



*Young Church-Service Missionary*  
**Guiding Principles**  
Handbook





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Handbook

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*Young Church-Service  
Missionary*

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Principles

Handbook

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

I am a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ  
of Latter-day Saints.

I started my mission on \_\_\_\_\_  
and plan to serve for \_\_\_\_\_ months.

My service assignment(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My parents \_\_\_\_\_

*Phone number* \_\_\_\_\_

*Email* \_\_\_\_\_

My bishop \_\_\_\_\_

*Phone number* \_\_\_\_\_

*Email* \_\_\_\_\_

My stake president \_\_\_\_\_

*Phone number* \_\_\_\_\_

*Email* \_\_\_\_\_

My stake YCSM specialist \_\_\_\_\_

*Phone number* \_\_\_\_\_

*Email* \_\_\_\_\_

My assignment supervisor(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## Introduction

This handbook contains the basic standards and guiding principles for young Church-service missionaries (YCSMs):

- You should dedicate this period of your life to serving others as a young Church-service missionary.
- Refer to this handbook regularly and review the guiding principles outlined here.
- Bring this handbook with you to all interviews with your priesthood leader.

## Note to Priesthood Leaders

Each young Church-service missionary has unique abilities. Some situations make it necessary to adjust the guidelines in this handbook. As directed by the Spirit and in concert with the missionary and his or her parents, discuss what adjustments should be made, and record these adjustments in the “My Modifications” section on page 28 of this handbook. You and the missionary should both sign the page. The sections that might warrant adjustments generally include:

- Schedule and Planning
- Relationships with Others

Following the “My Modifications” page is the “My Mission Commitment” page, which should also be signed by both you and the missionary.



## Your Calling

Each one of us is sent to earth with different capabilities and talents. With your unique abilities, you can make a meaningful contribution to build up the kingdom of God on the earth. As a young Church-service missionary, you have the opportunity to dedicate this time in your life to serving the Lord. As you faithfully serve, you will be following the example of Jesus Christ.

*“And all this for the benefit of the church of the living God, that every man may improve upon his talent, that every man may gain other talents, yea, even an hundred fold, to be cast into the Lord’s storehouse, to become the common property of the whole church”*  
(D&C 82:18).

“In fulfilling its purpose to help individuals and families qualify for exaltation, the Church focuses on divinely appointed responsibilities. These include helping members live the gospel of Jesus Christ, gathering Israel through missionary work, caring for the poor and needy, and enabling the salvation of the dead by building temples and performing vicarious ordinances” (*Handbook 2: Administering the Church* [2010], 2.2).

The work in which you are engaged as a missionary contributes to these divinely appointed responsibilities.

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Young Church-service missionaries:

- Follow the example of Jesus Christ.
- Render meaningful service.
- Study and pray.
- Build life skills.

You are expected to maintain the highest standards of conduct and appearance by keeping the commandments and following the counsel of your local priesthood leaders, your parents, and your supervisors.

You may be called to serve in one or more specific operations or organizations, where supervisors will oversee and direct your service assignment.

As you serve and obey with a willing heart (see D&C 64:34), you will show the Lord your love for Him, earn the trust and confidence of others, and continue to qualify for the companionship of the Holy Ghost (see John 14:15–17, 21; 1 Nephi 10:17; D&C 121:45–46).

## Missionary Organization

### Stake President

Your stake president is your ecclesiastical leader and should interview you regularly. Bring this handbook with you to all of your meetings and interviews with your priesthood leader. During these interviews, you should discuss your testimony of the Savior and report on your service accomplishments, personal development, gospel study, and adherence to the mission guidelines found in this handbook.

Your stake president may choose to delegate the responsibility of overseeing your mission service to one of his counselors, a high councilor, a stake YCSM specialist, or the bishop. Although stake presidents, bishops, wards, and stakes will be referred to, those statements include district and branch presidents or districts and branches as well.

### YCSM Mission Leader

Where there is a higher concentration of YCSMs, a YCSM mission leader may be called to help oversee the mission experience for each YCSM.

*“It is wisdom in me; therefore, a commandment I give unto you, that ye shall organize yourselves and appoint every man his stewardship” (D&C 104:11).*

*Additional scriptures:*  
D&C 104:12; 136:2–3, 15–16

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## Missionary Conduct

Strive to serve the Lord according to the highest standards of obedience and conduct. Keep your words, thoughts, and actions in harmony with the message of His gospel. Righteous conduct will influence your effectiveness as a missionary and your personal salvation. Your conduct also affects the trust and confidence others have in you. Conduct yourself at all times in such a way that everyone who sees you will recognize you as a representative of Jesus Christ.

## Performance

You may serve in more than one place. At each location, you will report to a supervisor or manager who will provide the training, tools, and support you need to fulfill your

President Brigham Young taught: “If you go on a mission . . . with lightness and frivolity in your hearts, looking for this and that, and to learn what is in the world, . . . you will go and return in vain. . . . Let your minds be centered on your missions” (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, sel. John A. Widtsoe [1954], 325).

### *Additional scriptures:*

2 Nephi 4:30–35; Alma 17:2–3; D&C 39:1–13; 50:26–29; 58:26–33; 64:34

responsibilities. Arrive at your place of assignment on time and prepared to serve well. Be reliable and dependable in your duties. Follow directions from your supervisors carefully and completely. Do your very best to contribute in meaningful ways to the work and to be a positive and uplifting influence on those with whom you serve. Work safely and strive to continually improve.

## Language

Language is one of your most powerful tools. Be conscious of how you speak, and strive for humility, dignity, and simplicity in your language. When praying, express your respect for Heavenly Father by using the proper language of prayer

*“He that speaketh, whose spirit is contrite, whose language is meek and edifieth, the same is of God if he obey mine ordinances”* (D&C 52:16).

*“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers”* (Ephesians 4:29).

**Additional scriptures:**  
Proverbs 15:2; Isaiah 50:4; 1 Corinthians 15:33; Colossians 4:6; James 1:26; 3:1–13; D&C 90:11; Moses 6:6; 7:13

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("Thee," "Thou," "Thine," and so on). Always pray using words that show love and reverence.

Also express respect for others by the way you refer to them. Refer to other missionaries as "Elder" or "Sister" followed by their surnames. Address those with whom you work by their proper names, not by nicknames or surnames alone. Address your mission and Church leaders by their titles, such as "President," "Bishop," "Brother," or "Sister."



## Missionary Appearance

Appropriate dress and grooming will help you earn respect and trust. Your appearance is often the first message others receive about you, and it should support what you say and do. Wear clothing that is consistent with your sacred calling.

Keep yourself neat and clean. Shower or bathe daily. Use deodorant. Do not use perfume or aftershave. Keep your clothes clean, mended, and wrinkle-free. Never allow your appearance or your behavior to draw attention away from your calling.

Maintain a high standard of modesty. Avoid clothing that:

- Is too tight or too loose.
- Is sheer or revealing in any way.
- Draws attention to any part of the body.
- Is wrinkled, sloppy, or faddish.

*“Thou shalt not be proud in thy heart; let all thy garments be plain, and . . . let all things be done in cleanliness before me”*  
(D&C 42:40–41; see also Alma 1:27).

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Some YCSMs serve in assignments where dresses or suits and ties are not appropriate. Missionaries should wear clothing that is appropriate for their specific work situations.

Show respect for the Lord and yourself by dressing appropriately for Church meetings and activities. This is especially important when attending sacrament meeting.

## Elders

**Hair.** Wash your hair frequently and keep it relatively short and evenly tapered. Extreme or faddish styles—including spiked, permed, or bleached hair—are not appropriate. Sideburns should reach no lower than the middle of the ear. You should shave every day.

**Jewelry.** Do not wear earrings or necklaces. Nose rings and body piercings are not acceptable. Tattoos should be covered.

**Clothing.** Choose traditional business-style clothing in conservative colors. Always wear a white shirt with a tie that is simple in color and design and professional in style. Ties should not contain pictures or caricatures.

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## Sisters

**Hair.** Wash your hair frequently. The style, color, and length of your hair should be attractive and easy to manage and should not call attention to itself.

**Outfits.** Keep your clothes clean, mended, and ironed. Plan and purchase your clothing carefully. Clothing should be attractive, colorful, tailored to fit well, and conservative in style. Choose colors and patterns that you can mix and match with a variety of outfits.

Do not wear shirts with low necklines. Sleeves should fully cover the shoulder and the upper portion of the arm, including the underarm. Shirts with cap sleeves should not be worn alone, but they may be worn under blouses or tops. Skirts should cover the entire knee (front and back) when you are standing or sitting. Slits should not be above the knee when standing or sitting.

**Shoes.** Shoes should be practical, comfortable, and attractive. For safety purposes, wear closed-toe and closed-heel shoes. Flat-soled shoes are preferred. Wear dress shoes for Sunday meetings.

**Accessories.** For safety and security reasons, jewelry and other accessories should be simple and professional. Do not wear more than one earring in each ear. Nose rings

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and body piercings are not acceptable. Tattoos should be covered. Makeup, hair adornments, and nail polish should also be conservative.

## Missionary Badge

It is an honor and a privilege to be able to wear the missionary badge. Always wear your missionary badge while you are at your missionary assignment and at Church meetings. It is not worn at other times, including any YSA activities. Because stake presidents may allow group and single dating, it is important not to wear the missionary badge on those occasions. Do not sit close to, hold hands with, or be alone with someone of the opposite sex while you are at your service assignment and wearing your badge.

## Temple Garment

*(For those who are endowed)*

Wearing the temple garment is the sacred privilege of those who have taken upon themselves the covenants of the temple. The garment is a constant reminder of these covenants. When properly worn, it provides protection against temptation and evil.

Endowed members should wear the garment both night and day, according to the instructions given in the endowment. You should not adjust the garment or wear it contrary to instructions in order to fit different styles

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of clothing, even when such clothing may be generally accepted. Both pieces of the two-piece garment should always be worn.

You should not remove the garment, either entirely or partially, for activities that can reasonably be done with the garment worn properly under the clothing. Nor should you remove it to lounge around at home. When you must remove the garment, you should put it back on as soon as possible.

The garment should never be left on the floor. When garments need to be washed, they should be placed in a laundry basket or bag until they can be properly washed and dried.

As you carefully follow these principles, you will be guided by the Holy Spirit in considering your personal commitment to wear the garment. This sacred covenant is between you and the Lord, and the proper wearing of the garment is an outward expression of your inner commitment to follow the Savior Jesus Christ.

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## Schedule and Planning

Together with your parents, make a written schedule for every day, including your time on assignment and your off-assignment hours. Review your plan each day, and follow your plan. Your daily schedule and activities should be adjusted to fit your individual circumstances, abilities, and assignments.

Set aside time each day for personal gospel study. Focus on the standard works, especially the Book of Mormon.

A sample schedule is located toward the back of this handbook for your reference. Space is provided for you, your parents, and your priesthood leader to work out your schedule.

## Personal Study

Invest an hour every day in gospel study. Focus your study on the standard works, especially the Book of Mormon. Personal study will strengthen your knowledge of the restored gospel and increase your testimony of the Savior and His Atonement. Use the format that best meets your

*“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven”  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1).*

*Additional scriptures:  
Psalm 89:47; D&C 60:13;  
75:3; 88:124*

individual circumstances. This could include print, audio, or video formats. Report on your progress in your regular interviews.

### Leader Communication

Email your stake president, bishop, operation supervisors, and parents or guardians a short update of your mission experience each month. Include such items as recent successes and challenges, gospel study progress, personal development, and commitment and feelings about serving the Lord. In some cases, this type of reporting will not be possible. If so, alternate methods should be considered, such as a simple checklist. Your stake president can make the appropriate adjustments.

### Keeping a Journal

Keep a journal of your life during your mission. You can decide whether to maintain your journal in print, digital,

*“Whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same” (D&C 1:38).*

*“Treasure up in your minds continually the words of life, and it shall be given you in the very hour that portion that shall be meted unto every man” (D&C 84:85).*

**Additional scriptures:**  
John 5:39; 2 Nephi 32:3; Mosiah 1:6–7; D&C 1:37; 26:1; 88:77, 118; 90:11; Joseph Smith—Matthew 1:37

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or another format. Record your feelings and special experiences from your mission so that you can refer to them and remember them in the future.

### Off-Assignment Time

When not serving in your mission assignment, take care of your personal needs, such as washing and ironing clothes, getting your hair cut, and so on. Clean your living space daily as needed (see D&C 42:41–42; 90:18). Use this time to prepare so that you can give full attention to your service during your assigned work hours.

You should schedule time to provide service to your family, ward, stake, or community during your off-assignment hours. Other appropriate activities could include doing family history research or indexing on the computer.

Your local priesthood leaders may extend to you a ward or stake calling if it does not interfere with your mission assignment. You may also serve as a home or visiting teacher.

*“See that all these things are done in wisdom and order; for it is not requisite that a man should run faster than he has strength. And again, it is expedient that he should be diligent, that thereby he might win the prize; therefore, all things must be done in order” (Mosiah 4:27).*



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## Sunday Meetings

Attend regular Sunday meetings (sacrament meeting, Sunday School, and priesthood meeting or Relief Society) and stake conference. Participate in broadcasts of general conference.

*“And that thou mayest more fully keep thyself unspotted from the world, thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day” (D&C 59:9).*

## Fasting

Generally, you should fast once per month. You may occasionally fast for a special reason, but do not fast for more than 24 hours at a time. When limited by health conditions, fast only as appropriate for your circumstances.

## Temple Attendance

When a temple is accessible, attend the temple often and perform proxy ordinances. Unendowed missionaries are encouraged to perform baptisms for the dead; endowed missionaries may perform initiatory ordinances, endowments, and sealings as a child or witness. Include regular temple attendance in your schedule plan.

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## Entertainment

### Games, Movies, and Television

Activities during your off-assignment time such as games, movies, and television are acceptable with your parents' approval. Such activities should not interfere with your personal preparation, study, or service time. Be selective and avoid anything that detracts from the Spirit.

### Ward and Institute Attendance

You should continue attending your home ward or the young single adult ward in your area during your mission. You are also encouraged to participate in institute classes and activities. In addition, you may participate in young single adult activities sponsored by your ward or stake, including family home evening activities, temple trips, devotionals, games, picnics, dances, and so on.

*“O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day. . . .*

*“And faith, hope, charity and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualify him for the work” (D&C 4:2, 5).*

#### *Additional scriptures:*

Deuteronomy 4:29;

Matthew 6:24;

John 17:15–16; Titus 2:12;

James 4:4; D&C 53:2–3;

88:67–68; 133:5, 7, 14

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## Cultural and Recreational Activities

Cultural and recreational activities that you participate in during off-assignment hours should be wholesome and uplifting.

### Music

Listen to music that is consistent with the sacred spirit of your calling. Music should invite the Spirit, help you focus on the work, and direct your thoughts and feelings to the Savior. Do not listen to music that encourages immorality, glorifies violence, uses offensive language, or dulls your spiritual sensitivity through its beat, instrumentation, volume, lyrics, or intensity.

### Electronic and Computer Equipment

All use of electronic devices and media, including cell phones and computers, should be in harmony with gospel principles and should not detract in any way from the spirit and calling of your mission. Avoid anything that is vulgar, immoral, violent, or pornographic in any way. Refrain from using your cell phone during your service assignment hours.

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## Pornography

Pornography in any form is a serious transgression of God's commandments. It drives the Spirit away, leads to other transgressions, and is highly addictive. Strictly avoid situations in which you might read, see, or hear pornographic material. Protect yourself, your family, and your fellow missionaries from this spiritually destructive danger.

*"The sacred powers of procreation are to be employed only between man and woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife"* ("The Family: A Proclamation to the World," *Ensign*, Nov. 2010, 129).

*"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Thou shalt not steal; neither commit adultery, nor kill, nor do anything like unto it"* (D&C 59:6).

*"And go ye out from among the wicked. Save yourselves. Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord"* (D&C 38:42).

### *Additional scriptures:*

Psalm 24:4–5; Matthew 5:27–28; D&C 88:86; 121:45

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## The Law of Chastity

You are expected to strictly obey the law of chastity, which forbids sexual conduct of any kind outside of marriage between husband and wife.

God has commanded that sexual intimacy be reserved for marriage. The Lord's standard regarding sexual purity is clear and unchanging. Pay attention to the promptings of the Spirit so that you can be clean and virtuous.

Do not participate in passionate kissing, lie on top of another person, or touch the private, sacred parts of another person's body, with or without clothing. Do not do anything that arouses sexual feelings in yourself or others. Keep your personal commitment to be sexually pure. By your words and actions, encourage others to do the same.

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## Relationships with Others

### Fellow Missionaries

Support each other in your mission assignments and help one another learn and grow. You can strengthen each other in times of difficulty and even provide protection from physical danger and temptation.

Love and respect those with whom you serve (see 1 John 4:7, 20–21). Look for good in everyone. Find ways to serve others.

Support the righteous actions of your fellow missionaries. Obey the standards and guiding principles of missionary conduct discussed in this handbook. Violations of missionary standards may threaten other missionaries' effectiveness and may lead them to inappropriate behavior, which could have serious consequences. Care enough for your fellow missionaries to ask for help from your supervisors or priesthood leaders before a problem becomes serious.

### Children

Because of increasing legal complexities regarding conduct toward children, be extremely careful around them. Never babysit or be alone with a child unless he or she is a member of your family.

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## Family Members and Friends

Be a strength and a good example to your family and friends. Share inspirational stories from your mission experiences.

In some cases, family members may need to assist you with your physical needs, transportation, or other support to enable you to serve successfully. There will be some adjustments to family life during your missionary service. You and your family may need to make some sacrifices to ensure the most meaningful and productive mission experience.

## Dating

Group and one-on-one dating may be approved by priesthood leaders in consultation with parents or guardians and as directed by the Spirit; however, dating relationships should not interfere with your service assignment. Participating in wholesome dating activities and relationships is important for strengthening self-esteem and social skills.

## General Authorities

It is not appropriate to approach or initiate contact with General Authorities; however, you may and should respond if approached by one of the Brethren. Do not write directly to the General Authorities.

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## Physical and Temporal Well-Being

### Finances

The money you use during your mission represents sacrifices by you, your family, and others. Budget your money. Be thrifty and wise in how you spend it. Do not loan or borrow money. If you need additional money, talk to your parents. If challenges still persist, talk with your priesthood leader.

### Transportation

Public transportation should be considered as a less expensive and suitable alternative for getting to and from your mission assignment.

If you drive, drive defensively. Pray for the Lord's protection. Everyone in the car must wear an individual seat belt whenever the vehicle is moving. Do not use a cell phone while driving. All passengers share responsibility for safety. Drive with headlights on both day and night. If you are involved in an accident while traveling to your mission assignment, contact the police or emergency services

*“Organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing; and establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God” (D&C 88:119).*

*“All things unto me are spiritual, and not at any time have I given unto you a law which was temporal; neither any man, nor the children of men; neither Adam, your father, whom I created” (D&C 29:34).*



as appropriate. As soon as possible, also contact your family. Then contact your assignment supervisors and priesthood leader.

## Health and Safety

Your health and safety are of great importance. Maintain your health so that you can serve with all your heart, might, mind, and strength. Exercise daily as your individual circumstances allow.

You and your family are responsible for your medical care needs. Visits to a physician or other health care professional should be coordinated in advance with your supervisors.

Listen to and follow the promptings of the Spirit, which can warn you of danger. Be sensitive to anything that is out of the ordinary, especially anyone who watches you closely or asks probing questions.

Avoid situations that could lead to conflict. Be careful of what you say and write in public and in private. Always be wise and mature in your conduct.

*“Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”*  
(1 Corinthians 6:19).

*Additional scriptures:*  
1 Corinthians 3:16–17; D&C 88:124; 89:18–20

## My Schedule

Plan a daily schedule. Review the example schedule below, and then use the following page to plan your own schedule. Then follow your schedule.

### Daily Schedule Example

Morning:

- Arise and pray.
- Exercise for 30 minutes. (Consult with your health care professional regarding your own physical health and circumstances.)
- Finish preparations for the day.
- Take part in devotional or gospel study.
- Report to your assignment on time. (Attend a prayer meeting or devotional before your shift if one is scheduled.)

Afternoon: Serve until your assignment time is completed.

Evening: Pray and retire to bed.

## My Daily Schedule

SUNDAY	Morning: Afternoon: Evening:
MONDAY	Morning: Afternoon: Evening:
TUESDAY	Morning: Afternoon: Evening:
WEDNESDAY	Morning: Afternoon: Evening:
THURSDAY	Morning: Afternoon: Evening:
FRIDAY	Morning: Afternoon: Evening:
SATURDAY	Morning: Afternoon: Evening:

## My Modifications

In consultation with my priesthood leader and my parents, the following modifications have been made to the guidelines outlined in this handbook:

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*My signature*

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*Stake president's signature*

## My Mission Commitment

I accept my call to serve as a young Church-service missionary.

My stake president and I have reviewed the guiding principles in this handbook and the adjustments listed on the “My Modifications” page to ensure the best possible mission experience.

I will:

- Follow the example of Jesus Christ.
- Render meaningful service.
- Study and pray.
- Build life skills.

As I commit to these principles, my life will be enriched and my testimony of the Savior and His mission will be strengthened.

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*My signature*

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*Stake president's signature*

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*Appendix:*

# Priesthood Ordinances

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**E**lders may be asked to participate in priesthood ordinances and blessings. Melchizedek Priesthood holders should always be worthy and should strive to be guided by the Holy Spirit. They should perform each ordinance and blessing in a dignified manner, making sure it is performed:

1. In the name of Jesus Christ.
2. By the authority of the priesthood.
3. With any necessary procedures, such as using specified words or using consecrated oil.

As explained in this section, some ordinances must be authorized by the presiding authority who holds the proper keys.

When several brethren participate in an ordinance or blessing, each one places his right hand lightly on the person's head and his left hand on the shoulder of the brother to his left. It is discouraged for a large number of brethren to participate in a single ordinance or blessing.

## **Baptism**

Under the direction of the presiding authority, a worthy priest or Melchizedek Priesthood holder may perform the ordinance of baptism. To do so, he:

- 
1. Stands in the water with the person to be baptized.
  2. Holds the person's right wrist with his left hand (for convenience and safety); the person being baptized holds the priesthood holder's left wrist with his or her left hand.
  3. Raises his right arm to the square.
  4. States the person's full name and says, "Having been commissioned of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen" (D&C 20:73).
  5. Has the person being baptized hold his or her nose with the right hand (for convenience). The priesthood holder places his right hand high on the person's back and immerses him or her completely, including the person's clothing.
  6. Helps the person come up out of the water.

Two priests or Melchizedek Priesthood holders witness each baptism to make sure it is performed properly. The baptism must be repeated if the words are not spoken exactly as given in Doctrine and Covenants 20:73 or if part of the person's body or clothing is not immersed completely.



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## Confirmation

The ordinance of confirmation is performed under the direction of the bishop. He ensures that converts are confirmed in a sacrament meeting of the ward in which they reside, preferably the Sunday following their baptism. Converts are not confirmed at the baptismal service.

Under the direction of the bishop, one or more Melchizedek Priesthood holders may participate in this ordinance. They place their hands lightly on the person's head. Then the person who performs the ordinance:

1. States the person's full name.
2. States that the ordinance is performed by the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood.
3. Confirms the person a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
4. Uses the wording "Receive the Holy Ghost."
5. Gives a priesthood blessing as the Spirit directs.
6. Closes in the name of Jesus Christ.

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## **Consecrating Oil**

One or more Melchizedek Priesthood holders must consecrate olive oil before it is used to anoint the sick or afflicted. No other oil may be used. To consecrate oil, a priesthood holder:

1. Holds an open container of olive oil.
2. Addresses Heavenly Father.
3. States that he is acting by the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood.
4. Consecrates the oil (not the container) and sets it apart for anointing and blessing the sick and afflicted.
5. Closes in the name of Jesus Christ.

## **Administering to the Sick**

Only Melchizedek Priesthood holders may administer to the sick or afflicted. Two or more of them normally do it together, but one may do it if necessary. If consecrated oil is not available, a blessing may be given by the authority of the priesthood without the anointing.

A worthy father who holds the Melchizedek Priesthood should administer to sick members of his family.

Brethren should administer to the sick only at the request

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of the sick person or of those who are vitally concerned so that the blessing will be according to their faith (see D&C 24:13–14; 42:43–44, 48–52). Melchizedek Priesthood holders who visit hospitals should not solicit opportunities to administer to the sick.

Administering to the sick has two parts:

1. Anointing with oil.
2. Sealing the anointing.

### Anointing with Oil

The anointing is done by one Melchizedek Priesthood holder. He:

1. Puts a drop of consecrated oil on the person's head.
2. Places his hands lightly on the person's head and calls the person by his or her full name.
3. States that he is acting by the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood.
4. States that he is anointing with oil that has been consecrated for anointing and blessing the sick and afflicted.
5. Closes in the name of Jesus Christ.

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## Sealing the Anointing

Normally, two or more Melchizedek Priesthood holders place their hands lightly on the head of the person. The one who seals the anointing:

1. Calls the person by his or her full name.
2. States that by the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood he is sealing the anointing.
3. Gives a priesthood blessing as the Spirit directs.
4. Closes in the name of Jesus Christ.

If a person requests more than one blessing for the same illness, the priesthood holder need not anoint with oil after the first blessing. Instead, he gives a blessing by the laying on of hands and the authority of the priesthood.

## Blessings of Comfort and Counsel

Worthy Melchizedek Priesthood holders may give blessings of comfort and counsel to persons who request them. One or more worthy Melchizedek Priesthood holders place their hands lightly on the person's head. The priesthood holder who gives the blessing:

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1. Calls the person by his or her full name.
  2. States that the blessing is performed by the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood.
  3. Blesses the person as the Spirit directs.
  4. Closes in the name of Jesus Christ.

## **Sacrament**

Under the direction of the bishop, priesthood holders bless the sacrament and pass it to members of the congregation during each sacrament meeting. If members are unable to attend sacrament meeting because they are confined to a home, nursing home, or hospital, the bishop may assign priesthood holders to prepare, bless, and pass the sacrament for these members.

Worthy priests and Melchizedek Priesthood holders may bless the sacrament. Worthy Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthood holders may pass the sacrament. The person who blesses the bread kneels and offers the sacrament prayer for the bread (see D&C 20:77); the bread is then passed to the congregation. The person who blesses the water kneels and offers the sacrament prayer for the water (see D&C 20:79, substituting the word “water” for “wine”); the water is then passed to the congregation.

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## Conferring the Priesthood and Ordaining to Priesthood Offices

The bishop oversees the conferral of the Aaronic Priesthood and ordinations to the offices of deacon, teacher, and priest. The stake president oversees the conferral of the Melchizedek Priesthood and ordination to the offices of elder and high priest. Under the direction of the bishop or stake president, the following priesthood holders may participate in priesthood ordinations:

<i>Office of Ordination</i>	<i>Participants</i>
Deacon, teacher, or priest	Priests and Melchizedek Priesthood holders
Elder	Melchizedek Priesthood holders
High priest	High priests

To perform a priesthood ordination, one or more authorized priesthood holders place their hands lightly on the person's head. Then the priesthood holder who performs the ordination:

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1. Calls the person by his full name.
  2. States the authority by which the ordination is performed (Aaronic or Melchizedek Priesthood).
  3. Confers the Aaronic or Melchizedek Priesthood, unless it has already been conferred.
  4. Ordains the person to an office in the Aaronic or Melchizedek Priesthood and bestows the rights, powers, and authority of that office. (Priesthood keys are not bestowed in conferring the priesthood or ordaining to one of these offices; see item 4 in the next section.)
  5. Gives a priesthood blessing as the Spirit directs.
  6. Closes in the name of Jesus Christ.

## **Setting Apart Officers and Teachers**

Under the direction of the presiding authority, one or more Melchizedek Priesthood holders may participate in a setting apart. They place their hands lightly on the person's head. The priesthood holder who acts as voice then:

1. Calls the person by his or her full name.
2. States that he is acting by the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood.

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3. Sets the person apart to the appropriate office in a stake, ward, quorum, high priests group, or class.
  4. Confers keys on those who are entitled to receive them. (In stakes and wards, only stake presidents, bishops, and quorum presidents receive keys of presidency when they are set apart. The word *keys* should not be used when setting apart counselors, high councilors, high priests group leaders, presidents of auxiliary organizations, the bishop's priests quorum assistants, or teachers in an organization.)
  5. Gives a priesthood blessing as the Spirit directs.
  6. Closes in the name of Jesus Christ.

## **Naming and Blessing Children**

Only worthy Melchizedek Priesthood holders may participate in naming and blessing children (see D&C 20:70). When blessing a baby, Melchizedek Priesthood holders gather in a circle and place their hands under the baby. When blessing an older child, brethren place their hands lightly on the child's head.



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The person who gives the blessing:

1. Addresses Heavenly Father.
2. States that the blessing is performed by the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood.
3. Gives the child a name.
4. Gives a priesthood blessing as the Spirit directs.
5. Closes in the name of Jesus Christ.

## **Dedicating Homes**

Church members may dedicate their homes as sacred edifices where the Holy Spirit can reside and where family members can worship, find safety from the world, grow spiritually, and prepare for eternal family relationships. Homes need not be free of debt to be dedicated. Unlike Church buildings, homes are not consecrated to the Lord.

To dedicate a home, a family might gather and offer a prayer that includes the elements mentioned above and other words as the Spirit directs.

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## Dedicating Graves

A person who dedicates a grave should hold the Melchizedek Priesthood and be authorized by the priesthood officer who conducts the service. To dedicate a grave, he:

1. Addresses Heavenly Father.
2. States that he is acting by the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood.
3. Dedicates and consecrates the burial plot as the resting place for the body of the deceased.
4. Where appropriate, prays that the place will be hallowed and protected until the Resurrection.
5. Asks the Lord to comfort the family and expresses thoughts as the Spirit directs.
6. Closes in the name of Jesus Christ.

If the family prefers, a graveside prayer rather than a dedicatory prayer may be offered, preferably by a Melchizedek Priesthood holder.











THE CHURCH OF  
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