To Turn the Hearts
(D&C 110:15)
Overview

This guide describes how leaders can organize, lead, and implement temple and family history work in wards and stakes. It describes how family history can be an integral part of the ward council’s efforts for the salvation of souls. It also describes how leaders can strengthen themselves and others through participation in the work.

This guide gives details not found in *Handbook 2: Administering the Church*. It is designed primarily for members of ward and stake councils with an emphasis on high priests group leaders (or elders quorum presidents in wards or branches that do not have a high priests group leader) and high councilors who have been assigned to coordinate family history. It also contains relevant information on how family history consultants, stake indexing directors, family history center directors, and area family history advisers can help ward and stake leaders implement family history efforts.

Application in Branches, Districts, and Missions

For administrative purposes, the terms *bishop* and *bishopric* in this guide refer also to branch presidents and branch presidencies. The terms *stake president* and *stake presidency* refer also to district presidents and district presidencies. References to wards and stakes usually apply also to branches, districts, and missions.

Using This Guide

Study and ponder this guide to receive inspiration on how to apply family history work to your personal life and your ward or stake leadership responsibilities. Use the notes column to record your impressions. Apply new ideas by either completing the suggested activities or by putting into action the unique impressions received.

Feedback

Please tell us what you think of this guide by providing feedback through a [brief survey](#).
Leader’s Guide to
Temple and Family History Work

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“Behold, the time has fully come, which was spoken of by the mouth of Malachi—testifying that he [Elijah] should be sent. . . . To turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers.”

Doctrine and Covenants 110:14, 15

Blessing Lives through Temple and Family History Work

The turning of hearts signifies a spiritual awakening as individuals and families serve their deceased relatives and experience the joy of being active participants in a fundamental part of Heavenly Father’s plan of salvation (see D&C 138:56). Participation in temple and family history work touches the soul as the Holy Ghost bears witness to the eternal nature of families.

“Elijah came to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the children to the fathers. With that, natural affection between generations began to be enriched. This restoration was accompanied by what is sometimes called the Spirit of Elijah—a manifestation of the Holy Ghost bearing witness of the divine nature of the family.”

—Elder Russell M. Nelson

Members who engage in this work are inspired to live gospel-centered lives and are more likely to participate in personal and family prayer, personal and family scripture study, and regular family home evening. Typically, where the number of members participating in temple and family history is high, there is also higher participation in all other Church meetings.

“If we do our duty and trust fully in the Lord, we will fill His temples, not only doing our own ordinance work, but also having the privilege of doing work for others. We will kneel at sacred altars to be proxies in sealings that unite husbands and wives and children for all eternity.”

—President Thomas S. Monson

Family History Can Help Leaders Accomplish the Work of Salvation Both for the Living and the Dead

Leaders can use temple and family history work as a means to strengthen members and their families. Leaders consider ways to use family history in missionary work, convert retention, member activation, and in teaching the gospel.
Introduction

Now Is the Ideal Time for Temple and Family History Work

Elijah returned and gave the keys of the sealing power to the Prophet Joseph Smith in the Kirtland Temple in 1836. This fulfillment of Malachi’s prophecy has accelerated temple and family history work. Technological advances have enabled FamilySearch to provide temple and family history records online, making them easily accessible to members worldwide. Temples are available to more members in more places.

Church members continue to grow in their capacity to understand the new technologies and use them to prepare names for the temple. Having more records accessible to more people, and using new tools that a rising generation embraces, means that the time has fully come to turn the hearts of His children.

“No work is more of a protection to this Church than temple work and the family history research that supports it. No work is more spiritually refining. No work we do gives us more power. No work requires a higher standard of righteousness.”

—President Boyd K. Packer

“I repeat, my brothers and sisters: it is tremendously significant to me that this declaration, this repetition of the wondrous words of Malachi concerning the work for the dead, was given to the boy Joseph four years before he was allowed to take the plates from the hill. It was given before he received either the Aaronic or Melchizedek Priesthood, before he was baptized, and well before the Church was organized. It says much concerning the priority of this work in the plan of the Lord.”

—President Gordon B. Hinckley
Leadership of Temple and Family History Work

Priesthood leaders provide doctrinal and administrative direction to temple and family history work. Their direction is essential to lead members to the temple through family history efforts. Responsibilities include the following:

- Stake presidents hold the keys for this work and therefore preside over and direct the temple and family history efforts in the stake.

- Bishops direct temple and family history efforts in the ward.

- High priests group leaders coordinate the ward council’s efforts to encourage and enable temple and family history work in the ward.

- Ward council members encourage members in their organizations to:
  - Receive their own temple ordinances and help immediate family members do the same.
  - Hold a current temple recommend and go to the temple as often as circumstances and family needs allow. Unendowed adults and youth ages 12 and older, including new members, are encouraged to obtain a limited-use temple recommend and be baptized and confirmed for the dead.
  - Participate in family history work by identifying their deceased relatives, requesting temple ordinances for them if needed, and providing the ordinances themselves in the temple if possible.
Leading Members to the Temple through Family History Work

Below are three things leaders can do to lead members to the temple through family history work.

**Discover**

“And thus my father, Lehi, did discover the genealogy of his fathers. . . . He was filled with the Spirit, and began to prophesy.”

—1 Nephi 5:16–17

Like Lehi, leaders can quickly discover for themselves the power of family history by:

- Studying and pondering the doctrine of temple and family history work.
- Viewing records and preparing ordinances at familysearch.org.
- Performing ordinances in the temple for their deceased relatives.

**Teach**

“True doctrine, understood, changes attitudes and behavior.”

—Boyd K. Packer

Leaders inspire members to discover the joy of temple and family history work by teaching that it is a fundamental part of the work of salvation.

Leaders teach the doctrine of temple and family history work and testify of the blessings of participating in the work.

**Enable**

Leaders work with stake and ward councils and with those who have family history callings to determine the most effective means of inviting members to participate and the best way to help them.

Leaders provide the necessary resources to assist members in the work, including:

- Called and trained family history consultants.
- Family history classes, events, and activities.
- A family history center (if decided upon by the stake).
- A FamilySearch indexing effort (if decided upon by the stake or ward).
**Doctrinal Study**
Read and ponder these additional sources:
- Malachi 4:5–6
- Ephesians 1:10
- Doctrine and Covenants 2
- Doctrine and Covenants 110
- Doctrine and Covenants 128
- Doctrine and Covenants 138
- *Preparing to Enter the Holy Temple* (36793)

**Additional Resources**
Register online at priesthood.familysearch.org to receive access to additional resources specifically for priesthood leaders.
Stake President and His Counselors

The stake president presides over the work of salvation in the stake, which includes temple and family history work. The stake president and his counselors set an example by teaching the doctrine of temple and family history work and testifying of the blessings that come from participating in this work. They encourage stake members to identify their deceased ancestors and provide needed temple ordinances for them. They ensure that stake leaders use family history to help them accomplish stake goals. They direct temple and family history efforts and events in their stake councils.

The stake presidency may assign one or more high councilors to oversee temple and family history work. Below is an example of how family history is organized at the stake level.

Stake President
Presides over the work of salvation

High Councillor
Instructs high priests group leaders and coordinates stake family history centers and indexing efforts

Area Advisers
Serve as resources to the stake

High Priests Group Leaders
Coordinate ward temple and family history efforts

Stake Indexing Director
Coordinates indexing efforts

Family History Center Director
Oversees family history center

Stake Councils

Temple and family history work can help stake councils in the many aspects of the work of salvation. Stake councils do the following:

- Assist with stake temple and family history plans, goals, or events.
- Determine how family history can help stake auxiliaries accomplish the work of salvation.
- Determine how traditional stake activities such as stake service projects, celebrations, youth conferences, and young adult activities can be enriched by incorporating family history efforts into the events.

“For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.”
Romans 14:9
High Councilor Assigned to Temple and Family History

Work

The high councilor (or councilors) assigned to temple and family history work coordinates temple and family history efforts in the stake. He oversees family history work in three ways.

**Instructs High Priests Group Leaders**
He instructs high priests group and elders quorum leaders in their temple and family history responsibilities and ensures that the stake, wards, and quorums are organized to do the work.

**Coordinates FamilySearch Indexing**
If the stake chooses to organize a stake FamilySearch indexing program, the high councilor oversees the program. He recommends an individual to be called as the stake indexing director.

**Coordinates Stake Resources**
He oversees all family history centers in the stake. He recommends individuals to be called as family history center directors. He makes assignments to wards, through high priests group leaders, to provide family history consultants to staff family history centers in the stake. For multistake family history centers, high councilors from participating stakes work together to help oversee the center and provide consultants and funds. He also works with the stake’s public affairs representatives to involve the community in family history events.

In stakes where there is strong leader participation in family history, including strong participation by high councilors, name submissions to the temple are double the average of stakes that do not have much leader participation.
FamilySearch Indexing

FamilySearch indexing is a way for the Church to make its immense collection of genealogical records available to the public. Volunteers use the tools available at familysearch.org to create easily searchable indexes to the records. Indexing can be done by virtually anyone, young and old, and touches the lives of both those who index and those who use the indexed records.

Here are some of the benefits of indexing:

- It provides a way to more quickly search for and find ancestors.
- It provides opportunities for service. Members, including those who are less active, homebound, or elderly, can do indexing in their homes.
- It is an excellent opportunity for youth and young adults to participate in family history work.

Indexing in Stakes and Wards

If the stake chooses to establish an organized FamilySearch indexing effort, it is coordinated by the high councilor who oversees family history work in the stake. He recommends to the stake presidency an individual to be called as the stake indexing director. Assistant directors may also be called. The director helps coordinate member indexing efforts and is given program rights to keep track of local participation and provide regular updates to the high councilor.

Members may be called to serve as indexers. They are called at the ward level and directed at the stake level.

Wards may choose to organize a ward indexing effort if there is no structured FamilySearch indexing effort in the stake. The organization of the effort is under the discretion of ward leaders.

Stake and ward leaders organize indexing efforts in a way that best fits the needs of
members. Here are some ways leaders can help indexing efforts:

- Encourage members to volunteer and participate whether on their own or as part of an organized effort.
- Assign consultants or youth to help ward members learn indexing.

A teenager explains how participating in indexing blesses her life:

“I know that I’m helping to find people that maybe wouldn't have had the chance to have their work done . . . . It's cool to know that even if I don’t go to the temple for them myself, I can help them get there.”


Family History Centers

The Church has established thousands of family history centers throughout the world. Leaders use family history centers as a resource to bless the lives of members as well as to provide a valuable service to the community.

Family history centers operate under priesthood direction. The assigned high councilor responsible for temple and family history work, under the direction of the stake presidency, oversees all family history centers in the stake.

Family history centers give members and community patrons access to:

- Genealogical resources.
- Classes and workshops.
- One-on-one assistance.

As stake leaders look to accomplish specific public affairs goals, they view family history centers as a unique and impactful means of enhancing the Church’s position in the local community. Approximately 60 percent of the patrons who use family history centers are not members. The following quote from a community patron is an example of the blessings of family history centers:

“I think the center is just fantastic, and I love having access to the records from Salt Lake City. . . . When I find something, I wish I could say ‘I found it,’ but it is like God put it there. I’m not a Mormon, but one of the things I really do feel in my heart is that this is something that God wants done.”

Family History Center Staff

The assigned high councilor ensures the staffing needs of family history centers in the stake are met. Family history centers are staffed by individuals who have specific skills in teaching, doing family history research, and using FamilySearch technology. Center staff includes:

- *Family history center director and assistant directors.* Directors and assistant directors are recommended to the stake presidency by the assigned high councilor.

- *Family history consultants.* The high councilor coordinates with the bishoprics and high priests group leaders to call or assign enough family history consultants to staff each family history center supported by the stake.

- *Volunteer members of the community.* Community members may serve in centers with the approval of the high councilor. There are many skilled individuals in the community who are willing to serve when given the opportunity.

Establish, Relocate, or Close a Center

If the stake presidency is considering establishing, relocating, or closing a family history center, they contact their area family history advisers. The stake submits a Request to Create, Relocate, or Close a Family History Center form to the area adviser. The area adviser reviews the request with the Family History Department.

Additional Resources

- Visit familysearch.org for more information on FamilySearch indexing.
- See the *Family History Center Operations Guide* (34051) for more information on family history centers. It is available at LDS.org under Serving in the Church.
Bishop and His Counselors

The bishop directs the work of salvation in the ward, which includes temple and family history work. The bishop and his counselors set an example for ward members by teaching the doctrine of temple and family history work and testifying of the blessings that can come from this work. They position the high priests group leader as the coordinator of the ward council’s temple and family history work in the ward.

Below is an example of how family history is organized at the ward level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bishop</th>
<th>High Priests Group Leader</th>
<th>High Councilor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directs the work of salvation</td>
<td>Coordinates ward council efforts and directs the work of family history consultants</td>
<td>Provides assistance and training</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family History Consultants</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Help members find ancestors and prepare names for temple ordinances</td>
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How the Ward Council Strengthens the Ward through Temple and Family History Work

Temple and family history work can help the ward council in the many aspects of the work of salvation. Members of the ward council develop a plan to help individuals build testimonies, receive saving ordinances, keep covenants, and become consecrated followers of Christ (see Moroni 6:4–5).

The work of salvation includes member missionary work, convert retention, activation, temple and family history work, and teaching the gospel (see chapter 5 of Handbook 2: Administering the Church).

“For their salvation is necessary and essential to our salvation . . . that they without us cannot be made perfect—neither can we without our dead be made perfect.”

Doctrine and Covenants 128:15

The ward council uses temple and family history work to bring joy and spiritual growth to those they serve.
Member Missionary Work  
(See Handbook 2, 5.1)

Family history allows Church members to share a gospel topic in a nonthreatening way. Most people have a natural interest in families. The hearts of millions of people have turned to their ancestors. Ward council members, including the ward mission leader, can encourage members to invite friends and family of other faiths to:

- Talk about their own family history, which can invite the Spirit and create interest in the message of the restored gospel.
- Learn why the Church emphasizes family history by visiting mormon.org/family-history.
- Use the Church’s free family history resources, including familysearch.org and local family history centers.
- Attend a family home evening about family history or a family history event.

The ward mission leader works closely with full-time missionaries, ward missionaries, and the ward council in considering other means of using family history in missionary work (see Preach My Gospel, 163–165).

One stake created pass-along cards with the message “tell me about your family” for members to give to their friends and neighbors. The members then invited those individuals and families who showed interest to attend a family history open house or a family home evening about family history. The stake president explained how their efforts were successful:

“Family history is a nonthreatening way to have members of other faiths come into our homes and meetinghouses and build relationships with us. . . . We’ve struggled to involve members in missionary work. But we’ve had more member participation in this family history approach than anything else we’ve tried.”


Convert Retention  
(See Handbook 2, 5.2)

Temple and family history work is an effective way to aid new-member retention. For example:

- The family history consultant or the home teacher or visiting teacher establishes friendships by assisting new members with their family history.
- New members can be “nourished by the word of God” (Moroni 6:4) when they receive the Member’s Guide to Temple and Family History

“Early involvement in finding and preparing family names for the temple and, where possible, participating in vicarious baptisms for them are major factors in the retention of new members.”

—Elder Dennis B. Neuenschwander
Work, attend a family history class, learn the doctrine of temple and family history work, and experience the joy of doing temple work for their ancestors.

- The new member is given opportunities to serve by obtaining a limited-use recommend and performing baptisms for the dead or participating in FamilySearch indexing.

A new member explains how temple and family history work strengthened him:

“It wasn’t long after my baptism that I was invited to attend the ward’s family history class, and as a result I was able to submit four generations of my ancestors to the temple. It was a moving experience to go to the temple and be baptized and confirmed in their behalf.”

—“Becoming Part of the Fold,” Ensign, June 1999, 67

**Activation**

*(See Handbook 2, 5.3)*

As ward council members prayerfully identify less-active members who are most likely to return to activity, they assign dedicated home teachers and visiting teachers to minister to them. These home teachers and visiting teachers, with the assistance of family history consultants, can use temple and family history work to “be the means of bringing salvation unto them” (3 Nephi 18:32).

As their hearts are turned to their deceased relatives in need of ordinances, they will be motivated to obtain a current temple recommend and go to the temple.

Here are some examples of what home teachers and visiting teachers can do:

- Invite members to talk about their own family history, which can invite the Spirit and turn their hearts to their deceased relatives.
- Assist them to build and view their own family pedigree, find historical records, and discover a new ancestor using familysearch.org (with help from a family history consultant if necessary).
- Invite them to a family home evening about family history, a local family history center, or classes and events about family history provided by the ward or stake.

*Members will be motivated to obtain a temple recommend and go to the temple as their hearts are turned to their deceased relatives.*
The following was related by a branch president who saw the blessings of involving members in temple and family history work:

"Family history gets at the core of life, and people feel the Spirit. . . . More than half of the adults in our branch are now temple recommend holders who attend regularly. The benefits are worth any effort. The level of unity and harmony among our members has increased. Attitudes have changed. I see more dedication, faithfulness, harmony, and better self-esteem among our members. I can see changes in the relationships among husbands and wives and children. These improvements spread throughout the branch."


Temple and Family History Work
(See Handbook 2, 5.4)

Under the direction of the bishop, the ward council discusses and develops a plan to encourage members to participate more fully in temple and family history work. The high priests group leader coordinates the efforts to determine specific ways that the work can strengthen all members—adults, youth, and children.

Adults

Some things the ward council can do to help adult members are:

- Consider ward members who could be invited to participate in temple preparation seminars.
- Review the progress of individual members who are preparing to receive the ordinances of the temple.
- Ensure that new members are contacted by family history consultants, in conjunction with home teachers and visiting teachers, soon after their baptism to help them identify deceased ancestors and provide needed temple ordinances for them.
- Consider making family history goals, such as participating in indexing projects or inviting members to identify one of their deceased relatives and then perform temple ordinances for him or her.
- Assign organizations to plan activities where everyone can learn about the resources available at familysearch.org.

Youth

Temple and family history work can build up youth and young adults by giving them service opportunities, positive activities on which to spend their time, and
opportunities for spiritual growth. Youth often have technical and social networking skills that are well suited for this work. The family history skills youth develop will serve them during their full-time missions and throughout their lives.

The ward council and youth leaders can involve youth in family history by:

- Encouraging them to help others learn how to use familysearch.org for a Duty to God or a Personal Progress project.
- Encouraging them to make goals to find an ancestor's name and be baptized for that ancestor in the temple.
- Finding ways to teach the doctrine of family history and temple work during youth and ward activities and conferences.
- Creating activities, games, and projects designed to help youth learn about their ancestors.
- Assigning responsible young men and young women to help others use family history technologies. For example, young men could assist those families they home teach and thereby magnify their calling to teach, expound, and exhort (see D&C 20:42).

**Children**

Children can learn more about themselves as they learn about their ancestors. Primary presidents can involve the children in family history by:

- Organizing a sharing time where the children create an artistic four-generation pedigree chart.
- Planning an ancestor day activity where the children learn several facts about one of their ancestors and share them with others.

These and other family history activities can instill in children a love for family history from an early age.

“I believe the youth are not only willing and able to do genealogical research, but they are a good means of giving life to the whole program.”

—President Ezra Taft Benson
Teaching the Gospel
(See Handbook 2, 5.5)

The ward council assists the bishop in ensuring that the doctrines, principles, and blessings related to family history and temple work are taught regularly in ward meetings. They encourage members to receive their own temple ordinances and actively participate in family history and temple work.

Each family can receive the Member’s Guide to Temple and Family History Work to use in the home and in conjunction with family history classes offered.

Holding a family history class is a good way to increase participation and interest in family history. The class can also be used as a tool for activation, retention, and missionary efforts. Anyone, including those determined by the ward council, can be invited to attend the class.

The class is taught by an effective instructor who may or may not be a family history consultant. The class may be taught during Sunday School or at another time that is more convenient for members. It is taught under the direction of the bishopric rather than the Sunday School president.

Lessons are generally conducted as workshops in which members actually complete their own family history work, either on the computer or on paper. Where feasible, class participants should have access to computers. Many meetinghouses are currently being equipped with wireless Internet.

Consultants can assist instructors as needed by providing personal help to participants during the class as well as after the class in members’ homes or family history centers.

Resources available for the class include the Instructor’s Guide to Temple and Family History Work and accompanying Temple and Family History Course DVD and the Member’s Guide to Temple and Family History Work.
High Priests Group Leader

The high priests group leader coordinates the ward council’s efforts to encourage temple and family history work in the ward. He is accountable to the bishop for the results of these efforts. He also directs the work of family history consultants. He receives assistance and training from the high councilor assigned to temple and family history work.

In wards or branches where there is no high priests group leader, the elders quorum president or another assigned Melchizedek Priesthood holder in the ward council fills this role.

Below are some examples of what the high priests group leader does to lead temple and family history work.

**Coordinates Ward Council Efforts**

The high priests group leader coordinates ward council efforts as he:

- Works with the ward council to develop a plan to encourage individuals and ward auxiliaries to participate more fully in temple and family history work.

- Consults with each member of the ward council to determine specific ways that temple and family history work can be used to help the members of their organizations.

- Facilitates temple and family history discussions in ward council meetings.

- Organizes ward temple visits.

**Directs the Work of Consultants**

The high priests group leader:

- Consults with the bishopric to recommend members to be called and set apart as family history consultants.

- Ensures that enough consultants are called to meet the needs of the ward.

- Provides direction and assignments to consultants.

- Points consultants to the training resources at consultant.familysearch.org and follows up to ensure they are properly prepared to perform their callings.

*The high priests group leader provides consultants with direction and assignments.*
Consultants are skilled teachers who work and communicate well with others. While consultants need not be experts in family history research, they are comfortable using and helping others use the resources at familysearch.org. This includes family pedigrees, historical records, and the FamilySearch indexing program. Youth can also be called to serve as consultants, where their technology skills can be helpful in assisting others.

Consultants register at consultant.familysearch.org to receive information, training, and updates from the Church.

**Working with Leaders**
Consultants proactively reach out to leaders by:

- Helping them get started with their own family history so they can perform temple ordinances for their deceased relatives.
- Demonstrating how family history can help them in their calling to minister to those whom they serve.

**Working with Members**
Consultants proactively reach out to members by:

- Helping a few individuals or...
families at a time to get started with their own family history so they can perform temple ordinances for their deceased relatives. The most effective place where this occurs is in members’ homes.

- Assisting specific individuals or families (assigned by the high priests group leader, as determined in ward council) to become interested in and do family history.
- Acting as a resource to answer family history questions.

Some consultants have experience and skills that particularly suit them for additional tasks such as:
- Serving in family history centers.
- Assisting members and other consultants in more advanced research efforts.
- Training other consultants.

Additional Resources
- See the Family History Consultant’s Guide to Temple and Family History Work for more information on family history consultants. It is located in the Serving in the Church section of LDS.org.
- View or download the family history class resources from the Serving in the Church section of LDS.org.

Additional Ideas for Ward Leaders
- Invite a family history consultant to visit you and your family to help you get started with or continue your family history.
- Register for and explore familysearch.org so you can be aware of the available resources there and share them with others.
- Invite those receiving welfare assistance to accept an assignment to do FamilySearch indexing.
- Use indexing or other family history activities to help those who struggle with addictions or must spend a good deal of time away from home.
- Inform members of the unique part-time and full-time missionary opportunities available to help with FamilySearch, including opportunities to serve from their own homes (see familysearch.org/mission).
Area Leadership

“Let your hearts rejoice, and be exceedingly glad. . . . Let the dead speak forth anthems of eternal praise to the King Immanuel, who hath ordained . . . that which would enable us to redeem them out of their prison; for the prisoners shall go free.”

Doctrine and Covenants 128:22

Area Temple and Family History Leadership

The Presidency of the Seventy or Area Presidency oversees temple and family history work in the area. They teach the doctrines of the work. They also teach leaders their temple and family history responsibilities.

The Area Presidency or Area Seventies call a sufficient number of area advisers to assist stakes with family history work.

Area Family History Advisers

Area family history advisers work closely with the Area Seventies and coordinating councils. Generally, priesthood holders or couples are called to serve as area advisers. The Church’s Family History Department provides training for new area advisers.

Area family history advisers do the following:

- Consult with Area Seventies, stake presidencies, and high councilors on how family history can serve as a resource to help achieve overall goals for those whom they serve.
- Provide training to stake leaders and others within stakes and wards.
- Provide information to area leadership on the Church’s direction and plans for family history work.
- Inform the Family History Department about area and local family history needs and activities. They partner with the department to meet those needs.
- Work with the Family History Department to provide family history mission opportunities to members in the ward.
- Help with public affairs efforts that may include temple and family history work.
Area advisers play an important role in helping an area succeed with its temple and family history goals. The following account was related by a stake president who witnessed the effect of a dedicated area adviser in helping his stake learn to use FamilySearch tools.

The area adviser visited stake priesthood and family history leaders to introduce the program. He inspired the leaders by speaking about how the resources could help them with their leadership responsibilities as well as their individual family history work. He explained the registration process for FamilySearch and encouraged the leaders to begin learning about and preparing for the implementation of the program. He then spent considerable time answering individual questions.

The help provided by the area adviser generated considerable excitement and anticipation among the leaders. The excitement was passed on to the stake members. After the implementation, the area adviser was the main speaker at a stake family history seminar attended by an estimated 300 members. He again encouraged and inspired attendees to continue their family history efforts.

Additional Resources
- The Family History Department provides orientation and training to all new area advisers. The department will contact new area advisers after being notified that they have been called.
- Register online at priesthood.familysearch.org as an area family history adviser to receive communication from the Church and access to specific training for area advisers.
# Chart of Family History Callings

## Stake Callings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Recommended by</th>
<th>Approved by</th>
<th>Sustained by</th>
<th>Called and set apart by</th>
<th>Coordinated by</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family history center director and assistant director</strong></td>
<td>Stake presidency</td>
<td>Stake presidency and high council</td>
<td>Members in stake conference</td>
<td>Stake president or an assigned counselor or high councilor</td>
<td>An assigned high councilor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stake indexing director and assistant director</strong></td>
<td>Stake presidency</td>
<td>Stake presidency and high council</td>
<td>Members in stake conference</td>
<td>Stake president or an assigned counselor or high councilor</td>
<td>An assigned high councilor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family history Church-service missionary (work from home)</strong></td>
<td>Stake president and bishop submit a recommendation form</td>
<td>Family History Department</td>
<td>Stake president calls and authorizes the bishop to set apart</td>
<td>Family History Department</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Ward Callings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Recommended by</th>
<th>Approved by</th>
<th>Sustained by</th>
<th>Called and set apart by</th>
<th>Coordinated by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family history consultant</strong></td>
<td>Bishopric (in consultation with the high priests group leader)</td>
<td>Bishopric</td>
<td>Ward members</td>
<td>Bishop or an assigned counselor</td>
<td>High priests group leader</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Area Callings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Recommended by</th>
<th>Approved by</th>
<th>Sustained by</th>
<th>Called and set apart by</th>
<th>Coordinated by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area family history adviser</strong></td>
<td>Area Seventy or Area Presidency</td>
<td>Area President or President of the Seventy</td>
<td>Area President, President of the Seventy, or an assigned Area Seventy</td>
<td>Area Seventy and Family History Department</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Help with Family History

If leaders have questions about family history work or how to establish and administer family history programs, they may contact their area family history adviser.

If additional help is needed, leaders may contact FamilySearch by telephone (toll free) or e-mail:

Phone: 1-866-406-1830 (North America)
A list of toll-free numbers for other areas of the world is available online at contact.familysearch.org
E-mail: support@familysearch.org

Online Resources and Computer Programs

Church family history online resources and computer programs help members identify their ancestors, link them into families, and prepare ancestors’ names for temple ordinances. The majority of these resources are available through familysearch.org, the Church’s family history Internet site.

Where computers with Internet access exist in the stake or ward, or where family history programs are installed on stake or ward computers, the stake presidency and bishopric ensure that these computers are available for members to use at reasonable times and that other administrative programs and data are properly secured.

Priesthood leaders meet with the stake technology specialist to ensure that Church computer policies are followed and that computer access is secure to prevent inappropriate use.

References


The following items are mentioned in this guide. Distribution Services item numbers are indicated in parentheses.

- Handbook 2: Administering the Church (08702)
- Member’s Guide to Temple and Family History Work (36795)
- Family History Consultant’s Guide to Temple and Family History Work (online resource available at the Serving in the Church section of LDS.org)
- Instructor’s Guide to Temple and Family History Work (35804)
- Temple and Family History Course DVD (54102)
- Family History Center Operations Guide (online resource available at the Serving in the Church section of LDS.org)
Feedback

Please tell us what you think of this guide by providing feedback through a brief survey.