

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES  
47 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE STREET, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84150-1200

May 26, 2020

To: General Authorities; General Officers; Area Seventies; Stake, Mission, District, and Temple Presidents; Bishops; Branch Presidents; Members of Stake and Ward Councils

Dear Brethren and Sisters:

Strengthening Missionary and Temple and Family History Work in Stakes and Wards

In the worldwide youth devotional on June 3, 2018, President Russell M. Nelson said that the gathering of Israel is “*the greatest* challenge, *the greatest* cause, and *the greatest* work on earth today” (HopeofIsrael.ChurchofJesusChrist.org). To strengthen the work of gathering Israel on both sides of the veil and to allow the bishopric to remain focused on youth, the following instruction is provided.

Ward elders quorum and Relief Society presidencies are responsible for the day-to-day missionary and temple and family history efforts in the ward. This work is done in elders quorums and Relief Societies and in Aaronic Priesthood quorums and Young Women classes.

The enclosed chart provides recommendations on how ward and stake leaders oversee the work and how training and coordination may be conducted within stakes and wards.

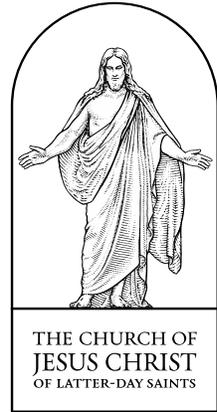
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Russell Ballard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

M. Russell Ballard  
Acting President

## Coordination and Training for Missionary and Temple and Family History Work

May 26, 2020



Ward and stake leaders oversee missionary and temple and family history work in the following ways:

- Elders quorum and Relief Society presidents each assign one counselor to missionary work and the other counselor to temple and family history work. These counselors help all members of their quorum or Relief Society participate in missionary and temple and family history work.
- Under the priesthood keys of the stake president, the stake presidency and stake Relief Society presidency (rather than the bishop) are responsible for the instruction of elders quorum and ward Relief Society presidencies in their responsibilities for the work.
- Stake leaders train ward mission leaders and ward temple and family history leaders (if called). Members of the stake Melchizedek Priesthood committee assist in training at the ward level. High councilors assist in training for the wards to which they are assigned.
- The bishop ensures the work is coordinated in ward council and ward youth council meetings.

The following charts provide recommendations on how training and coordination may be conducted within stakes and wards.

<b>Stake</b>	
<b>Missionary</b>	<b>Temple and Family History</b>
The stake president and mission president normally coordinate monthly. The stake and mission presidency counselors, assigned high councilor, and zone leaders may attend.	The stake president and elders quorum president coordinate regularly. The stake and elders quorum presidency counselors and assigned high councilor may attend.
Under the direction of the stake presidency, assisted by the stake Melchizedek Priesthood committee and stake Relief Society presidency, training can take place in a group setting or by one-on-one mentoring. Training is held as often as needed. Assigned members of the elders quorum and Relief Society presidencies and ward mission leaders (if called) attend when invited.	Under the direction of the stake presidency, assisted by the stake Melchizedek Priesthood committee and stake Relief Society presidency, training can take place in a group setting or by one-on-one mentoring. Training is held as often as needed. Assigned members of the elders quorum and Relief Society presidencies and ward temple and family history leaders (if called) attend when invited.

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<b>Ward</b>	
<b>Missionary</b>	<b>Temple and Family History</b>
Under the direction of the bishop, discussions about missionary work are held in ward council meetings.	Under the direction of the bishop, discussions on temple and family history work are held in ward council meetings.
A brief, informal missionary coordination discussion is held weekly. This discussion may be held remotely or before or after Sunday meetings. It is led by a member of the elders quorum presidency or the ward mission leader (if called). A member of the Relief Society presidency, ward missionaries, an assistant in the priests quorum, a presidency member of the oldest Young Women class, and full-time missionaries* attend. The purpose is to coordinate and to prepare to help ward members with missionary work in the ward, including in-person visits.	A brief, informal temple and family history coordination discussion is held regularly. This discussion may be held remotely or in person. It is led by a member of the elders quorum presidency or the ward temple and family history leader (if called). A member of the Relief Society presidency, an assistant in the priests quorum, a presidency member of the oldest Young Women class, and temple and family history consultants attend, including youth temple and family history consultants. The purpose is to coordinate and to prepare to help ward members with their own temple and family history work.

\*In areas where one set of full-time missionaries is assigned to one or more stakes, missionaries may need to coordinate on a stake level rather than a ward level.