

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
OFFICE OF THE FIRST PRESIDENCY
47 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE STREET, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84150-1200

December 14, 2017

To: General Authorities; General Auxiliary Presidencies; Area Seventies; Stake, Mission, and Temple Presidents; Bishops and Branch Presidents; Stake and Ward Young Men, Young Women, and Primary Presidencies

(To be read in sacrament meeting)

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Youth Participation in the Baptistry and Preparing Children for Priesthood and Temple Service

We are grateful for the increase in temple and family history work being completed by the faithful youth of the Church. In unprecedented numbers, young women and young men throughout the world are researching, finding, and bringing family names to the temple to perform baptisms and confirmations.

We are pleased to announce the following changes, effective on January 1, 2018:

- Under the direction of the temple presidency, young women (ages 12-18) with a limited-use temple recommend may assist with baptistry assignments currently performed by sister temple ordinance workers and volunteers.
- Under the direction of the temple presidency, all priests in the Aaronic Priesthood with a limited-use temple recommend may officiate in baptisms for the dead, including serving as the baptizer and as a witness. Bestowing the gift of the Holy Ghost continues to be solely a Melchizedek Priesthood function.
- The Primary's Priesthood Preview meeting will be modified to include both 11-year-old boys and girls and will be called the Temple and Priesthood Preparation meeting. This will be an opportunity for priesthood, Primary, and youth leaders to help girls and boys, and their parents, understand the significant blessings of temple service, priesthood service, and making and keeping sacred covenants. For more information, see Primary.lds.org.

We are confident that these changes will bless the lives of youth and children throughout the Church.

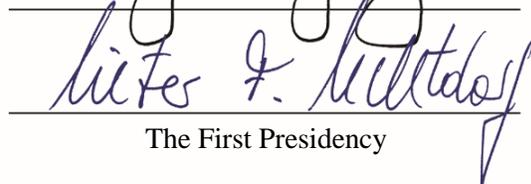
Sincerely yours,



Thomas S. Monson



Henry B. Eyring



Sister F. McLeod

The First Presidency

This letter is being translated and will be distributed to units identified as Albanian, Armenian, Bulgarian, Cambodian, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified), Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Estonian, Fijian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latvian, Lithuanian, Malagasy, Malay, Mongolian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Spanish, Swedish, Tahitian, Thai, Tongan, Ukrainian, Urdu, and Vietnamese. If leaders need this letter in languages not listed above, they may contact the Area Presidency. Area leaders can forward requests to the Priesthood and Family Department at ext. 2-2933.

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