

Mormon Transhumanist Association

The **Mormon Transhumanist Association** (MTA) is an international nonprofit organization that promotes change toward radical flourishing in creativity and compassion through technology and religion, as outlined in the Transhumanist Declaration and the Mormon Transhumanist Affirmation. The MTA is affiliated with [Humanity+](#). The MTA is not affiliated with [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](#) or any other religious organization.¹

History

The 14 founding members of the MTA began organizing on 3 March 2006 and adopted a constitution on 13 May 2006.² The MTA incorporated in Utah of the United States on 4 August 2006,³ and received 501c3 nonprofit status in the United States, effective the same date.⁴ It affiliated with [Humanity+](#) (formerly the World Transhumanist Association) on 6 July 2006⁵ and renewed the affiliation on 2 October 2010.⁶

Demographics

As of 1 October 2012, the MTA consisted of 230 members, with approximately 31% living in Utah and 83% living in the United States.⁷ As of the end of 2011, 76% of MTA members were also members of [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](#), 73% identified as theist (5% atheist), 51% as culturally progressive (12% culturally conservative), and 40% as economically progressive (30% economically conservative).⁸

Activities

The MTA sponsors conferences on [Mormonism](#) and [Transhumanism](#), with particular attention to topics at the intersection of technology, spirituality, science and religion. It was among sponsors for the "Parallels and Convergences: Mormon Thought and Engineering Vision" conference at [Claremont Graduate University](#) in 2009,⁹ and the "Transhumanism and Spirituality" conference at the [University of Utah](#) in 2010.¹⁰ The MTA also sponsors annual member conferences in [Salt Lake City](#).¹¹

Transhumanist Declaration¹²

¹ "About the Mormon Transhumanist Association." Mormon Transhumanist Association, n.d. Web. 02 Oct. 2012. <<http://transfigurism.org/pages/about/>>.

² "Constitution of the Mormon Transhumanist Association." Mormon Transhumanist Association, n.d. Web. 02 Oct. 2012. <<http://transfigurism.org/pages/about/constitution/>>.

³ "Articles of Incorporation." Mormon Transhumanist Association, n.d. Web. 02 Oct. 2012. <<http://transfigurism.org/pages/about/articles-of-incorporation/>>.

⁴ "Tax Exemption." Mormon Transhumanist Association, n.d. Web. 02 Oct. 2012. <<http://transfigurism.org/pages/about/tax-exemption/>>.

⁵ "The Mormon Transhumanist Association Affiliates with the WTA." World Transhumanist Association, 15 Nov. 2006. Web. 2 Oct. 2012. <<http://www.transhumanism.org/index.php/WTA/more/1223/>>.

⁶ "New Humanity+ Affiliate Program." Humanity+, 25 Oct. 2010. Web. 02 Oct. 2012. <<http://humanityplus.org/2010/10/new-humanity-affiliate-program/>>.

⁷ "Members." Mormon Transhumanist Association, n.d. Web. 02 Oct. 2012. <<http://transfigurism.org/pages/about/members/>>.

⁸ "Member Survey Results." Mormon Transhumanist Association, n.d. Web. 02 Oct. 2012. <<http://transfigurism.org/pages/about/member-survey-results/>>.

⁹ "Mormonism and Engineering Conference (2009)." YouTube, n.d. Web. 02 Oct. 2012. <<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLD28C25910E1CAFC3>>.

¹⁰ "Transhumanism and Spirituality Conference (2010)." YouTube, n.d. Web. 02 Oct. 2012. <<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLED8C09028C2CE378>>.

¹¹ "2012 Conference of the Mormon Transhumanist Association." YouTube, n.d. Web. 02 Oct. 2012. <<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3893B119820E9DC1>>.

¹² "Transhumanist Declaration." Mormon Transhumanist Association, n.d. Web. 02 Oct. 2012. <<http://transfigurism.org/pages/about/transhumanist-declaration/>>.

1. Humanity stands to be profoundly affected by science and technology in the future. We envision the possibility of broadening human potential by overcoming aging, cognitive shortcomings, involuntary suffering, and our confinement to planet Earth.
2. We believe that humanity's potential is still mostly unrealized. There are possible scenarios that lead to wonderful and exceedingly worthwhile enhanced human conditions.
3. We recognize that humanity faces serious risks, especially from the misuse of new technologies. There are possible realistic scenarios that lead to the loss of most, or even all, of what we hold valuable. Some of these scenarios are drastic, others are subtle. Although all progress is change, not all change is progress.
4. Research effort needs to be invested into understanding these prospects. We need to carefully deliberate how best to reduce risks and expedite beneficial applications. We also need forums where people can constructively discuss what should be done, and a social order where responsible decisions can be implemented.
5. Reduction of existential risks, and development of means for the preservation of life and health, the alleviation of grave suffering, and the improvement of human foresight and wisdom should be pursued as urgent priorities, and heavily funded.
6. Policymaking ought to be guided by responsible and inclusive moral vision, taking seriously both opportunities and risks, respecting autonomy and individual rights, and showing solidarity with and concern for the interests and dignity of all people around the globe. We must also consider our moral responsibilities towards generations that will exist in the future.
7. We advocate the well-being of all sentience, including humans, non-human animals, and any future artificial intellects, modified life forms, or other intelligences to which technological and scientific advance may give rise.
8. We favour allowing individuals wide personal choice over how they enable their lives. This includes use of techniques that may be developed to assist memory, concentration, and mental energy; life extension therapies; reproductive choice technologies; cryonics procedures; and many other possible human modification and enhancement technologies.

Mormon Transhumanist Affirmation¹³

1. We seek the spiritual and physical exaltation of individuals and their anatomies, as well as communities and their environments, according to their wills, desires and laws, to the extent they are not oppressive.
2. We believe that scientific knowledge and technological power are among the means ordained of God to enable such exaltation, including realization of diverse prophetic visions of transfiguration, immortality, resurrection, renewal of this world, and the discovery and creation of worlds without end.
3. We feel a duty to use science and technology according to wisdom and inspiration, to identify and prepare for risks and responsibilities associated with future advances, and to persuade others to do likewise.

See Also

- [Mormonism](#)
- [Transhumanism](#)

References

[Footnotes]

Further Reading

- Cannon, Lincoln, et al. "Transfiguration: Parallels and Complements between Mormonism and Transhumanism." *Sunstone Magazine* Mar. 2007: 25-39. Print.
- Hansen, Dennis. "The Intersection of Mormonism and Transhumanism." Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies, 17 Nov. 2011. Web. 02 Oct. 2012. <<http://ieet.org/index.php/IEET/more/4955>>.

¹³ "Mormon Transhumanist Affirmation." Mormon Transhumanist Association, n.d. Web. 02 Oct. 2012. <<http://transfigurism.org/pages/about/mormon-transhumanist-affirmation/>>.

- Howe, Scott, and Richard Bushman, eds. *Parallels and Convergences: Mormon Thought and Engineering Vision*. Draper, Utah: Greg Kofford, 2012. Print.
- "Mormon Transhumanism: Eternal Progression towards Becoming like God." *H+ Magazine*. Ed. Hank Pellissier. Humanity+, 22 Aug. 2010. Web. 02 Oct. 2012. <<http://hplusmagazine.com/2010/08/22/mormon-transhumanism-eternal-progression-towards-becoming-god/>>.
- "Mormonism and Transhumanism." Ed. Dan Wotherspoon. *Mormon Matters*, 13 Mar. 2012. Web. 02 Oct. 2012. <<http://mormonmatters.org/2012/03/13/81-82-mormonism-and-transhumanism/>>.
- "Mormonism: The Most Transhumanist Religion?" *H+ Magazine*. Ed. Ben Goertzel. Humanity+, 9 May 2011. Web. 2 Oct. 2012. <<http://hplusmagazine.com/2011/05/09/mormonism-the-most-transhumanist-religion/>>.

External Links

- [Mormon Transhumanist Association](#) – official website