scriptures.info site. Please take time to read it and pray about it. A vote on adopting the document will take place later in July, along with voting on some scripture formatting decisions.

VOTING NOTE

As of this writing, there are over 700 voters participating in the voting! The sad thing is that there are still many this committee is aware of that aren't voting, thinking they will be happy with whatever the committee produces. But the voting isn't by the committee and the outcome of the voting is determined by the voice of the assembly, not the committee. We hope that everyone will vote.

[July 19, 2017 – Aug 5 Proposal - GP Is Required Vote For top 2 Favorite \(Scripture Committee\)](#)

GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

We remind those who are interested that through Denver we were given the assignment by the Lord to develop a united statement of principles for the greater assembly, to replace LE Section 20. Jeff Savage was tasked with shepherding that task and has worked hard to try to accomplish it with all those who have been interested in working with him. Representatives from 23 fellowships have contributed.

There are now arguments being advanced that no such statement is needed, that they don't have to be included in the scriptures, or that many versions are just fine since different fellowships may want to govern themselves differently. But the assignment was that a single statement be developed to be put into the scriptures and therefore that is the directive we hope will be accomplished. We were asked if there will be an option to not include anything in the scriptures. Given the above explanation, that isn't possible. The Lord requires something; we don't believe a "No thanks" option is welcome or warranted.

We had hoped that the draft document that was to be up for a vote this week would bring the GP effort to a conclusion. It has not. There is more to do. Some are claiming that it has not been a united effort nor that what has been produced reflects a united statement. We've wrestled with that and the following is where things stand:

- A vote will take place next week. Every version of Governing Principles that has been produced, either through committee efforts or that has been submitted by someone else, will be included in the vote. We are NOT inviting additional versions as there has been ample time for that to have taken place. But we have at least a half dozen versions that are available in a separate document called VERSIONS OF GOVERNING PRINCIPLES. You can download them from this same site. Please study all the versions in preparation for your participation in the voting.
- We are working diligently to provide additional information to give more light on the matter. That information will not be ready until early next week. We don't want to have that come out after a vote and then have folks want to reconsider their votes. So the timing of the vote is contingent on us getting further information out.
- Once that vote on the entire group of samples is completed (we will use a 4-day window for the voting), the top 2 vote-getters will be put up for a runoff vote soon thereafter. That final document will be used as the basis for constructing a final statement. There will be 2 more steps involved in the process after that, which will be part of the explanation we will provide next week.

We listen to what we're being told, both from the outside and from the Lord. We are doing everything we can to follow the Lord's counsel to do unto others as we would have others do unto us. We expect to live with the outcome just like everyone else. We hope your patience and understanding will last a bit longer and that what develops over the next few weeks will resolve any remaining concerns and result in a united effort and a united statement to present to the Lord and to guide all future fellowships across the world.

July 24, 2017 – Aug 5 Proposal Vote Reminder ([Scripture Committee](#))

VOTING

The next vote will occur this Wed-Sat. PLEASE take time to review the 7 Governing Principles examples, as well as the formatting samples. To make things a bit easier for people, we are having a couple of buttons placed on [scriptures.info](#) to help. One will take you to the documents you need to review. The other will link directly to the voting site. You will not be restricted this time to one vote per computer. But the Lord will still know what you're up to. There will also be instructions provided when you click on a button that will explain what to do to either prepare or to vote. (See GOVERNING PRINCIPLES below for further explanation.)

One additional note: Once your vote is complete, that's it. We will not be accepting emails requesting that we change votes, even if there was misunderstanding. We're doing everything we can to be simple and clear up front.

Here is a synopsis of each part of the project to date:

GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

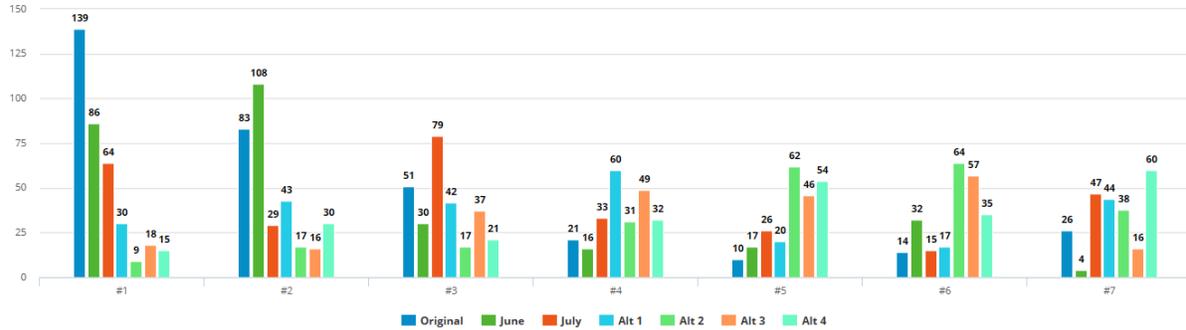
The process continues. A vote will happen later this week. Please take the time to read over each of the 7 versions posted online. In the voting you will be able to rank the versions according to your personal preferences. A second vote will take place next Mon-Wed as a runoff of the two final GP documents. The final "winner" will NOT be the final version, but a base text from which a final Governing Principles document will be developed. Your comments, as well as the other 6 versions, will also be used in developing the final document. As you consider your vote, please keep in mind our need to remain of one heart, even if we can't be of one mind on this issue. The Lord looks on the heart, and if we can't be one on something as small as this, it will be difficult to progress as a people.

One question that has been asked several times is why a vote will take place if Denver has asked *that we not be required to provide a statement of principles, but the people be left to govern themselves*. Until the Lord releases us from producing such a statement for our scriptures, this remains just a request; the requirement must be met without the Lord specifically rescinding it.

July 31, 2017 – Aug 5 Base Text Vote Results (Scripture Committee)

My order of preference for Governing Principles:

Number of responses: 362



VOTING RESULTS

Here is the link to the voting report:

<https://surveyhero.com/results/23075/17bfbe1084d1b0e28364036347042537>

The results, in a nutshell, break down like this:

	Original		June		July		Alt1		Alt2		Alt3		Alt4	
Ran	v	po	v	po	v	po	v	po	v	po	v	po	v	po
kings	otes	ints	otes	ints	otes	ints	otes	ints	otes	ints	otes	ints	otes	ints
1 =	1	97	8	60	6	44	3	21			1	12	1	10
7 pts	39	3	6	2	4	8	0	0	9	63	8	6	5	5
2 =	8	49	1	64	2	17	4	25	1	10	1		3	18
6 pts	3	8	08	8	9	4	3	8	7	2	6	96	0	0
3 =	5	25	3	15	7	39	4	21	1		3	18	2	10
5pts	1	5	0	0	9	5	2	0	7	85	7	5	1	5
4 =	2		1		3	13	6	24	3	12	4	19	3	12
4 pts	1	84	6	64	3	2	0	0	1	4	9	6	2	8
5 =	1		1		2		2		6	18	4	13	5	16
3 pts	0	30	7	51	6	78	0	60	2	6	6	8	4	2
6 =	1		3		1		1		6	12	5	11	3	
2 pts	4	28	2	64	5	30	7	34	4	8	7	4	5	70
7 =	2		4		4		4		3		1		6	
1 pt	6	26	4	4	7	47	4	44	8	38	6	16	0	60

TOTAL	18	15	13	10	72	87	81
POINTS	94	83	04	56	6	1	0
RA							
NK	1	2	3	4	7	5	6

NEXT STEP

The result of the next vote (to decide which of the 2 highest ranked GP versions will become the base text for a final GP draft) will begin tomorrow and go through Thursday. It's important to understand that this second vote is only to select a base text, while the 6 other versions of GP will be available to the GP group to use as resources. This vote is a simple way for the greater assembly to say, "Of all the versions available, this is the sample closest to what we want." You will again be able to comment on what you want to see included/excluded from the different versions to help the GP group accomplish the work. The final draft of Governing Principles will be put up for a simple UP/DOWN acceptance vote in the coming weeks. The same VOTE button on scriptures.info will be used for this next round.

The Lord has asked that we, as a people, adopt a set of principles by mutual agreement. If your fellowship did not send representatives to the prior meetings, but would like to participate, please send an email by Wednesday to restorationscriptures2017@gmail.com. That group is planning to meet the afternoon of Saturday, Aug. 5th in Salt Lake City (and perhaps on Sunday) to finalize the base document voted on by the body, taking all of the documents and comments from the voting into consideration. We ask that, if possible, the representatives be a husband and wife. If this is not possible, then please send both a male and female participant. This is a light thing that the Lord has asked of us, and yet it has led to corrosive interactions among ourselves. Please check your heart before coming to the meeting, as unity in heart is key to following the Lord's command. When there are disagreements, rather than invoke a spiritual prompting as a trump card, we will follow the Lord's counsel: "Pray together in humility and together meekly present your dispute before me, and if you are contrite before me I will tell you my part."

Aug 7, 2017 – Aug 5 Meeting Summary ([Scripture Committee](#))

GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

We have a final statement of principles!!! It is now called *Guide and Standard*. The extended group met Saturday evening and completed the work in 5 hours. Reports are that it went better than anticipated, there was unanimity and no final objections. A PDF of the final document is posted on this site, titled GUIDE AND STANDARD. A heartfelt thanks to all those who have labored and sacrificed to produce this work.

There will be a second version of the *Guide and Standard* made available later in the year that will be annotated, indicating where each piece and portion of the work came from. This version will not be in the published scriptures, but will be made available on scriptures.info for anyone interested.

A simple up / down vote will begin on Tuesday and run through Saturday. This will deal with the acceptance of the final statement for inclusion in the scriptures.

Aug 9, 2017 – Aug 5 Errors in Document ([Scripture Committee](#))

ERRORS? YOU SAY THERE ARE ERRORS IN THE GUIDE AND STANDARD?

-Chris Hamill is responsible for the sharp tone of this post.

Actually, that's all that anyone has said. No one has had the charity or integrity to point out what such errors might be or how to fix them. It's like people running around yelling, "Fire!", but not pointing to the fire, nor picking up a bucket to get water and put it out. We say that we are to use persuasion, long-suffering, gentleness, meekness and love unfeigned, but don't act that way. To put it in the Lord's words: *...you have not yet become what you must be to live together in peace...Even a single soul who stirs up the hearts of others to anger can destroy the peace of all my people. Each of you must equally walk truly in my path, not only to profess, but to do as you profess.* There are those who claim they will support the outcome of the work done to produce the Guide and Standard, but once it was out, they've done nothing but condemn it. No explanations, only generalizations, not suggestions for fixing the problems they claim to see, except to offer blanket replacements rather than corrections. That isn't charitable. That isn't helping your fellow man. That isn't honest. We need to all take a good hard look inward before we point at problems created by others.

Just because the G&S received a unanimous vote of approval from the group that completed it doesn't mean it is faultless. It was built by weak, broken humans! There are bound to be errors that should be addressed in it. But no one has stepped into the light and explained where those problems are and why they are faults - except to others who also complain and don't offer to help fix things. There has only been grumbling and complaining in the background. So now is the time to act constructively:

If you are aware of what you think is an error in the G&S, something that is false, then DO the following:

1. Send an email to restorationscriptures2017@gmail.com no later than 8am Saturday Aug. 12
2. Detail the following:
 - a. The specific error or false statement.
 - b. WHY it is an error or false statement (without the WHY it is just your opinion).
 - c. Recommend a solution to that specific error or false statement. (without the recommendation, you're just complaining and not being constructive).

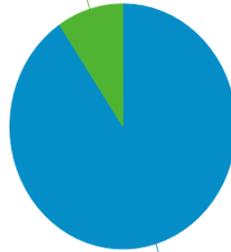
If it is demonstrated that there are indeed error(s)/false statement(s) in the Guide and Standard, not just differences of opinion or perspective, then they do need to be corrected. The voting on the problem document will then be halted and the problems fixed. The vote will be run over again, this time for the corrected document.

Aug 13, 2017 – Aug 5 Acceptance Vote Results – Proposal For Boise meeting ([Scripture Committee](#))

Do you accept the statement of principles called Guide and Standard, to be accepted by the general assembly of believers and included in the Restoration Edition of the scriptures?

Number of responses: 487

not accept the statement and do not want the Guide and Standard included in our scriptures.: 46x chosen (9.45%)



Yes, I accept the statement, to be included in our scriptures.: 441x chosen (90.55%)

FINAL GUIDE AND STANDARD OUTCOME

The *Answer* points to hearts as being the key to making this task a light thing. It has not been a light thing to date. However, the work to deliver a statement of principles for the scriptures has been completed. The outcome of the vote can be found at this link:

<https://surveyhero.com/results/24348/495b1c097917f42f678fa5d306db5d87>

441 voted for the Guide and Standard, 46 voted against. Or, in other words, 91% for, 9% against. (See Mosiah 29:26)

Because the final meeting of the *Guide and Standard* group provided an open invitation to any and all people to participate, those not participating did so voluntarily and by default, accepted the work of those participating. That openness was done to meet the requirement given by the Lord that it be written by the people.

It is not the place of the scriptures committee to govern. This general assembly is a body of equals. There are efforts underway to develop an alternate statement of principles. Our committee does not claim any authority to permit or deny any such effort. Just as anyone can call a conference, so any group can undertake an endeavor that impacts many fellowships. That endeavor owns the responsibility to persuade the general assembly to accept that effort. This committee is willing to offer any reasonable help.

It is clear from feedback that the current version of the *Guide and Standard* is not perfect. It can probably be improved. The Governing Principles group gave Jeff Savage authority over wording in the document. Those who feel strongly that the *Guide and Standard* language should be reworked will be invited to meet in Boise for a discussion of that effort.

Aug 25, 2017 – Proposal For Boise meeting ([Scripture Committee](#))

GUIDE AND STANDARD

Since the online publication of the *Guide and Standard*, we have received several good suggestions of ways to improve the language so that it might benefit and bless those who have yet to come into this movement. In a desire to receive both greater wisdom and harmony among us in this body, we would like to propose a meeting on Sunday, September 3rd, after the conference, to discuss the language of the G&S. The group of representatives that met on August 5th gave Jeff Savage the authority to improve the language of the document. Therefore, the objective of this meeting is not to start the project anew, but it is to take the current language, along with our doubts, ideas, and concerns, and to come together as the Lord counsels:

"Pray together in humility and together meekly present your dispute to me, and if you are contrite before me I will tell you my part."

We believe that the Lord can guide our thoughts and help us come to a peaceful resolution of this labor. All are invited to attend. The location will be Esther Simplot Park - 625 N Whitewater Park Blvd, Boise.

September 29, 2017 – Scripture Committee Hands off to Body ([Scripture Committee](#))

GUIDE & STANDARD EFFORTS

There are more than one effort in the works to accomplish what the Lord has required of us as a people, though only one of them has been allowed to have noticeable attention. We hope to change that, but must first make a few points:

- As stated in one of our last updates, this committee can neither encourage nor deny any person or group from proposing or pursuing efforts to produce a statement of principles that meets the Lord's requirements and obtains mutual agreement so that it can be added to our scriptures.
- Though [scriptures.info](#) was established with the objective of it becoming an online repository and research tool for the scriptures, it has also provided one G&S effort with a platform for attention. It was determined that the discussion about the G&S was not part of the original objective for the [scriptures.info](#) site and therefore the discussion should be taken up elsewhere. Because hosting the discussion was cut short, and resulted in the exclusion of other proposals by that site, it has been assumed that the scripture committee favors the one effort over all others. That is not the case. We believe that every effort should be given an equal opportunity to be heard and considered. Therefore, this blog will act as such a platform. This frees [scriptures.info](#) to again focus exclusively on providing access to and research tools for studying the scriptures.
- Our decision to offer a voice for other proposals is due in part to the Lord's direction in the *Answer*: "...my will is to have you love one another. As people you lack the ability to *respectfully* disagree among one another. You are as Paul and Peter whose disagreements resulted in jarring and sharp contentions. Nevertheless they both loved me and I loved them. You must do better." Offering others an equal opportunity to reach the greater assembly with their proposals, even when they include personal opinion, answers the requirement of the Lord that we learn to respectfully disagree. There is no single arena that offers the assembly this opportunity, only outlying Facebook groups and blogs that attract limited attention. Our blog will meet the need for a unified locale where we, as a people, can practice and learn to respectfully disagree.
- We will publish guidelines for adding G&S proposals in an upcoming post.
- Though Jeff Savage is involved in one of the G&S efforts, his participation in that effort is independent of the scripture committee.

Posted by [the scripture committee](#) at [12:16 AM](#)

September 30, 2017 – ComeServe Proposal Clarification ([Scripture Committee](#))

CLARIFICATION

There is a misunderstanding that Jeff Savage's independent participation with Adrian Larsen in a Guide & Standard effort means that he has been released from the committee. This is not the case. Jeff is a fully participating member of the scripture committee. Unless otherwise stated by the committee

member, participation in efforts outside of the scripture committee's work does not represent approval or support of the committee. It is simply individual exercise of agency.

Posted by [the scripture committee](#) at [12:58 PM](#)

October 1, 2017– New Blog For G&S ([Scripture Committee](#))

NEUTRALITY ([mirror](#))

The scripture committee has a responsibility to remain neutral in the Guide and Standard struggle. To maintain a distance from the work and discussions surrounding that effort, we have created a separate blog called guideandstandard.blogspot.com, rather than maintain the original arrangement of all-in-one. We hope that this will become a fruitful endeavor and that we all learn to respectfully disagree and to become of one heart.

Posted by [the scripture committee](#) at [5:04 PM](#)

October 8, 2017– How Jeff Received His Assignment ([Scripture Committee](#))

EXPLANATIONS ([mirror](#))

JEFF'S ASSIGNMENT

Some question still exists as to how Jeff Savage was assigned the *Governing Principles* task. Here are the details: In early January, when the two teams came together, Jeff proposed that section 20 be removed. The group agreed, and Denver explained to us all that a replacement was needed for D&C Section 20. The direction to have someone other than himself write the replacement had been given to him by the Lord. When explained, Chris Hamill immediately responded, "I think Jeff should do it. All those present agreed and Jeff then accepted the assignment.

FOLLOW THE PROPHET

Another question to be addressed is why the original *Governing Principles* (GP) were removed from the Preview Edition of the scriptures. Once the assignment was given to Jeff, he waited many weeks before feeling prompted to start writing. After finishing, the document was passed to the committee for review, where several edits and additions were suggested. At the end, the document was unanimously accepted by the scripture committee. That document met the requirement given by the Lord. The assignment had been fulfilled. After the announcement of the scriptures project in St. George there arose a significant number of individuals (we were told 230 people), headed by a small contingent that insisted the GP could not be in the scriptures, both because they had not been through the submission process and because Jeff Savage was not an acceptable source for any sort of revelation from the Lord - it could only come through Denver. We were told that if the GP was left in the scriptures, this group would refuse to support the scriptures project. It was determined that what had been offered had apparently not been accepted, and that the GP would be added to the submission list.

Prior to the vote on the submissions, however, alternate versions of the GP were proposed, and rather than have a vote-off, Jeff proposed that a meeting - not unlike the constitutional convention - be held with representatives from each fellowship. As with the convention, the purpose was to decide which document to use as the base text to work from so that each fellowship could come to an agreement on the final product before it was put to a vote.

Had the GP been accepted as presented in St. George, the Lord's assignment would have been satisfied; we could have also voted to accept it after the June 10th meeting: "...you could have finished this work a long time ago." For various reasons, there were issues with the result of that meeting, so another was called, eventually resulting in the ongoing struggle now at hand.

WAS IT INSPIRATION?

Everyone on the scripture committee believes that yes, the original document was inspired. Would we argue that every word was exact? No; even the Book of Mormon writers such as Nephi, Mormon and Moroni acknowledged weakness in writing. It is our understanding that, in general, revelation is given through ideas and concepts that we must wrestle through to glean meaning; the process of writing these ideas down on paper is difficult and constraining. What's more, we learn from the "Sayings" in *The Second Comforter*, "Revelation from heaven is also a revelation of yourself." This idea has many ramifications, one of which is that as we grow and develop, so does the depth and breadth of Heaven's communications to us. "More blessed, therefore, are ... those who will break down their pride and realize they know nothing until they know God. When they meet Him, He will 'reveal all things'...All else is vanity" (see blog post: "Living and Learning"). Jeff does not "know God," and makes no claim to have all things revealed to him (D&C 101:32). We all see through a glass darkly. As a body, the tendency is, upon receiving something from the Lord, to turn to judgment. In other words, we tend to "show off" our shiny new bauble of understanding by hanging it on our tree of knowledge, pointing the finger rather than refusing to become an accuser.

The *Prayer, Answer and Covenant* also revealed many truths to us that were unclear to us (as a body of believers) before, not least of which is the primacy of the Sermon on the Mount in guiding our behavior. Second, it is clear that the Lord desires that we learn to respectfully disagree and that we become of one heart even if we can't come to one mind. These two ideas suggest that our mutual agreement *may* be our collective decision to support the group, to be of one heart - that our faithfulness to each other may be stronger than the cords of death - despite the differences of opinion we each have. Finally, we believe "all things are done in the wisdom of Him who knoweth all things," and "all these things shall give [us] experience and be for [our] good." We believe that all that has happened has been in the Lord's mind all along; we trust that He has many purposes for the labor we are currently undertaking, and His words will not return to Him void (Isaiah 55:8-11).

91% IS NOT OK?

We have been asked how it is possible that decisions were made to include/exclude scriptures from the D&C with little more than 50% of the vote, yet a vote of 91% to adopt the August 5th version of the *Guide and Standard* had not resulted in that document being added to the scriptures.

When the vote was taken following the August 5th drafting of the final *Guide and Standard*, there was evidently a wide scale expectation that common consent would carry. It was our expectation as well. But in the *Answer* we were given shortly before the 91% vote took place, the Lord changed the terms of what was required of our document. Questions were then raised after the vote about specific language of the *Answer*, which called into question both the document and our greater collective expectation that common consent was a sound basis for adopting it.

The decision was to take a step back and consider these things before acting. We had no deadline imposed upon us for completing this assignment, and He had told us (through Denver) that the *Guide and Standard* was not required for the covenant to take place in Boise, so why risk bringing something to the Lord if we were not yet confident it met His requirements?

This is not to say that the language of the *Answer* removes the 91% approved document from the table, or shuts down common consent as the basis for adoption. It simply means that it has been put on hold

while efforts are made to sort out what the Lord really requires of us. For example, what is “mutual agreement?” Or what is meant by the Lord declaring “You are not excused from writing a statement of principles”? Perhaps mutual agreement means first agreeing to be governed as a body by common consent, before implementing it as the basis for adopting a document. Perhaps it means unanimity; perhaps something else. Perhaps “writing a statement of principles” can consist of no more than copying what other inspired souls have written, as Nephi did with Isaiah...perhaps not. There is discussion everywhere, but currently no consensus. If we do not agree on what is required by the Lord, how can we be confident that we’ve met the requirements? Does the document, and a supermajority vote, fully meet the requirements as found in the *Answer*? We don’t have the answers, and that’s kind of the point. We can wait to take this particular action until we properly understand what we are doing.

When the body, or perhaps a body, can come to agree on the terms the Lord has set, and then fulfills those terms in adopting a statement of principles, we can gladly present the chosen Statement to the Lord for approval, and publish it in the scriptures if approval is received. We fully expect Him to answer.

Posted by [the scripture committee](#) at [12:10 PM](#)