

Foothills Ward Temple and Family History Leader Plan: Synopsis!

by John Kuzmich, Jr., Leader

What does a Ward Temple and Family History Leader do?

Some potential functions of the Ward Temple and Family History Leader include:

Spearhead the effort of family history in the ward

- Suggesting new Family History Consultants
- Helping Family History Consultants to be properly trained
- Pairing up people who need help with Family History Coordinators

11 Year Old Temple Baptism Help

- Lead efforts to prepare 10 and 11 year old primary kids to find names to take with them to the temple when they go for the first time.
- Work with Family History Consultants and parents to find time to work together (possibly an FHE?)
 - Provide FHC with Name, Birth Date, and Helper Number

Shepherding new members to the temple for baptisms

- Work with Ward Mission Leader, Full Time Missionaries, and New members to get new members to the temple in the first few weeks following baptism
- Assign a Family History Consultant to work with potential new member before their baptism to do family history work
- Coordinate with New Members to get them to the temple on the appropriate Friday Night (or as possible) – attend with the new members and FHC who helped the new member

Shepherding new members through the first year of membership in preparation to go to the temple

- Continue to work with the Ward Mission Leader, Ward Missionaries, Elders Quorum and Relief Society, and Bishop to help to ensure that new members are on track to go to the temple for their own ordinances.
- New member progress record
- Ensure that members understand the path to the temple (ie expectations)
- Keep them going back for baptism by helping support ongoing family history work

Helping Bishops to work with members who are endowed but who do not have temple recommends

- Bishop can prayerfully consider those who have been endowed, but are not current temple recommend holders
- Temple and Family History Leader can work with these members to help them prepare to return to the temple.
- Coordinate with Ministers who have been assigned to offer support in progressing toward the temple.

Helping Bishop work with long-time members who are unendowed

- Bishop can prayerfully consider those who have not yet been endowed and who are active or partially active.
- Temple and Family History Leader can work with these members to help them prepare to go to the temple.
- Coordinate with Ministers who have been assigned to offer support in progressing toward the temple.

Helping youth to prepare to make temple covenants

- Work with Priests and Laurels leaders to incorporate temple attendance (baptisms) into their activities
- Specifically work with the 17 year olds to prepare for the temple.

Teaching temple preparation seminar to those preparing to receive their endowments

- As needed, facilitates the offering of the 'Endowed From On High' class.

Rationale:

Many areas of responsibility that were formerly assigned to the High Priest Group in each ward are now assigned to an already heavily burdened Elders Quorum President. The First Presidency has found a way to help ameliorate the burden of this responsibility by creating the calling of 'Ward Temple and Family History Leader.' The individual called into this new role is a Melchizedek Priesthood holder who would be considered comparable in capability and responsibility to a Ward Mission Leader.

Please note that the Ward Temple and Family History Lead Consultant is not the same calling as the Ward T& FH Leader. There are a few significant differences. Generally, the Lead Consultant should be a good genealogist who can be the 'go-to' resource for questions about Family History. The Ward T&FH Leader should be seen as the person who shepherds people get to the temple – much in the same way that the Ward Mission Leader is the person who shepherds people into the church.

This new structure, as well as changes to the Ward Mission Leader were detailed in a notice dated 6 October 2018. A few important items of structural change should be understood:

1. The Elders quorum president may be assigned by the bishop to oversee member missionary work and temple and family history work. Generally, the Elders Quorum president would delegate these assignments to his counselors.
2. When assigned these responsibilities, the Elders Quorum counselor responsible for member missionary work will act in the role of Ward Mission leader or will supervise a Ward Mission Leader who is a Melchizedek Priesthood holder.
3. Similarly, the other Elders Quorum counselor will act as the ward temple and family history leader or will supervise a Melchizedek Priesthood holder who is called to that responsibility.
4. Whether a bishop calls a Ward Mission Leader and a Ward Temple and Family History Leader or the counselors in the Elders Quorum presidency fill those roles is up to the inspired direction of each bishop.
5. To facilitate priesthood-directed member missionary work and temple and family history work, the Relief Society presidency may follow the pattern of the Elders Quorum, with one counselor assigned to help with member missionary work and the other counselor assigned to help with temple and family history work.
6. The Ward Council includes the bishopric, ward clerk, executive secretary, and presidents of the Elders Quorum, Relief Society, Sunday School, Young Women, Young Men, and Primary.
7. Counselors in the Elders Quorum and Relief Society presidencies, the Ward Mission leader (if called), and the Ward Temple and Family History Leader (if called) may be invited to particular ward council meetings as circumstances dictate.

As with any new callings or assignments, it is critical that the newly called Ward Temple and Family History Leaders understand what powerful effect their calling can have on the ward and, more importantly, on individuals.