

School of the Prophets

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Mainline Christianity

In [Christianity](#), the **School of the Prophets** (SOPs) is a movement that with personal and political conviction seeks to enact the theology of [Radical Discipleship](#). As such its purpose is to set in motion gatherings of theological reflection and church renewal as experiments in Christian faithfulness.

It stands in the tradition of radical Christian movements both past and present; believer's gatherings like the [House of the New World](#) (Australia), [Bartimaeus Community](#) and [Sojourners](#) (North America), and resistance traditions akin to the Confessing Church's underground seminary in Nazi Germany, and the Base Communities animated by third world liberation theology - and more recently the [School of Discipleship](#) in Canberra, Australia.

Confessionally oriented, the School of the Prophets is an interdenominational grouping of people given to moving beyond the conundrums of liberalism and fundamentalism to a mainline Trinitarian theology. That is, to a passionate following of Jesus that seeks to be faithful to the biblical witness and the redeeming activity of God present in the risen and crucified One ^[1]

Latter Day Saints

In [Mormonism](#), the **School of the Prophets** (also called the "school of the elders" or "school for the Prophets") was a select group of early [Latter Day Saint](#) leaders who began meeting on January 23, 1833 in Kirtland, Ohio under the direction of Mormon prophet [Joseph Smith, Jr.](#) for both theological and secular learning. The first meeting of the school was held at the home-based store owned by [Newel K. Whitney](#). The

school provided a setting for spiritual experiences and in-depth discussions of gospel principles. A series of seven lectures presented at the school were published as [*Lectures on Faith*](#), which for a time were considered canonical by Latter Day Saints. Another branch of this school existed under the direction of [Parley P. Pratt](#) in [Independence, Missouri](#) for a short while.

[Brigham Young](#) began several schools of the Prophets during his tenure as church president, beginning in 1868 in [Salt Lake City, Utah](#), and spreading to [Provo](#), [Logan](#), [Brigham City](#), [Spanish Fork](#), [Nephi](#), [Ephraim](#), [American Fork](#), and [Ogden](#). His successor, [John Taylor](#), also organized such schools in [Salt Lake City](#) and [St. George](#) in 1883.

The name has been used by others who had been in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. In 1979 [Robert C. Crossfield](#) (whose revelations claim is a latter-day Elias) received instructions in Section 39 of [The Second Book of Commandments](#) to establish again the School of the Prophets independent of the church. This was accomplished in 1981. This group holds that the LDS Church will be set in order by the "One Like unto Moses" who is yet to come forth as prophesied in [D&C 103:15-18](#).

References

1. [^] ISchool of the Prophets website:
http://www.schooloftheprophets.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46&Itemid=53

[Radical Christianity](#)

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Radical Christianity (or **radical discipleship**) is a theological and socio-political movement that has emerged out of searching for the true message of [Jesus](#) and a discontentment with mainstream [Christianity](#). Radical Christians, such as Ched Myers and Lee Camp, believe mainstream Christianity has moved away from its origins, namely the core teachings and practices of Jesus such as [turning the other cheek](#) and rejecting [materialism](#). Radical is derived from the Latin word *radix* meaning "root", referring to the need for perpetual re-orientation towards the root truths of [Christian discipleship](#). One way Christians achieve this is to follow either the [Sermon on the Mount](#) or the [Gospel of Mark](#), the earliest of the canonical gospels.^{[1][2]}

Theological commentary notes discipleship as being "the only form in which Faith exists in the [New Testament](#)"^[3] The theology of radical discipleship is built upon the work of mainline theological scholars such as [Eberhard Jungel](#), [Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza](#), [Jurgen Moltmann](#)^[4] and draws inspiration from such expressions of Christian community and theology as believer's gatherings like the [House of the New World](#), [House of the Gentle Bunyip](#)^[5] and House of Freedom^[6] (Australia), [Bartimaeus Community](#) and [Sojourners](#) (North America), and resistance traditions akin to the Confessing Church's underground seminary in Nazi Germany, and third world [Liberation Theology](#).^[citation needed]

[School of the Prophets](#), The Bartimaeus Institute and [School of Discipleship](#) are current examples of places where Radical Discipleship is embraced and enacted.^[citation needed]