

# Elders Quorum Best Practices

## Synopsis

### Purpose and Organization

The Melchizedek Priesthood helps God's children prepare to return to His presence. It holds "the keys of all the spiritual blessings of the church". The offices in the Melchizedek Priesthood are elder, high priest, patriarch, Seventy, and Apostle. The Elders Quorum President and his Counselors are called by the Stake Presidency.

### Membership

- 1- The Elders Quorum includes: All elders and prospective elders in the ward, all high priests (except those who are currently serving in a stake presidency, in a bishopric, on a high council, or as a patriarch).

### Responsibilities of Quorum Members

- 1- Support members by uniting families for eternity and invite everyone to receive the blessings of the gospel.

### Responsibilities of the Elders Quorum Presidency

- 1- Each presidency member should spend time each week pondering about their calling. Listen and act upon the promptings received.
- 2- The President serves on the Ward Council. When he is not able to attend he assigns one of his counselors to attend.
- 3- Hold regular Presidency Meetings
  - a. Plan activities, Discuss how to strengthen quorum members, Discuss work of salvation, Discuss missionary, temple and family history work, Review ministering assignments and ministering interviews, Review assignments from the Bishop or Ward Council, and Discuss callings and assignments in the quorum.
- 4- Encourage brethren to study the scriptures and the words of living prophets, individually and with their families.
- 5- Lead the quorum's efforts to participate in the work of salvation and exaltation.
  - a. Living the Gospel of Jesus Christ
  - b. Caring for those in need
  - c. Inviting all to receive the gospel
  - d. Uniting families for eternity
- 6- Organize and oversee the service of ministering brothers. Coordinate ministering assignments with the Relief Society presidency, meeting at least quarterly. Seek the bishop's approval for ministering assignments.
  - a. Hold ministering quarterly interviews.
- 7- Under the bishop's guidance, counsel with adult members of the ward.
  - a. Only the bishop counsels about matters of worthiness, abuse, and approval to use fast-offering funds.
- 8- With the Relief Society Presidency
  - a. Help lead efforts in the ward to invite all to receive the blessings of the gospel.
    - i. The Elders Quorum Presidency oversee the ward mission leader if one is called.
  - b. Help lead temple and family history work in the ward.
    - i. The Elders Quorum Presidency oversees the ward temple and family history leader if one is called.
- 9- Coordinate the elders quorum's efforts to strengthen young adult brethren, both single and married.
  - a. One counselor may be assigned to serve with young single adults.
- 10- Meet with each quorum member individually at least once a year.
  - a. Discuss priesthood duties and the well-being of the member and his family.
- 11- Teach quorum members their priesthood duties (see Doctrine and Covenants 107:89).
  - a. This includes teaching them how to exercise their priesthood in performing ordinances and blessings.
- 12- Plan and conduct quorum meetings as well as oversee and help improve teaching in the quorum.
- 13- Oversee elder's quorum activities. Ensure they are consistent, inclusive and well organized.
- 14- Help young men and prospective elders prepare to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood.
- 15- Oversee quorum records, reports, and finances. A secretary may help.

- 16- Through his service, the elder's quorum president supports the bishop in focusing on the youth and on the bishop's unique responsibilities.

### Sunday Meetings

- 1- The elders quorum meets on Sundays to strengthen faith, build unity, and strengthen families and homes.
- 2- Meetings are held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month and last 50 minutes.
- 3- The Elders Quorum presidency plans these meetings. A member of the presidency conducts.
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## Elders Quorum Best Practices

### Detail

### Purpose (Handbook 8.1.1)

- 1- Worthy men 18 and older may receive the Melchizedek Priesthood and be ordained to the office of elder. A man ordained to that office enters into a sacred covenant to assist God in accomplishing His work (see Doctrine and Covenants 84:33–44).
- 2- Each elder is part of an organized group of priesthood holders called an elders quorum. Members of the elders quorum work together to help accomplish the work of salvation and exaltation. They serve others, fulfill priesthood duties, build unity, and learn and live doctrine.

### Membership (Handbook 8.1.2)

- 1- Each ward has an elders quorum. It includes the following brethren:
  - a. All elders in the ward.
  - b. All prospective elders in the ward (see 8.4).
  - c. All high priests in the ward, except those who are currently serving in a stake presidency, in a bishopric, on a high council, or as a patriarch. These leaders are members of the stake high priests quorum. For information about the stake high priests quorum, see 6.2.1.1 and 29.3.5.
  - d. A young man may begin attending elders quorum meetings when he turns 18, even if he has not yet been ordained an elder. He counsels with his parents and bishop to make this decision. By age 19 or when moving from home, such as to attend a university or serve a mission, he should be ordained an elder if he is worthy. See 10.6.
  - e. Married men under 18 are prospective elders and are also members of the elders quorum.

### Responsibilities of Quorum Members (Handbook 8.2.3 & 8.2.4)

- 1- Melchizedek Priesthood holders have a duty to invite all to receive the blessings of the gospel of Jesus Christ (see Doctrine and Covenants 53:3). They do this by sharing the gospel, strengthening new members, and reaching out to those who are less active.
  - a. In presidency and quorum meetings, the elders quorum presidency discusses ways the brethren can invite all to receive the blessings of the gospel.
  - b. The elders quorum president assigns a member of the presidency to help lead member missionary work in the ward. He works with the assigned member of the Relief Society presidency to coordinate these efforts.
  - c. This member of the elders quorum presidency may fulfill the role of the ward mission leader. If the bishopric has called a ward mission leader, this presidency member oversees his work. See 23.5.1 and 23.5.3.
  - d. The ward mission leader, who may be a member of the elders quorum presidency, leads weekly coordination meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to coordinate inviting all to receive the blessings of the gospel. These meetings include assigned members of the Relief Society and elders quorum presidencies, ward missionaries, an assistant in the priests quorum, a presidency member of the oldest Young Women class, and full-time missionaries.
- 2- Melchizedek Priesthood holders support members in uniting families for eternity.
  - a. This includes:
    - i. Making covenants with God by receiving ordinances, including the temple endowment.
    - ii. Doing temple and family history work (see 1.2.4).
  - b. In presidency and quorum meetings, the elders quorum presidency discusses ways the brethren can participate in these efforts.

- c. The presidency encourages quorum members to learn about their family history and about temple covenants and ordinances. They also encourage brethren to attend the temple regularly where possible.
- d. The elders quorum president assigns a member of the presidency to help lead temple and family history work in the ward. He works with the assigned member of the Relief Society presidency to coordinate these efforts.
- e. This member of the elders quorum presidency may fulfill the role of the ward temple and family history leader. If the bishopric has called a temple and family history leader, this presidency member oversees his work. See 25.2.2.
- f. The ward temple and family history leader, who may be a member of the elders quorum presidency, leads temple and family history coordination meetings (see 25.2.7). These meetings are held regularly. They also include the assigned 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.

#### Responsibilities of the Elders Quorum Presidency (Handbook 8.3.3.2)

- 1- The elders quorum president has the following responsibilities. His counselors assist him.
- 2- Serve on the ward council. He serves as (1) a member of the council who helps address needs in the ward and find solutions and (2) a representative of the elders quorum (see 29.2.5).
- 3- Lead the quorum's efforts to participate in the work of salvation and exaltation (see chapter 1).
- 4- Organize and oversee the service of ministering brothers. Coordinate ministering assignments with the Relief Society presidency, meeting at least quarterly. Seek the bishop's approval for ministering assignments. Hold ministering interviews at least quarterly. See chapter 21.
- 5- Under the bishop's guidance, counsel with adult members of the ward. Only the bishop counsels ward members about matters of worthiness, abuse, and approval to use fast-offering funds. See Counseling Resources.
- 6- With the Relief Society presidency, help lead efforts in the ward to invite all to receive the blessings of the gospel (see 8.2.3 and 9.2.3). Oversee the ward mission leader if one is called.
- 7- With the Relief Society presidency, help lead temple and family history work in the ward (see 8.2.4 and 9.2.4). Oversee the ward temple and family history leader if one is called.
- 8- Coordinate the elders quorum's efforts to strengthen young adult brethren, both single and married. One counselor may be assigned to serve with young single adults (see 14.1.2.2).
- 9- Meet with each quorum member individually at least once a year. Discuss priesthood duties and the well-being of the member and his family.
- 10- Teach quorum members their priesthood duties (see Doctrine and Covenants 107:89). This includes teaching them how to exercise their priesthood in performing ordinances and blessings.
- 11- Oversee and help improve teaching in the quorum (see chapter 17).
- 12- Plan and conduct quorum meetings.
- 13- Oversee elders quorum activities (see 8.2.1.3).
- 14- Help young men and prospective elders prepare to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood (see 8.4).
- 15- Oversee quorum records, reports, and finances (see LCR.ChurchofJesusChrist.org). A secretary may help (see 8.3.4).
- 16- The stake presidency and assigned members of the high council teach the elders quorum presidency about these responsibilities. They may do this during stake priesthood leadership meetings and quorum presidency meetings (see 29.3.3).
- 17- Through his service, the elders quorum president supports the bishop in focusing on the youth and on the bishop's unique responsibilities.

#### Presidency Meeting (Handbook 8.3.3.3)

- 1- The elders quorum presidency and secretary meet regularly. The president conducts these meetings. The high councilor assigned to the quorum periodically attends.
- 2- The agenda could include the following items:
  - a. Plan how to strengthen quorum members (including prospective elders) and their families.
  - b. Plan how to help accomplish the work of salvation and exaltation.
  - c. Coordinate missionary work and temple and family history work.
  - d. Respond to counsel and assignments from the bishop.
  - e. Respond to assignments from ward council meetings.
  - f. Prayerfully consider ministering assignments.

- g. Review information from ministering interviews. Plan ways to identify strengths and help meet needs. (See chapter 21.)
- h. Consider brethren to serve in callings and assignments.
- i. Plan quorum meetings and activities.

#### Sunday Meetings (Handbook 8.2.1.2)

- 1- Elders quorums meet on Sundays for the following purposes:
  - a. Strengthen faith.
  - b. Build unity.
  - c. Strengthen families and homes.
  - d. Make plans to help accomplish the work of salvation and exaltation.
  - e. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. They last 50 minutes. The elders quorum presidency plans these meetings. A member of the presidency conducts.
  - f. The meeting begins with a presidency member conducting any quorum business. For example, the quorum may counsel together about aspects of accomplishing the work of salvation and exaltation. Sufficient time should then be given to meaningful gospel instruction and discussion.
  - g. Quorum meetings focus on topics in one or more talks from the most recent general conference. The elders quorum presidency prayerfully selects messages to discuss based on members' needs. Hymns may be sung to enhance a lesson. Meetings should end with a prayer.
  - h. For more information, see [ComeFollowMe.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](http://ComeFollowMe.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

#### Activities (Handbook 8.2.1.3)

- 1- Elders quorum presidencies may plan activities. These activities strengthen quorum members and give them opportunities to serve together. Most activities are held at times other than on Sundays or Monday evenings.
- 2- The elders quorum president oversees these activities. He may ask a counselor or another quorum member to take the lead in planning and carrying them out (see 8.3.5). Presidencies discuss activities with the bishop as part of their planning.

#### Additional Callings (Handbook 8.3.5)

- 1- The following additional callings may be helpful. The bishop and elders quorum president discuss whether they are needed.
  - a. Elders quorum teachers to teach in Sunday quorum meetings
  - b. A service coordinator to help plan and carry out service to people in need (see 8.2.2.2). Assistants and committee members may also be called.
  - c. An activity coordinator to help plan and carry out elders quorum activities (see 8.2.1.3). Assistants and committee members may also be called.
  - d. Assistant secretaries to help the elders quorum secretary
  - e. Ministering secretaries to organize ministering interviews and help prepare quarterly reports
  - f. If these or other callings are needed, the elders quorum presidency recommends brethren to serve. They make these recommendations to the bishopric. If the bishopric approves, a member of the quorum presidency calls them. He presents them for a sustaining vote in a quorum meeting and sets them apart.
  - g. As needed, the elders quorum presidency may assign brethren to help with elders quorum efforts in other ways. Brethren with short-term assignments do not need to be called and set apart.

# Sample Presidency Meeting Agenda

The President Presides

The person conducting may rotate through the Presidency and Secretary

1. Opening Prayer
2. Spiritual Thought
3. Review notes and action items from previous meeting (usually kept by the Secretary)
4. Review the Calendar
  - a. Next Sunday Meeting
    - i. Who is leading the discussion?
    - ii. Who is conducting?
    - iii. What announcements need to be made?
  - b. The Following Sunday Meeting
    - i. Who is leading the discussion?
    - ii. Who is conducting?
  - c. Next Activity
    - i. What is it and who is in charge?
    - ii. How are we advertising it? (communicate at least twice to everyone)
    - iii. What action items are outstanding
  - d. The Following Activity
    - i. What is it and who is in charge?
    - ii. How are we advertising it? (communicate at least twice to everyone)
    - iii. What action items are outstanding
5. Review Presidency Assignments
  - a. Ministering
  - b. Missionary, Temple and Family History Work
  - c. Activities
  - d. Other
6. Needs of the Members
  - a. Inspiration received about specific brothers
  - b. Who is not attending regularly?
  - c. Brothers who are struggling
  - d. Information received through Ministering Brothers
  - e. Annual meeting with each brother
    - i. Information received through these meetings
    - ii. Schedule of meetings for the next 1 or 2 months
7. Other
8. Training
9. Closing Prayer