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## Preface

In 1999 the four basic documents of the Packet (1-4) were distributed to all teachers in the Church's seminaries and institutes (the Church Education System). The *BYU Evolution Packet* itself is provided here for a wider audience beyond the University in the hope that other members of the Church will also have the foundation documents on evolution and the origin of man available as they study these topics. It is of crucial importance that members of the Church understand the primary role of "formal statements by the First Presidency" in establishing official doctrine. These are the statements that can be relied upon in the face of diverse unofficial views from Church leaders and others, views that may, in fact, be contradictory. Such contradictions, however, are no more than indications of different opinions on issues not fully settled by authoritative statements or modern revelation. Furthermore, all thoughtful, faithful Latter-day Saints share the responsibility to find their own insights on those questions that are not settled by formal statements of the First Presidency.

In the documents and commentary that follow, we reproduce first the entire BYU Packet; the individual documents are numbered 1,2,3,4. The Cover Page