

April 2021 General Conference Speaking Order Predictions

Sess.	Conducting	Speaker(s)
SAM	President Dallin H. Oaks	President Russell M. Nelson
		Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf
	[Joy D. Jones]	Bishop L. Todd Budge
	[Jan E. Newman]	Elder Gerrit W. Gong
	[Elder Gary E. Stevenson]	Reyna I. Aburto
	[Elder Gerrit W. Gong]	Elder S. Gifford Nielsen
	[No one]	Elder Arnulfo Valenzuela
	[President Henry B. Eyring]	Elder Gary E. Stevenson
SAA	President Henry B. Eyring	President Dallin H. Oaks (Sustaining of General Authorities, Area Seventies, and General Officers)
	Church Auditing Department Report, 2020	Kevin R. Jergensen [Jared B. Larsen]
		Elder Jeffrey R. Holland
	[Elder Jorge T. Becerra]	Elder Jose A. Teixeira
	[Elder Dale G. Renlund]	Elder Ronald A. Rasband
	[Elder Neil L. Andersen]	Elder Adeyinka A. Ojediran
	[Elder Thierry K. Mutombo]	Elder Anthony D. Perkins
	[President M. Russell Ballard]	Elder Neil L. Andersen
SPH¹¹	President Dallin H. Oaks	Elder Quentin L. Cook
	[Ahmad S. Corbitt]	Elder Ulisses Soares
	[Elder S. Gifford Nielsen]	Ahmad Corbitt
		President Henry B. Eyring
		President Dallin H. Oaks
		President Russell M. Nelson

SUM	President Russell M. Nelson [President Dallin H. Oaks]	Elder D. Todd Christofferson [Elder Ulisses Soares]
	[Reyna I. Aburto]	Joy D. Jones
	[Elder S. Mark Palmer] [Elder Edward Dube]	Elder Marcus B. Nash
	[Elder Jose A. Teixeira] [Elder Taniela B. Wakolo]	Elder Dale G. Renlund
	[Elder Chi Hong (Sam) Wong]	President Henry B. Eyring
	[Elder Michael John U. Teh]	President Dallin H. Oaks
		President Russell M. Nelson
SUA	President Henry B. Eyring	President M. Russell Ballard [President Dallin H. Oaks]
		Jan E. Newman [Elder Ronald A. Rasband]
		Elder Moises Villanueva [Elder Timothy J. Dyches]
		Elder Timothy J. Dyches [Elder D. Todd Christofferson]
		Elder Randy D. Funk [Elder Alan R. Walker]
		Elder David A. Bednar
		President Russell M. Nelson

Predictions for Changes in General Church Leadership¹

Changes in the Presidency of the Seventy (not predicted for this conference): Elders Robert C. Gay and Terence M. Vinson released; Elders Paul V. Johnson and S. Mark Palmer sustained; all changes to be effective in August 2021.

Note: This marks only the second time changes in the Presidency of the Seventy were sustained in advance, and may point to the new normal status quo for such changes.

General Authority Seventies: With a few recent exceptions, most new GA Seventies have been sustained during each April General Conference. Past precedent indicates that any new GA Seventies may be called from among the current area seventies, current or former members of the Sunday School and/or Young Men General Presidencies, any current mission or temple presidency member, or the Church at large.

Result: Elders Sean Douglas, Michael A. Dunn, Clark G. Gilbert, Patricio M. Giuffra, Alfred Kyungu, Alvin F. Meredith III, Carlos G. Revillo Jr., and Vaiangina (Vai) Sikahema were

sustained as new General Authority Seventies.

Area Seventies: Typically, the April General Conference sees only a few area seventies released, among whom are usually those who will be sustained as new General Authority Seventies, those who have been called as mission or temple presidents, or those who have served for an extensive period of time or facing age- or health-related difficulties.

Note: Based on the parameters I defined above, I anticipate a release for the following individuals:

Called as mission presidents²: Frederick O. Akinbo, Richard C. Baquiran, Dong Chol Beh, Aroldo B. Cavalcante, Antonio F. Faundez, Carlo M. Lezano, Helaman Montejo, Rene Romay, Robert K. William.

Called as temple presidents: Felix A. Martinez³, Thomas T. Priday⁴

Longest-serving⁵: M. T. Ben Davis, Carlos A. Genaro, John A. Koranteng, and Gordon H. Smith, along with others originally called in 2015 and 2016, depending on the factors I mentioned above.

Current Area Seventies Released: Elders Sean Douglas, Michael A. Dunn, Clark G. Gilbert, Alfred Kyungu, Carlos G. Revillo Jr., and Vaiangina (Vai) Sikahema were released, all in view of their calls as General Authority Seventies. The releases of those called to be mission and temple presidents will likely occur in October.

New Area Seventies Sustained: Going forward, instead of having a long list of new area seventies read during the Sustaining of Church Officers, the Church will now present new area seventies during the General Conference Leadership Sessions, with that sustaining vote ratified for the group during the Saturday Afternoon Session. On Thursday April 1, Elder Christofferson presented a list of 77 new area seventies, following which President Nelson led the sustaining vote on that list.

Primary General Presidency: General President Sister Joy D. Jones and her First Counselor, Sister Lisa L. Harkness released; Second Counselor Sister Cristina B. Franco either retained in the new Presidency or released, and new presidency members called from among the current counselors in the Relief Society or Young Women General Presidencies, the Primary, Relief Society, or Young Women General Boards, or the Church at large.

Note: It has been customary in recent years for General Presidencies to be released after 5 years of service. Although Sister Jones has served for the full five-year period, Sister Franco was called in 2016, with Sister Harkness called in 2017. Sister Harkness and her husband have been called to preside over a mission in Canada. That leaves Sister Franco as the only current presidency member likely to be retained in a new presidency. Past precedent indicates other members of the new Primary General Presidency could be called from anywhere else, as suggested above.

Result: Sisters Jones, Harknees, and Franco were released as anticipated. The new members of the Primary General Presidency, sustained on Saturday, are: Sisters Camille N. Johnson, Susan H. Porter, and Amy Wright.

Statistical Report, 2020 (corrected figures in parentheses)⁶

Stakes	3,463
Missions	406 (405)

Districts	537
Wards & Branches	31,140 (31,136)
Total Church Membership	16,754,518 (16,663,663)
Increase in Children of Record	61,497 (65,440)
Converts Baptized	205,742 (125,930)
Full-Time Missionaries	54,195 [51,819}
Church Service Missionaries	26,628 (30,527)
Temples Dedicated during 2020	1 (Durban South Africa; others postponed due to COVID-19)
Temples Rededicated during 2020	0 (Rededications postponed due to COVID-19)
Temples in Operation by the end of 2020	168

Based on what my research shows, any number of temples could be announced in any of the following locations

Africa Central: Mbuji-Mayi Democratic Republic of the Congo; Kampala Uganda
Africa South: Antananarivo Madagascar; Maputo Mozambique; Cape Town South Africa; Luanda Angola
Africa West: Monrovia Liberia; Kumasi Ghana; Yamoussoukro Ivory Coast; Calabar Nigeria; Bo Sierra Leone; Lome Togo
Asia: Jakarta Indonesia; Singapore; Taichung Taiwan; New Delhi India; Kuala Lumpur Malaysia; Hanoi Vietnam
Asia North: Ulaanbaatar Mongolia; Osaka Japan
Brazil: Belo Horizonte, Florianópolis, Ribeirão Preto, or João Pessoa Brazil
Caribbean: Santiago Dominican Republic; Port of Spain Trinidad; Kingston Jamaica
Central America: Villa Nueva or Mixco Guatemala
Europe: Edinburgh Scotland; Berlin Germany; Barcelona Spain; Bristol England; Brussels Belgium; Oslo Norway; Vienna Austria
Europe East: Vilnius Lithuania
Mexico: Torreon, Durango, or Queretaro Mexico
Pacific: Savaii Samoa; Ipswich Australia; Bora Bora Tahiti; Christchurch New Zealand
Philippines: Tacloban, Angeles, or Olongapo Philippines
South America Northwest: La Paz Bolivia; Iquitos/Cusco/Chiclayo Peru; Cali/Medellín Colombia; Maracaibo Venezuela
South America South: Osorno/Vina del Mar Chile; Ciudad del Este Paraguay; Resistencia/Rosario/Buenos Aires (2nd) Argentina

North America (including the United States and Canada)

North America Central: Missoula Montana; Lethbridge Alberta; Green Bay Wisconsin; Wichita Kansas; Des Moines Iowa; Colorado Springs/Pueblo Colorado; Rapid City South Dakota
North America Northeast: Cleveland Ohio; East Brunswick New Jersey; Concord New Hampshire
North America Southeast: Jackson Mississippi; Knoxville Tennessee; Charlotte North Carolina; Shreveport Louisiana; Jacksonville/Pensacola Florida

North America Southwest: Flagstaff/Queen Creek Arizona; Las Cruces/Roswell New Mexico; Elko/Ely Nevada; Fort Worth/El Paso/Austin/ Texas
North America West: Fairbanks Alaska; Bakersfield California; Victoria British Columbia; Eugene Oregon
Utah: Herriman Utah; Lehi Utah; Evanston Wyoming; Preston Idaho; Cottonwood Heights Utah; Heber Valley Utah; Hurricane/Washington City Utah; Mapleton Utah

Note: The following new temples were announced: Oslo Norway; Brussels Belgium; Vienna Austria; Kumasi Ghana; Beira Mozambique; Cape Town South Africa; Singapore Republic of Singapore; Belo Horizonte Brazil; Cali Colombia; Queretaro and Torreon Mexico; Helena Montana; Casper Wyoming; Grand Junction Colorado; Farmington New Mexico; Burley Idaho; Eugene Oregon; Elko Nevada; Yorba Linda California; and Smithfield Utah.

References

¹ In April 2018, 5 changes in the membership of the Presidency of the Seventy were presented, 2 of which went into effect immediately, with the other 3 sustained in advance of going into effect in August of that same year. Then last year, another change in that Presidency was not sustained until the October 2020 General Conference. With 2 members of the current Presidency of the Seventy turning 70 later this year, I believe that any resulting changes in this Presidency will not be presented until October..

² As confirmed [here](#), each of these Brethren will begin their service as mission presidents in July. It would make sense if they were released now so as not to interfere with their service.

³ The confirmation of Elder Martinez's call as a temple president, along with the fact that he will begin serving in that new assignment in August of this year, was provided in [early March](#).

⁴ The confirmation of Elder Priday's call as a temple president, and that he will begin that assignment in late August, was provided in [late January](#), making it likely that he will be released during this General Conference.

⁵ I have previously mentioned my theory that current BYU-Provo President Kevin J Worthen, who has been an area seventy since April 2010, could be called as a GA Seventy at some point. But given that he will be 65 a couple of weeks after this General Conference is held, and that all other current presidents of Church-owned universities are now serving as area seventies, I believe that Elder Worthen will continue his service as an area seventy for however much longer he serves as president of BYU-Provo.

⁶ In keeping with the new tradition established during the April 2018 General Conference, the Statistical Report for last year will not be read during the Saturday Afternoon Session, but will be released through the official Newsroom directly following it.