

## **Writing Your Church History**

Fall Workshop for Church Historians  
2006

### **Why are you doing this?**

- Celebrate a milestone
- Document your history
- Scholarship

### **Who's going to read this?**

- You and your successor historians
- Members of the church at one point in time
- Prospective members
- Posterity
- Scholars

### **Who's going to do the work?**

- You
- Someone else
- A committee
  - Organize work by function (researching, writing, editing, graphics)
  - Organize work by topic (by chronology, by church functions or missions, by physical location)

### **What are you going to produce?**

- Organized files
- Scrapbook
- Exhibit
- Souvenir book
- Article
- Book

### **What story are you going to tell?**

- The mission
  - Nursery schools, soup kitchens, education, prison ministries
- The people
  - Individuals (pastors, leaders, worker-bees)
  - Groups (UMW, youth, choir)
- The events
  - Fires, tornadoes, performances
  - Regular events (plant sales, 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnics)

### **How are you going to organize it?**

- Chronologically
  - Seamlessly
  - By era (Depression, Civil Rights Era)
  - By pastorate
- Group
- Mission
- Location

### **Besides the main narrative**

- Timeline
- Glossary
- Biographical profiles
- Document snippets
- Visuals (photos, reproductions of letters)