

Ward Council, See Yourself in the Work

A Resource for Hastening the Work of Salvation

Under the bishop's direction, you—as a ward council—are responsible for the work of conversion, retention, and activation in the ward. You direct this effort in the quorums and auxiliaries you lead as you work together to find and invite people for the missionaries to teach, as you help new members remain active, and as you rescue those who are ready to return to activity.

Videos



Helping Recent Converts Progress



Preparing Families to Make Covenants



New and Returning Member Progress



It Takes All of Us: The Clawson Family



Working Together: The Kane Family

Articles

President Henry B. Eyring, "We Are One," April 2013 general conference

Elder Russell M. Nelson, "Catch the Wave," April 2013 general conference

Elder Russell M. Nelson, "Ask the Missionaries! They Can Help You!" October 2012 general conference

WHAT IS NEW FOR ME?

You will likely have more full-time missionaries serving in your ward. This increase gives you an increased opportunity to:

- **Set an example** by finding and preparing individuals and families for the missionaries to teach.
- Help members find and **prepare friends and neighbors**, allowing the missionaries to fulfill their sacred responsibility—to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- **Help fill the missionaries' days** with teaching appointments; provide new members with a friend, a responsibility, and gospel nurturing; and help others return to full activity.
- **Discuss in ward council** the progress of each investigator and new and returning member, making plans to help each person take the next step. Your tools include the Progress Record—prepared by the missionaries—and the New and Returning Member Progress Form.
- **Prayerfully identify the less-active members** who are the most likely to return to activity, deciding who in your quorum or auxiliary could best strengthen and build relationships.





WHERE DO I LEARN MY ROLE?

Your role isn't to do the work alone but to coordinate with other members of the ward council and the full-time missionaries in the work of salvation. For more information, see:

- *Handbook 2, Chapter 5*
- *Preach My Gospel, Chapter 13*
- *Special Broadcast: The Work of Salvation*

WHO CAN HELP?

- Your **bishop** can help you give priority to this work by teaching the doctrine and giving you direction for how you can best assist him.
- Your **ward mission leader**, who serves with you as a member of the ward council, is your link to the full-time missionaries.
- The **full-time missionaries** can teach and strengthen those you and your ward members identify and prepare.
- Your **ward members**—including youth and children—have nonmember and less-active friends, neighbors, and family members. They may be your greatest resource in finding and inviting others to come and see—or return and see—what the gospel of Jesus Christ offers.

CAPTURE THE VISION

“To you bishops who hold your ward council meetings, a discussion of the status of converts in that meeting may be the most important business you will conduct. You are not bound by rigid rules. You have unlimited flexibility. You are entitled to answers to your prayers, to inspiration and revelation from the Lord in dealing with this matter.”

President Gordon B. Hinckley

“The bishop and his ward council discuss every progressing investigator. They decide what they can do for each person and their families to help them become friends before baptism, to include them in activities, and to nurture those who are baptized.”

President Henry B. Eyring

“The missionary work of priesthood and auxiliary leaders should be coordinated by the ward mission leader and the bishop through the ward council. And by doing so, converts will be fully active members in their wards.”

Elder M. Russell Ballard