

2025 JWHA Annual Conference DRAFT AGENDA

***Politics and Religion: The Impact of Governance and Government
on the Restoration Movements from 1830 to the Present***

Thursday, September 18, 2025				
Time	Number	Item	Who	Location/AV
4:00 - 6:00 pm		Conference Check-In		Atrium
6:00 - 6:30 pm		Annual Business Meeting	Mark Staker, President presiding	Auditorium
6:30 - 7:00 pm		Welcome to Independence		
7:00 PM		Introduce Greg Prince	Mark Staker	
7:00 - 8:00 pm	Keynote 101	Richard P. Howard Lecture "Hawaii: Ground Zero for the LDS Church's Foray into Marriage Equality"	Gregory A. Prince	
8:00 - 10:00 pm			Reception	
Friday, September 19, 2025				
Time	Number	Item	Who	Location/AV
7:30 am		Conference Check-In Open		Atrium
7:30 - 9:15 am		Light Breakfast - included in registration fee		Atrium
8:30 - 9:45 am Chair: Matthew L. Harris	Panel 201	"Historians and their Books: The Latest Scholarship on Joseph Smith"	Steven C. Harper David J. Howlett John G. Turner	Auditorium
Exploring Faith, Identity, and Human Rights in Restoration Communities				
8:30 - 9:45 am Chair: Makoto Hunter	Session 202	"God, Water, and Guns: A Study of Human Rights in the LeBaron Colony and Surrounding Communities"	Heather Harper Yates	Whistlestop Room
		"The 1891 Debate at East Jordan: A Struggle for Latter Day Saint Prophetic Authority"	Kyle Beshears	
Politics, Faith, and Personal Sacrifice: Exploring Law, Marriage, and Leadership in 19th Century America				
8:30 - 9:45 am Chair: Casey Paul Griffiths	Session 203	"Missouri Governor Daniel Dunklin's Statesmanship Opens Joseph Smith's Redemption Eye"	Glen Larson	WHDC Press Room
		"Living Outside the Law: My Seven Foremothers Who Lived Celestial Marriage"	Marian Peck Rees	
Legacy of Faith and Community in the Restoration Movement				
8:30 - 9:45 am Chair: Barbara B. Walden	Session 204	"Legacy of Community from the Prophet Joseph Smith: Making the Other a Brother"	Deanna Warden	Independence Room
		"C. Eugene Austin: A Child of Zion"	David Wilson	
		"Sibling Song in Cultural Cross Currents: Movements toward assimilation and distinction in recent CoC/LDS hymnody"	Rebecca Roesler	
9:45 - 10:15 am		Break		
Faith, Politics, and Exile: Mary Fielding Smith and Hannah Louisa Leavitt Terry				
10:15 - 11:30 am Chair: Iliana Christensen	Session 211	"Mary Fielding Smith and the Politics of Religion in Missouri, 1838"	Robyn Shahan Spears	Whistlestop Room
		"'Like Hagar, Sent Away': The life of Hannah Louisa Leavitt Terry, Pioneering Exiled Polygamist, Agent and Faithful"	Maclane E. Heward	
10:15 - 11:30 am Chair: Paul DeBarthe	Panel 212	"Zion at a Crossroads: The Supreme Directional Control Controversies of the 1920s and Their Lasting Impact"	Ken R. Mulliken Jason R. Smith Mark A. Scherer	Auditorium
Religious Authority and Memory: Analyzing Joseph Smith Jr.'s Prosecutions and the First Vision Through the Self-Memory System				
10:15 - 11:30 am Chair: Steven C. Harper	Session 213	"Reconstructing Revelation: A Cognitive Approach to Joseph Smith's First Vision"	Taylor Kerby	WHDC Press Room
		"Joseph Smith Jr. and 19th Century Prosecutions of Cunning Folk"	Nicholas S. Literski	
Uncovering Hidden Histories: Legal Triumphs and Forgotten Mormons in 19th Century America				

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10:15 - 11:30 am Chair: Eric Paul Rogers	Session 214	"Zion in the Hills: The Story of the Wightites in Gillespie County, Texas—The Tale of a Wandering Frontier Latter-day Saint Sect" "Guilty Until Proven Innocent: James J. Strang's 1851 Court Trial"	Katherine Peake Vickie Cleverley Speek	Independence Room
11:30 am - 12:00 pm		Break		
Exploring Perspectives on War and Peace: Insights from Activism and Religious Doctrine in the 1960s				
12:00 - 1:15 pm Chair: Seth L.	Session 221	"The Other Side of the Cornfield: Greg Walden's Role in Anti-War Activism on the Graceland Campus in the Late 1960s"	Barbara B. Walden William D. Russell	Whistlestop Room
Prairie Saints and Mountain Saints in Politics and War: Interdenominational Encounters in Early-20th-century America				
12:00 - 1:15 pm Chair: Robyn Shahan Spears	Session 222	"WWI Chaplain Herbert Maw and the 89th Infantry Division" "These Mormons Fight Polygamy': Utah Politicians' Plural Marriage Scandals and How the Reorganized Church Acquired National Attention, 1899–1907"	Kenneth L. Alford Makoto Hunter (JWHA scholarship recipient)	Auditorium
Expanding Borders: Transformations in Geography, Politics, and Race Among Latter-day Saints				
12:00 - 1:15 pm Chair: Craig L. Foster	Session 223	"Saints in Canada, Mexico, and the Early Internationalization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" "Joseph Smith and Mitt Romney: Shifting Political Tides and American Latter-day Saints" "Adam S. Bennion and the Priesthood and Temple Policy"	Harrison Endicott (JWHA scholarship recipient) Phoebe E. Turvaville (JWHA scholarship recipient) Casey Paul Griffiths	WHDC Press Room
Sacred Spaces and State Power: Latter-day Saint Experience in Far West and Post-Soviet Russia				
12:00 - 1:15 pm Chair: Kyle R. Walker	Session 224	"LDS Missionary Work in the Shadow of Russian Governance" "Joseph and Emma Smith's Residences in Far West, Missouri"	Grace Guentzel (JWHA scholarship recipient) Alex Baugh	Independence Room
1:15 - 1:30 pm		Break		
1:30 - 2:00 pm		Awards Ceremony - included in registration fee		Auditorium
2:00 - 2:30 pm		Awards Luncheon - included in registration fee		Atrium
2:30 - 3:00 pm		Break		
3:00 - 4:15 pm Chair: David	Panel 231	"Pregnant Possibilities: Sexuality in Joseph Smith's Nauvoo"	Mark Tensmeyer Amanda Hendrix-	Auditorium
Connecting Histories and Divergent Journeys: Insights into Local Links and Broader Movements in American Religious History				
3:00 - 4:15 pm Chair: Makoto Hunter	Session 232	"James A. Garfield and the Booth Family of Hiram, Ohio: Examining Their Intersections and Peripheral Ties to Mormonism" "Divergent Paths of the Stone-Campbell Restoration Movement"	Kyle R. Walker Mike LeCheminant	WHDC Press Room
Critics of Mormonism's Flight from Polygamy				
3:00 - 4:15 pm Chair: Kyle Beshears	Session 233	"Heber J. Grant versus Heber Bennion: Relative(s) Conflict over Post Manifesto Polygamy" "Second Echelon Latter-day Saints and the Early Fundamentalists"	Newell G. Bringhurst Craig L. Foster	Whistlestop Room

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Faith, Economy, and Innovation: Exploring Joseph Smith's Role in the United Order and the Spiritual				
3:00 - 4:15 pm Chair: T. Kendall Buchmiller	Session 234	"The United Order and the Political Economy of Joseph Smith: An Economic Analysis"	Mark Skousen	Independence Room
		"Joseph Smith: The Architect of Mormonism—Documenting the Development of the Founding Prophet"	Ganesh Cherian	
4:15 pm - 6:00 pm		Scavenger Hunt		
4:15 pm - 6:15 pm		Library & Museum Guided Tour - advance registration required		Start in Grandview Hall near Truman Statue
6:00 pm - 6:30 pm		Reception - included in registration fee		
		Family Search - Family Tree Meet & Greet		Atrium
6:30 - 8:00 pm	Keynote 241	"Prophetic People Deciding Together"	Stassi D. Cramm	Auditorium
Saturday, September 20, 2025				
Time	Number	Item	Who	Location/AV
7:30 am		Conference Check-In Open		Atrium
7:30 - 9:15 am		Light Breakfast - included in registration fee		Atrium
W. Cleon Skousen and Hugh B. Brown: Polar Opposites, Or—A view from the Right and Left in LDS Politics				
8:30 - 9:45 am Chair: Eric Paul Rogers	Session 301	"W. Cleon Skousen: His Life as a Public Intellectual and Influencer"	Jo Ann Skousen	WHDC Press Room
		"W. Cleon Skousen and Hugh B. Brown: Polar Opposites, Or—A view from the Right and Left in LDS Politics"	Matthew L. Harris	
Women at the Edges of Mormonism				
8:30 - 9:45 am Chair: Ganesh Cherian	Session 302	"Fanny W. Custer: A Case Study of Method and Margins"	David Golding (pre-recorded)	Whistlestop Room
		"'The Name and Blood of His Chosen Ones': Ina Coolbrith and the Smith Family?"	Amanda Hendrix-Komoto	
		"Helen Foster Snow at the Edges of Mormonism"	Spencer Stewart	
		"Susan Stryker: The RLDS Upbringing of a Transgender Historian"	Makoto Hunter (JWHA scholarship recipient)	
Political Legacies and Restoration Visions				
8:30 - 9:45 am Chair: Jason R. Smith	Session 303	"Of Prophets and Presidents: Harry S. Truman and the Smiths"	Mark A. Scherer	Auditorium
		"The Politics of Restoration: Redeeming America Through the Martyred Visions of Joseph Smith Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy Sr."	Derek R. Sainsbury Katie Harrington Dunn	
Restoration on Trial: Legal Battles over Office and Ownership				
8:30 - 9:45 am Chair: Katherine Peake	Session 304	"Jurors and Witnesses Who Do Not Blush to Declare': County Government in Antebellum Missouri"	Sherilyn Farnes	Independence Room
		"The Temple Lot Case: Rightful Owner vs. Rightful Successor"	Mark Tensmeyer	
9:45 - 10:15 am		Break		
Honoring Heritage and Fostering Transformation: Exploring Values, Identity, and Evolving Pedagogies in Restorationist Traditions				
10:15 - 11:30 am Chair: Nicholas S. Literski	Session 311	"Evolving Pedagogies and Historical Consciousness in Restorationist Traditions: A Case Study of the Reorganized Church (Community of Christ)"	Roger Allen Rose	Independence Room
		"Fractal Patterns of Values: Reimagining Restoration Curriculum Through History, Theology, and Identity"	Ken R. Mulliken	
Latter Day Saints and Local Politics: Free Labor and the Free Press in the Early Restoration				
10:15 - 11:30 am Chair: Harrison Endicott	Session 312	"Saints and Slaves: Patchwork Evidence of Abolitionists Among the Early Mormons"	Paul DeBarthe	WHDC Press Room
		"The Saints and Local Politics in 1830s Kirtland"	Seth L. Bryant	
Evolutions in Latter-day Saint Religious Education				

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10:15 - 11:30 am Chair: Eric Paul Rogers	Session 313	"Evolving Understandings: The Impact of Changing Definitions of 'Doctrine' on Religious Education in the LDS Church"	T. Kendall Buchmiller	Auditorium
		"Navigating Doubt: Four Decades of Evolving Approaches in LDS Religious Education"	Jared M. Halverson	
		"The Politics of Belonging: Gender, Family, and Gatekeeping in LDS Religious Education"	Iliana Christensen Eric Paul Rogers	
The Reorganized Church and Race				
10:15 - 11:30 am Chair: David J. Howlett	Session 314	"Black Americans in Community of Christ: A Journey of Hope"	Gwendolyn Hawks-Blue	Whistlestop Room
		"A Young Editor Endures Strong Criticism From the RLDS Prophet for Publishing Articles on Civil Rights"	William D. Russell	
12:00 - 5:30 pm	Bus Tours	Bus Tours - advanced registration required		
		Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park (Topeka, Kansas)	Matthew L. Harris	
		National WWI Museum and Memorial (Kansas City, Missouri)	Kenneth L. Alford	
6:30 pm		Presidential Banquet - advanced registration required		Whistlestop Room/ Indpendence Room
7:45 pm	Keynote 321 Audio	Presidential Address - advanced registration required “The Whitmer Family and the Church of Christ: Pacifists, Anti-Intellectuals, and the German Pietist Roots of a Founding Family”	Mark L. Staker	Auditorium
		Pass the gavel Install 2025-2026 Officers & Board Members	Rachel Killebrew, past JWHA president	
Sunday, September 21, 2025				
Time	Number	Item	Who	Location/AV
9:00 - 10:30 am	Hymn Fest	Stories and Songs for Social Justice	Community of Christ prophet-president Stassi D. Cramm, her counselors, and members of the Council of Twelve Apostles	Community of Christ Temple Sanctuary