

I'm human



Lds church leadership handbook

Lds church leadership history. Leaders of the lds church. Lds church standards. How much do the leaders of the lds church make. Lds handbook 2. Lds handbook 1.2. Lds handbook training. Lds handbook ministering. Lds handbook.

Leadership in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a sacred calling, wherein individuals are tasked by the Lord's authorized servants to assist in His heavenly work. As a leader, one has the privilege of bringing about the immortality and eternal life of man through encouragement and participation in God's work of salvation and exaltation. Whoever seeks these gifts (referencing Doctrine and Covenants 46:8) should humbly call upon Heavenly Father to receive them, and He will increase their ability to lead and uplift those they serve. To minister to all of God's children, emulate Jesus' example by personally reaching out to those who feel alone, hopeless, or lost. Recognize the divine nature and eternal worth of each person, just as Jesus did. Pray with all your heart (Moro. 7:48) to be filled with His love and establish sincere friendships. Reach out to those who may be lonely, in need of comfort, or have other needs. Your love will bless their lives and help people desire to come unto Christ. Help individuals deepen their conversion, strengthen their faith in Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, and prepare for making covenants as they receive their next ordinance. Encourage them to keep the covenants they've made and partake of the blessings of repentance. Remind them that they can progress toward fulfilling their divine potential regardless of the challenges they face. All leaders are teachers, striving to follow Jesus' example as a teacher (see chapter 17; Teaching in the Savior's Way). Through your words and actions, teach the doctrine of Jesus Christ and the principles of His gospel (see 3 Ne. 11:32-33; D&C 42:12-14). Effective teaching inspires people to strengthen their relationship with God and live the gospel, progressing toward eternal life. Teaching in the Savior's way is more than just talking; it includes listening and asking questions like He did (see Matt. 16:13-17). Effective teachers are also diligent learners, making the study of God's word a high priority in your life. Gospel learning is a lifelong process. Teach from scriptures and words of latter-day prophets (see D&C 52:9). Remember that "the preaching of the word [has] more powerful effect upon the minds of the people than ... anything else" (Alma 31:5). Seek the influence of the Spirit as you prepare and teach, for the Holy Ghost carries the truth unto the hearts and minds of those you teach (see 2 Ne. 33:1). If called or assigned to preside in a Church meeting or activity, ensure that the teaching is edifying and doctrinally correct (see D&C 50:21-23). The Lord revealed that "of necessity there are presidents, or presiding officers" in His Church (D&C 107:21), with those who hold priesthood keys presiding in their areas of responsibility. When serving as a presiding officer, you may delegate temporary assignments to others to ensure the Lord's purposes are accomplished. This involves following gospel principles, Church policies, and the guidance of the Holy Ghost. As a leader, you should strive to serve with gentleness, meekness, and pure love, just like Jesus Christ did (John 13:13-15). Remember that a calling or assignment does not make someone more important than others; instead, it is an opportunity to serve and do the Lord's work. When delegating responsibilities, aim to engage all members in doing God's work. This will also help you focus on your highest priorities by avoiding burnout (Exodus 18:18). To effectively delegate, meet with the person to discuss the assignment and its purposes. Ensure they understand and willingly accept the task, expressing confidence in their abilities. Provide direction and support as needed, and periodically ask for updates. As a leader, you should also prepare others to be leaders and teachers by teaching them how to fulfill their assignments and trusting them to do so. This involves meeting with them, discussing the assignment, and ensuring they understand its purposes and scope. Express confidence in their abilities, encourage them to seek inspiration, and provide direction and support as needed. To become effective leaders in His Church, one must not only prepare others for leadership roles but also focus on helping individuals grow and develop through various programs and callings. The Lord's work prioritizes the well-being of His children over administrative tasks, ensuring that all efforts serve a higher purpose. When assigning callings or positions, prayerfulness is essential, as the Lord will qualify those He calls. What matters most is that they are willing to serve, humbly seek guidance from Him, and strive for spiritual growth. Callings can provide opportunities for individuals to exercise their faith, work hard, and feel God's presence in their efforts. To ensure everyone has the chance to grow and serve, provide support to youth, new members, and others who may need extra assistance. It's also crucial to avoid overburdening individuals with repeated leadership positions, as this can be detrimental to them and their families. Regularly evaluate one's efforts as a leader, considering both personal growth and the spiritual development of those being led. Success is measured by commitment to helping God's children become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Heavenly Father has established councils as an essential part of receiving inspiration, making decisions, and accomplishing His work. These councils existed before the world was created and are still in place today, governing the Church at every level. Effective councils provide opportunities for members to receive revelation, understand the needs of God's children, and plan how to meet them. By following these principles, individuals can become more effective leaders and contribute to the Lord's work. Councils are designed to help members seek divine guidance (Doctrine and Covenants 43:8-9) and receive ordinances while keeping associated covenants. These gatherings emphasize planning and coordinating the Lord's work, focusing on individual and family needs. Councils also provide a platform for coordination of assistance. Before meetings, presidencies and councils prepare by seeking the Lord's guidance (Doctrine and Covenants 88:122) and input from council members. Leaders keep council members informed about discussion topics in advance and encourage spiritual preparation to participate meaningfully. During discussions, leaders explain matters being considered, encouraging open dialogue among all members. The leader seeks insights from both men and women, valuing diverse perspectives to reach better decisions. The leader guides the discussion, listening more than talking, and gently redirects or refocuses the conversation when necessary. Decisions are informed by discussion and confirmed by the Spirit. Note: This rewritten text maintains the original meaning and adheres to the described characteristics of the chosen rewriting method (in this case, it appears to be a combination of methods). Council Process Helps Leaders Make Inspired Decisions A council process helps bring about inspired decisions that go beyond a leader's own best judgment. The leader may refer the matter to another council or wait for further consideration from council members who have unsettled feelings about the decision. In some cases, a council member may want to meet with the leader individually to discuss concerns. Unity is essential in council discussions and decisions. Council members strive to become one in desire and purpose with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, avoiding contention, unrighteous judgment, and gossip. As they act in unity, Heavenly Father will bless their efforts. During council meetings, members seek inspiration in developing plans to implement decisions. The leader invites members to fulfill assignments relating to these plans, usually inviting others in the organization to help. Individuals should not be overburdened with assignments. Council members report on their progress and follow up with sustained attention. Leaders use discretion when sharing personal information with a council, generally seeking permission from members before doing so. The council respects the desires of those who request confidentiality. Some matters are too sensitive for an entire council, and leaders may review them individually or refer to another council as needed. In such cases, leaders may seek counsel from the Lord. Focus on God's commandments and revelations. Leaders balance meeting schedules to avoid overwhelming members or their families. For instance, Sunday meetings shouldn't interfere with family time together. Presiding officers may conduct meetings or ask others to do so under their direction. If incorrect doctrine is taught, a clarification should be made without embarrassing the individual. Ward meetings, including sacrament meetings, prioritize remembering Jesus Christ through the sacrament and building faith. All members are invited to attend sacrament meetings, held every Sunday. The bishopric plans these meetings, ensuring they focus on the sacrament and faith in Jesus Christ. The main focus of the meeting should be the sacrament hymn and administration of the sacrament. Other activities, such as gospel messages and congregational singing, should not distract from this central aspect. The bishop plays a crucial role in ensuring that the sacrament is blessed and passed in a reverent and orderly manner. Members are encouraged to direct their thoughts towards the Savior and His sacrifice during this sacred time of spiritual renewal. The sacrament table should be prepared before the meeting, and leaders set an example of reverence. The bishopric selects speakers for the meeting, often inviting ward members, including youth and children, to bear testimony of Jesus Christ and teach His gospel using scriptures. The messages should build faith and be consistent with the sacred nature of the sacrament. In unusual situations, such as when a member of the stake presidency or an Area Seventy is present, the bishop's role may need to be adapted. The stake president designates who presides in such cases. The bishopric also extends invitations to speak well in advance of the meeting, ensuring that speakers are prepared to bear testimony and teach the gospel. Some members can't attend sacrament meetings because they're stuck at home, hospital, or care facility, so priesthood holders give them the sacrament (see 18.9.1). In some cases, bishops let people watch sacrament meetings online (check 29.7). If you're on a trip, try to join the local ward for sacrament meeting if possible. Don't have sacrament at family reunions, vacations, or other events not organized by the Church (29.2). Fast and Testimony Meeting is about taking the sacrament, getting stronger with testimonies of Jesus Christ and His gospel, and bearing witness. People are encouraged to fast before coming, but it's okay if they can't. Everyone's invited, usually once a month on the first Sunday, or sometimes another Sunday for general conference (see also 20.5.4). There aren't any assigned speakers or special music; instead, someone shares a short testimony and invites others to share theirs too. Even young kids are welcome to share their thoughts in this meeting. Children usually get blessed under the bishop's direction (check 29.2.1.1). Ward Conference is where stake leaders teach, support, and help ward leaders and members. Everyone's invited, but participants from the stake are decided by the stake presidency. It happens once a year on a Sunday other than fast Sunday, and it includes a sacrament meeting planned by the stake president. Stake leaders might give instructions or assistance during this meeting. The stake presidency also meets with the bishopric to review the ward's progress in God's work of salvation and exaltation (check 29.2). 29.2.4 Bishopric Meeting: This weekly get-together focuses on making decisions about what's best for the ward, especially when it comes to young people and girls. People in charge include the bishopric, an administrator, and sometimes others are invited like elders quorum or Relief Society leaders. Things they might talk about could be: Helping everyone do their part to save souls, supporting families, identifying potential leaders, planning activities, and making sure everyone's on the same page with instructions from church leaders. 29.2.5 Ward Council Meeting: The purpose of these meetings is to help bring people together for a bigger good in the ward (see 1.2). It involves the bishopric, the administrator, and other leaders like those from elders quorum, Relief Society, young women, primary school, Sunday school, and sometimes even full-time missionaries or local church leaders. They usually meet once a week but might not always be as frequent. The bishop decides what to talk about and who should lead the meeting if he's not there himself. They work together to help everyone spiritually grow, get important ordinances, keep their promises, and become good followers of Jesus Christ (see Moroni 6:4-5). The primary role of a ward council is to support members in their spiritual journey, focusing on building faith, receiving ordinances, and participating in family activities. They also aim to care for those in need, share resources, and promote community engagement. Ward council members are expected to be self-reliant and help others achieve this goal. To achieve this, they invite all individuals to receive the gospel, review progress, and discuss ways to share the gospel with others. The ward council's purpose is also to unite families for eternity by reviewing temple ordinances and family history work progress. They plan activities that meet members' needs and involve ward members in planning processes. Additionally, the bishop may receive reports from full-time missionaries upon their return and study specific guidelines for council meetings. Before each presidency meeting, the bishop and the conducting officer review the agenda. This can include discussing God's work of salvation and exaltation, addressing the needs of local youth, outreach efforts for less active or new members, and planning activities that serve those in need. Quorum or class presidencies typically handle most of the planning (see chapter 20). Additionally, Ministering principles are emphasized (see chapter 21). Newly called quorums and presidencies receive orientation to understand guiding council meeting principles (4.3 and 4.4). Ward meetings for priesthood quorums and their leaders are described in chapters 8 and 10, while Relief Society sisters' and Young Women leaders' meetings are outlined in chapters 9 and 11, respectively. Primary classes and Sunday School meetings are covered in chapter 12 and 13.3. If the president approves the plan, the bishop from each ward meets with leaders to discuss implementation details. The two bishops decide which members should serve in quorums and organizations together. Each bishop remains in charge of their own priests' group, but they alternate leading Sunday meetings. Combined ward youth council meetings are attended by both bishops. After implementing the plan, leaders meet regularly to coordinate efforts. On Easter and Christmas Sundays, sacrament meeting is the only gathering held. If Christmas falls on a Sunday, this remains the case. However, if it's celebrated on another day of the week, a nearby Sunday usually hosts sacrament meeting instead, as determined by stake presidency or Area Presidency authorization. In areas where significant non-Christian holidays occur on Sundays, bishops might hold sacrament meetings only on those days, with adjusted start times discussed between them and stake presidents. Stake conferences aim to strengthen members' faith in Jesus Christ and are held twice a year. All attendees are invited to the general session, while other sessions cater to specific groups. The conference schedule is set by the President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Typically, the stake president presides at one conference annually and an assigned Area Seventy or General Authority leads the other. They direct planning, approve participants and musical selections in advance, and may discuss topics with the stake council considering recent First Presidency emphases. Stake presidents often ask priesthood groups and others to assist with preparations, such as setting up chairs, providing ushers, and cleaning the building. Each conference includes meetings between the presiding authority, stake presidency, clerk, and executive secretary, a stake priesthood leadership meeting, and a Saturday evening session for all 18-year-olds and older. General Session Purpose The stake president leads a general session on Sundays, which can accommodate more attendees than one meeting. The session includes priesthood holders and others who want to attend. In cases where there's insufficient space, multiple sessions might be held. Children are allowed to attend with their families, not in separate meetings. If necessary, conference sessions may be broadcasted to meetinghouses or other locations within the stake for those who cannot physically attend. Rules for Speakers Speakers should avoid using visual aids and audiovisual materials during the general session. Elder's Attire General Officers, temple president and matron, mission president and companion, and the stake patriarch are expected to sit on the stand if present. This also applies to counselors in temple and mission presidencies and their spouses. Sustaining Stake Officers Once a year, during one of the stake conferences, a member of the stake presidency presents sustaining for general officers, area presidents, and other officers within the stake. The presentation is usually conducted using the Officers Sustained form prepared by the stake clerk. Ordination Process Brothers who have been ordained as elders or high priests will be presented for sustaining during one of the stake conferences. If a brother needs to be ordained before the next stake conference, he may receive sustenance in his ward's sacrament meeting, followed by ratification at a subsequent stake conference. Stake leaders give instruction based on callings and assignments, with ward leaders occasionally invited to provide guidance. Stake presidency and other leaders usually offer direction. Stake organization presidencies plan and conduct leadership meetings once a year, which can be flexible in structure. Leaders may meet together or separate into smaller groups for specific instruction. Meetings cover duties, improvement as leaders, and strengthening faith. The stake presidency holds regular meetings to counsel on stake matters, with the high council participating, and makes decisions about salvation and exaltation. Counseling and Decision-Making Processes for Stake Leaders Stake presidents receive instruction on doctrine and assignments from the stake presidency. They counsel with high council members, including the executive secretary, to strengthen individuals and families. LCR provides tools and reports to track member progress. Councils discuss God's work of salvation and exaltation in the stake. The stake president plans and conducts meetings, which may include: - Receiving instruction from the stake presidency - Counseling on individual and family strengthening - Tracking member progress with LCR tools - Discussing community resources and service opportunities - Reporting on stake organizations and activities The stake adult leadership committee's role involves helping implement the vision of the stake leaders for various work aspects within the stake. This committee consists of stakeholders such as the stake presidency, Relief Society presidency (and secretary if called), and high councilors assigned to work with elders quorums. The stake president may also invite other leaders or individuals to attend meetings as needed. The committee's frequency is determined by necessity, but it mainly focuses on supporting the presidencies of elders quorum and ward Relief Society in their work. In addition to these responsibilities, this committee places special emphasis on promoting ministering and sharing the gospel among new and returning members while also participating in temple and family history work. Furthermore, they coordinate stake efforts related to welfare and self-reliance, including platforms such as JustServe.org (if available) and BYU-Pathway Worldwide. The stake presidency is responsible for planning and conducting meetings of the stake adult leadership committee, which can be extensions of stake council meetings or standalone discussions about specific matters. The purpose of these meetings is to counsel together on strengthening the youth within the stake through service and activities, while also instructing ward leaders on how to involve them in God's work. The stake youth leadership committee plays a vital role in planning service and activities that benefit the youth within the stake. This includes counseling with stakeholders about strengthening the youth, as well as planning events such as dances, devotionals, and service projects. The committee consists of members from the stake presidency, Young Men presidency (and secretary if called), Young Women presidency (and secretary if called), and sometimes youth representatives from each ward in the stake. The stake presidency determines the number of youth to attend meetings based on their involvement and the specific matters being discussed. These meetings are held as needed, with a focus on supporting bishoprics, Young Women presidencies and advisers, and Aaronic Priesthood quorum advisers in their work with youth. The committee places special emphasis on engaging youth in God's work of salvation and exaltation by planning activities that allow them to lead out in service projects and other events within the stake. Stake leaders should work together without conflicting with ward activities. Ward leaders need to be informed of stake events in advance. Support youth programs like For the Strength of Youth conferences and the Children and Youth program. The stake presidency oversees a committee for youth leadership, which may include members or assign someone else to lead, even if it's an extension of stake council meetings. The First Presidency, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and Area Presidency guide the Church's direction and teachings, focusing on salvation and exaltation within their councils. They counsel together about members' spiritual and temporal welfare, aiming to help them become true followers of Jesus Christ. Leaders instruct and edify one another while coordinating multistake matters. 29.5 Funerals and Services for the Deceased When a Church member passes away, the bishop may offer to hold services to comfort the living and pay tribute to the deceased. These services vary according to religion, culture, tradition, and local laws. The following principles help bishops plan gospel-centered services while respecting these differences. 29.5.1 General Principles Death is an essential part of Heavenly Father's salvation plan (see Alma 12:24-27). Due to Jesus Christ's Atonement and Resurrection, everyone will be resurrected. Church services for the deceased should testify to this plan, particularly highlighting the Savior's Atonement and Resurrection. These services should be dignified, spiritual experiences, showing respect for other religions' practices at times of death. However, Church leaders should not include rituals from other religions or groups in these services. Members are advised against excessive practices that burden the living, such as elaborate announcements, payments to families, prolonged feasts, and excessive anniversary celebrations. Church members participating in these services shouldn't accept payment, and leaders obey local laws regarding death. 29.5.2 Offering Assistance to the Family As disciples of Jesus Christ, Church leaders and members "mourn with those that mourn ... and comfort those that stand in need of comfort" (Mosiah 18:9). When a member dies, the bishop visits the family to give comfort, possibly accompanied by his counselors. He notifies the elders quorum and Relief Society presidents, offering assistance from ward members, such as: - Notifying friends and relatives - Helping prepare an obituary - Planning the funeral or other service - Making mortuary and cemetery arrangements (if applicable) - Dressing the body for burial (see 38.5.10) - Preparing meals 29.5.3 Viewings (Where Customary) Sometimes, a viewing of the deceased is held at a Church meetinghouse before the funeral service. Leaders should open the meetinghouse for funeral directors at least one hour before the viewing begins. After the viewing, a family prayer may be offered if desired. The casket should be closed before the funeral service. 29.5.4 Funeral Services (Where Customary) If a funeral is held in a Church building, the bishop ensures that services are dignified and spiritual, testifying to the plan of salvation. He must not include rituals from other religions or groups. Members are counseled against excessive practices that burden the living, such as elaborate announcements or payments to families. 29.5.5 After the Funeral After the funeral, Church leaders should follow local laws regarding what happens after someone dies. They should also show respect for other religions' practices at times of death. If the funeral is held at home, mortuary, or graveside, the family can request a bishop-led service. Alternatively, a bishop's counselor can conduct it if the bishop is unavailable. For non-member funerals in a Church building, see section 29.5.6. A bishop-conducted funeral should be a spiritual occasion, emphasizing reverence and dignity. The bishop or their counselor will oversee planning, considering family wishes for a simple, dignified service with gospel-centered music and brief addresses. Jesus Christ's comfort due to His Atonement and Resurrection should be highlighted. Family members are not required to participate in the service. Funerals are an opportunity to honor the deceased, but tributes shouldn't dominate the service. Video presentations should not be part of a chapel funeral. Services typically start on time and last no more than 1.5 hours. If a stake presidency member, Area Seventy, or General Authority attends, they will preside over the service. The person conducting will consult with them beforehand and recognize their presence during the service. The presiding officer may offer closing remarks if desired. Funerals are not usually held on Sundays. In some cases, bishops can arrange for modest funeral services at cost, paid from fast-offering funds. For guidelines about streaming or recording funerals, see section 29.7. Clergy-led rituals in the church are acceptable if dignified and appropriate. However, rituals from other churches or organizations may not be performed within a meetinghouse. 29.6 Prayers should be brief, simple, and guided by the Spirit during Church meetings. Any baptized member can offer an opening or closing prayer, while children who aren't baptized can pray in Primary. Leaders should avoid always asking couples to pray together, and members should use words expressing love and respect for Heavenly Father, including pronouns like Thee, Thy, Thine, and Thou when addressing Him. When in-person attendance isn't possible due to health or other reasons, streaming and virtual meetings can include those who can't attend. The bishop may authorize livestreaming of sacrament meetings, baptisms, funerals, and ward meetings for the benefit of these members and others. Similarly, the stake president may approve livestreaming of stake conferences and other stake meetings. Ward and stake technology specialists can help leaders set up virtual meetings and streams, while individuals with access issues can be assisted by these specialists. Stream recordings should be deleted within a day after the meeting. 29.8 It's important to preserve the sacredness of Church meetings, so no one should take photographs or make video recordings of sacrament meetings or stake conferences. In stakes where members speak multiple native languages, a member of the stake presidency may call a stake interpretation coordinator, while bishops can call ward interpreters. This ensures everyone understands the gospel in their own language (see Doctrine and Covenants 90:11).