
Doctrine and Covenants 47 — Keep a Regular History

A revelation given through Joseph Smith at Kirtland, Ohio, on March 8, 1831, appointing John Whitmer to keep the Church's history and records.

This is the revelation that formally created the office of Church historian, appointing John Whitmer to *write and keep a regular history* — and it fulfills, in a quiet and practical way, the very first words of the organization-day revelation: *there shall be a record kept among you* (D&C 21:1).

From the Chapter's Architecture

*Four verses, a single appointment with a spiritual frame. Verse 1 gives the **dual task**: write the history, transcribe the revelations. Verse 2 grants John a **voice** in meetings. Verse 3 makes the office **permanent and explains the handoff**: keep the record continually, because Oliver is called elsewhere. Verse 4 supplies the **means**: it will be given him by the Comforter, inasmuch as he is faithful. The structure is modest but complete — a task, a standing, a reason, and the spiritual power to do it. The placement of the Comforter at the end quietly elevates the whole office: even remembering is a work of the Spirit.*