

CALL FOR PAPERS

RESTORATION STUDIES SYMPOSIUM

APRIL 13-15, 2012, INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

American Restorationism

The religious movement started by Joseph Smith, Jr. has often referred to itself as "*the* Restoration." Restorationism (or primitivism), however, has had multiple expressions throughout the history of Christianity. In America, desires to restore the church had roots going back to the Reformation, and pre-dated Joseph Smith's work by decades. While expressed in a variety of denominations, of particular relevance is the Stone-Campbell movement, whose members have also referred to themselves as "the Restoration."

From the rational Restorationism of Stone and Campbell came thousands of first generation Latter Day Saints, these converts to Mormonism often finding Smith's charismatic Restoration appealing. These converts included Sidney Rigdon, Lyman Wight, N. K. Whitney, Edward Partridge, Orson Pratt, Parley P. Pratt, and many others.

What comparisons might be made between the Latter Day Saint movement and the Disciples of Christ, churches of Christ, or the independent Christian churches? What theological influence did "Campbellism" have on the early Latter Day Saint movement? How much Stone-Campbell "DNA" is present in modern denominations that have their roots in Joseph Smith's founding work? What about older restorationism such as expressed by Anabaptist churches?

By placing our movement in dialogue with other Restoration movements, we expect to discover contemporary insights and historical connections. We invite you to join us in the conversation and discovery!

Papers offering theological or sociological perspectives dealing with these questions or others are solicited.

Send a 300-word abstract of your proposal, with a 100-word biographical introduction to rssapril2012@yahoo.com.

PROPOSAL DEADLINE IS January 31, 2012.

Whether you present a paper or not, be sure to join us for an interesting symposium. Prof. Douglas A. Foster will deliver the annual Wallace B. Smith Lecture. Foster is director of the Center for Restoration Studies at Abilene Christian University (Texas), and one of the preeminent historians of the Stone-Campbell Movement.

Restoration Studies Symposium is jointly sponsored by Community of Christ Seminary, Sunstone Education Foundation, and John Whitmer Historical Association.