

Members of the Council of Twelve Apostles—Brigham Young, Francis M. Lyman, John Henry Smith, George Teasdale, Heber J. Grant, John W. Taylor, Marriner W. Merrill, Matthias F. Cowley, Abraham O. Woodruff, Rudger Clawson, Reed Smoot, Hyrum M. Smith.

The counselors in the First Presidency and the Twelve Apostles as Prophets, Seers and Revelators.

John Smith—Patriarch of the Church.  
First Seven Presidents of Seventies—Seymour B. Young, C. D. Fjeldsted, B. H. Roberts, George Reynolds, Jonathan G. Kimball, Rulon S. Wells, Joseph W. McMurrin.

William B. Preston—As Presiding Bishop, Robert T. Burton, as first, and Orrin P. Miller, as second counselors.

Anthony H. Lund—As Church historian and general Church recorder.

Joseph F. Smith—As trustee-in-trust for the body of religious worshippers known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

STEPHEN L. CHIPMAN,  
President.

JAMES H. CLARKE,  
First Counselor.

A. J. EVANS,  
Second Counselor.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH.

Duties and responsibilities of the First Presidency.

I desire to make another remark or two before we close our conference. I will call your attention to the fact that the Lord in the beginning of this work revealed that there should be three High Priests to preside over the High Priesthood of His Church and over the whole Church, (Doc. and Cov. 107: 22, 64, 65, 66, 67, 91 and 92.) He conferred upon them all the authority necessary to preside over all the affairs of the Church. They hold the keys of the house of God, and of the ordinances of the Gospel, and of every blessing which has been restored to the earth in this dispensation. This authority is vested in a Presidency of three High Priests. They are three Presidents. The Lord himself so calls them. (D. & C., sec. 107: 29.) But there is one presiding President, and his counselors are Presidents also. I propose that my counselors and fellow Presidents in the First Presidency shall share with me in the responsibility of every act which I shall perform in this capacity. I do not propose to take the reins in my own hands to do as I please; but I propose to do as my brethren and I agree upon and as the Spirit of the Lord manifests

to us. I have always held, and do hold, and trust I always shall hold, that it is wrong for one man to exercise all the authority and power of presidency in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I dare not assume such a responsibility, and I will not, so long as I can have men like these [pointing to Presidents Winder and Lund] to stand by and counsel with me in the labors we have to perform and in doing all those things that shall tend to the peace, advancement and happiness of the people of God and the building up of Zion. If at any time my brethren of the Apostleship shall see in me a disposition to depart from this principle or a forgetfulness on my part of this covenant that I make today before this body of Priesthood, I ask them in the name of my Father, that they will come to me, as my brethren, as counselors in the Priesthood, as watchmen on the towers of Zion, and remind me of this covenant and promise which I make to the body of the Church in general conference assembled at this time. The Lord never did intend that one man should have all power, and for that reason He has placed in His Church Presidents, Apostles, High Priests, Seventies, Elders and the various offices of the Lesser Priesthood, all of which are essential in their order and place according to the authority bestowed on them. The Lord never did anything that was not essential or that was superfluous. There is a use for every branch of the Priesthood that He has established in His Church. We want every man to learn his duty, and we expect every man will do his duty as faithfully as he knows how, and carry off his portion of the responsibility of building up Zion in the latter days.

I felt like I wanted to say that much to these my brethren who bear the Holy Priesthood—men who wield influence for the salvation of souls, who set good examples before the people among whom they dwell, who teach them the right way, admonish them for sin, lead them in the path of duty, and enable them to stand firm and steadfast in the faith of the Gospel, wherewith they have been made free from sin and from the grasp of Satan. God bless all Israel, is my prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

PRESIDENT JOHN R. WINDER.

Acceptance of high office and its responsibilities.

My brethren and sisters, in all my experience of between fifty and sixty years in the Church, I never felt my weakness as I do on this occasion. I have scarcely overcome the shock that I received a short time since when President Joseph F. Smith made known to me his wishes, and I feel very much my inability to occupy this exalted position. At the same time, in the past I have many times been compelled to seek the Lord in the hour of need, and I want to say today that I never failed to find Him; consequently I feel encouraged at the present. My dependence is on the Lord, and I propose to seek after His Spirit to guide and direct me. Seeing that I have been placed in this position, I propose, with all my might and power, assisted by the blessings of the Lord, to uphold and sustain President Joseph F. Smith in the position to which you have called him; and while I uphold and sustain him, I am willing to share with him the burden and the responsibilities of his high and holy calling. In my humble efforts I will do all in my power to aid him and my fellow counselor, Brother Lund.

Brethren and sisters, I have had very little experience in preaching the Gospel. I have scarcely ever stood before a congregation of this size to talk to them. My duties have been in another direction ever since I have been a member of the Church. But I am thankful to the Lord today that through all these long years He has been so good, and kind and gracious to me, and has thus far sustained me. I hope and pray that you will sustain us in our calling, that we may be able to discharge the duties devolving upon us acceptably to the Lord and profitably to the people; which is my prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH.

A majestic power for good.

In looking at this magnificent body of Priesthood and witnessing the united action of this vast congregation, can you doubt that that which has been done has been in accordance with the

mind of the Spirit and will be sanctified of the Lord for the good of the house of Israel? God bless this body of Priesthood. I see here a majestic power for good rising up in the land. It is the duty of this vast body of men holding the Holy Priesthood, which is after the order of the Son of God, to exert their influence and exercise their power for good among the people of Israel and the people of the world. It is their bounden duty to preach and to work righteousness, both at home and abroad. With this power at work in the earth, how is it possible for the work of the Lord not to roll forward until His purposes shall be consummated? I rejoice in my heart today. This scene that we have witnessed is one that should be indelibly impressed upon the minds of all, that we may carry with us the remembrance that we have this day unitedly sustained the general authorities of the Church by unanimous vote. Now let us carry out, in the acts of our lives, the expression that we have given here, and God will sustain His servants, and people and His work will roll on until it shall be accomplished. God bless you forever, is my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ELDER HYRUM M. SMITH.

Dependence upon the assistance of God.

I feel, my brethren and sisters, as if there was an intense anxiety in the minds of the people to see me, and perhaps some curiosity to hear my voice; consequently, I feel somewhat embarrassed.

All I wish to say at this time is that I accept the call that has been made upon me, and I thank the Latter-day Saints for their endorsement of it. I feel that the brethren of the Twelve Apostles and the First Presidency are responsible, under the Lord, for this call. It is my desire, inasmuch as I have been called and sustained by the Latter-day Saints, to do everything in my power to sustain my brethren and the Latter-day Saints. I hope I will always be found, in season and out, defending the faith which we all have espoused. A testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ was born in me, and it has