
Doctrine and Covenants 44 — Call the Elders Together

A revelation given through Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon at Kirtland, Ohio, in late February 1831, directing that the elders be gathered for a conference.

This is a brief, practical revelation — six verses — directing that the scattered elders be called together for a conference, with a promise of the Spirit when they gather and a charge to keep caring for the poor. It is small, but it sits at a hinge moment: the Church was growing fast in Ohio, the law had just been given (Section 42), and it was time to assemble the leaders, organize legally, and consolidate.

From the Chapter's Architecture

*Six verses, a complete administrative arc with a moral anchor. It opens with the **call to gather** (v. 1): summon the elders from every direction. It gives the **promise and purpose** (vv. 2–5): the Spirit poured out in the assembly, missionary success, and the strength to organize legally for the Church's protection. And it closes with the **moral anchor** (v. 6): visit the poor. The structure is instructive in miniature — the practical work of building an institution (conferences, legal incorporation, growth) is framed at its end by the unchanging duty to the needy. Organization serves the gospel; it never replaces it.*