

~ Section 1 ~

Welcome, Schedule & Credentials Guidelines

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Awake and Arise

Ephesians 5:14

¹⁴ ***Wherefore, he saith, Awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.***

Saints of the Most High God,

I would like to welcome you to the 2026 Conference. Our theme for this year's conference is "Awake and Arise". There are questions that we must ask ourselves as individuals, as branches, and as a church: In what ways are we asleep? What must we do to awaken from this sleep? What are we willing to do as individuals, branches, and a church to awaken from our sleep? Like Jairus's daughter, Jesus is reaching out his hand and calling us to awaken from our sleep that we might stand as ambassadors for Him. When we are willing to cast off this sleep that has shadowed over us for so many years, he will give us the light of which we are so desperately in need.

Monday: - Awaken Your Soul

2 Nephi 3:46

⁴⁶ Awake, my soul! No longer droop in sin!

Tuesday: - Awaken to a Sense of our Awful Situation

Ether 1:111

¹¹¹ Behold, when ye shall rend that veil of unbelief which doth cause you to remain in your awful state of wickedness, and hardness of heart, and blindness of mind, then shall the great and marvelous things which have been hid up from the foundation of the world from you

¹¹² Yea, when ye shall call upon the Father in my name, with a broken heart and contrite spirit, then shall ye know that the Father hath remembered the covenant which he made unto your fathers, O house of Israel

Wednesday: - Awaken Your Branches

Nehemiah 2:17

¹⁷ Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. Come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach.

Thursday: - Awaken and Enlarge my Church

Book of Mormon 1:65

⁶⁵ And it came to pass that the Lord did say unto me, Cry unto this people, Repent ye, and come unto me, and be ye baptized, and build up again my church, and ye shall be spared

Friday: - Awaken and put on thy Strength, O Zion

Isaiah 52:1

¹ Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on the beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean

2026 Conference of Restoration Elders

2026 Conference of Restoration Elders Schedule <i>Awake From Sleep ~ Ephesians 5:14</i> Sunday, March 29, 2026 through Friday, April 3, 2026 www.eldersconference.org					
Time	Sunday, March	Monday, March 30th		Tuesday, March 31st	
Daily Theme		Awaken Your Soul -- 2 Nephi 3:46 --		Awaken to A Sense of Our Awful Situation -- Ether 1:111 --	
PO2 Joint Worship		7:00	Priesthood Worship	7:00	Priesthood Worship
		8:00	Break	8:00	Break
		8:15 - 9:30	Prayer and Worship	8:15 - 9:30	Prayer and Worship
		9:45 - 11:45	Business Session Agenda: 1. Organize Conference Discuss Online Participation 2. Approve Agenda 3. Approval of 2026 Conference Budget 4. Present Financial Report 5. Nominations of councils/officers 6. Quorum Topics 7. Quorum assignments and Instructions	9:45 - 11:45	Business Session Agenda: 1. Election of councils/officers 2. New Business 3. Financial Report Approval 4. FY2026 Budget Approval 5. Quorum Reports Discussion cont.
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch (On Your Own)	12:00 - 1:00	Lunch (free will offering in the Sorenson)	12:00 - 1:00	Lunch (free will offering in the Sorenson)
1:30 - 2:30	Registration and information desk open	1:00 - 2:15	Class Led by: Andrew King	1:00 - 2:15	Missionary Class Led by: Aaron Smith
2:30 - 4:30	Council Reports	2:15 - 2:30	Break	2:15 - 2:30	Break
		2:30 - 3:45	Quorum Sessions Topics to Consider: 1. How can we Reconcile 2. How can we build up Branches 3. Should the conference continue? What does it look like going forward?	2:30 - 3:45	Witnessing Weekend Class Led by: Brian Mundy
		3:45 - 5:00	Quorum Reports and Discussion	3:45 - 4:00 4:00 - 5:00	Break Witnessing Weekend Class Cont.
4:30 - 6:15	Dinner (On Your Own)	5:00	Dinner (On Your Own)	5:00	Dinner (On Your Own)
6:15	Song Service Led by: Restoration	6:45	Song Service Led by:	6:45	Song Service Led by:
6:30	Restoration Choir Worship	7:00	Evening Worship Presiding: Dale Stafford Preaching: Jay Havener	7:00	Evening Worship Presiding: Glen Wiskur Preaching: Kendal
	Refreshments in gym Provided by: Womens		Refreshments in gym Provided by: Living		Refreshments in gym Provided by:

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Wednesday, April 1st		Thursday, April 2nd		Friday, April 3rd	
Awaken Your Branches -- Nehemiah 2:17 --		Awaken and Enlarge My Church -- Mormon 1:65 --		Awaken and Put On Thy Strength, O Zion -- Isaiah 52:1 --	
7:00	Priesthood Worship	7:00	Priesthood Worship	7:00	Priesthood Worship
8:00	Break	8:00	Break	8:00	Break
8:15 - 9:30	Prayer and Worship	8:15 - 9:30	Prayer and Worship	8:15 - 9:30	Prayer and Worship
9:45 - 11:45	Business Session Agenda: New Business (If needed) Quorum Reports and discussion	9:45 - 11:45	Quorum Sessions Topics to Consider: 1. How can we Reconcile 2. How can we build up Branches 3. Should the conference continue? What does it look like going forward?	9:45 - 11:45	General Session Quorum Reports and Discussion
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch (free will offering in the Sorenson)	12:00 - 1:00	Lunch (free will offering in the Sorenson)	12:00 - 1:00	Lunch (free will offering in the Sorenson)
1:00 - 2:15	Class Led by: Brian Twombly	1:00 - 2:15	Missionary Class Led by: Richard Neill	1:00 - 2:15	Class Led by: Jay Havener
2:15 - 2:30	Break	2:15 - 2:30	Break	2:15 - 2:30	Break
2:30 - 3:45	Quorum Sessions Topics to Consider: 1. How can we Reconcile 2. How can we build up Branches 3. Should the conference continue? What does it look like going forward?	2:30 - 2:45	Missionary Assignments	2:30 - 5:00	Discussion/ Presentation
3:45 - 5:00	Quorum Reports and Discussion	2:45 - 5:00	Missionary / Home Visiting Activity Pray for those out witnessing		
5:00	Dinner (On Your)	5:00	Dinner (On Your)	5:00	Dinner (On Your)
6:45	Song Service Led by:	6:45	Song Service Led by:	6:45	Song Service Led by:
	Evening Worship Presiding: Shaun Turner Preaching: Mike Stephenson	7:00	Evening Worship Presiding: Steve Kropp Preaching: Doug	7:00	Evening Worship Presiding: Dave Joyce Preaching: Jeremy Stephenson
	Refreshments in gym Provided by: Atherton		Refreshments in gym Provided by: Outreach		Refreshments in gym Provided by: Colbern

2026 Conference of Restoration Elders

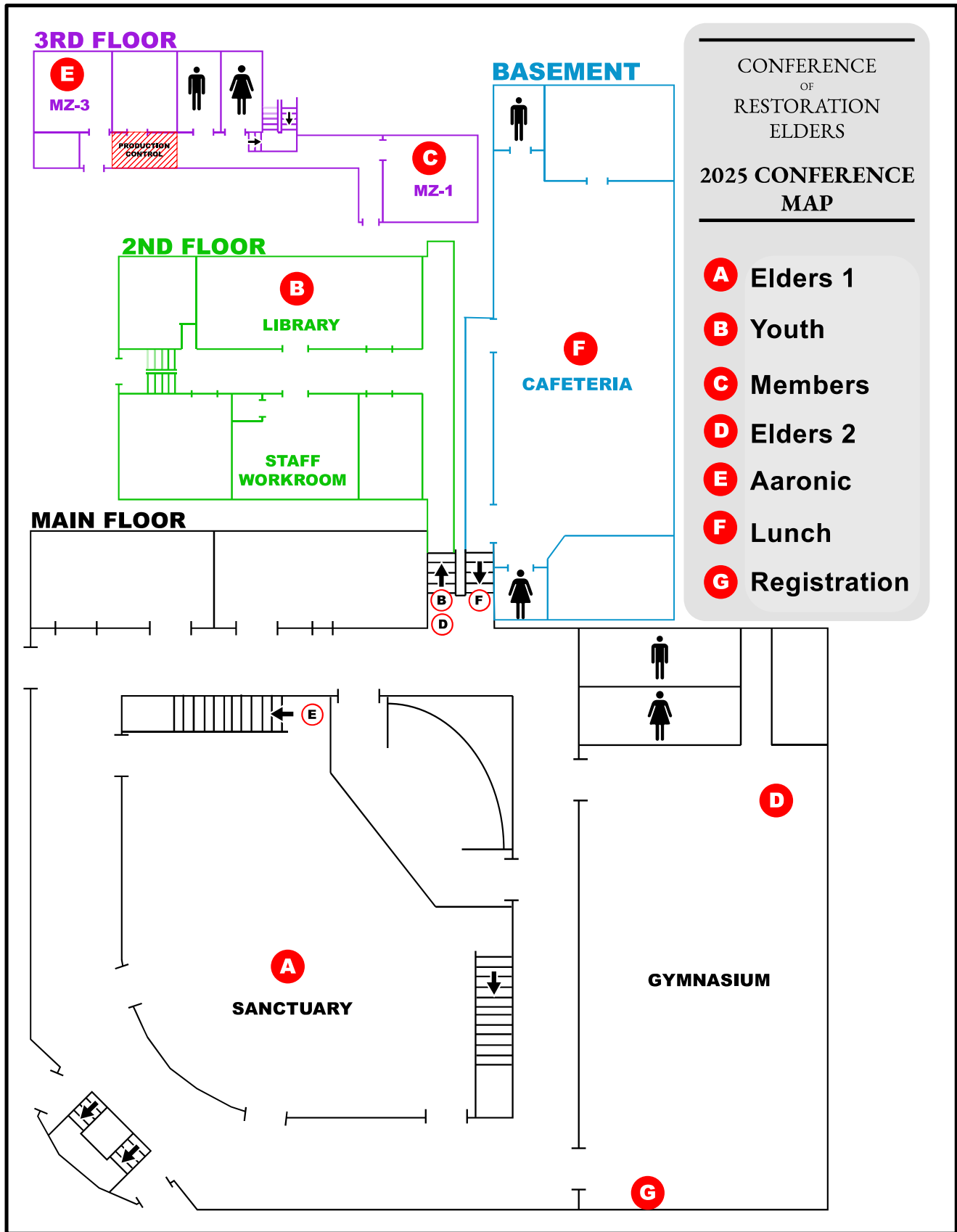
Awake and Arise

Ephesians 5:14

Quorum Session Locations

Quorum	Quorum Leader	Location	Map Location (Map on Back Of Binder)
Quorum 1		Sanctuary	A
Quorum 2		Gymnasium	B
Quorum 3		Sorenson Room	F
Aaronic Priesthood		MZ-3	C
Members		MZ-1	D
Youth		Library	E

2026 Conference of Restoration Elders



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Awake and Arise

Ephesians 5:14

CONFERENCE STAFF

Conference Manager	Elder Jeremy Stephenson
Conference Pastor / Spiritual Councilor	Elder
Daily Tidings	Rebecca Griffin
Display Tables	Liberty Stephenson
♦ ARM	Chris Capps
♦ Aaronic Council	Mark McCormick
♦ Children's Books by Beyrle Immer	Bob Immer
♦ Freedom Stewardship Ministries (FSM)	Bob Dickson
♦ Greater European Ministries (GEM)	John L. Mundy
♦ Joseph Smith III & Israel A. Smith Home / Historical Society	Rebecca Griffin
♦ Old Bookman	Paul & Dee Ludy
♦ Pastors of Zion (PoZ)	Shaun Turner
♦ Publications Council	Rebecca Griffin
♦ Registration Tables	Liberty Stephenson
♦ Restoration Hymn Society, Inc.	Bob Immer
♦ Southeast Asia & Australia Ministries (SEAAM)	Kevin Humphrey, Dayn Cederstrom & Richard Neill
♦ Women's Council	Monica Rush
Food Services	Connie Hale
IT & Audio / Visual Support	Priest Mark McCormick
Registration	Elder Jeremy Stephenson

Awake and Arise

Ephesians 5:14

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

IN-HOUSE EMERGENCY

Elder Doug Smith, MD (660) 232-2158

EMERGENCY 911

AMBULANCE (American Medical Response) (913) 262-8999

Location: 3121 S. Dodgion Avenue / Independence, MO 64055

FIRE DEPARTMENT (816) 325-7123

Location: 950 N. Spring St. / Independence, MO 64050

POLICE DEPARTMENT (816) 325-7300

Location: 223 N. Memorial Dr. / Independence, MO 64050

HOSPITAL: CENTERPOINT MEDICAL HOSPITAL (816) 698-7000

Location: 19500 E. 39th St. S. / Independence, MO 64057

2026 Conference of Restoration Elders

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Displays - Publications - Printed Materials

Many organizations were granted the privilege of display space during this year’s Conference week. A selection of materials from various sources are on display during announced times. Please stop by and look over the many items displayed. It is hereby explicitly stated, however, that no endorsement of materials, programs, or organizations over which the Conference has no control is in any way implied or given. Further, the distribution of personal writings or solicitation of funds by individuals is not permitted. All solicitation of funds by groups must be pre-approved. If anyone has a question or request concerning this notice, they should present it to the Conference Manager for referral.

Parking

We trust that all Conference visitors are aware of the limited parking available in the Center Place Restoration School parking lots. If you must park on the street to attend the Conference activities, please respect the needs of our neighbors and be careful not to block driveways.

Elders Conference
Credentials Committee Members
Jay Havener
Vaughn Cornish
Dale Stafford

2026 Conference of Restoration Elders

Melchisedec Credentials Guidelines

as Amended April 12, 2024

The Melchisedec Credential Guidelines represent the direction in which the Lord has desired we take in removing barrier and hinderances to the work of the Conference of Restoration Elders (CRE),

The following guidelines will serve as the basis for seating all elders in the current assembly and in other CRE conferences, and continue in effect unless, or until altered through future conference action.

Participation in the CRE shall be extended to authoritatively ordained Melchisedec Priesthood—

1. **Whose** office and ordination has been determined to be in order by the Credentials Committee of said conference, or the Coordinating Council between conferences. Said elder does not accept such doctrines as the ordination of women to the priesthood, the serving of the sacrament to persons without authoritative baptisms or participate or accept the calling and ordination of men to the priesthood offices other than elder, priest, teacher, or deacon. Any Elder which participated in such actions is required to renounce the same as a credentialed elder.
2. **Who**, while not joined with a branch, has remained faithful to their calling, and whose office and calling has been determined to be in order by the Credentials Committee of said conference, or the Coordinating Council between the conferences.
3. **Who**, for reasons of conscience or physical location has continued to minister within the framework of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints/Community of Christ, but who has not subscribed to, nor participated in any divergent doctrines, and whose office and ordination has been determined to be in order by the Credentials Committee of said conference, or the Coordinating Council between conferences.
4. **Who**, has since been affiliated with one or more of the factional movements—who are willing to reconcile.
5. **Who**, by accepting a call to the priesthood, has accepted the personal responsibility of maintaining the highest standards of Christian conduct. Verified failure to maintain such standards may constitute grounds for denying or revoking one's right to voice, vote, and participation in the Elders Conference.

2026 Conference of Restoration Elders

Melchizedec Credentials Guidelines, *Cont'd.*

- a. Upon the written verification of two or more credible witnesses to conduct on the part of the Melchisedec priesthood member that is unbecoming a priesthood member, or conduct that is detrimental to that member's ministry, or the ministry of others, the Credentials Committee, or Coordinating Council between conferences, will determine whether said priesthood member is eligible to participate in the Conference of Restoration Elders

Circumstances or questions concerning the eligibility of a Melchisedec priesthood member to be seated in the Elders Conference that may arise that are not covered by any of the above guidelines will be reviewed and acted upon by the Credentials Committee on a case-by-case basis.

Appeals of the decision of the Credentials Committee for seating shall be made in writing and submitted to the Coordinating Council of the Conference of Restoration Elders for review, consideration, and action. If the appeal is denied, and one of the parties involved desires to appeal the decision of the Coordinating Council, a committee of seven elders shall be elected from the seated body of elders in conference to review and consider the appeal. The elected representatives will consider the appeal during the convening conference and render a decision that shall be final for the conference will be preserved and protected.