Appendix 10

Lines of Priesthood Authority

This compilation shows the line of highest priesthood authority and date of ordination for those persons who have served as Presidents of the Church, Counselors in the First Presidency, and members of The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Everyone in the Church today holding the holy priesthood will be able to trace his line of authority to one or more of these persons.

The Three Witnesses to the Book of Mormon—Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, and Martin Harris—were appointed by revelation to choose the Twelve Apostles (D&C 18:37). The Three Witnesses were set apart for this purpose by the First Presidency—Joseph Smith, Sidney Rigdon, and Frederick G. Williams—on February 14, 1835 (HC 2:187).

Oliver Cowdery was with the Prophet Joseph Smith in 1829, when Peter, James and John conferred the Melchizedek Priesthood upon them and ordained them apostles. An 1829 revelation verifies that Oliver Cowdery and David Whitmer both held the apostolic office (D&C 18:9). Martin Harris was ordained to the High Priesthood on June 3, 1831 by Lyman Wight, who had been ordained to the High Priesthood that same day by Joseph the Prophet. President Rigdon was ordained to the High Priesthood by Lyman Wight, and President Williams by Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery.

Peter, James and John had been ordained apostles by Jesus Christ (John 15:16).

The three Witnesses were subsequently set apart by the First Presidency to ordain the Twelve. After the Three Witnesses had ordained the Twelve "to the apostleship," the First Presidency then laid their hands on the Twelve and confirmed the blessings and ordinations (from Heber C. Kimball's journal, published in T&S, vol. 6, #7, April 15, 1845, p. 868).

Tracing the Line of Authority. The person named in bold print identifies the person ordained. Regular type identifies the person who performed the ordination on the date indicated. Code: (A) = Apostle; (HP) = High Priest

Ashton, Marvin Jeremy (A)
Harold B. Lee, December 2, 1971

Ballard, Melvin Joseph (A)
Heber J. Grant, January 7, 1919

Ballard, Melvin Russell, Jr. (A)
Gordon B. Hinckley, October 10, 1985

Bennett, John Cook
Presented as assistant president with the First Presidency, April 8, 1841

Bennion, Adam Samuel (A)
David O. McKay, April 9, 1953

Benson, Ezra T. (A)
Brigham Young, July 16, 1846

Benson, Ezra Taft (A)
Heber J. Grant, October 7, 1943

Bowen, Albert Ernest (A)
Heber J. Grant, April 8, 1937

Boynton, John Farnham (A)
The Three Witnesses, February 15, 1835

Brown, Hugh Brown (A)
David O. McKay, April 10, 1958

Callis, Charles Albert (A)
Heber J. Grant, October 12, 1933

Cannon, Abraham Haagland (A)
Joseph F. Smith, October 7, 1889
Cannon, George Quayle (A)
Brigham Young, August 26, 1860

Cannon, Sylvester Quayle (A)
Heber J. Grant, April 14, 1938

Carrington, Albert (A)
Brigham Young, July 3, 1870

Clark, Joshua Reuben, Jr. (HP) (A)
Called to First Presidency April 6, 1933, ordained High Priest by Heber J. Grant, April 13, 1933, ordained Apostle by Heber J. Grant, October 11, 1934

Clawson, Rudger (A)
Lorenzo Snow, October 10, 1898

Cowardry, Oliver (A)
Peter, James, and John, May-June 1829

Cowley, Matthew (A)
George Albert Smith, October 11, 1945

Cowley, Matthias Foss (A)
George Q. Cannon, October 7, 1897

Dyer, Alvin Rulon (A)
David O. McKay, October 5, 1967
(Never served in the Quorum of the Twelve)

Evans, Richard Louis (A)
David O. McKay, October 8, 1953

Faust, James Esdras (A)
Spencer W. Kimball, October 1, 1978

Gause, Jesse
Ordained a counselor in the Presidency of the High Priesthood by Joseph Smith, March 8, 1832

Grant, Heber Jaddy (A)
George Q. Cannon, October 16, 1882

Grant, Jedediah Morgan (A)
Brigham Young, April 7, 1854
(Never served in Quorum of the Twelve)

Haight, David Bruce (A)
Spencer W. Kimball, January 8, 1976

Hinckley, Alonzo Arza (A)
Heber J. Grant, October 11, 1934

Hinckley, Gordon Bittner (A)
David O. McKay, October 5, 1961

Hunter, Howard William (A)
David O. McKay, October 15, 1959

Hyde, Orson (A)
The Three Witnesses, February 15, 1835

Isaacs, Henry Thorpe Beal (HP)
Charles A. Callis, October 1, 1941

Ivins, Anthony Woodward (A)
Joseph F. Smith, October 6, 1907

Johnson, Luke S. (A)
The Three Witnesses, February 15, 1835

Johnson, Lyman Eugene (A)
The Three Witnesses, February 14, 1835

Kimball, Heber Chase (A)
The Three Witnesses, February 14, 1835

Kimball, Spencer Woolley (A)
Heber J. Grant, October 7, 1943

Law, William
Set apart as second counselor to President Joseph Smith, January 24, 1841

Lee, Harold Bingham (A)
Heber J. Grant, April 10, 1941

Lund, Anthon Henrik (A)
George Q. Cannon, October 7, 1889

Lyman, Amasa Mason (A)
Brigham Young, August 20, 1842

Lyman, Francis Marion (A)
John Taylor, October 27, 1880

Lyman, Richard Roswell (A)
Joseph F. Smith, April 7, 1918

Marsh, Thomas Baldwin (A)
The Three Witnesses, April 26, 1835

Maxwell, Neal Ash (A)
Nathan Eldon Tanner, July 23, 1981

McConkie, Bruce Redd (A)
Harold B. Lee, October 12, 1972

McKay, David Oman (A)
Joseph F. Smith, April 9, 1906

McLellin, William E. (A)
Oliver Cowdery and David Whitmer, February 15, 1835

Merrill, Joseph Francis (A)
Heber J. Grant, October 8, 1931

Merrill, Marriner Wood (A)
Wilford Woodruff, October 7, 1889

Monson, Thomas Spencer (A)
Joseph Fielding Smith, October 10, 1963

Morris, George Quayle (A)
David O. McKay, April 8, 1954

Moyle, Henry Dinwoodye (A)
George Albert Smith, April 10, 1947

Nelson, Russell Marion (A)
Gordon B. Hinckley, April 12, 1994

Niblack, Charles Wilson (HP)
Joseph F. Smith, June 9, 1901

Oaks, Dallin Harris (A)
Gordon B. Hinckley, May 3, 1984

Packer, Boyd Kenneth (A)
Joseph Fielding Smith, April 9, 1970

Page, John Edward (Edmonds?) (A)
Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball, December 19, 1838

Patten, David Wyman (A)
The Three Witnesses, February 15, 1835

Penrose, Charles William (A)
Joseph F. Smith, July 7, 1904

Perry, Lowell Tom (A)
Spencer W. Kimball, April 11, 1974
Petersen, Mark Edward (A)  
Heber J. Grant, April 20, 1944
Pratt, Orson (A)  
The Three Witnesses, April 26, 1833
Pratt, Parley Parker (A)  
Joseph Smith, Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, February 21, 1835
Rich, Charles Coulson (A)  
Brigham Young, February 12, 1849
Richards, Franklin Dewey (A)  
Heber C. Kimball, February 12, 1849
Richards, George Franklin (A)  
Joseph F. Smith, April 9, 1906
Richards, LeGrand (A)  
David O. McKay, April 10, 1952
Richards, Stephen L (A)  
Joseph F. Smith, January 18, 1917
Richards, Willard (A)  
Brigham Young, April 14, 1840
Rigdon, Sidney (HP)  
Lyman Wight, June 3, 1831
Romney, Marion George (A)  
David O. McKay, October 11, 1951
Scott, Richard Gordon (A)  
Thomas S. Monson, October 6, 1988
Smith, George A. (A)  
Heber C. Kimball, April 26, 1839
Smith, George Albert (A)  
Joseph F. Smith, October 9, 1903
Smith, Hyrum (HP) (A)  
Ordained HP by Joseph Smith, June 3, 1831; given all priesthood callings formerly held by Oliver Cowdery by Joseph Smith, about January 19, 1841 (D&C 124:94–95)
Smith, Hyrum Mack (A)  
Joseph F. Smith, October 24, 1901
Smith, John (HP)  
Sidney Rigdon, June 6, 1833
Smith, John Henry (A)  
Wilford Woodruff, October 27, 1880
Smith, Joseph (A)  
Peter, James, and John, May-June 1829
Smith, Joseph, Sr. (HP)  
Lyman Wight, June 3, 1831
Smith, Joseph F. (A)  
Brigham Young, July 1, 1866, sustained to Quorum of Twelve October 8, 1867
Smith, Joseph Fielding (A)  
Joseph F. Smith, April 7, 1910
Smith, William (A)  
The Three Witnesses, February 15, 1835
Smoot, Reed (A)  
Lorenzo Snow, April 8, 1900
Snow, Erastus (A)  
Brigham Young, February 12, 1849
Snow, Lorenzo (A)  
Heber C. Kimball, February 12, 1849
Stapley, Delbert Leon (A)  
George Albert Smith, October 5, 1950
Talmage, James Edward (A)  
Joseph F. Smith, December 8, 1911
Tanner, Nathan Eldon (A)  
David O. McKay, October 11, 1962
Taylor, John (A)  
Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball, December 19, 1839
Taylor, John Whittaker (A)  
John Taylor, April 9, 1884
Teasdale, George (A)  
John Taylor, October 16, 1882
Thatcher, Moses (A)  
John Taylor, April 9, 1879
Wells, Daniel Hamner (A)  
Brigham Young, January 4, 1857  
(Never served in Quorum of the Twelve)
Whitney, Orson Ferguson (A)  
Joseph F. Smith, April 9, 1906
Widtsoe, John Andreas (A)  
Heber J. Grant, March 17, 1921
Wight, Lyman (A)  
Joseph Smith, April 8, 1841
Williams, Frederick Granger (HP)  
Oliver Cowdery, October 25, 1831
Winder, John Rex (HP)  
Edward Hunter, March 4, 1872
Wirthlin, Joseph Bittner (A)  
Thomas S. Monson, October 9, 1986
Woodruff, Abraham Owen (A)  
Wilford Woodruff, October 7, 1897
Woodruff, Wilford (A)  
Brigham Young, April 26, 1839
Young, Brigham (A)  
The Three Witnesses, February 14, 1835
Young, Brigham, Jr. (A)  
Brigham Young, February 4, 1864, sustained to Quorum of the Twelve October 9, 1868
Young, John Willard (A)  
Brigham Young, February 4, 1864  
(Never served in Quorum of the Twelve)
Young, Joseph Angell (A)  
Brigham Young, February 4, 1864  
(Never served in Quorum of the Twelve)