

Ecclesiastical Officers and Church Appointees

The following charts show the general leadership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as well as local ecclesiastical officers in Nauvoo, Illinois, between 1839 and April 1843. The charts also identify the temple recorder and members of the Nauvoo temple committee and Nauvoo House Association. Readers wishing to conduct further research may consult the documented organizational charts posted on the Joseph Smith Papers website.

FIRST PRESIDENCY, QUORUM OF THE TWELVE, AND PATRIARCH

The following chart shows the members of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, as well as the church patriarch, with their dates of service. By 1839 the titles and offices of the First Presidency, which had varied in earlier years, were relatively stable, consisting of a president and two counselors; flexibility in its organization is evident, however, in positions held by Hyrum Smith, Amasa Lyman, and John C. Bennett. The responsibilities of the members of the Quorum of the Twelve, whose duties had been proselytizing and overseeing scattered branches of the church, expanded in Nauvoo as they took on significant administrative tasks. After the deaths of JS and Hyrum Smith on 27 June 1844, the First Presidency dissolved and the Quorum of the Twelve presided over the church until Brigham Young was sustained as church president in December 1847. For more information on the following individuals' terms of service, see the Biographical Directory in this volume.

OFFICE	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843
FIRST PRESIDENCY: PRESIDENT	Joseph Smith Jr. 6 Apr. 1830–27 June 1844				
FIRST PRESIDENCY: ASSOCIATE PRESIDENT ¹				Hyrum Smith 19 Jan. 1841–27 June 1844	
FIRST PRESIDENCY: COUNSELORS	Sidney Rigdon 8 Mar. 1832–27 June 1844				
	Hyrum Smith 7 Nov. 1837–19 Jan. 1841		William Law 19 Jan. 1841–before 8 Jan. 1844		
					Amasa Lyman Ca. 4 Feb. 1843–27 June 1844 ²
FIRST PRESIDENCY: ASSISTANT PRESIDENT				John C. Bennett 8 Apr. 1841–11 May 1842 ³	
QUORUM OF THE TWELVE: PRESIDENT	Brigham Young 14 Feb. 1835–27 Dec. 1847				
QUORUM OF THE TWELVE: MEMBERS	Heber C. Kimball 14 Feb. 1835–27 Dec. 1847				
	Orson Hyde 14 Feb. 1835–4 May 1839; 27 June 1839–28 Nov. 1878				

1. The term “associate president” was applied by later historians to describe Hyrum Smith’s unusual office or role in the First Presidency, but it was not used during his lifetime. A revelation dated 19 January 1841 named Hyrum Smith church patriarch as well as “a prophet, seer, and a revelator” to the church. He was to “act in concert” with Joseph Smith, who would “show unto him the keys whereby he may ask and receive, and be crowned with the same blessing, and glory, and honor, and priesthood, and gifts of the priesthood, that once were put upon . . . Oliver Cowdery.” Cowdery had received the keys of the priesthood in connection with Joseph Smith, had been sustained as “Second Elder of the Church” on 6 April 1830, and had served in the church’s presidency from December 1834 to April 1838 under the titles “assistant president” and “assistant Councillor.”

2. See 255n354 herein.

3. Bennett was appointed assistant president until Sidney Rigdon’s health improved. On 15 June 1842, church leaders published a notice saying they had chosen to “withdraw the hand of fellowship from General John C. Bennett” effective 11 May 1842.

OFFICE	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843
QUORUM OF THE TWELVE: MEMBERS (CONT.)	Parley P. Pratt 14 Feb. 1835–13 May 1857				
	William Smith 14 Feb. 1835–4 May 1839; 25 May 1839–6 Oct. 1845				
	Orson Pratt 14 Feb. 1835–20 Aug. 1842; 20 Jan. 1843–3 Oct. 1881				
	John E. Page 19 Dec. 1838–9 Feb. 1846				
	John Taylor 19 Dec. 1838–10 Oct. 1880				
	Wilford Woodruff 26 Apr. 1839–7 Apr. 1889				
	George A. Smith 26 Apr. 1839–7 Oct. 1868				
	Willard Richards 14 Apr. 1840–27 Dec. 1847				
	Lyman Wight 7 Apr. 1841–3 Dec. 1848				
	Amasa Lyman 20 Aug. 1842–6 Oct. 1867 ⁴				
CHURCH PATRIARCH	Joseph Smith Sr. 6 Dec. 1834–14 Sept. 1840		Hyrum Smith 19 Jan. 1841–27 June 1844		

4. See 255n354 herein.

PRESIDENTS OF THE SEVENTY

The following chart lists the individuals who presided over the Quorum of the Seventy. Seventy was an office in the Melchizedek Priesthood patterned after the seventy individuals referred to in the New Testament (Luke 10:1–17) who were given certain powers and authority. According to a JS revelation, they were to “act in the name of the Lord, under the direction of the twelve . . . in building up the church and regulating all the affairs of the same, in all nations.” Unlike most other Mormon ecclesiastical organizations, over which a president and two counselors presided, the Quorum of the Seventy was led by seven presidents.

<i>Presidents of the Seventy</i>
Josiah Butterfield
James Foster
Levi Hancock
Henry Harriman
Daniel Miles
Zera Pulsipher
Joseph Young

NAUVOO ECCLESIASTICAL OFFICERS

The following charts identify members of the Nauvoo stake presidency and high council as well as bishops in Nauvoo. In 1834 the Kirtland, Ohio, high council was organized and granted appellate authority over the disciplinary decisions made by other high councils and branches of the church. The high council of the church at Nauvoo also exercised this power, overturning on appeal multiple decisions that were first adjudicated by local branches outside of Nauvoo. On 20 August 1842 the Nauvoo high council divided Nauvoo and the immediate surrounding area into thirteen ecclesiastical wards and districts; the council also appointed ten new bishops to join currently serving bishops Newel K. Whitney, George Miller, and Isaac Higbee. Samuel Smith, Daniel Carn, and William Spencer were not ordained with the other appointed bishops on 21 August 1842, though Carn was serving as a bishop in Nauvoo by December 1843. For a time, Isaac Higbee and possibly Newel K. Whitney served as bishops of more than one ward. In addition to the individuals named below, Vinson Knight, Samuel Smith, and Shadrach Roundy were appointed on 19 January 1841 to preside over the Nauvoo bishopric, though it is unclear if they ever functioned in that capacity.

<p><i>Stake Presidency</i></p> <p>William Marks, president</p> <p>Austin Cowles, first counselor</p> <p>Charles C. Rich, second counselor</p>	<p><i>High Council</i></p> <p>James Allred Newel Knight</p> <p>Alpheus Cutler Henry G. Sherwood</p> <p>David Fullmer Leonard Soby</p> <p>Thomas Grover Lewis Dunbar Wilson</p> <p>George W. Harris</p> <p>William Huntington Sr.</p> <p>Aaron Johnson</p>
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<i>Bishops</i>	
October 1839–20 August 1842	21 August 1842
<i>Upper Ward</i> Edward Partridge, died May 1840 George Miller, appointed Jan. 1841	Israel Calkins David Evans Jacob Foutz Jonathan H. Hale
<i>Middle Ward</i> Newel K. Whitney	Isaac Higbee Tarlton Lewis
<i>Lower Ward</i> Vinson Knight, died July 1842	George Miller John Murdock
<i>Other</i> Isaac Higbee, ordained 19 Feb. 1841	Hezekiah Peck Newel K. Whitney

CHURCH APPOINTEES

The following chart lists nonecclesiastical church appointees. Members of the Nauvoo temple committee were appointed at a church conference on 3 October 1840. The committee hired laborers, oversaw the construction of the temple and the disbursement of supplies and pay to laborers, and gave receipts to those who made donations for building the temple. Members of the Nauvoo House Association, who oversaw the construction of the Nauvoo House, were appointed by revelation on 19 January 1841. A month later, Illinois governor Thomas Carlin signed a bill incorporating the Nauvoo House Association and authorizing its trustees to issue stock to the value of \$150,000 to finance the venture. The temple recorder was first appointed in December 1841; his primary responsibility was to record donations made by church members for the construction of the Nauvoo temple.

<i>Temple Committee</i> Reynolds Cahoon Alpheus Cutler Elias Higbee	<i>Nauvoo House Association</i> Peter Haws George Miller John Snider Lyman Wight	<i>Temple Recorder</i> Willard Richards, appointed 13 Dec. 1841 William Clayton, appointed 3 Sept. 1842
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