



Society for Mormon Philosophy and Theology  
Ninth Annual Meeting, 20–22 September 2012

**Theme: “Theology of the Book of Mormon”**

*University Inn, Utah State University*

*The Society for Mormon Philosophy and Theology promotes disciplined reflection on Latter-day Saint beliefs, including constructive engagement with the broader traditions of philosophy and theology. All of the Society’s publications, conferences, and other forums for discussion demonstrate respect for both the commitments of faith and the standards of scholarship.*

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**THURSDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER**

1 – 2:20 pm

*Welcome, Opening Plenary Address*

1. “Questions at the Veil”

PHILIP BARLOW, Leonard J. Arrington Chair in Mormon History  
and Culture, Utah State University

**Room 507**

2:30 – 3:20 pm *Concurrent Sessions*

2. “What Can We Do?: Reflections on 2 Nephi 25:23”

JOSEPH SPENCER, University of New Mexico

Session chair: MORGAN DAVIS

**Room 510**

3. “*In Principio Creavit Deus*: The Theological Use of Creation Imagery  
in the Book of Mormon”

DAVID BOKOVOY, Brandeis University

Session chair: ERIC BOTTELBERGHE

**Room 511**

4. “Death, the Fall, and Darwin: A More Harmonious Reading”

STEVEN L. PECK, Brigham Young University

Session chair: LOYD ERICSON

**Room 507**

3:30 – 5 pm

*Plenary Session*

5. Book Panel: *An Other Testament: On Typology*, by Joseph Spencer

Panelists: CLARK GOBLE, Independent scholar, Provo, Utah; BRAD KRAMER,  
University of Michigan; BLAIR HODGES, Georgetown University

Author responds: JOSEPH SPENCER

Moderator/Panelist: JAMES FAULCONER, Richard L. Evans Chair of  
Religious Understanding, Brigham Young University

**Room 507**

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7 pm

*Leonard J. Arrington Mormon History Lecture*

“The Prophecy of Enoch as Restoration Blueprint”

TERRYL GIVENS, Bostwick Chair of English, University of Richmond

*This lecture is a Utah State University event that we encourage  
SMPT conference participants to attend.*

*Location: Logan Tabernacle, 50 North Main St.*

## FRIDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER

9 – 10 am

*Welcome, Opening Plenary Address*

6. “Free Will in the Early Church”

DANIEL GRAHAM, Brigham Young University

Session chair: DANIEL C. PETERSON

**Room 507**

10:15 – 11:05 am

*Concurrent Sessions*

7. “Every Truth Is a Work, Every Object Is a Covenant”

ADAM S. MILLER, Collin College

Session chair: STEVEN PECK

**Room 510**

8. “The Eternality of God: Toward a Theological Interpretation of the Book of Mormon”

JORDAN BARRETT, Wheaton College

Session chair: BENJAMIN HUFF

**Room 511**

9. “Mormonism, Idealism, and Romanticism”

JAMES MCLACHLAN, Western Carolina University

Session chair: ERIC BOTTELBERGHE

**Room 507**

11:15 am – 12:05 pm

*Concurrent Sessions*

10. “Opposition in All Things: The Book of Mormon View”

JANICE ALLRED, Independent scholar, Provo, Utah

Session chair: JOSEPH SPENCER

**Room 510**

11. “‘What’s Ragged Should Be Left Ragged’: God’s Problem of Evil”

LOYD ERICSON, Utah Valley University

Session chair: RYAN T. ROOS

**Room 511**

12. “Foreordination, Foreknowledge, and Free Will: The Doctrine of Pre-existence in Alma 13”

CHARLES HARRELL, Brigham Young University

Session chair: DAN WOTHERSPOON

**Room 507**

12:05 pm

*Lunch Break*

1:30 – 2:20 pm

*Concurrent Sessions*

13. “Jacob, Isaiah, and Social Justice in the Book of Mormon”

BLAIR HODGES, Georgetown University

Session chair: ROSALYNDE WELCH

**Room 510**

14. “Book of Mormon Theologies: A Thumbnail Sketch”

ROBERT F. SMITH, Independent scholar, Provo, Utah

Session chair: MARK WOODBURY

**Room 511**

15. “War is Hell: The Ethics of War in the Book of Mormon”

MARGARET TOSCANO, University of Utah

Session chair: JAMES MCLACHLAN

**Room 507**

2:30 – 3:20 pm

*Concurrent Sessions*

16. “The Book of the Weeping God”

BENJAMIN HUFF, Randolph-Macon College

Session chair: WAYNE DYMCK

**Room 510**

17. "The Pearl of Great Price as the Basis of a Mormon Midrashic Tradition"  
ABRAHAM J. FROST, Columbia University  
Session chair: ADAM MILLER  
**Room 511**

18. "The Book of Mormon's Internal Canon War"  
HEATHER HARDY, Independent scholar, Asheville, North Carolina  
Session chair: MARGARET TOSCANO  
**Room 507**

3:20 – 3:45 pm

*Break*

3:45 – 5:15 pm

*Plenary Session*

19. Panel Discussion: "Secular Norms and the Scholarship of Faith"  
Panelists: TERRY L. GIVENS, University of Richmond; DANIEL C. PETERSON,  
Brigham Young University  
Moderator/Panelist: RALPH C. HANCOCK, Brigham Young University  
**Room 507**

7:30 pm

*Featured Plenary Address*

20. "The Promise of Book of Mormon Theology"  
GRANT HARDY, Professor of History and Religious Studies, University of  
North Carolina at Asheville  
Session chair: JAMES MCLACHLAN  
**Room 507**

## **SATURDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER**

9 – 9:50 am

*Opening Plenary Address*

21. "Gratia Plena: A Catholic View of Grace in the Book of Mormon"  
PETER HUFF, Besl Family Chair in Ethics, Religion and Society, Xavier University;  
T. L. James Chair in Religious Studies, Centenary College of Louisiana  
Session chair: CARRIE MCLACHLAN  
**Room 507**

10:00 – 10:50 am

*Concurrent Sessions*

22. "The Importance of Being Meek"  
LINDA SODERQUIST, Independent scholar, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Session chair: KENT HUFF  
**Room 510**

23. "Obliging Grace in the Book of Mormon"  
BRENT SCHMIDT, Brigham Young University-Idaho  
Session chair: ANNE LEAHY  
**Room 511**

24. "Prisca Theologia in the Book of Mormon"  
SAMUEL M. BROWN, University of Utah  
Session chair: LOYD ERICSON  
**Room 507**

11:00 – 11:50 am

*Concurrent Sessions*

25. "2 Nephi 2: Our Choice Requires Opposition in All Things"  
JEFFREY HANSEN, Independent scholar  
Session chair: DAN WOTHERSPOON  
**Room 510**

26. "Adam Fell That Men Might Be: An Exegetical History"  
RICO MARTINEZ, Independent scholar  
Session chair: BLAIR HODGES  
**Room 511**

27. "Religious Disagreement: Internal and External"

DENNIS POTTER, Utah Valley University

Session chair: CHARLES RANDALL PAUL

**Room 507**

11:50 am

Lunch Break

12:50 – 1:20 pm

SMPT Business meeting (All interested attendees are welcome to attend)

*Afternoon Sessions (Please note the interwoven time slots for papers and panels)*

1:30 – 2:20 pm

28. Paper: "Could God Really Learn by Being Mortal? Two Interpretations of Alma 7:11-13"

MARK B. RASMUSON, Ave Maria School of Law

Session chair: JEREMIAH GRAVES

**Room 510**

1:30 – 2:50 pm

29. Book Panel: *Exploring Mormon Thought, Vol 3: Of God and Gods*, by Blake T. Ostler

Panelists: DENNIS POTTER, Utah Valley University; ADAM MILLER, Collin College

Author responds: BLAKE T. OSTLER

Moderator/Panelist: JAMES MCLACHLAN, Western Carolina University

**Room 507**

2:30 – 3:20 pm

30. Paper: "Hope in Christ: The Better World of Grace and Sanctification"

KEITH LANE, Brigham Young University-Hawaii

Session chair: BENJAMIN HUFF

**Room 510**

3 – 4:20 pm

31. Book Panel: *Rube Goldberg Machines: Essays in Mormon Theology*, by Adam S. Miller

Panelists: JOSEPH SPENCER, University of New Mexico, JACOB BAKER, Claremont Graduate University; GEORGE HANDLEY, Brigham Young University

Author responds: ADAM S. MILLER

Moderator/Panelist: ROSALYNDE WELCH, Independent scholar, St. Louis, Missouri

**Room 507**

3:30 – 4:20 pm

32. Paper: "Faith as a Doxastic Practice: A Philosophical Consideration of Alma 32"

JOHN W. NICHOLSON, Grand Canyon University

Session chair: DENNIS POTTER

**Room 510**

4:20 – 4:40 pm Break

4:40 – 5:30

Closing Plenary Address

33. "The Book of Mormon on 'The True Church' and Religious Pluralism"

CHARLES RANDALL PAUL, President, Foundation for Religious Diplomacy

Session chair: DAN WOTHERSPOON

**Room 507**

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**THANK YOU!**



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