



Date
5 May 2022

City of Yorba Linda
4845 Casa Loma Avenue
Yorba Linda, CA 92886

Re: Yorba Linda California Temple
HKS Project No. 24551

Dear staff members of the City of Yorba Linda:

As requested by city staff, the following is a letter describing the differences between Temples and Meetinghouses for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The Church has provided the following general description of differences between the two building types.

“Regular meetinghouses (chapels) are used for Sabbath day worship services and weekday activities such as youth groups, socials, service projects, and sporting events. They are open to the general public and visitors are welcome to observe or respectfully participate.

Temples are different. They are special places of worship where members learn more about the gospel of Jesus Christ and participate in sacred ceremonies. Temples are not open on the Sabbath, so that members may attend their local congregations. When a temple is first built, it is briefly open for public tours. Once dedicated, attendance is reserved for faithful members of the Church who are ready to participate in additional gospel ordinances (though the grounds around the temple remain open to the public).”

The religious instruction within the temple functions on a set schedule. Members currently make appointments online to participate in the different functions. Functions include gospel instruction, baptisms and sealings (marriages). Temple staff assist and guide patrons through the different functions. Each function operates at different times/intervals which creates a controlled flow of people into and out of the building each hour based on the scheduling limitations and room capacities. This is different than a meetinghouse which has larger congregations of people coming all at once for a single service and then leaving all at the same time. Individuals and families can set up appointments to visit the temple. Meetinghouses hold services for a geographical area with services at a set time for the whole geographical area. As described above, meetinghouses also host social events such as receptions which do not occur in the Temple or on Temple grounds.

If there are additional questions about the differences between temples and meetinghouses, please let us know.

David Henderson
Design Team Project Manager
Principal