

Sandy Utah Willow Creek Stake
2016 Historical Summary
Draft March 27

2016 was an eventful year for the Sandy Utah Willow Creek Stake. The following table provides a selected list of important stake activities during 2016.

Table 1: Selected List of Important 2016 Stake Calendar Items

| | |
|---|---|
| General Conference | Fast Sundays |
| Mar. 26, Apr. 2, 3 | Normal: 1st Sunday of Month |
| Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 2 | April 17 (<i>instead of Apr. 3 or Mar 27</i>) |
| | Oct. 16 (<i>instead of Oct 1, Oct. 8, Sept. 25</i>) |
| Temple Dedication | |
| Sun. Mar. 20, Provo City Center Temple | Stake Baptisms (8 year old) |
| | Normal: Sat. before Fast Sun., 10 am |
| Stake Conferences | Mar. 26 (<i>instead of Apr. 16</i>) |
| Sat-Sun, Apr. 9, 10 | Sept. 24 (<i>instead of Oct. 15</i>) |
| Sun, Sept. 11 Regional Broadcast | |
| Sat-Sun, Oct. 8, 9 | Bishops Council Meetings |
| Ward Conferences | 3rd Sunday of Month, 7 am |
| Jan. 10: 6th (9 am), 2nd (12:30 pm) | |
| Jan. 17: 3rd (9 am), 1st (12:30 pm) | High Council PEC Meetings |
| Jan. 24: 4th (9 am) | 1st Sunday of Month, 7 am |
| Jan. 31: 7th (9 am), 9th (12:30 pm) | 3rd Thursday of Month, 8 pm |
| Feb. 14: Wentworth | |
| | Temple Recommend Interviews |
| Annual Stake Priesthood Meeting | Normal: 4 -5 pm each Sunday |
| Aug. 28, 4 pm | |
| | Stake Presidency Mtg. |
| Stake High Priest Quorum Mtg/Fireside | 7:00 am each Sun. (except 1st, 3rd Sun.) |
| Nov. 13, 7 pm | 8:30 am on 1st and 3rd Sun. |
| | |
| Off-normal Stake Priesthood Leadership | PPI's with Pres. Staples (Pri., SS, YW, YM) |
| Feb. 28 (7 am or 4 pm, TBD) cancelled | 2nd Wed. of Month |
| | |
| Stake Conf. for Youth: May 14,15 | |
| Stake YW's Camp: June 28 - July 1 | |

The Stake scriptural theme during 2016 was taken from 1 Timothy 4:11, "... be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." This was used and referred to during ward conferences and high councilor sacrament meeting talks during the year.

In late March 2016 a new Stake Primary Presidency was called and sustained. The previous presidency consisted of President Lisa Anderson, First Counselor Rita Lee , Second Counselor Kristen Spendlove, and Secretary Erica High. The new Stake Primary Presidency consists of Sis. Jean Westover, of the 4th Ward, as President, Sis. Carol Thain, of the 1st ward, as 1st Counselor, Sis. Vicky Everett, of the 2nd ward, as 2nd Counselor, and Sis. Karen Mc Cleary, of the 9th ward, as Secretary.

There were two changes to the high council during 2016. In May, Bro. Richard Johnson was released and Bro. Rick Blackhurst of the 4th ward was called as the new high councilor. In October, Bro. Alan Matheson was released as a high councilor, and Bro. Jeff Merchant, of the Draper Single Adult Ward was called and sustained.

Perhaps the most significant Stake event of the year occurred in early June of 2016, when a new ward was created in our Stake. The Draper Single Adult ward, for single adults ages 31-45 residing in a surrounding 28-stake area, was formed. Robert Campbell was called and sustained to be the new bishop on June 5, with Douglas Peterson as First Counselor, and Gordon Erickson as Second Counselor. This ward was assigned to meet in the Stake Center on 2350 Creek Road, which required the 9th ward to relocate their meetings to the building at 2115 East Creek Road. The Draper Single adult ward has grown rapidly and had 429 members at the end of 2016 (with average sacrament meeting attendance of over 86%).

Two regular stake conferences were held during the year 2016. The first was held April 8-9, and was presided over by Pres. Kimo Esplin. A brief synopsis of these meetings, as prepared by the stake clerk, is as follows:

Adult Session

President Staples presented his conversion story as a young man raised in a catholic family but had many Mormon friends. President Staples prayed about first vision and received a confirmation from the spirit that it was true. Ron Esplin, one of the editors of the Joseph Smith papers talked about the early manuscripts and the process of the Book of Mormon. President Esplin talked briefly about the night Joseph was visited by the angel Moroni 3 different time during the night. It is from this type of repetition that we learn.

Priesthood Leadership

Alex Hansen and David Shumway, two aaronic priesthood leaders, talked about their quorum and the importance of a quorum. Mitch Olsen, high priest group leader of the 3rd ward, targeted the do not contact list of members in his ward and visited them with great success. He also got more quorum members involved in assigned tasks beyond the normal 10 or so members that always participate. Brother Hansen, stake clerk, shared an experience with his wife and sharing their Patriarchal Blessings together and the importance of a Patriarchal Blessing. Brother Sperry, stake patriarch, shared his experience and confirmed the importance of a blessing and that promises from the Lord are predicated by our obedience and effort. President Ludlow talked about the quorum being place of safety and refuge. President Esplin stated that the quorum is the most important organization besides the family.

General Session.

Several conversion stories from different members. Eric and Kay Jackson related numerous experiences from their mission and time spent in Africa and how the church has grown. President Esplin related 3 stories. The first was the challenge Joseph Smith had before he was allowed to collect the gold plates. It took four years before his heart was pure enough to gather the plates. The second was about Hyrum Smith's daughter, Joseph's niece was to be married and they were waiting for approval. Approval was given and they were married. The third story was about Joseph after completing his task in translating the Book of Mormon, knew he was going to be incarcerated in Carthage. He told Hyrum to take his family and leave but Hyrum would not leave his side. Both Joseph and Hyrum were killed shortly after their incarceration. Joseph had completed the almost impossible task of completing the translation of the gold plates. And he endured many personal attacks on his life, but the importance of translating the Book of Mormon as commanded by God and Jesus Christ was the main focus of his life and family. We now benefit from that sacrifice by having the Book of Mormon and the stories contained therein to lay a foundation for our lives.

A second regular Stake conference was held October 7-8, and was presided over by Elder Ralph L. Dewsnup, of the Seventy. A report of this conference was submitted by Elder Dewsnup elsewhere.

On Sept. 11, 2016, stake members also participated in a regional Stake conference broadcast presided over by Elder M. Russell Ballard.

Based on quarterly reports, the 2016 beginning and ending membership statistics for the Stake are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 2016 beginning and ending membership Statistics

| Date | Number of Units | Total members | YM (12-18) | YW (12-18) | Primary (3-11) |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| Jan. 1, 2016 | 7 | 3368 | 160 | 148 | 463 |
| Dec. 31, 2016 | 8 | 3795 | 155 | 140 | 420 |

During 2016, 35 full time missionaries left our stake to serve full time missions. These missionaries, and their assigned missions, are listed in Table 3 below.

Table 3 Full Time missionaries who left during 2016

| Name(s) | Mission | Departure Date |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Pohlsander, Brandon Thayne | Ghana Accra West Mission | 7-Jan |
| Bonney, Benjamin Arthur | Marshall Islands Majuro Mission | 13-Jan |
| Miller, Seleiya Carola | Brazil Natal Mission | 27-Jan |
| Spendlove, Robert Cameron | Taiwan Taichung Mission | 27-Jan |

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Campbell, Spencer Patrick r | Perú Huancayo Mission | 16-Feb |
| Christesen, Christian Carter | Uruguay Montevideo Mission | 18-Feb |
| Borland, Lida Elizabeth | Iowa Des Moines Mission | 24-Feb |
| Hawkes, Jaxton Wyatt | Florida Tampa Mission | 16-Mar |
| World, Mitchell Maki | Brazil João Pessoa Mission | 13-Apr |
| Johnson, Carley Aurelia | Argentina Santa Fe Mission | 21-Apr |
| Rawle, Morgan Caroline | México Mérida Mission | 3-May |
| Johnson, Haley Marie | England Manchester Mission | 11-May |
| Mendel, Davis Benjamin | Japan Nagoya Mission | 11-May |
| Doty, Madeline Jeanne | North Carolina Charlotte Mission | 22-Jun |
| Shoell, Kassidy Lucile | Canada Vancouver Mission | 22-Jun |
| Hunt, Curtis Sonntag | Perú Lima Central Mission | 12-Jul |
| Bunker, Brittany Sarah | Washington Everett Mission | 20-Jul |
| Miller, Jacob Scott | Korea Seoul Mission | 27-Jul |
| Shumway, David Timothy | Chile Santiago North Mission | 2-Aug |
| Monson, Isaac Reid | Colombia Bogota North Mission | 3-Aug |
| Vanderhooft, Dillon Gerard | Ukraine Kyiv Mission | 3-Aug |
| Turley, Harold Emerson, IV | Thailand Bangkok Mission | 3-Aug |
| Young, Sarah Jane | Ohio Cleveland Mission | 3-Aug |
| Benson, Sarah XinYu | England London Mission | 17-Aug |
| Harmer, Jason Loren | Argentina Buenos Aires South Mission | 24-Aug |
| Powell, Emily Joy | Florida Orlando Mission | 24-Aug |
| Gile, Parker Burr | México México City South Mission | 30-Aug |
| Engebretsen, Emma Caroline | Korea Seoul Mission | 7-Sep |
| Curtis, Hannah Kirsten | Texas Fort Worth Mission | 20-Sep |
| Castleberry, Kaitlin Montez | California Long Beach Mission | 21-Sep |
| Madsen, Evan Cannon | Oregon Eugene Mission | 28-Sep |
| Anderson, Rhett Richard | Perú Lima Central Mission | 4-Oct |
| Wadsworth, Douglas and Joan | Washington Tacoma Mission | 28-Nov |
| Allan, Trevor Keith | Brazil Belo Horizonte Mission | 7-Dec |