



FAIR

2025 CONFERENCE
AUGUST 6-8, 2025

THE SHOW BARN AT THANKSGIVING POINT

Welcome to the 2025 FAIR Conference!

There's a narrative out there that questions aren't welcome in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—that you can't have questions and stay in the Church. But nothing could be further from the truth. Scripture and history are full of examples of the Lord responding to sincere questions with revelation, reassurance, and direction. In fact, we are commanded to ask and seek.

At FAIR, we believe that questions aren't just welcome—they're essential. We also believe that where and how you look for answers makes a difference. The world is full of voices claiming to have the truth, but truth is best found in places grounded in faith, integrity, and a willingness to seek both spiritually and intellectually.

This conference is a space for that kind of seeking. We've brought together people who have taken hard questions seriously—and stayed faithful. We hope you'll leave not only with answers, but with increased confidence in your ability to keep asking, keep learning, and keep following Jesus Christ.

A heartfelt thank you to the donors, speakers, and sponsors who made this event possible. We're so glad you're here.

Warmly,
DeLayna A. Beck
Operations Manager, FAIR

Help Us Defend the Faith – Support FAIR!

Thanks to two generous donors, ***every dollar you give will be TRIPLED***—your \$50 becomes \$150, \$100 becomes \$300, and \$500 becomes \$1,500!

The FAIR Conference is our biggest event of the year, uniting faithful scholars and disciples to strengthen testimonies and defend the gospel of Jesus Christ. But did you know that FAIR provides this conference basically at cost?

That's right—your registration barely covers the basics. That's because we believe the messages shared at the FAIR Conference should be available to as many people as possible, no matter their financial situation. That's where you come in.

Your donation today fuels not just this year's conference but FAIR's work into 2026 and beyond. And there's more: ***another donor will give up to 40% of what we raise—but only if we meet our goal.*** For details on how to donate, turn to **page 12** of the program.

Please give generously. Then share this campaign with someone who wants to keep the faith strong.

Let's make 2025 our most impactful year yet!

Agenda at a Glance

Wednesday

- 6:30 pm** *Registration and Mingling*
- 7:15 pm** Presidential Address
Scott Gordon
- 7:30 pm** Fluent in Our Faith: Identifying Evidence of the Glad Tidings of the Gospel in Our Everyday Reality
Aaron Sherinian
- 8:30 pm** *Refreshments*

Thursday

- 9 am** *Welcome and Opening Remarks*
- 9:15 am** Live Recording of the *Come Back* Podcast
Ashly Stone interviewing Don Bradley
- 10:00 am** A Broader Framework for Understanding Gender Equality in the Church
Meagan Kohler
- 10:45 am** Protecting Children—The Crucial Role of Church Clergy and the Abuse Help Line
Randy Austin & Kerri Nielsen
- 11:15 am** *Morning Break*
- 12 pm** Overcoming the Disappointments of this Life
Brandon Mull
- 12:45 pm** *Lunch Break (Food Provided)*
- 1:45 pm** Panel Discussion with the Women of Ward Radio: The Role of Women in Defending the Church
Moderated by Jennifer Roach Lees
- 2:15 pm** A Mesoamerican Urim and Thummim
Michael R. Ash
- 3:00 pm** *Afternoon Break*
- 3:15 pm** Cherishing the “Dark Nights of the Soul”: Re-framing Unfortunate Faith Crises into Essential Faith Journeys
Matthew Christiansen
- 4:15 pm** Plate Math: A Combinatorial Approach to Modeling All Possible Golden Plates
Josh Coates

Agenda at a Glance

Friday

- 9 am** *Welcome and Opening Remarks*
- 9:15 am The Path of The Peacemaker
Brad Witbeck
- 10:00 am The Case for Positive Contention
Zach Wright
- 10:45 am** *Morning Break*
- 11:15 am Making Jesus Tangible
Al Carraway
- 12 pm “O God, Where Art Thou?”: Working My Way Through Spiritual Silence
Matthew Godfrey
- 12:45 pm** *Lunch Break (Food Provided)*
- 1:45 pm Lived Experience of Mormon Women
Barbara Morgan Gardner
- 2:15 pm Panel Discussion: Lived Experience of Mormon Women
Moderated by Barbara Morgan Gardner
- 3:00 pm** *Afternoon Break*
- 3:15 pm Why Doctrinal Purity Matters—and How to Avoid Doctrinal Drift
Benjamin C. Peterson
- 4:15 pm Brigham Young and Slavery
Daniel C. Peterson

Fill out the survey, and let us know what you thought about this year’s conference!



Views expressed in conference presentations and by sponsors are their own do not necessarily reflect those of FAIR or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

\$24.99

DEFENDING THE BOOK OF MORMON



PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2023 FAIR VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

EDITED BY
SCOTT GORDON
TREVOR HOLYOAK
JARED RIDDICK

AVAILABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER

On the 200th anniversary of Joseph Smith being shown the gold plates, FAIR hosted the first of their open-call virtual conferences; that year's conference focused entirely on the Book of Mormon. This volume brings together the inspiring and thought-provoking papers shared during that event, along with several others, including an opening keynote address by renowned historian Richard L. Bushman.

With topics ranging from history and archaeology to doctrine and personal belief, these essays offer meaningful insights into the origins, translation, and enduring significance of the Book of Mormon. Whether you're a lifelong student of the scriptures or exploring questions of faith, this book invites you to see the Book of Mormon as ancient scripture—written on gold plates, translated by a prophet, and academically defensible.



John Taylor Defender of the Faith Award

FAIR awards the John Taylor Defender of the Faith Award to a volunteer who made meritorious contributions to FAIR's mission and outstanding personal efforts in helping defend The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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2023	Jennifer Roach		Cassandra Hedelius
2022	Sarah Allen	2011	Ken Kyle
2021	Hanna Seariac	2010	Tanya Spackman
2020	David Smith	2009	Roger Nicholson
2019	Spencer Marsh	2008	Tyler Livingston
2018	Michael W. Hickenbotham	2007	Greg Smith
2017	Marion Allen	2006	Mike Parker
2016	Julianne Hatton	2005	Mike Ash
2015	Nick Galieti	2004	Marc Schindler (posthumous)
2014	Ben McGuire	2003	Sharon Bunch
	Trevor Holyoak	2002	Allen Wyatt
2013	Neal Rappleye	2001	Scott Gordon
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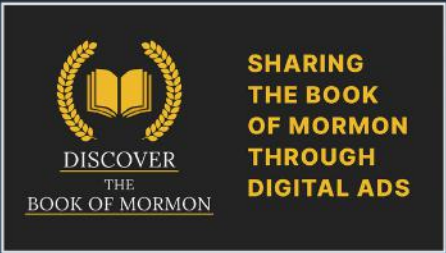
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CHURCH HISTORY CONFERENCE

"I Am in Your Midst"

**Jesus Christ at the Center
of Church History
September 5-6, 2025**

9:00AM - 4:00PM both days

Location: **Conference Center Theater,
Salt Lake City, Utah**



*Join us in September for a two-day conference exploring how the study of our past reveals the Savior's central role in the history of the Church. Enjoy roundtables and panels with scholars and educators covering a wide variety of topics and perspectives, including insights from current and past Church Historians & Recorders. **Registration is free and open now.***



Elder Kyle S. McKay
Keynote Speaker



Elder LeGrand R. Curtis



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Ward Radio is the creation of Cardon Ellis, radio host at FM98.1 and independent filmmaker in Los Angeles. Flanked by two fellow comedians, Brad Witbeck and Kwaku El, as well as his lovely wife, Brittany, Cardon Ellis formed Ward Radio (formerly the Midnight Mormons) in 2019 and it has grown ever since. Ward Radio is a variety talk show that covers all things tangential to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Though not an official show of the church, Ward Radio covers all aspects of the Church, including culture, doctrine, and yes... debunking the latest anti-Mormon attacks with lots of fun facts and humor.

COMING
SOON

ANCIENT TRUTHS FOR MODERN FAITH:

*Defending the Old Testament in
Latter-day Saint Doctrine*



FAIR Virtual Conference

October 9–11, 2025

Join us for the 2025 FAIR Virtual Conference, ***Ancient Truths for Modern Faith: Defending the Old Testament in Latter-day Saint Doctrine***, streaming live October 10–11. This year's event features thought-provoking presentations from leading scholars and defenders of the faith, including John Gee, Stephen Smoot, Spencer Kraus, Jennifer Roach Lees, Christopher Blythe, and many more. Explore how the Old Testament continues to shape and strengthen Latter-day Saint doctrine in the modern world. Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your understanding and find faithful answers to challenging questions.

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- **Method:** Donate securely through our Givebutter page.
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- **FAIR Costs:** Processing fees (typically 2.2% + \$0.30 per transaction).
- **Advantages:** User-friendly interface, option to cover fees, allows for recurring donations.
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- **Donor Costs:** No additional fees.
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- **Method:** Donate via Venmo.
- **Donor Costs:** None if funded through a Venmo balance, linked bank account, or debit card.
- **FAIR Costs:** No transaction fees for most transfers.
- **Advantages:** Quick and easy for mobile users.
- <https://venmo.com/u/FAIRLatterdaysaints>



Direct Donations via FAIR Website

- **Method:** Donate through the Donate to FAIR page.
- **Donor Costs:** No additional fees.
- **FAIR Costs:** Processing fees apply.
- **Advantages:** Integrated with our website, secure.
- <http://bit.ly/givetoFAIR>



FAQ

Some general information about the 2025 Conference that you might find useful.

How do I participate in the Live Q&A?

Throughout the presentations, if you have questions for the presenters, text them to (801) 801-4959 or email them to conference@fairlatterdaysaints.org.

What if there's a book I want that isn't on site?

At the conference, you can purchase any book from the FAIR online bookstore on Wednesday or Thursday and pick it up at the Conference Bookstore on Friday. Just talk to one of the Bookstore employees!

What can you tell me about your sponsors?

Our sponsors are fantastic! Their sponsorship helps make this conference possible. Please take the time to learn about and support these organizations. We should point out, however, that the advertisements, and the views and opinions expressed by the speakers at this conference, are those of the advertiser or speaker alone for which only they are responsible, and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of FAIR, its officers, directors or supporters.

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Seating

The venue will open at 8:00 am, but seating will open up at 8:45. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

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