"Questions are what drives one’s testimony – to ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS. So exploring questions, having doubts, discussing issues is all completely not just important but welcome and invited and expected."

- Ally Isom, LDS Church Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Recently The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints encouraged members to ask questions and to "engage with civility, with honesty, with openness." The Sunstone Education Foundation has been doing just that for the past 40 years with Sunstone magazine and at our annual Salt Lake Symposium.

This year's symposium theme:

BRIDGES AND BYWAYS: TRAVERSING THE MORMON LANDSCAPE

We invited presenters to consider how the notion of bridges and byways can help us understand Mormon history, theology, and culture. Presenters will speak to a large audience on topics such as:

Since 1979, the Utah Sunstone Symposium has been an open forum for thinkers, seekers, scholars, theologians, historians, Mormons, and Mormon watchers to share research and ideas. Under the motto “Faith Seeking Understanding,” Sunstone expects that attendees will approach every issue—no matter how difficult—with thoughtfulness, respect, and good will.
FREE Opening Lecture July 30: Spiritual Bridges and Intellectual Byways
This year’s Smith-Pettit lecture will be delivered by Mathew N. Schmalz, associate professor of religious studies at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts and blogger for On Faith, an online forum for religious and spiritual discussion.

There will be workshops on Combatting Mormon Passive Aggression, Healthy Sexuality and Sex Education, Religious Conflict Resolution, Mormon Crafts, and learning about Transgender issues.

Addressing Mental Health Issues
From depression and anxiety to sexual issues in marriage, the conference is full of expert advice and panels exploring these complicated issues.

Church Discipline in the LDS Community
What are the "mortal consequences" of being disciplined by the church? How does it affect one's social, religious, and emotional standing? The conference has several panels to discuss the historical, ecumenical, and sociological impacts of LDS Church discipline.

Why We Stay
From doubters and seekers to misfits and heretics, why do those on the Borderlands of the Mormon Faith remain committed to their church? Find out in our annual "Why We Stay" panel.

Pillars of My Faith
The Mormon Faith is complex. Find out what some of Mormonism's brightest minds say help construct their belief system.

Mormon Food
From sugar to MORE sugar, come join a fun and raucous panel exploring Mormon food traditions and cuisine and even get a taste test!

Changes in Beliefs and Marriage
How does a faith identity disruption affect a marriage? Several panels and workshops will seek to explore these questions.

Mormon Film Series
Running concurrently with the Symposium is a Film Series that highlights Mormon topics, classic Mormon Films and Mormon Filmmakers.

Abuse in Mormonism
From intimate-partner violence to ecclesiastical abuse, Mormonism doesn't get a free pass from conflict in relationships. Come learn more at selected panels exploring these difficult issues.

The Ordination Question
The topic of women's ordination is a hot issue and one that potentially affects every Latter-day Saint. Come discuss the possibilities.

Bridging Old and New Beliefs
How do shifts in religious belief, lifestyle, and attitude shape lives? Listen to TEDx-style talks featuring: Kate Kelly, John Dehlin, and other great speakers.

... and much, much more!

Meet a diverse group of Mormon thinkers, scholars, historians, and friends!

VISIT US AT SUNSTONE.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS OR CALL 801.355.5926 FOR PRESS PASSES media@sunstone.org or sunstoneme@gmail.com for more info #SUNSTONE2014