

2026 Church History Symposium

Call for Papers

Memorials and Commemoration: How the Saints Remember and Celebrate History

The Department of Church History and Doctrine at BYU and the Church History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announce the Church History Symposium to be held on October 22–23. The symposium will convene at Brigham Young University (October 22) and at the Conference Center Theater in Salt Lake City (October 23).

We invite students and scholars of diverse backgrounds and career stages to submit proposals specifically addressing the theme of “Memorials and Commemoration: How the Saints Remember and Celebrate History.” We welcome proposals from a variety of disciplines and methodological approaches on culturally and geographically diverse topics.

Topics that could be explored under this theme include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Relationship between Latter-day Saint theology and history
- Early Latter-day Saint commemoration (e.g., Zion’s Camp reunions, Joseph F. Smith’s 1905 trip, etc.)
- Contemporary Latter-day Saint commemoration (e.g. pioneer trek, including adaptations across the world, the Restoration proclamation, youth cultural celebrations, etc.)
- Development of the Church’s historic sites
- Contested memory of shared sacred spaces
- Remembrance of traumatic events and difficult history
- Memorialization of locally significant people, places, and events
- Preservation of historic buildings and landscapes
- Artistic depictions of historic events
- Church history in film
- Pageants and performances
- Historical pilgrimages and heritage tourism
- Material culture of memorialization
- Monuments and markers

Proposals should consist of a brief abstract (no more than 200 words) and a current CV. Proposals may be sent to: church_history_symposium@byu.edu

Deadline for submission is December 1, 2025. Notification of acceptance will be given by February 1, 2026.

Selected papers will be published by the BYU Religious Studies Center and Deseret Book following the symposium.

Respectfully,

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