



RELIEF SOCIETY

My Calling as a Ward Relief Society President

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES?

- I serve the Lord in His work (see Moses 1:39).
- I assist my bishop in helping sisters and their families prepare for eternal life by making and keeping temple covenants.
- I help the sisters in my ward increase faith and personal righteousness, strengthen families and homes, and seek out and help those in need.

HOW DO I FULFILL MY RESPONSIBILITIES?

Prepare Spiritually

- I prepare to receive revelation.
- I pray, study the scriptures, fast, attend the temple, live worthily, and prepare in other ways.
- I learn about the purpose, history, and work of Relief Society.

Participate in Councils

- I counsel with my bishop to:
 - Learn his vision, direction, and priorities.
 - Recommend counselors, a secretary, teachers, and others to assist me as needed.
 - Coordinate the type and frequency of gatherings that will help sisters prepare for eternal life by increasing faith and personal righteousness, strengthening families and homes, and helping those in need.
 - Fulfill assignments as directed by him.
- I participate in councils to help assess challenges and opportunities, determine priorities, explore solutions, and identify resources to assist the individuals and families in my ward. This includes:
 - Presidency and committee meetings.
 - Ward council.
 - PEC and other councils as invited by the bishop.
 - Stake leadership meetings.

Minister to Each Woman

- I know, love, strengthen, and watch over all sisters.
- I seek out and help those in need (see Luke 10:30–37).
- I help prepare all sisters to receive temple ordinances and covenants.

Teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ

- I ensure that the sisters are taught the doctrine.
- I teach by the Spirit (see D&C 50:13–22).
- I inspire sisters to apply the gospel principles in their lives.

Administer Relief Society

Under the direction of my bishop, I oversee the work of Relief Society and its efforts, gatherings, and meetings to ensure they build faith, strengthen families, and provide relief for individuals and families in my ward:

- I organize and delegate the work of Relief Society to counselors, the secretary, and other leaders and teachers, giving all sisters opportunities to minister to one another.
- I oversee and ensure the effectiveness of:
 - Sunday Relief Society meetings.
 - Visiting teaching.
 - Compassionate service.
 - Welfare.
 - Additional Relief Society meetings.
 - Young single adult participation.
- I study and use Church-approved resources to learn and carry out my responsibilities:
 - Scriptures
 - *Church Handbook of Instructions*
 - Worldwide leadership training and general conference
 - General Relief Society meetings
 - *Teaching, No Greater Call*
 - *Providing in the Lord's Way*
 - LDS.org and providentliving.org

A Summary of Handbook Policies for Additional Relief Society Meetings

Effective September 26, 2009

PURPOSE FOR THE CHANGES

Changes regarding Relief Society meetings were implemented to:

- Align the name of Relief Society meetings with Relief Society purposes and work.
- Encourage counseling between the Relief Society president and the bishop.
- Focus sisters on increasing faith and personal righteousness.
- Emphasize strengthening families and homes.
- Give sisters opportunities to organize efforts to seek out and help those who are in need.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

All meetings of Relief Society sisters are Relief Society meetings. Meetings should accomplish the charitable and practical responsibilities of Relief Society, address spiritual and temporal needs of individuals and families, and strengthen sisterhood and unity.

- The Relief Society president oversees all Relief Society meetings; she may ask her first or second counselor to assist her with Relief Society meetings. At least one member of the Relief Society presidency should attend all Relief Society meetings.
- A sister in the ward may be called as the Relief Society meeting coordinator. A Relief Society meeting committee may be called to assist her.
- Meetings are generally held monthly. The Relief Society presidency may recommend that they be held more or less often, at least quarterly. They are usually held at a time other than on Sunday or on Monday evening.
- In planning, give priority to topics that fulfill Relief Society purposes, such as marriage and family, homemaking, provident living and self-reliance, compassionate service, temple and family history, sharing the gospel, and other subjects requested by the bishop. One meeting a year may commemorate the founding of the Relief Society and focus on its history and purpose.

- Meetings can focus on one topic or be divided into more than one class or activity. Generally, teachers should be members of the ward or stake.
- Additional meetings are valuable supplements to Sunday instruction and are especially helpful for sisters who serve in Primary or Young Women or who are unable to attend Sunday meetings.
- Follow Church policy about finances and activities.

COUNSELING WITH THE BISHOP

Using Relief Society meetings appropriately will increase the ability of the Relief Society to work in powerful ways with the priesthood leaders in every ward.

- The Relief Society president should counsel regularly with her bishop regarding how these meetings can strengthen individuals and families.
- The Relief Society presidency makes recommendations for Relief Society meetings to the bishop. They consider time commitments of sisters, family circumstances, travel distance and cost, financial cost to the ward, safety, and other local circumstances. Plans should be approved by the bishop.

STAKE RELIEF SOCIETY MEETINGS

- As approved by the stake president, the stake Relief Society presidency may plan and carry out one or two stake Relief Society meetings each year for all Relief Society sisters in the stake. One of these stake Relief Society meetings may be held in conjunction with the annual broadcast of the general Relief Society meeting.

(See Julie B. Beck, "Relief Society: A Sacred Work," *Ensign*, Nov. 2009, 110–14.)