# The Fight for Religious Transparency on the Electronic Frontier

Ethan Gregory Dodge



## Who am I?

- Born and raised Mormon
- Digital forensics professional
- Transparency advocate
- Co-Founder of the Truth & Transparency Foundation
- Craft beer enthusiast





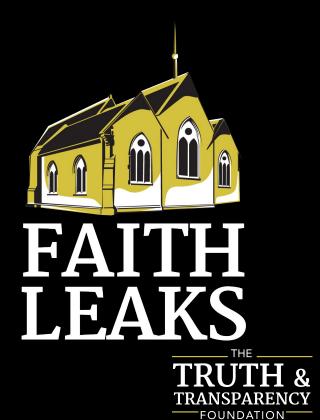
### MormonLeaks

- Founded December 2016
- Started in response to influx of documents being released via r/exmormon
- Released hundreds of documents regarding Mormonism
- Now serves as archive for TTF



### FaithLeaks

- Founded November 2017
- Requested by many post religious individuals and groups
- Only released document regarding Jehovah's Witnesses so far
- Now serves as archive for TTF



## Truth & Transparency Foundation

- Founded November 2017
- Umbrella organization for MormonLeaks and FaithLeaks
- Now serves as investigative, nonprofit newsroom promoting transparency within religious institutions
- truthandtransparency.org





## Truth & Transparency Foundation

The Truth & Transparency Foundation (TTF) is a non profit newsroom founded on the belief that increased transparency results in fewer untruths, less corruption, and less abuse within religious institutions. The organization was originally founded to provide sources and whistle-blowers the technical ability to anonymously submit sensitive documents for use by professional and citizen journalists for starting and expanding news reporting, public commentary, and criticism related to various religious organizations. Its mission has since expanded to contribute to said news reporting.





## Truth & Transparency Foundation







Religious institutions should be held to the same societal and legal standards as other nonprofits concerning the transparency of their finances.

Policies and procedures of any religious institution that directly affect its membership should be well-known and publicized.

Statistics on all claims of abuse, percentage of claims involving law enforcement, and associated settlements should be regularly published.



## SecureDrop

SecureDrop is an open-source whistleblower submission system that media organizations can use to securely accept documents from and communicate with anonymous sources. It was originally created by the late Aaron Swartz and is currently managed by Freedom of the Press Foundation.





## Transparency

## Information liberates



## Mormons Sharpen Stand Against Same-Sex Marriage

Children of same-sex couples will not be able to join the Mormon Church until they turn 18 — and only if they move out of their parents' homes, disavow all same-sex relationships and receive approval from the church's top leadership as part of a new policy adopted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

TRUTH & TRANSPARENCY FOUNDATION

## Mormon Resignations Put Support for Gays Over Fealty to Faith

Healy, J. (2015, Nov 15). *New York Times*, Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/2015/1 1/16/us/mormon-resignations-put-support-for-gays-over-fealty-to-faith.html

Photo credit: Kim Raff for The New York Times





## Leaked Videos Pull Back Curtain on Mormon Leadership

In a presentation that has provoked some criticism, former Senator Gordon H. Smith, a Republican of Oregon, shared with the apostles that he voted in favor of the Iraq War partly because he believed it could open the region for Mormon missionaries.

Goodstein, L. (2016, Oct 6). New York Times, Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/07/us/mormon-videos-leaked.html



## Paystubs

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Year to Date Wage, Tax and Witholding Information				Annual	Leave	Current Summary	
Gross 55,267.40	Federal Tax 4,320.00			Hours Used		Gross 3,096.15	Monthly Salary
Taxable Gross 40,868.93	State Tax 1,440.00			Hours Unused	1	Texable Gross 0.00  2,191.38  Net Pay	
OASDI/Dis 0.00	FICA/MHI 0.00	Federal Al Ma	lowance rried 0	Hours Not Ve	sted	Total Deductions 1,807.80	1,288.35



## New Whistleblower Site FaithLeaks Releases Confidential Documents About Child Sexual Abuse in Jehovah's Witnesses Community



## MormonLeaks™ Releases Audio of Former Mormon Mission President Admitting to Inappropriate Interactions with Women

Today MormonLeaks™ releases audio recorded in 2017 of Joseph L. Bishop admitting to inappropriate interactions he had with female missionaries while he was President of the Provo Missionary Training Center.

Audio here

Transcript here



#### PRESS RELEASE

MAY 30, 2018 - LAS VEGAS, NV

### MormonLeaks™ Compiles Information Connecting Mormon Church to \$32 Billion of Investments

Today MormonLeaks™ releases a compilation of information connecting the Mormon Church to 13 companies who collectively owned over \$32 billion of shares in the United States stock market at the end of 2017.



PRESS RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 11, 2018 - LAS VEGAS, NV

MormonLeaks™ Publishes Internal Kirton McConkie Document Summarizing Investigations of Abuse within Mormon Church

MormonLeaks publishes a 2012 document labeled "Attorney Work Product" from Kirton McConkie, a Salt Lake City based law firm, summarizing legal investigations of abuse involving members of the Mormon Church.



PRESS RELEASE

NOVEMBER 21, 2018 - LAS VEGAS, NV

#### MormonLeaks Releases Emails Detailing an Internal Investigation of Abuse

MormonLeaks releases emails from July 2016 summarizing allegations of sex abuse made by a sister missionary against her former Patriarch and the internal investigation conducted by the Mormon Church of those allegations.











## Copyright

## Bubble Chart a.k.a. "Enemies List"

Issues and Ideas Leading People Away from the Gospel



## DMCA Takedown

Dear Mr. McKnight and Mr. Fausett:

I, the undersigned, state UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY that I am an agent authorized to act on behalf of the owner of certain intellectual property rights, said owner being named Intellectual Reserve, Inc. ("IP Owner"), and the information in this notice is accurate.

The IP Owner owns the copyright and other intellectual property used by Intellectual Reserve, Inc. and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A copyrighted PowerPoint presentation being distributed through your "Mormonleaks.io" website at the webpage <a href="https://mormonleaks.io/newsroom/2017-02-21-another-three-documents-from-mormonleaks/">https://mormonleaks.io/newsroom/2017-02-21-another-three-documents-from-mormonleaks/</a> contains material not authorized by the IP Owner, its agents, or the law. The complete and exact download link for this PowerPoint presentation, as provided on your website, is:

https://www.docdroid.net/FSgWOMk/powerpoint-on-threats-to-the-church.pdf.html

Please act expeditiously to remove or disable access to this item.



## Our Response

This law firm has the privilege of serving as counsel to MormonLeaks™, and your DMCA notice was forwarded to us for a response. You sent this DMCA notice to remove a PowerPoint presentation from the Internet. That PowerPoint discussed some of the LDS Church's inner workings and public relations strategies. My client obtained this document lawfully and had a right to distribute it in its capacity as a journalistic resource devoted to discussing facts about the LDS Church.



## Our Response

Even if my client were to never lay eyes or fingers upon it again, it would still be disseminated worldwide. You tried to blow out a single candle, but in the process, you knocked it over into a field of dried leaves. You may have extinguished that initial flame. However, your attempted censorship simply caused the document to be further reproduced and redistributed that even a hypothetical divine being could not possibly undo the dissemination.

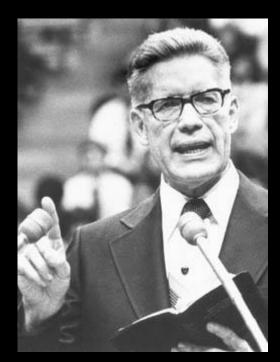


**Acts of Faith** 

# MormonLeaks website squares off with Mormon Church, posts leaked 'Enemies List'



## The McConkie Papers





## The McConkie Papers

THE RECEIPT OF THE REVELATION

OFFERING THE PRIESTHOOD TO MEN OF ALL RACES AND COLORS

June 30, 1978

In recent years the counselors in the First Presidency and all members of the Council of the Twelve have had an acute awareness of the desire of President Spencer W. Kimball to learn the mind and will of the Lord relative to conferring the Holy Priesthood upon worthy males of every race and color. In recent months one aspect or another of this matter has come up for informal discussion in various regular meetings of the First Presidency and the Twelve. There have been discussions for instance, about patriarchal blessings for Negroes and about the problems we might encounter in Brazil after the dedication of the Sao Paulo Temple. As a matter of historical fact, many of the early settlers in Brazil were Portuguese and African Negroes. There was extensive intermarriage. It is generally felt that an appreciable part of the Brazilian nation is now



### DMCA Takedown

PRESS RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 - LAS VEGAS, NV

MormonLeaks™ Receives and Responds to DMCA Take Down; Publishes 53 Additional McConkie Papers

On July 24, 2017 MormonLeaks™ released the first installment of the McConkie Papers: 37 unpublished documents from the hand of controversial Mormon leader Bruce R. McConkie. Subsequently on July 26, 2017, MormonLeaks™ received a DMCA take down request from the attorney of the McConkie heirs asking for the removal of all 37 documents. Today MormonLeaks™ responds to the request refusing to comply and publishes another 53 documents in the McConkie Papers series.

Request here

Response here

Documents here

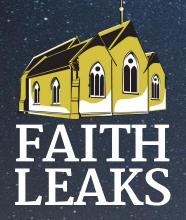




Truth and Transparency Foundation Receives
Four Takedown Requests from Jehovah's
Witnesses



# Freedom of Information



THE

# TRUTH & TRANSPARENCY FOUNDATION

