

Predictions for Changes in General Church Leadership¹

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.

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.

Result: 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. During General Conference weekend, area seventies were released.

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.

Statistical Report, 2020 (corrected figures in parentheses)

Stakes	3,507
Missions	406
Districts	537
Wards & Branches	31,140

Total Church Membership	16,754,518
Increase in Children of Record	61,497
Converts Baptized	205,742
Full-Time Missionaries	54,195
Church Service Missionaries	26,628
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
Total Temples in Any Phase	231

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.