

UTAH AREAS – AREA COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 13, 2017

**Presiding
Conducting**

**Elder Craig C. Christensen
Elder LeGrand R. Curtis, Jr.**

Opening Hymn #:
Music Director:
Pianist:

**#66 “Rejoice, the Lord is King”
Elder David T. Warner
Elder Ralph L. Dewsnup**

Invocation

Elder Gene R. Chidester

Observations from CC Meetings:

Elder K. Brett Nattress

1. We only have just one objective: To invite all men come unto Christ.
2. Matt 22: 42 – “What think ye of Christ”; Matt 16: 13 – “Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?”
3. President Hinckley video: <https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2012-05-1510-testimony-of-gordon-b-hinckley?lang=eng>
4. President Monson video: <https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2012-05-1603-preparation-of-thomas-s-monson-always-follow-the-promptings-of-the-spirit?lang=eng>
5. When we minister to stake presidents, do we share our witness and testimony that the Savior lives?
6. Everything we teach and train about, or work on, are tools to help people come unto Christ.
7. Scriptures that teach of Christ: D&C 88: 6-13; D&C 93:1; 2 Ne 25:26; D&C 76: 23; Moroni 9: 25; 3 Ne 11:7; Hel. 5:12; and Alma 7:11-12.
8. The life of President Monson is a great example of Christ-like discipleship. His lifetime of service is his greatest sermon.

Progress on the Prophetic Priorities Discussed at Last Meeting

1. Family History program is being used to strengthen the rising generation.
2. Ward and stake focused missionary work is being implemented.
3. Sacrament meetings are focusing more on the Savior.
4. Leaders and missionaries are teaching repentance with love.
5. Six-week program to strengthen returned missionaries.

Discussion Items:

Use of Executive Secretary

Brother Patrick Price

1. They are there to free you from many of the details of your assignment.
2. They don't teach or conduct meetings.
3. Your calling is to bear witness. They take minutes, notes and follow-up.
4. Their expenses, like yours, are reimbursable and should be submitted in their names.
5. They should submit their expense reports to you and, after you approve, you forward them to the Area Leaders.
6. Set up for stake conference should be done through stake resources.
7. Use your executive secretaries for coordinating councils or specialty meetings.
8. They are not your companion to travel with you to stake conferences.
9. Don't put them in an ecclesiastical role.

Recommending Mission Presidents

Elder Michael T. Ringwood

1. "The idea of what is true merit should also be often presented to youth, explained and impressed on their minds, as consisting in an inclination joined with an ability to serve mankind, one's country, friends and family; which ability is (with the blessing of God) to be acquired or greatly increased by true learning; and should indeed be the great aim and end of all learning."
"I think with you, that nothing is of more importance for the public weal, than to form and train up youth in wisdom and virtue. Wise and good men are in my opinion, the strength of the state; more so than riches or arms.... I think also, that general virtue is more probably to be expected and obtained from the education of youth, than from the exhortations of adult persons; bad habits and vices of the mind being, like diseases of the body, more easily prevented [in youth] than cured [in adults]. I think, moreover, that talents for the education of youth are the gift God; and that he on whom they are bestowed, whenever a way is opened for the use of them, is as strongly called as if he heard a voice from heaven." (Benjamin Franklin)
2. We ask you to fill out the Mission President Recommendation form with the information you know and send it to the Area Leadership, not the Missionary Department.
3. Explain why you are recommending them.
4. Don't do anything that will get the rumor mill started.
5. Be constantly looking. When you have the impression fill out the form and send it in.
6. Age range is generally 40s-50s, but can consider 60s. We would like younger mission presidents.
7. Can they have a positive impact in peoples' lives?
8. Consider what you know about his wife's capabilities.
9. Are they future apostles that should be recommended?
10. More fatherly than grandfatherly types.

Area Business Weekends with Members of the Twelve

Elder LeGrand R. Curtis, Jr.

1. Luke 9 the apostles are sent; Luke 10 the seventy are sent.
2. Today the apostles are to "build up the church" (D&C 107:33-34).
3. By being among the people they can observe and learn.
4. Area Business Weekends are to take the apostles to places with needs.
5. Note and follow the specific instructions in the handout "Domestic Area Business Weekends for Members of the Twelve".
6. The second page sets out options. This is not an exclusive list. Be creative when determining how to meet the needs.
7. Area Seventies discuss with participating stake/coordinating council leaders and make recommendations to the Area Leader assigned to the weekend.
8. Area Leadership will review and make recommendations to the member of the Twelve with the assignment.
9. You should know what has recently been done in your area that involved a member of the Twelve. Please keep a log so we don't repeat.
10. Young couples/date night was successful with Elder Oaks.
11. The Twelve want to keep this low key, so they can understand the challenges of the members of the Church.
12. It is the privilege of the Seventy to assist the Twelve.
13. Area Leaders have Area Business Weekends of their own. You may be called upon to help plan these.

Utah Salt Lake City Headquarters Mission

Elder Craig C. Christensen

1. Full time missionaries living away from home and serving at Church headquarters now comprise the Utah Salt Lake City Headquarters Mission.
2. There are approximately 800 missionaries in the mission and they generally hold family or church history assignments.
3. President Warren G. Tate is the mission president.
4. President Tate will be working through you to contact stake presidents in the Salt Lake area to arrange for his missionary couples to attend and work in wards with needs.
5. They will attend the ward and be able to serve there on weekends.
6. You don't need to wait for President Tate to contact you. You can reach out to him (801-201-0676).

December 2016 and January 2017 Missionary Broadcasts

Elder Craig C. Christensen

1. 19th of December broadcast to mission presidents, and January 25th broadcast to missionaries.
2. You should view these and teach what they teach.
3. Structural changes are being made:
 - a. Six-week cycle for interviews and zone conferences.
 - b. Shift in missionary schedules that give them more flexibility.
 - c. You should know and understand the new schedule and review it with your stake presidents. They should pass the information on to bishops and members so everyone is on the same page.

Ward Focused Missionary Effort

Elder Michael T. Ringwood

1. Ward focused missionaries are now finding through ward councils.
2. The implementation seems to have gone forward easily.
3. Ward councils now have a focus.
4. Mission president should not leap over leaders, but go through priesthood channels.
5. Don't forget the stake focus.
6. Missionary observations (Elders Stout and Bowen) on stake/ward focused approaches:

“Stake Focus:

 1. Missionaries go where the action is.
 2. Work a lot more with Stake leadership as opposed to ward leadership.
 3. There are always new people to meet and find.”

“Ward Focus:

 1. Missionaries get involved more in the ward councils, the ward leadership, and are able to apply principles from PMG Ch. 13 more fully.
 2. Members get a lot more involved with missionary work and referrals increase.
 3. Finding can be a bit trickier but it allows for the members to do their part.”
7. Live at home (LAH) missionaries seem to be taking a long time to get call through the Missionary Department. We will check on this.
8. In all respects, the Missionary Department considers LAH missionaries the same as full-time senior couples, except they live at home and do not need to clear the health issues as part of their application.
9. Stake presidents can call senior couples from their stakes to be ward missionaries and cover the whole stake rather than calling LAH missionaries.
10. Coordination is critical between all missionaries and their leaders. They need to work together.
11. We have options for missionaries serving in the stakes, including: LAH, ward missionaries, ward mission leaders, high councilors.
12. It is not helpful to call LAH that do not have enough to stay busy.

13. Bishops and stake presidents need to be engaged in this.
14. We need to have the same discussion with mission presidents. Please wait until Area Leadership has discussion with mission presidents and we formulate a plan.

Counsel Items:

Elder Craig C. Christensen

1. We counsel together to strengthen the work.
2. We spend 90% of our time on 3% of problems.
3. What more can we could do?
4. What are the ways to engage with and strengthen an individual stake president?
 - a. Remind them they have been called by the Lord.
 - b. Lift the role of the stake president in the eyes of his people. Lift his stature.
 - c. When they feel they are the most inferior stake president:
 - i. Reassure them they are handling things well.
 - ii. They have the support of senior leaders.
 - iii. Thank them, and be genuine.
 - iv. Correct as needed.
 - v. Highlight the positives.
 - d. Look for opportunities to minister to him, his wife and children.
 - e. Go out with them and reinforce all the good they are doing.
 - f. There really is no way to measure the effect you will have.
 - g. Don't become their supervisors or managers.
 - h. If you are "too good" you can diminish them.
 - i. D&C 6:32, 34 and 36.
 - j. When they ask you, "Now what do I do?", you should ask them what they have done and show them how to find their answers.
5. Spending time with stake presidents.
 - a. Give them three or four days you are available and they can schedule you in.
 - b. This is an art form not science.
 - c. Can I follow you around?
 - d. Never correct on that occasion, maybe on another occasion.
6. "Revelation is vertical, never horizontal" (President Boyd K. Packer).
 - a. Revelation comes when we talk together about what we are trying to accomplish.
 - b. What have we done and what have we not done?
 - c. It is not just about getting revelation, but to recognize it when it comes.
7. What do we do to help stake presidents who have solidified how they do things and resist change, or they become complacent after achievements or lack of achievements?
 - a. Minister to them one by one.
 - b. Sometimes they may be insecure with change.
 - c. Helaman 3:35.
 - d. Either 2:7, the Lord would not suffer that they should stop; 14, the Lord chastens the brother of Jared; and 15-16, they repent and go to work.
 - e. Let them see you kneel down and hear you pray for them.
 - f. Children ask questions because of their humility. Adolescents don't ask questions because they think they know it all. Adults may not know much, but they know where to go for the answers.
 - g. When we think we know everything, we stop relying on the Lord and trust our talents.
 - h. If they are dependent on us, we have not done our job. They need to depend on the Lord.
8. How can I improve the way that I am teaching?
 - a. Elder Bednar's approach is learner centric (not teacher centric) that empowers the learner to learn.

- b. Respond to a question with a question.
 - c. Get to the hearts and souls of the learner.
 - d. There are times to lecture, times to teach, times to listen, times to ask questions.
 - e. We should never stop growing in our callings. Are we getting better over time? We should always be looking for a better way.
 - f. Three talks: the one you plan, the one you give and the one you wish you had given.
 - g. How we started today (testimonies of Presidents Hinckley and Monson) is a great way to start teaching.
 - h. Learn everything you can about Jesus Christ. The more you know Him, the more you will learn to love Him. If you love Him, then you will serve Him better.
 - i. There is a price to be paid for our witness.
 - j. All leaders are teachers, first and foremost.
9. Mark 4: 36-41, while others were afraid, he was not, because of his faith. Keep His commandments, trust Him and serve Him.
10. Your calling is to lift and strengthen.
11. Area Plan feedback:
- a. It has been helpful.
 - b. It is not new.
 - c. It has helped them focus.
 - d. In different words, it reflects the four-fold mission of the Church.
 - e. It is affirming what they are trying to do.
 - f. They appreciated the process.
 - g. It has become personalized.
 - h. Please reinforce the Area Plan and ask the stake presidents to do so as well.
 - i. It doesn't distract from what the Church is trying to do and is consistent with the scriptures.
12. What do you want to accomplish in your next coordinating council meeting?
- a. Presidents Hinckley and Monson videos.
 - b. Use the meeting to counsel, not just to unload. Make coordinating councils meetings into "counsel" meetings.
 - c. Many ways to launch JustServe or Self Reliance Services. You decide.
 - d. Talk about what we want to accomplish, not just a topic.
 - e. If you were a stake president after your meeting, how would you feel?
 - f. Simple and consistent over a long period of time, makes the change.
 - g. Take time to consolidate our gains and review progress.
 - h. Protect the feelings of the stake presidents

Assignment for Area Seventies: Study the *The Family: A Proclamation to the World* (Proclamation) and *The Living Christ*. Teach more from the Proclamation and be a voice for what the doctrine of the family is. Cross reference the first three paragraphs to scriptures. The Proclamation will not change.

Testimonies by Elders Bangerter and McKay

Closing Remarks/Testimonies

Under the direction of Elder Craig C. Christensen

Closing Hymn #

#147, "Sweet Is the Work"

Benediction

Elder Douglas L. Dance

Quote:

Elder D. Todd Christopherson:

“Without repentance, there is no real progress or improvement in life. Pretending there is no sin does not lessen the burden and pain. Suffering for sin does not by itself change anything for the better. Only repentance leads to the sunlit uplands of a better life. And, of course, only through repentance do we gain access to the atoning grace of Jesus Christ and salvation. Repentance is a divine gift, and there should be a smile on our faces when we speak of it. It points us to freedom, confidence, and peace.”