

Predictions for Changes in General Church Leadership

Presidency of the Seventy: Elder L. Whitney Clayton released from and Elder Brent H. Nielson sustained to the Presidency of the Seventy (with those changes already having taken effect on August 1).¹

Result: These changes were not presented for sustaining vote on Saturday Afternoon with the other changes, but were presented at the beginning of the Sunday Morning Session.

General Authority Seventies: Elders David S. Baxter², L. Whitney Clayton, Enrique R. Falabella, and Richard J. Maynes released and granted emeritus status³.

Result: All but Elder Baxter were released, and Elder L. Todd Budge was also released in view of his call to the Presiding Bishopric. Additionally, Bishop Dean M. Davies was sustained as a General Authority Seventy.

Not Predicted: Elder L. Todd Budge released as a General Authority Seventy; Bishops Dean M. Davies and W. Christopher Waddell released as First and Second Counselors in the Presiding Bishopric; Bishop W. Christopher Waddell sustained as First Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric; and Elder L. Todd Budge sustained as Second Counselor.

Area Seventies: Any of the following could be released for the following reasons⁴:

Called as mission presidents⁵: Jose M. Batalla, Osvaldo R. Dias, E. Xavier Espinoza, Joel Martinez, Isaac K. Morrison, Alexey V. Samaykin, and William B. Woahn.

Longest-serving⁶: Ruben Acosta, Frederick O. Akinbo, Vladimir N. Astashov, M. T. Ben Davis, Sam M. Galvez, Wisit Khanakham, Jose E. Maravilla, Gordon H. Smith⁷, and Kevin J. Worthen⁸

Other reasons: K. David Scott⁹

The following area seventies were released: Ruben Acosta. René R. Alba, Alberto A. Alvarez, Vladimir N. Astashov, José Batalla, Bradford C. Bowen, Sergio Luis Carboni, Armando Carreon, S. Marc Clay Jr., Z. Dominique Dekaye, Osvaldo R. Dias, Michael M. Dudley, Mark P. Durham, E. Xavier Espinoza, James E. Evanson, Paschoal F. Fortunato, Sam M. Galvez, Patricio M. Giuffra, Leonard D. Greer, Daniel P. Hall, Toru Hayashi, Paul F. Hintze, Adolf J. Johansson, Wisit Khanakham, Seung Hoon Koo, Pedro X. Larreal, Johnny L. Leota, José E. Maravilla, Joel Martinez, Joaquim J. Moreira, Isaac K. Morrison, Eduardo A. Norambuena, Ferdinand P. Pangan, Jairus C. Perez, Steven M. Petersen, Jay D. Pimentel, Edvaldo B. Pinto Jr., Alexey V. Samaykin, K. David Scott, Rulon F. Stacey, Karl M. Tilleman, William R. Titera, Carlos R. Toledo, Cesar E. Villar, David T. Warner, Gary K. Wilde, William B. Woahn.

The following were sustained as new area seventies: Laurian P. Balilemwa, Jonathon W. Bunker, Enrique R. Mayorga, and Konstantin Tolomeev.

60/75

References

¹ In April 2018, 3 changes in the Presidency of the Seventy that went into effect in August of that year were sustained in advance. With Elder Clayton having turned 70 in mid-February, I thought his release from the Presidency and the sustaining of his successor therein would be similarly presented in advance of those changes taking effect in August of this year. Since that didn't happen, it is almost definite that Elder Clayton's release and the sustaining for Elder Nielson will both occur this go-round.

² Elder Baxter is currently only 65, but is on his second health-related medical leave from full-time service as a General Authority Seventy. The first time, the leave was for cancer, and that could be the case currently. Depending on the current condition of his health and prognosis, granting him emeritus status to devote his full energy to those issues may be a reasonable course of action. I would not necessarily be surprised by either his release or the lack thereof, but thought I'd allow for it in a worst-case scenario.

³ As mentioned above in note 1, Elder Clayton turned 70 in mid-February, with Elder Falabella having done so in mid-May, and Elder Maynes will turn 70 before the end of the month in which this General Conference is held. Regardless of whether or not Elder Baxter is, as conjectured in note 2 above, released and granted emeritus status, I anticipate that at least these three Brethren will be so due to their turning 70 in 2020.

⁴ It has been somewhat traditional in recent years for the Church to save the bulk of area seventy releases each year for the October General Conference. Generally, those releases have been related to calls to serve as mission presidents or temple presidents, or related to the lengths of their tenure or their ages. There are a few other reasons area seventies might be released this go-round, with those to be explained in subsequent notes.

⁵ These area seventies began serving as mission presidents in July 2020. As a result of that, I anticipate their releases being presented during this General Conference.

⁶ The area seventies listed here are those still serving who were originally called during or prior to the April 2014 General Conference, any of whom could be released.

⁷ Elder Smith turned 68 in May of this year, and it is rare for the Church to have any area seventies serving past the age of 65, so his release seems probable.

⁸ Elder Worthen is currently serving as the president of BYU-Provo, and has been serving as an area seventy since April 2010. Since a decade is an atypically long period of service for an area seventy, if Elder Worthen's service as president of BYU-Provo continues, it is possible that he could potentially be released as an area seventy and sustained as a new GA Seventy, becoming the first to be so sustained in an October General Conference since 2018.

⁹ Elder Scott's wife passed away in November of last year, so it would make sense, since he's a widower, if he were released this go-round.