

CENTER FOR GLOBAL MORMON STUDIES  
**CLAREMONT MORMON STUDIES**  
 Claremont Graduate University



Advancing Scholarly and Public  
Understanding of Mormonism  
Around the World

*Executive Summary*

Claremont Graduate University (CGU) proposes to establish a Center for Global Mormon Studies to become the world's leader in advancing scholarly and public understanding of Mormonism around the world.

# Our Goal

Claremont Graduate University (CGU) seeks to raise \$20 million in endowed funds to support the Center for Global Mormon Studies, which will be located on its campus in Claremont, California.

Despite decades of high-quality academic research, no institution has created a systematic approach to studying and understanding Mormonism internationally, even though the majority of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' 15 million members of record live outside of the United States. To address this significant vacuum in research and scholarship, the Center for Global Mormon Studies (the Center) proposes to become the major sponsor of original historical, sociological, anthropological, and theological research on the international (non-U.S.) manifestations of Mormonism, focusing primarily on The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its members.

Building on CGU's preeminent status in the field of Mormon Studies, the Center will seek to understand and give voice to Mormonism in its many international contexts, and to consider how Mormonism engages with issues of global significance, including religious freedom, democratization, secularization, gender equality, comparative religious belief and worship, and violence and peacebuilding.

## **The Center's programming will include the following activities:**

### **Summer Workshops on Global Mormon Studies**

The Center will organize an annual summer workshop, held in rotating international locations and designed to train international students and scholars who are pursuing original research on Mormonism around the globe.

### **Global Mormon Studies Conferences**

The Center will organize annual conferences to feature the work from Summer Workshops. On alternating years, the conference will be held overseas at locations of importance to global Mormonism.

### **Online Statistical Database on International Mormonism**

The Center will sponsor and partner with researchers to obtain and maintain up-to-date statistical information on Mormonism and Mormons in every country.

### **Visiting Research Fellows Program**

Each semester, the Center will host a Visiting Research Fellow who is pursuing an active research agenda on Mormonism outside the United States. The semester will be dedicated to research and writing.

### **Global Mormon Oral History Project**

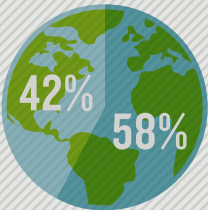
The Center will sponsor the collection, transcription, translation, and archiving of oral histories of Latter-day Saints around the globe. Oral histories will be housed in the Special Collections of Honnold Library, the library of the Claremont Colleges. A digital archive will be created and shared with the public.

## **The endowed funds will provide ongoing support for the following infrastructure:**

- Center Director
- Assistant Director
- Residence for visiting fellows near CGU campus
- Program budget for office space, research fellows, conferences, workshops, oral history project
- Graduate fellowships for MA and PhD students

# A FOOTPRINT THAT'S GLOBAL ... AND GROWING

HOW LARGE IS THE LDS CHURCH'S INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE? NUMBERS TELL A COMPELLING STORY. BESIDES ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES, THE CHURCH HAS SURGED ACROSS THE AMERICAS AND ALL OTHER CONTINENTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH.



Of the 15,882,417 total Church members, **9,267,465 live outside the U.S.**



**188** Published Languages

The Book of Mormon has been translated in its entirety into 94 languages.

*Excluding United States*

## NORTH AMERICA

TOTAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

**2,572,224**

**3,939** CONGREGATIONS

**28** TEMPLES

**67** MISSIONS

## EUROPE

TOTAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

**511,491**

**1,452** CONGREGATIONS

**12** TEMPLES

**44** MISSIONS

## ASIA

TOTAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

**1,132,501**

**1,982** CONGREGATIONS

**8** TEMPLES

**42** MISSIONS

## SOUTH AMERICA

TOTAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

**3,969,757**

**5,527** CONGREGATIONS

**17** TEMPLES

**94** MISSIONS

## AFRICA

TOTAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

**539,524**

**1,792** CONGREGATIONS

**3** TEMPLES

**31** MISSIONS

## OCEANIA (PACIFIC)

TOTAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

**541,968**

**1,243** CONGREGATIONS

**10** TEMPLES

**18** MISSIONS



## GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN SERVICES

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints provides relief and development projects for humanitarian purposes in countries all over the world.

**189** COUNTRIES RECEIVING HUMANITARIAN AID (SINCE 1985)  
**10,238** WELFARE SERVICES MISSIONARIES (INCLUDING HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MISSIONARIES)

Source: mormonnewsroom.org/facts-and-statistics as of 07/26/17

\*Source: Brandon Plewe, PhD, BYU Geography from *Mapping Mormonism, 2nd Edition*.



# Introduction: Mormon Studies at CGU

The university seeks transformational gifts totaling \$20 million to serve the global Mormon population and the scholars who study it, and to further solidify CGU's preeminent status as the world's leading Mormon Studies program, by establishing a Center for Global Mormon Studies that will provide intellectual leadership and programmatic innovation in the field.

In 2008, CGU achieved singular status and leadership in the emergent academic field of Mormon Studies by establishing the Howard W. Hunter Chair of Mormon Studies, held first by Richard Bushman, PhD and since 2011 by Patrick Mason, PhD. The Hunter Chair is significant as the first fully endowed Mormon Studies chair in the world.

CGU's Mormon Studies program is distinguished by its accomplished community of MA and PhD students, and by its robust academic and public programming. The Hunter Chair is recognized by fellow scholars and national media outlets as a trusted provider of expert independent analysis of Mormon history, culture, and theology.

## Description of the Center

Despite decades of high-quality academic research on Mormonism, we still have very little systematic knowledge about Mormonism internationally, and most of what we do know is produced by North American scholars. This is despite the fact that the majority of the 15+ million members of record of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints live outside the United States. Scholars have long bemoaned this gap in our understanding, but to date no individual, team, or organization has had the requisite resources to adequately pursue a truly global research agenda, nor to facilitate the training of international scholars to study Mormonism in their own local contexts.

The Center for Global Mormon Studies ("the Center") proposes to become the major sponsor of original historical, sociological, anthropological, and theological research on the international (non-U.S.) manifestations of Mormonism, focusing primarily on the LDS Church and its members. It will seek to understand and give voice to Mormons in all their diverse settings, and to consider how Mormonism engages with issues of global significance. The Center will examine how Mormonism makes an impact around the globe, as well as how global cultures impact Mormonism.

CGU is uniquely suited to host such a Center, owing to a number of factors, including its proven track record of excellence and leadership in Mormon Studies, an established program of training graduate students, as well as its geographical location in the greater Los Angeles area, as a portal to both Latin America and the Asia-Pacific region.

CGU has benefited from working closely with the Mormon Studies Council, an active advisory board that has provided critical guidance and support for the university's pioneering program.

The council's current chair is Robert D. Crockett; past chairs include Stephen L. Bradford, R. Randall Huff, and Joseph I. Bentley.



# 58%

*The majority of the  
Church's 15+ million  
members live outside  
the United States.*

# Programs and Initiatives

The Center will pursue numerous programs and initiatives, all of which will be regularly evaluated for effectiveness and impact. New initiatives may be generated with available program funds, as appropriate. Initial programming will include:

## Summer Workshops on Global Mormon Studies

Each summer, the Center will sponsor a workshop designed to train international students and scholars, providing them the content-based knowledge and research tools and methods necessary for them to pursue original research on Mormonism around the globe. Every other year, the Center will host the workshop on the CGU campus for international English speakers. On alternate years, the workshop will be held in a different international location (i.e. Mexico City, Sao Paulo, Rome, Manila, Hong Kong), with all instruction and materials provided in the local language so as to enable non-English speakers to participate.

Each workshop will include 6-8 participants, as well as one faculty coordinator and up to two additional visiting faculty instructors. All workshop-related expenses for students will be paid, including transportation, lodging, food, and a stipend.

The workshop will provide foundational instruction in the academic study of Mormon history, theology, and culture, as well as instruction in appropriate research tools and methods such as oral history, ethnography, survey research, and other relevant qualitative research skills. The final project will be for each participant to draft an original research proposal in consultation with the faculty mentors.

Within a year of each workshop, the Center will host a follow-up gathering in which participants will provide reports on their research. Center staff and faculty mentors will work with each participant on preparing their findings for scholarly presentations and publications as well as other forms of public dissemination.

## Global Mormon Studies Conferences

The Center will sponsor an annual conference on global Mormonism. The conference will follow up on and feature the research of the workshop participants from the previous summer. Additional scholars and church leaders will be invited to participate. In years following the English-language workshop, the conference will be held in Claremont. International workshops will be followed by conferences in that same city or country, with proceedings primarily in the local language (with translation services available). Conferences will be both live-streamed and archived online for global access and distribution.

All conference proceedings will be made available online, both in video and text formats, and translated into both English and the relevant local language (or languages). The Center and its associated faculty will periodically facilitate the publication of revised and polished conference papers.

## Online Statistical Database on International Mormonism

The Center will partner with and sponsor researchers to maintain up-to-date and reliable statistical information on Mormonism in every country around the globe. The Center will employ a part-time researcher and graduate assistants dedicated to gathering the

data necessary to maintain and update this information.

The Center will also compile an exhaustive bibliography of scholarly works and guide to primary source materials related to global Mormonism, which it will publish and maintain online.

## Visiting Research Fellows Program

The Center will host one Visiting Research Fellow each semester. Candidates will be any researcher who is pursuing an active research agenda on Mormonism outside the United States, and who will benefit from a semester dedicated primarily to writing. Preference will be given to non-U.S.-based researchers. Visiting fellows will live in the house purchased by the Center and be given a stipend. They will deliver a public lecture and participate as appropriate in the intellectual life of the Mormon Studies program at CGU. Fellows may also be asked to provide instruction to enhance curricular offerings for students.

## Global Mormon Oral History Project

Building on the success of the Mormon Women's Oral History Project at Claremont, the Center will sponsor the collection, transcription, translation, and archiving of oral histories of Latter-day Saints around the globe. Oral histories will be permanently housed in the Special Collections of Honnold Library at The Claremont Colleges, and a digital archive will also be created for researchers and the public to have immediate access to oral histories that are not restricted by the subject. Oral histories may be collected by summer workshop participants, or by researchers who apply for grants specially dedicated for this purpose.





The Center will sponsor workshops designed to train international students and scholars.



Patrick Mason, Howard W. Hunter Chair of Mormon Studies



Amy Hoyt, PhD, traveled to South Africa and Rwanda to do research and lead a group of scholars on a project examining the role that religion plays in helping women reconcile after national conflicts.



The Center will examine how Mormonism makes an impact around the globe, as well as how global cultures impact Mormonism.



Sapporo Japan Temple



# The Fund

**When fully endowed, the Center for Global Mormon Studies will include the following:**

## Director

The Director will provide overall intellectual and programmatic leadership for the Center. It will be preferred for the Director to have an academic background and maintain an active scholarly profile. Their responsibilities may include teaching as appropriate.

## Assistant Director

The Assistant Director will be a full-time staff position providing day-to-day management for the Center and its programs. In addition to strong organizational and logistical skills, the position will ideally be filled by someone with academic credentials and international experience.

## Center for Global Mormon Studies House\*

The Center will purchase a family home in walking distance to CGU, which will serve as the residence for the rotating visiting research fellows.

## Summer Workshops

Funds will cover travel, food and lodging, and a stipend for all workshop participants, as well as faculty compensation.

## Annual Conferences

Funds will cover transportation and lodging expenses for summer workshop fellows and faculty, as well as normal costs associated with hosting an annual academic conference.

## Visiting Research Fellows

Depending on rank and status, visiting research fellows (one per semester) will receive a stipend, plus transportation expenses and free lodging in the Center's house.

## Global Mormonism

### Database Research

Part-time staff position for a researcher dedicated to maintaining and updating the web-based database on global Mormonism and bibliography. Stipends will also be provided for graduate assistants.

### Oral History Project

An endowed fund will provide grants to support the collection, transcription, translation, and archiving of oral histories of Mormons around the globe.

### Student Fellowships

The Center will support the overall academic mission of Mormon Studies at CGU by providing funding for up to five graduate students per year.

### General Program Budget

This fund will cover overhead expenses such as office space and expenses, travel, translation services, and other programming.

**An itemization of the CGMS endowment consists of the following:**

Student Fellowships	5,000,000
Director	3,000,000
General Program Budget	3,000,000
Summer Workshops	2,500,000
Assistant Director	2,000,000
CGMS House*	1,500,000
Visiting Research Fellows	1,250,000
Annual Conferences	1,000,000
Global Mormonism Database Research	500,000
Oral History Project	250,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,000,000</b>

*\*towards the purchase of a house*

## *A Name for a Pathbreaking Center*

The Center for Global Mormon Studies will serve as a beacon for scholars and researchers around the world.

A unique opportunity exists to honor an individual or a family by associating their name with this Center, whose impact on Mormonism's future will be felt for generations to come.

# Conclusion

Claremont Graduate University is poised to transform the study and public understanding of Mormonism around the world. The Center for Global Mormon Studies will be the hub for creating new knowledge about Mormonism's international vitality, and equip a new generation of students and scholars with the tools and knowledge necessary to understand this dynamic religious tradition in all its twenty-first-century diversity and complexity. It will thus provide an invaluable service to numerous constituencies, including scholars, journalists, and the global Mormon community. The story of late twentieth and twenty-first-century Mormonism is mostly a global narrative that has not yet been told. The Center for Global Mormon Studies will lead the way in promoting understanding of Mormonism's place as an increasingly significant global religion.

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## CGU MORMON STUDIES COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Joseph I. Bentley  
Clay Smith  
P. Blair Hoyt

# Contacts

### Patrick Mason

Dean, School of Arts & Humanities  
Claremont Graduate University  
Howard W. Hunter Chair of Mormon Studies  
[patrick.mason@cgu.edu](mailto:patrick.mason@cgu.edu)

### Aleta Wenger

Director of Development,  
School of Arts & Humanities  
[aleta.wenger@cgu.edu](mailto:aleta.wenger@cgu.edu)

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