

Cross Roads of Indentity, Community, and Technology

2026 JWHA Annual Conference Agenda

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Time		Item	Presenter(s)	Location
4:00 - 6:00 pm		Conference Check In		Prefunction
6:00 - 6:30 pm		Annual Business Meeting	Matt Harris, presiding	Room F
6:45 pm	Welcome	Welcome to Council Bluffs	Kayla Becknuss	
7:00 - 8:00 pm	Keynote 101	Richard P. Howard Lecture <i>Nuclear Colonialism and the Ambivalent Church: Responses to French Pacific Nuclear Weapons Testing by International Leaders of Community of Christ/the RLDS Church</i>	Matthew Breay Bolton	
8:00 - 10:00 pm		Reception Included in registration fee First Time Attendees meet-and-greet		Room B
8:30 pm		Meet the Author Book Signing Matthew Bolton, <i>From Militarized Mission to Global Solidarity: The Life and Work of Missionary and Humanitarian Charles D. Neff</i>		

Friday, September 25, 2026

Time		Item	Presenter(s)	Location
8:00 - 10:00 am		Light Breakfast Included in registration fee		Room B
8:30 - 9:45 am Chair: Taunalyn Ford	Session 201	Memory and the Making of Joseph Smith		
		From Fawn Brodie to John Turner: Evolving Portrayals of Joseph Smith	Newell G. Bringham	Room H
		The Choice of My Heart and the Crown of My Life: How Eliza R. Snow Remembered Joseph Smith	Jenny Reeder	
8:30 - 9:45 am Chair: Mark Staker	Session 202	Movement and Mission on the Latter Day Saint Frontier		
		Mormon Battalion: Relief and Extraordinary Service	Glen Larson	Room I
		No Purse or Scrip: The History of Full-time No Purse or Scrip Missionary Service in the California Mission (1948-1950)	Trace Rogers	
8:30 - 9:45 am Chair: Eugene Shurts	Roundtable 203	Benefits of Untold Stories		
		Benefits of Untold Stories	Paul DeBarthe Randall J. Soland Joseph Johnstun James Topic Margret S. Shurts Eugene Shurts	Room J
8:30 - 9:45 am Chair: R. Jean Addams	Session 204	A New Day in Zion: The 1926 Conferences of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)		
		A New Day in Zion: The 1926 Conferences of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)	Jason R. Smith	Room K
		Otto Fetting, the Temple Lot and the Rise of the Elijah Message Church (pre-recorded)	Adam Oliver Stokes	
9:45 - 10:15 am		Break ♦Exhibits Open ♦On-Line Auction ♦Visit JW Books		
10:15 - 11:30 am Chair: Ken Mulliken	Panel 211	Publishing Restoration Scholarship Today: Journals, Books, and the Future of the Field		
		Publishing Restoration Scholarship Today: Journals, Books, and the Future of the Field	Ken R. Mulliken Amanda Hendrix-Komoto Justin Dyer Seth Bryant Barbara Jones Brown	Room F
11:30 am - 12:00 pm		Break ♦Exhibits Open ♦On-Line Auction ♦Visit JW Books		
11:30 am - 12:00 pm		Meet the Author Book Signing Gregory Edwards, <i>A Life of the Mind: An Intimate Biography of Paul M. Edwards</i>	Gregory Edwards	Prefunction JW Books Table
12:00 - 1:00 pm		Awards Ceremony Included in registration fee	Robin Jensen	Room F
1:00 - 1:30 pm		Awards Luncheon Included in registration fee		Room B
1:30 - 2:00 pm		Break ♦Exhibits Open ♦On-Line Auction ♦Visit JW Books		

Time	Session	Item	Presenter(s)	Location
2:00 - 3:15 pm Chair: Newell Bringham	Session 221	Author Meets Critics: <i>Unsettling Scripture: Iroquois and the Book of Mormon</i>		
		Author Meets Critics: <i>Unsettling Scripture: Iroquois and the Book of Mormon</i>	Thomas W. Murphy Elise Boxer Amanda Hendrix-Komoto Paul DeBarthe	Room H
2:00 - 3:15 pm Chair: Kyle Beshears	Session 222	Latter-day Saint Theologian Among Christian Theologians	Kyle Beshears Grant Underwood John Christopher Thomas D. William Faupel	Room I
2:00 - 3:15 pm Chair: Rachel Killebrew	Session 223	Alternative Scriptures and Contested Inheritances in Restoration Traditions		
		Gnostic Mormonism: An Examination of the Scriptures of the Gnostic Temple of the Pearl	Mike LeCheminant	Room J
		Flat Earthers, Anglo-Israelism, and the Golden Plates Revisited: The Responses of Three Churches with Problematic Inheritances Compared	John C. Hamer	
2:00 - 3:15 pm Chair: Harrison Endicott	Session 224	Authority, Schism, and Identity in Restoration Traditions		
		Our Leader is Dead; Who has the Instruction Manual?	Vickie Speek Katherine Peake	Room K
		The American Indian Movement (AIM) and the Occupation of the RLDS Kansas City Stake Office Building, 1978	David J. Howlett	
3:15 - 3:45 pm		Break ♦Exhibits Open ♦On-Line Auction ♦Visit JW Books		
3:45 - 5:00 pm Chair: Matthew Turner	Session 231	Joseph Smith in Political Thought and Practice		
		Was Joseph Smith a Utopian Socialist?	Mark Skousen	Room H
		Carrying the Candidate: Joseph Smith's electioneers, Robert F. Kennedy's campaigners, and Creating Political Community Before and After Assassination	Derek R. Sainsbury Allianna Nolte	
3:45 - 5:00 pm Chair: Barbara Walden	Session 232	Forscutt, Hymnody, and the Making of RLDS Identity		
		"I Am Anxious to See My Children": Marriage, Authority, and Family Rupture at the Crossroads	Eric Paul Rogers	Room I
		The Epic (Fail?) of Mark Hill Forscutt's <i>The Saints' Harmony</i>	Rebecca Roesler	
		RLDS and Mormon Hymns 1860-1890: Authors, Hymns, and the Meaning of the Times	Bradley Armstrong	
3:45 - 5:00 pm Chair: Nancy Ross	Session 233	Grief, Theology, and Interpretation in Restoration Texts		
		"Thou Wilt a Mother to It Be": Grief, Sisterhood, and Resurrection Theology in an 1847 Letter to Helen Mar Whitney	Emelia Manwaring Jensen	Room J
		Seven Nephite Inversions of Jesus' Sermon at the Temple (pre-recorded)	Elray Henriksen	
3:45 - 5:15 pm Chair: Patrick Bishop	Session 234	Advance Documentary Screening: "Brother Joseph Again, Restoring the Likeness of Joseph Smith Jr."		
		Participants will view the documentary "Brother Joseph Again, Restoring the Likeness of Joseph Smith Jr."	Patrick A. Bishop Joseph F. Brickey	Room F
6:30 - 8:30 pm	Banquet	Presidential Banquet Advance registration required		Room B
	President's Address 241	Presidential Banquet Address Advance Registration Required <i>"What the Present Owe the Past": Or, What Historians Owe LDS Church History</i>	Matthew L. Harris	Room F
		2026 -2027 Board of Director's Installation		

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Time	Session	Item	Presenter(s)	Location
8:00 - 10:00 am		Light Breakfast Included in registration fee		Room B
8:30 - 9:45 am Chair: Casey Griffiths	Session 301	Documentary and Book Presentation and Q&A: Brother Joseph Again, Restoring the Likeness of Joseph Smith Jr.		
		Documentary and Book Presentation and Q&A: Brother Joseph Again, Restoring the Likeness of Joseph Smith Jr.	Patrick A. Bishop Joseph F. Brickey	Room F
8:30 - 9:45 am Chair: Jenny Reeder	Session 302	Religion and Politics in the Search for Community		
		Pottawattamie County 1850 and Christian Nationalism	Dan Kelty	Room I
		The Mormon and the Moonies: The Ecumenical W. Cleon Skousen	Jo Ann Skousen	

Time		Item	Presenter(s)	Location
8:30 - 9:45 am Chair: Jason Smith	Session 303	Leadership and Community Identity in RLDS History		
		William A. Hopkins: Architect of a Modern Lamoni	James S. Jones	Room J
		Joseph Smith Lee, Sr. (1839-1921), "The Rocky Mountain Hunter": Rediscovering the Life of an Apocalyptic RLDS Prophet, Showman, and Counterfeiter	Lee Krähenbühl	
8:30 - 9:45 am Chair: David Howlett	Session 304	From Stability to Innovation in Community of Christ Leadership		
		A History of Beyond the Walls	Michael Karpowicz	Room K
		G. Leslie DeLapp, Presiding Bishop, Faithful Minister for Church Finance, and Community Development	Dan Whittmore	
9:45 - 10:15 am		Break ◆Exhibits Open ◆On-Line Auction ◆Visit JW Books		
10:15 - 11:30 am Chair: Eric Paul Rogers	Session 311	Communication, Authority, and Community in Restoration Movements		
		Diverse Gatherings in the Restoration Family: Comparing General and World Conferences Among Three Restoration Movements	Casey Paul Griffiths	Room H
		Meeting Together: The Evolution of General Membership Conferences of Community of Christ and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Jessica Yospe Scholarship Recipient	
		An Alphabet of Motives: Examining the Implicit Morality and Value Associations of the Deseret Alphabet	Harrison Allen Endicott Scholarship Recipient	
10:15 - 11:30 am Chair: Kayla Becknuss	Session 312	Regulating Bodies and Sexuality		
		The Development of LDS Garments in Purity Culture 1940-1979	Nancy Ross	Room I
		"Strang Reigns in the Place of Smith": The Letter of Appointment and Its Earliest Readers	Kyle Beshears	
10:15 - 11:30 am Chair: Robert Stevens	Workshop 313	Workshop: Artificial Intelligence in Historical Research		
		Trust but Verify: AI Productivity and Risk in Historical Research	Rob Stevens	Room J
10:15 - 11:30 am Chair: Mike LeCheminant	Session 314	Authority, Experience, and Interpretation in Early Latter Day Saint Thought		
		The Book of Mormon as an Automatic Writing	Brian C. Hales	Room K
		Our Fathers Called It Liahona	Elliott Saxton	
11:30 - 11:45 am		Break ◆Exhibits Open ◆On-Line Auction ◆Visit JW Books		
11:45 - 12:15 pm	Hymn Fest	Celebration of Restoration Music	Rebecca Roesler Nancy Ross	Room F
12:15 - 12:45 pm		Tour Bus Load		Convention Center Entrance Circle Drive
1:00 - 5:30 pm	Bus Tour	Remembering the Ladies! The Women of Early Omaha & Union Station Tour Advance registration required		
6:00 pm	Banquet	Banquet Advance registration required		Room B
6:30 - 7:30 pm Chair: Nancy Ross	Panel 325	Who Leaves and Who Stays?: Patterns of Latter-day Saint Disaffiliation and Retention		
		Advance registration required	Jana Riess Ryan T. Cragun Justin Dyer Jeffrey Dotson	Room F
		Conference Closing Remarks	Nancy Ross	