Friday, March 13, 2020
Assembly Hall on Temple Square
and Church Office Building Auditorium, Salt Lake City, Utah

9:00–10:30 A.M., SESSION 1, ASSEMBLY HALL ON TEMPLE SQUARE

Chair: Curtis Ashton
Jeffrey Mahas, “Wonderful Light and Mystery”: The Lesser-Known 1838 Account of Joseph Smith’s First Vision
Quinten Barney, A Contextual Background for Joseph Smith’s Last Known Recounting of the First Vision
Lisa Olsen Tait, The Vision Beautiful: Susa Young Gates on What the First Vision Meant to Women
James Miller, “For Good and Evil”: Perceptions of Joseph Smith’s Visionary Activities in the Russian Press

10:45 A.M.–12:15 P.M., SESSION 2, ASSEMBLY HALL ON TEMPLE SQUARE

Chair: Emily Utt
Don Bradley, The Father and the Son: Joseph Smith’s Quest to Save His Family as the Root of the Restoration
Maxine Hanks, Visionary Women: Feminine Influence in the First Vision
Jennifer Reeder, Emma Smith’s Role in Joseph Smith’s Vision
Kyle Walker, Smith Family Recollections of Joseph Smith’s First Vision

12:15–1:45 P.M., LUNCH (NOT PROVIDED)

1:45–3:15 P.M., SESSION 3, CHURCH OFFICE BUILDING AUDITORIUM

Chair: Jacob Olmstead
Matthew Godfrey, The “Nature” of Revelation: The Influence of the Natural Environment on Joseph Smith’s Revelatory Experiences
Samuel Palfreyman, Latter-day Saint Roots in the American Forest: God, the Devil, and Angels in the Nineteenth-Century Hemlock-Hardwood Forest of New York
Gary Boatright Jr., The Sacred Grove: Its History, Preservation, and Regeneration
Adam Dunstan, “This Is Where It Happened”: The Sacred Grove as a More-Than-Historic Site

3:30–4:00 P.M., PLENARY ADDRESS, CHURCH OFFICE BUILDING AUDITORIUM

President Dallin H. Oaks, Writing about the Prophet Joseph Smith

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Thursday, March 12, 2020
BYU Conference Center, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

9:00–10:00 A.M., KEYNOTE ADDRESS, 2254 CONF (AUDITORIUM)
Richard L. Bushman, The First Vision Today

10:15–11:30 A.M., CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1

SESSION 1A, 2254 CONF (AUDITORIUM)
Chair: Riley Lorimer
Samuel Brown, The Individual and Corporate Aspects of Salvation
Breck England, The Ordeal of the Dispensational Prophet: The First Vision as Apocalypse
Scott Woodward, Joseph Smith and the Everlasting Covenant

SESSION 1B, 2258 CONF
Chair: Nathan Jones
Ronald Bartholomew, Unpublished Visions of Postmortem Joseph Smith
Christopher Blythe, “His Most Horrible Power”: W. W. Phelps’s Vision of the Destroyer on the Missouri River
Kyle Beshears, Echoes of Palmyra in Voree: James Strang’s Visions in the Wake of Joseph Smith’s Death

SESSION 1C, 2260 CONF
Chair: Jessica Nelson
Rachel Cope, Teaching the First Vision in Its Historical Context
Spencer McBride, Podcasting the First Vision
Joseph Stuart, Portraying the First Vision in Biography

11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M., LUNCH (NOT PROVIDED)

1:00–2:15 P.M., CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2

SESSION 2A, 2254 CONF
Chair: Scott Esplin
J. Chase Kirkham, Envisioning the God of Time: The Temporal Conversions of Joseph Smith and William Miller
Stephen Fleming, Jane Lead and the Restored Gospel
Barbara Gardner, Opening the Gateway of Heaven: A Look at Doctrine and Opportunities Regarding Women since the First Vision

SESSION 2B, 2258 CONF
Chair: JB Haws
Steven Hepworth, “I Was Seized Upon by Some Power”: Joseph Smith, Satan, and the First Vision
Mary Jane Woodger, Joseph Smith on Dreams as Revelation

SESSION 2C, 2260 CONF
Chair: Fred Woods
Robert Millet, Doctrinal Insights from Joseph Smith’s First Vision
Steven Olsen, How the Joseph Smith Story Is True: A Literary Perspective
Hillary Kirkham, Reframing the Martyrdom: The First Vision, Trauma, and the Uses of Memory

2:30–4:00 P.M., CONCURRENT SESSIONS 3

SESSION 3A, 2254 CONF
Chair: Carter Charles
Casey Griffiths, The First Vision in Film
Anthony Sweat, Visualizing the Vision: The History and Future of First Vision Art
Gerrit Van Dyk, The First Vision as Literature: How Writers Have Engaged with Joseph’s Theophany
Nathan Williams, Portraying the First Vision in Biography

SESSION 3B, 2258 CONF
Chair: Steven Harper
Alex Baugh, Joseph Smith’s Multiple Visions of the Father and the Son
John Hilton, Joseph Smith and Revelatory Visions of Christ’s Crucifixion
Keith Wilson and Katy Pratt Sumsion, The Importance of the First Vision in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and in the Community of Christ: A Longitudinal Study
Ryan Gardner, The Continuing Transformative Impact of Joseph Smith’s First Vision as Used in General Conference

SESSION 3C, 2260 CONF
Chair: Devan Jensen
Richard Bennett, Quiet Revivalism: Pouring Cold Water over the Burned-Over District: A Reinterpretation of Religious Revivalism in Upstate New York in 1820
Mark Staker, Joseph Smith’s Palmyra During the Religious Revivals of 1818
Gerrit Dirkmaat, “Visited by the Spirit of the Almighty”: Jonathan Hadley and the Earliest History of Joseph Smith’s Visions
Kathryn Burnside, Joseph Smith and Wilford Woodruff as Visionary Prophets

4:00–5:00 P.M., KEYNOTE ADDRESS, 2254 CONF (AUDITORIUM)
Sheri Dew, Joseph Smith and the Problem of Loneliness