1. Age of the Earth

The church has no official position on the age of the Earth.

Though not a statement of official Church position, Elder Russell M. Nelson made the most recent relevant statement in General Conference: (“The Creation,” *Ensign*, May 2000, 84) “The physical Creation itself was staged through ordered periods of time. In Genesis 22 and Moses, those periods are called days. But in the book of Abraham, each period is referred to as a time. Whether termed a day, a time, or an age, each phase was a period between two identifiable events—a division of eternity.”

2. The Origin of Man

The Church’s official position on the origin of man can be summarized as follows (based on the First Presidency statements):

   a. Jesus Christ, along with others, is the Creator of this world.
   b. All plants, animals, and people were created spiritually and physically.
   c. Man is distinct from the animals in being the only spiritual offspring of our Heavenly Father.
   d. Adam was the first man on the earth whose spirit was the literal offspring of Heavenly Father, and all descendants of Adam are the spirit children of Heavenly Father.
   e. Adam was created in the likeness and image of God.

The First Presidency statements do not address the broader topic of evolution of plants and animals, nor do they address the origin of Adam and Eve’s physical bodies. The position is decidedly neutral toward the evolution of man, which is called a “theory of men,” but Pres. Smith stopped short of calling it false. In every First Presidency statement since, that phrase has been omitted.