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INTRODUCTION

THE subject chosen for the 2010 Brigham Young University Church History Symposium was the organizational and administrative history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The response to the call for papers to the symposium was very gratifying, and we knew from the beginning that the possible topics were many because most topics in Mormon history are related to administrative history. As a divinely mandated delivery system for the saving ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the basic priesthood structure was established under the inspired direction of Joseph Smith in its earliest years. Established in Fayette, New York, on April 6, 1830, with about fifty people attending the organizational meeting, the Church has grown to over fourteen million members in countries throughout the world. The Church's success can in part be attributed to the firm foundation established by Joseph Smith.

The symposium itself was organized into sessions that traced the major developments in the organizational history of the Church. For this volume, we have arranged the papers into roughly chronological sections that deal with various themes. The first section deals with the Church's revelatory foundation, beginning with Richard Lyman Bushman's opening talk, which set the stage for the conference. Bushman's

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remarks show the great organizational genius of Joseph Smith that managed to combine both revelatory and bureaucratic elements into the structure of the Church from its earliest years. The other articles in this section expand on this theme, examining elements of the Church's early foundation, including the emergence of the presiding quorums and priesthood structures that remain central to the Church today.

The second section gives attention to the programs and organizations that were established in order to gather, organize, and strengthen Church members.

The third section addresses important adjustments to administration as the Church encountered the end of its isolation in the Great Basin following the Gold Rush, and later as members moved out the more rural and agricultural settings at the end of the nineteenth century. It also brings the story up to the present time with articles treating such topics as Church correlation, welfare, and education.

A fourth section examines the organization and administration of the Church's missions. A final section offers a bibliographic essay as a guide to further study.

Many topics are not treated in this volume, and a number of those presented during the symposium will be found elsewhere. For example, Jill Mulvay Derr's presentation on the early history of the Relief Society will be published in her forthcoming biography of Eliza R. Snow, and David J. Whittaker's abbreviated presentation on the key role of Joseph B. Keeler at the beginning of the twentieth century had already been published in full as "Joseph B. Keeler, Print Culture, and the Modernization of Mormonism, 1885–1918," in *Religion and the Culture of Print in Modern America*, ed. Charles L. Cohen and Paul S. Boyer (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2008), 105–27.

Because the rich and complex history of the administration of the Church cannot be treated in just one volume, a bibliographical essay appears at the end of the volume that will direct readers to the growing literature on the topics of the symposium.

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We are grateful to Elder Marlin K. Jensen, Church Historian and Recorder, for providing a foreword to this volume. He has consistently provided encouragement and support for the serious study of Church history over the years he has served in his calling. We are also grateful for the consistent support of Kent P. Jackson, then the associate dean of Religious Education at BYU, who saw the potential for this topic when it was proposed and has consistently encouraged us as we organized the symposium and worked on the volume. Thanks also to the Religious Studies Center staff for their work on the editing and production of this volume: Robert L. Millet, R. Devan Jensen, Brent R. Nordgren, Joany O. Pinegar, Jessica S. Arnold, Jacob F. Frandsen, Jonathon R. Owen, Rosalind E. Ricks, and Jeffrey M. Wade.