

Organization of the Church of Jesus Christ

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10:54 AM

The first members of the church were baptized... but not into the church. The church wasn't organized so there wasn't a church to be baptized into. There are 3 clusters of people meeting - In Palmyra meeting in the Smith's home, in Fayette in the Whitmer home, and the ones meeting in Colesville, just across the Susquehanna river from Harmony. The largest group is meeting in the Knight home in Colesville, with at least 65 people. Joseph is given a revelation to organize the church, meet at the Whitmer home, April 6, 1830. It says there were 6 original members, even though there are records saying there were as many as 50 people meeting there. The laws of NY said that you had to have 3-9 men to be the charter members. They picked 6 to be the founding members. As the church is organized it goes through several different names. Originally it was named the church of Christ. It is named The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Far West, Missouri in 1838. The word "saint" meant follower of Christ. The title of Mormon was given by the antis... it was a fighting name.

Once the church is organized there is a unanimous vote that Joseph Smith was the first elder, Oliver Cowdery as the 2nd elder. Joseph was the only prophet sustained as a prophet, seer, revelator & translator. First missionary is called from Palmyra- Samuel Smith, filled a knapsack with copies of the Book of Mormon and supposed to sell for \$3 a piece to save Martin Harris' farm. However, Martin was a more motivated salesman, trying to sell them for \$1.25 on Main Street. Samuel's first mission was 3 days. Your missionary call wasn't for a length of time, it was to go somewhere and share the gospel. There were two ways to know when to go home, the Lord told you to go home, or if you started cussing then obviously you no longer had the spirit and you ought to go home. Samuel served 12 missions in that first year. His first mission was to Mendon (where Dayna lived!), he says he's a preacher and asks for board. He sleeps under an apple tree and only gives away 2 copies of the Book of Mormon... to extended family of Brigham Young. One of those copies goes to Brigham Young who shares it with Heber C. Kimball.