

JWHA 2023 Membership Survey

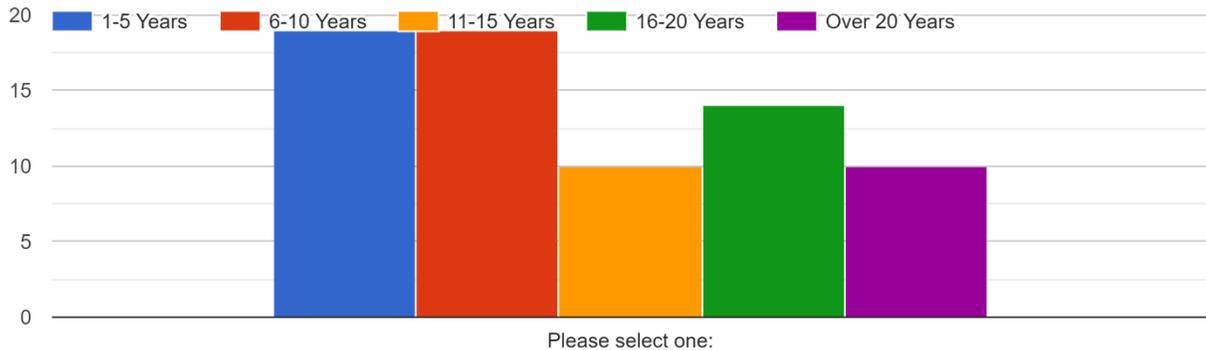
314 sent, 72 responses, 22.9% participation.

Tell Us About You

How many years have you been a JWHA member?

1-5 Year	6-10 Year	11-15 Years	16-20 Years	Over 20 Year
19	19	10	14	10

Tell Us About You



Why did you join the JWHA?

- Raise my awareness of scholarship in Restoration and Mormon studies.
- Enjoy LDS history.
- They rock.
- My love of Mormon history.
- In Seminary, I won a JWHA scholarship.
- Love and interest of restoration history and association with great people...visit/tour of historical sites
- Interest in Community of Christ history
- Dan Kelty
- Restoration Studies
- Church history interest
- I'm a history nerd. Took a class on church history from Alma Blair in 1974 and became fascinated with our past and wanted to continue learning.
- Interested in all veins of Mormon history.
- Interested in LDS history.
- To provide archaeological perspective
- Educational and networking opportunities.
- To connect with people who shared my interest in Restoration history.
- Paul Edwards
- Interest in utopia societies of 1830s
- I am interested in Restoration history.

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- Networking and community
- To attend conferences and receive the JWHA Journal
- I have a strong interest in history and building a positive relationship with other latter day saints, interested individuals and promote restoration studies.
- To explore scholarly, historical research within the context of our current-day church.
- Interest in Mormon history, broadly defined.
- Interested in Norman/Community of Christ history.
- Interest in church history
- Interest in Mormon history.
- Love church history
- Mormon History Perspective
- For the journal
- Friend spoke of its wealth of Latter-day Saint history.
- Interested in history and love listening to interesting and kind folk.
- INTEREST IN COMMUNITY OF CHRIST HISTORY, PREDOMINATELY
- I've gravitated to JWHA for a few years for various reasons and eventually needed to just let myself join. It was not always financially feasible between graduating and finding gainful employment, but now I can afford it!
- Shared interest in Restoration history and for the great associates in JWHA.
- Because I was offered a scholarship.
- Because my interests in American Church History include study of groups that separated from the LDS and are centered in and around Independence, MO.
- To attend conferences & get the journal.
- Interest in Restoration history and a great bunch of people with which to associate.
- Enjoy history.
- Billie Young invited me.
- I loved the history of the church and wanted to know as much about it as possible.
- I have a particular interest in early Mormon history and the history of the smaller branches of the restoration.
- Interest in Mormon history
- Invited by a friend.
- To learn more about history
- Joined because it was a history association.
- Love Mormon History...knew most all of the founders.
- Interest
- I came to my first meeting of JWHA because a friend was going to present a paper, and I was interested in getting more involved in history. I stuck around JWHA because I could see friends and develop my skills in the historical craft.
- General interest in Mormon/Restoration history.
- Love Mormon history!
- To attend the annual conferences.

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- Professional interaction
- My interest in Mormon history.
- Interested in Restoration history; interested in the association members and wanted access to the Journals.
- To participate in its annual conferences in Springfield, Nauvoo and Rochester and to subscribe to the JWHA Journal (have not had 16-20 years of consecutive annual membership)
- The Scholarship
- I was a graduate student in the Midwest doing Mormon/Restoration studies. JWHA was the first conference I was able to present at.
- Interest in Mormon history, family story, church heritage.
- Interest in Mormon history
- Interest in restoration religions history
- I was interested in and contributing to Mormon history.
- An opportunity to attend the conference.
- Was an early member, away from the church and theological/historic concerns for a couple of decades (in S. America), am now back.
- Interested in restoration history.
- The diverse background of its members and as a place to present academic work.
- I knew a lot of members.
- I am interested in Restoration Studies and presented at a conference.
- To support real historical research into the culture and theology of Community of Christ.

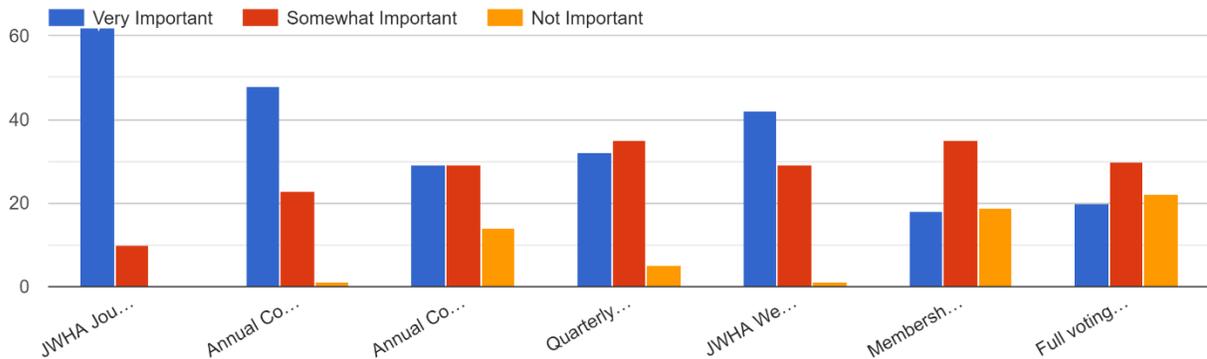
JWHA Benefits

Please rate the following membership benefits:

	<i>Very Important</i>	<i>Somewhat Important</i>	<i>Not Important</i>
<i>JWHA Journal</i> (published twice a year)	62	10	
Annual Conference	48	23	1
Annual Conference Discount Registration	29	29	14
Quarterly <i>JWHA E-Newsletter</i>	32	35	5
JWHA Website	42	29	1
Membership E-directory	18	35	19
Full voting privileges at membership meetings	20	30	22

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JWHA Benefits

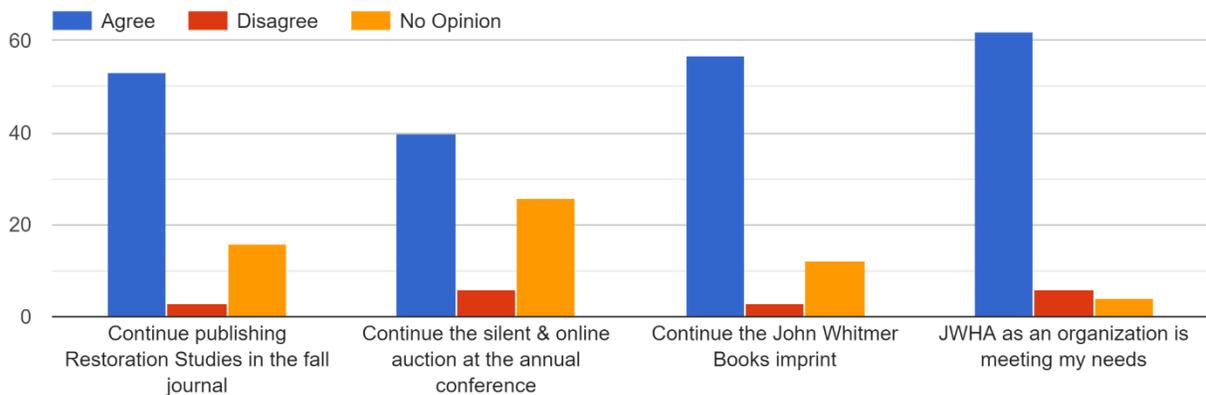


Operations

Please rate the following:

	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>No Opinion</i>
Continue publishing Restoration Studies in the fall journal	53	3	16
Continue the silent & online auction at the annual conference	40	6	26
Continue the John Whitmer Books imprint	57	3	12
JWHA as an organization is meeting my needs	62	6	4

Operations Please rate the following:



Bylaws

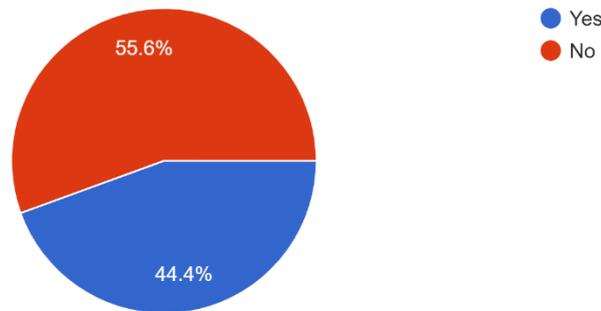
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The bylaws require we hold a business meeting in conjunction with Community of Christ World Conference. Should we continue to hold two business meetings in world conference years?

Yes	No
32	40

Bylaws The bylaws require we hold a business meeting in conjunction with Community of Christ World Conference. Should we continue to hold two business meetings in world conference years?

72 responses



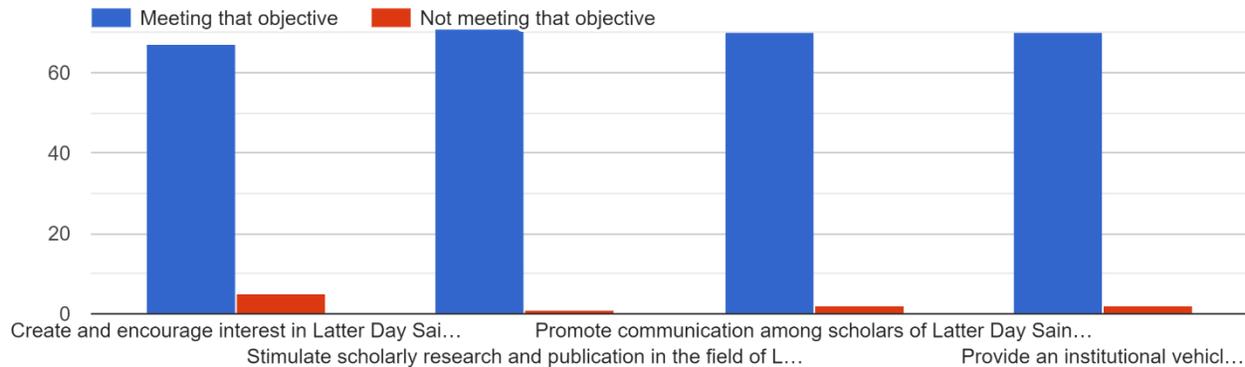
Organization

The objectives of JWHA are to:

	<i>Meeting that objective</i>	<i>Not meeting that objective</i>
Create and encourage interest in Latter Day Saint history, Restoration Studies, especially the history of Community of Christ.	67	5
Stimulate scholarly research and publication in the field of Latter Day Saint history Restoration studies.	71	1
Promote communication among scholars of Latter Day Saint history Restoration Studies.	70	2
Provide an institutional vehicle for the dissemination of the fruits of scholarly research to members of the Latter Day Saint Restoration churches and other interested persons.	70	2

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Organization The objectives of JWHA are to:



How can we promote/increase JWHA membership?

- One problem is that the community of Christ has seen a drop in interest in its church history, which diminishes the number of interested people to join JWHA. The Utah church's interest continues to be strong, but it would be a great loss if JWHA simply became MHA East. JWHA seems to do a good job reaching out to other branches of the restoration. Perhaps a focused effort there could help the diversity, and to assure no particular tradition overwhelms the reality that this started as an RLDS/Community of Christ affiliate and should continue if possible.
- More conferences out west.
- N/A
- Good PR.
- Get more Community of Christ people. Fewer BYU/Utah
- Share journal link, podcast link, maybe branch into videos if we have someone with the time to pull it off.
- Closer relationship with Community of Christ seminary. Consider partnership with seminary and making JWHA membership part of seminary enrollment for CofC members.
- Keep doing it
- Inclusive, to make sure all sects, which are many, can come to the table!
- Be more welcoming.
- Salt Lake City connections and the 'communalist/utopian' subfield of American social history connections. Also, history of American religion.
- Incorporate younger scholars into leadership.
- More scholarships/stipends to young scholars.
- Increase presence on university campuses.
- More aggressive social media outreach?

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- All organizations are struggling these days - younger people don't seem to be joiners! The best we can likely do is to continue to publicize our activities and invite!
- Have pastors and historians encourage at churches. Put out an inexpensive brochure with an application with benefits explained. Disseminate to other Restoration groups too!
- Continue to advertise in GU and BYU and in the Herald
- TRY TO STIMULATE MORE CofC SCHOLARSHIP
- Create opportunities to involve student interns from church history sites, promote social engagement at Graceland university, hold more casual hybrid/online events that are free and/or fundraisers, broaden the scope of the association to invite nonLDS or even nonCofC scholars to engage with Mormon scholarship as a secular pursuit.
- Expand outreach to non-academic audiences.
- You have to connect with and endear a younger demographic to join and not just those that are in graduate programs.
- No opinion - I'm too new a member to have formed an opinion.
- Keep up the outstanding work.
- Get support from church colleges i.e., Graceland.
- Try to get promoted on various Mormon-themed podcasts.
- Unsure
- Develop content relevant to the younger generation. I belong to four different historical societies, and it is discouraging to see the membership reflecting the de-emphasis on history within the education system.
- Do some advertising and tell what the historical association does to enhance the study, publication and conferences relating to Latter Day Saint heritage.
- Send a group email to young adults (under 40s) in JWHA for answers. Focus on building relationships with Mormon Studies/Utah schools beyond just giving them an ad for conference. The truth is that the answer to this question is complicated, and it might be a good idea to think about the current scene and think from there.
- Promote more with MHA members.
- Keep reaching out to others who are unfamiliar with our organization.
- Recruit more students and young professionals.
- Here are some suggestions to help attract new members and engage existing ones:
 - Effective Online Presence: Establish a stronger online presence through a redesigned and informative website. Ensure that it contains relevant information about JWHA, its mission, upcoming events, publications and resources. Regularly update the website with fresh content, including blog posts, podcasts, articles and historical insights to keep visitors engaged.
 - Social Media Engagement: Leverage various social media platforms to reach a wider audience. Create engaging content, share historical facts, member testimonials, and event updates. Encourage members to share their

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experiences and stories related to Latter Day Saint history to foster a sense of community.

-Targeted Marketing Campaigns: Utilize targeted digital marketing campaigns to reach potential members who have an interest in Latter Day Saint history or Restoration Studies. Advertise on platforms where history enthusiasts are likely to be present, such as historical forums, relevant websites, and social media groups.

-Collaboration with Educational Institutions: Partner with educational institutions, particularly those offering history or religious studies programs (especially those with Mormon Studies programs), to introduce students to JWHA. Offer student discounts for membership and organize events, workshops, or guest lectures to foster interest in Latter Day Saint history. -

Publishing and Research Opportunities:

-Encourage members to contribute to JWHA's publications, including the newsletter (not just the Journal). Providing opportunities for members to showcase their research and writing can enhance their involvement and sense of ownership within the association.

-Regional Chapters and Local Groups: Establish regional chapters or local groups to connect members living in the same geographic areas. These groups can organize local events, history tours and social gatherings, fostering a stronger sense of community and belonging.

-Online Events: Host online webinars, speakers and workshops to accommodate members who may not be able to attend physical events. These virtual gatherings can cover a range of topics and can feature experts from around the world.

-Word-of-Mouth and Referral Program: Encourage existing members to refer their friends and colleagues to join JWHA. Offer incentives for successful referrals to further incentivize word-of-mouth promotion.

-Inclusivity and Outreach: Ensure that the association is welcoming and inclusive to individuals from diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Outreach efforts should target both academics and enthusiasts, fostering a broad and inclusive community.

- {In my opinion} I wish to see increased and improved academic charity facilitated between plains and mountain scholarly efforts. Academic charity does occur, but it feels like a larger blind spot for mountain side, especially for who see themselves as New Mormon histor(Ians). I refer to a wish for greater engagement, not simply the absence of polemics. NMH books have been written, and yet it feels like a lot of silence on this subject. I am not sure how to promote JWHA membership based on this comment, I just want it to be so.
- Outreach to those involved in MHA and in the Global Mormon Studies Network who might well be interested and attracted to JWHA membership.
- I would think that a greater online presence will help to reach younger folks. Get the conference sessions online and make it easy to access the journal online.

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- More social media presence.
- Continue to hold conferences at historical early church sites and promote JWHA at MHA since they are losing site of their interest in early church history.
- Ask CofC "Reunion" leaders to invite a speaker to give a presentation on JWHA.
- Hm-m-m. Currently the study of history, the humanities, etc. is on the decline. I don't know how to find younger people who are history buffs.
- Reach out to students and more global participants.
- Encourage members to speak to others about it.

What suggestions do you have for the current board?

- None
- Carry on!
- More conferences out west.
- N/A
- Thank you for all you do! I know it is a tough job and your dedication is very much appreciated.
- Expand Restoration Studies portion of JWHA. Seminary students write papers related to Restoration Studies and CofC history as a part of the Community of Christ coursework. Provide a platform for online publication of selected work.
- No.
- Replace Cheryl as Book director and publish at least a book each year in the archaeology-history series, two books per year a better goal.
- More engagement in social spheres, e.g., podcasting.
- Please consider holding meetings west of Missouri
- Above answer
- Thanks for serving.
- Thank you for your board service and enthusiasm for Restoration scholarship. Has the board reached out to partner with the Graceland/CofC Seminary in relation to increasing article submissions for the journal and/or marketing JWHA opportunities with Graceland Seminary students/faculty members?
- New blood must be mentored from throughout dimensions of faith and professional expertise to make JWHA not merely a niche Restoration historical organization but a recognized viable one that is consistently perceived as on par with MHA. I know nothing of its financial solvency, but I did see how many of the 2022 conference attendees were past their middle-aged years. What will happen when these loyal members and their donations are gone? One way to address this can be by having both undergraduate and graduate level JWHA student liaisons that will utilize social media and their post-secondary experiences to foster interest in JWHA. What with the 2024 conference taking place in St. George, now is the time to network with college-level history programs (really any interested academic discipline) throughout CES and the Mountain West to offer some serious incentives for their instructors and pupils

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to not just attend and present at events but remain affiliated with JWHA in the long-term.

- See question above.
- Continue to have the conferences welcoming, friendly, enjoyable, interesting, and informative.
- You're doing a great job!
- Not sure how to answer.
- More frequent and robust digital content.
- Make the association interesting, especially for young members.
- The Board needs to take the downward financial situation of Community of Christ seriously. Will JWHA be proactive or reactive to this situation? New marketing based on what is important to the academic field and advertisements that includes both Community of Christ and "divergent paths" as JWHA's main focus.
- Stick to history topics. More coverage of schismatic groups would be of great interest, although I understand where this might not be the direction you want to go.
- -Strategic Planning: Engage in a comprehensive strategic planning process to define clear short-term and long-term goals for JWHA. Identify key areas of focus, such as membership growth, publications, educational initiatives, and outreach, and develop actionable plans to achieve these objectives.
- -Member Engagement: Prioritize member engagement and satisfaction. Regularly seek feedback from members to understand their needs and interests better. Create opportunities for members to actively participate in the association's activities, events, and decision-making processes.
- -Digital Transformation: Embrace technology and explore ways to leverage digital platforms to enhance JWHA's reach and impact. Invest in a user-friendly website, online publications, and virtual events to engage a wider audience and attract younger generations.
- -Financial Sustainability: Ensure JWHA's financial sustainability through effective budgeting, fundraising, and grant-seeking efforts. Diversify revenue streams to reduce dependence on any single source of funding.
- None
- Keep up the good work.
- Do whatever is necessary for the care and feeding of Cheryle Grinter.
- Keep the spring event tied to CofC World Conference. Members of Community of Christ founded the organization and knew that was an important link.
- Encourage more participation of Community of Christ Scholars. Encourage a diversity of topics. For example, polygamy gets a lot of focus, but there are so many more topics that need researched such as the interplay between different groups over the last 200 years.
- None.

What is your vision for JWHA in the next 5 years?

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- For JWHA to continue on its current trajectory.
- Growth
- Assure leadership include substantial input from the community of Christ and other branches of the restoration.
- More of the same.
- N/A
- Just being able to attend
- Transition to new general manager
- Survive, evolve, and grow. I guess that is my hope, not my vision. Just please help us keep going. Our members aren't spring chickens. No clue how you will grow as I think we've tried everything under the sun, but many of us have hope. Good luck!
- More exploration of historical methodology. Key questions: How does the critical historical study of Restoration history shape the traditions they inform and the future of those traditions? CofC continues to experience the effects of historical critical study on its tradition. With the publication of the JS papers, what similar or dissimilar effects will critical historical study have on Latter Day Saints?
- Increase CofC history.
- Continued interest in current organizational objectives.
- Grow young readers.
- Continued growth, and emphasis on free exchange of widely divergent ideas
- Expansive- all restoration groups should be noted.
- Currently dying but could be revitalized by sponsoring a series of archaeological investigations to tell the story of LDS printing. Kirtland, Far West, Nauvoo and possibly Independence publishing sites to be investigated to inspire interest and participation.
- Expand increasingly diverse membership and participation of all manifestations of the restoration movement.
- *Zzz*
- Na
- No response.
- JWHA would be the premiere institution and network for general Restoration Studies, and that it would host one of the leading podcasts and publishing houses for Restoration Studies.
- Expand the membership of young people. Get young scholars involved.
- Greater awareness of JWHA
- I hope JWHA continues to be a vehicle of discovery and dissemination of scholarly, historical research.
- Publish at least 2 scholarly books per year under JWHA imprint.
- Continue with your current program.
- Would like to see us continue- but am on the board of an old-time church-related organization that has “aged out” and are likely go to phase out! 😞
- No change.

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- Gain young people in membership and include faith building stories, not just warts and all the talk about polygamy.
- Continue promoting scholarly research in Restoration Studies.
- Carrying on the tradition with younger members
- Have meetings at both universities to increase Young Adult interest.
- CONCENTRATE ON CofC HISTORY MORE IF POSSIBLE
- I imagine it may shrink quite a bit as people pass away and young people don't feel like they can prioritize the association as an extracurricular, due to financial strains and limited free time. In five years, I would like to see conferences lean into an online space with, perhaps, shorter conferences that happen more often so people can attend them, perhaps a strong ambassador program through Mormon Studies (and similar programs) departments at various universities (Graceland, Virginia, BYU, Claremont, etc.) to attract young scholars.
- Continuing expansion and outreach to existing members and the next generation of scholars.
- See prior response.
- See question above.
- Maintaining the current level of vibrant conferences & journal & imprint publications
- Continue to offer opportunities for people of various backgrounds, scholarly levels, etc. to feel welcome.
- Continuation on existing path
- Holding meetings in more diverse settings i.e. St George, Quad cities Iowa, and Voree again
- I am hoping you would become more interested in and supportive of historical fiction, since that is my field. If it is done well, it can be a valuable tool for teaching history.
- Just continue doing what you're doing.
- Continue basic research.
- Not sure how to answer.
- I don't know. Maybe make the organization a little more accessible - a little more with new members in mind about prior work and prior meetings and prior events? It sort of feels like intruding to participate.
- You walk a tightrope. As CofC aspires to be a global representation of the Savior's work, its historical assets are bound to the geography of the Restoration. I would leverage and increase the footprint of the historic sites, especially in Nauvoo where the opportunity to rebuild the printing office and other structures on Water Street would enhance visitor experience.
- Continue to function as in the past.
- I am sure.
- Cautiously hopeful that we'll further make a difference in the world of Restoration scholarship.

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- For the JWHA Journal to regain the breadth and depth that it enjoyed before Covid.
- Continue to recruit others, including younger members. Become more expansive and inclusive.
- To continue promoting research on restoration history and making the findings of this research available at the annual conferences and in print.
- Bigger and better
- Over the next five years, the vision for JWHA should be to continue expanding its reach, influence and impact within the realm of Latter Day Saint history, Restoration Studies, and the history of the Community of Christ, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the smaller Latter Day Saint churches. The association should aim to become the leading and inclusive hub for scholars, historians, enthusiasts and students who are passionate about exploring the rich historical heritage of these diverse Restoration traditions.
- Continue to promote further scholarly research and quality within the current goals and objectives of this organization.
- Continue organizing annual conferences, continuing the Journal, continuing the church history podcasts it is currently providing.
- Bigger and better!
- Continue the emphasis on the broad range of Restoration studies.
- Don't cut funding, continue with programs.
- Be a place for those of us in restoration churches can study our common pasts while learn of our current differences.
- I really have none. I am now retired and disabled, so I am not writing, researching, or attending conferences anymore. However, I still support the research of others and enjoy reading about it.
- Continued financial stability and robust membership from both sides of the Rockies.
- Keep doing what you are doing.
- More open publication and discussion of more obscure (currently) history.
- I hope JWHA can continue to be a beacon of light in Latter Day Saint history. JWHA has developed a dialogue among the many branches of the LDS movement that is unique.
- I would like to see JWHA continue to thrive and draw in members of scholars and interested nonprofessionals from across the diverse range of CofChrist and other Restoration backgrounds.
- Status Quo
- JWHA continuing to encourage scholars of all ages and backgrounds to further the study of Restoration Studies.
- I am 84 years old. It is Hard for me to have a vision for me for the next single year.

Please share any additional comments.

- Keep up the good work.

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- You can never let Cheryle retire.
- N/A
- I'm going to go out on a limb and say one of our LDS friends worded this survey. Most would just clump LDS into Restoration Studies as has traditionally been done by the organization. Otherwise, we might chase off some members that are here because they feel inundated with LDS studies elsewhere. We are kind of the non-LDS safe space. No hate to my LDS friends because you are some of the kindest, most talented folks I know, but we are catering to all, or "CofC and other restoration flavors", not "LDS and others". Members have demonstrated concern in the past that we are starting to lean too LDS. So please take this as a gentle reminder.
- Invite Mormon Book Review host to a conference-as-well-as Dan Vogel. JWHA would have growth if we did this!
- The printing office at Kirtland burned and could be examined for evidence of arson, the possibility of a buried press, and the prospect of matching type with Kirtland publications such as the 1835 D&C.
- Zzz
- Na
- Journal is important but could be an annual publication rather than bi-annual.
- Thank you'
- Thank you to all involved in the JWHA for your contributions to sustaining the organization and uplifting the importance of Community of Christ history and scholarship.
- I received a scholarship to attend the 2022 conference and was so gratified by the experience, I now consider myself a long-term member.
- None.
- Be open to podcasts, and non "scholarly" writers so that all can be heard
- Being this is my first year, it's difficult to honestly know how to answer. I have only attended one event.
- This month's journal was terribly misprinted. The copy arriving at my house was out of register and illegible in places. If JWHA uses an external vendor for printing the journal, I would seek a refund for the latest edition.
- For me, as a non Mormon/C of C person, my interest is strictly in the history, which is fascinating. But, as for example, as the MHA has begun to focus more on other topics besides hard core history (gender topics, social justice topics, etc.), its value to me has become less. I hope JWHA doesn't go this direction. However, I completely understand that people with my interest are a very small demographic within JWHA (and probably MHA), so maybe my preference should be ignored! I appreciate everyone's hard work to bring people this history. Hopefully, I'll make it to a conference at some point, but September is always a very busy time for me.
- I love JWHA. It enriches my life.
- I do love this organization. Please keep this going

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- Please make it easier to access the conference sessions, including past sessions and the journals online
- Thank you for the work you do.
- The camaraderie at the meetings is what draws us all back.
- I think the board should publish a new mission statement.



John W. Hartman
Historical Association