

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

October 6, 2019

To: General Authorities; General Officers; Area Seventies; Stake, Mission, District, and Temple Presidents; Bishops and Branch Presidents

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Preparing to Enter the Temple

Inscribed on each temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are the words “Holiness to the Lord—the House of the Lord.” Entering the temple, a “place of [His] holiness” (Doctrine and Covenants 109:13), is a sacred privilege.

The temple recommend instructions, the interview questions, and the statement on wearing the temple garment have been updated to assist leaders in their important responsibility to help prepare members to enter the temple and to improve the sanctity of the temple recommend interview.

The enclosed document, “Conducting Temple Recommend Interviews,” includes these changes and should be inserted into existing temple recommend books replacing page 3. Existing temple recommend books should be used until depleted. Beginning November 1, 2019, updated temple recommend books will be sent to units that order replacements. These updated interview questions and instructions for conducting interviews for limited-use recommends can be found at Leader and Clerk Resources (lcr.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

We invite leaders to help all members qualify to enter the temple and joyfully participate in the saving and exalting ordinances available in the house of the Lord.

Sincerely yours,







The First Presidency

This letter is being translated and will be distributed to units identified as Albanian, Armenian, Bislama, Bulgarian, Cambodian, Cebuano, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified), Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Estonian, Fijian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Haitian, Hindi, Hmong, Hungarian, Icelandic, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Kiribati, Korean, Kosraean, Lao, Latvian, Lithuanian, Malagasy, Malay, Maltese, Marshallese, Mongolian, Nepali, Norwegian, Palauan, Pohnpeian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Serbian, Sinhala, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish, Tagalog, Tahitian, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Tongan, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, and Yapese. If leaders need this letter in additional languages, 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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Conducting Temple Recommend Interviews

October 6, 2019

THE CHURCH OF
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Enclosure to the First Presidency letter “Preparing to Enter the Temple”

Instructions for Conducting Temple Recommend Interviews

Stake presidency and bishopric members represent the Lord in conducting interviews for worthiness to enter the holy temple. The temple recommend interview serves as an opportunity for these leaders to lift, inspire, and bless members of the Church.

Priesthood leaders are entitled to the assistance of the Holy Ghost, including the power of discernment, to help them recognize truth and a member’s needs (see Doctrine and Covenants 46:27–28).

As leaders conduct temple recommend interviews, they should not omit, add to, or modify any of the temple recommend questions. However, they may adapt the discussion in an interview to the understanding of the member and respond to his or her questions, especially with youth and new members. As directed by the Spirit, they may teach basic doctrine and correct principles. They should not present personal beliefs, preferences, or interpretations.

Interview Questions for Recommends to Enter a Temple

1. Do you have faith in and a testimony of God, the Eternal Father; His Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Ghost?
2. Do you have a testimony of the Atonement of Jesus Christ and of His role as your Savior and Redeemer?
3. Do you have a testimony of the Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ?
4. Do you sustain the President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as the prophet, seer, and revelator and as the only person on the earth authorized to exercise all priesthood keys?

Do you sustain the members of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles as prophets, seers, and revelators?

Do you sustain the other General Authorities and local leaders of the Church?

5. The Lord has said that all things are to be “done in cleanliness” before Him (Doctrine and Covenants 42:41).

Do you strive for moral cleanliness in your thoughts and behavior?

Do you obey the law of chastity?

6. Do you follow the teachings of the Church of Jesus Christ in your private and public behavior with members of your family and others?

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7. Do you support or promote any teachings, practices, or doctrine contrary to those of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints?
8. Do you strive to keep the Sabbath day holy, both at home and at church; attend your meetings; prepare for and worthily partake of the sacrament; and live your life in harmony with the laws and commandments of the gospel?
9. Do you strive to be honest in all that you do?
10. Are you a full-tithe payer?
11. Do you understand and obey the Word of Wisdom?
12. Do you have any financial or other obligations to a former spouse or to children?
If yes, are you current in meeting those obligations?
13. Do you keep the covenants that you made in the temple, including wearing the temple garment as instructed in the endowment? (Read the “Wearing the Temple Garment” statement, included below, to each member.)
14. Are there serious sins in your life that need to be resolved with priesthood authorities as part of your repentance?
15. Do you consider yourself worthy to enter the Lord’s house and participate in temple ordinances?

Wearing the Temple Garment

The temple garment is a reminder of covenants made in the temple and, when worn properly throughout life, will serve as a protection against temptation and evil. The garment should be worn beneath the outer clothing. It should not be removed for activities that can reasonably be done while wearing the garment, and it should not be modified to accommodate different styles of clothing. Endowed members should seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to answer personal questions about wearing the garment.

It is a sacred privilege to wear the garment and doing so is an outward expression of an inner commitment to follow the Savior Jesus Christ.

In each interview, emphasize to the member the need to safeguard his or her recommend. It must never be loaned and should be reported immediately to the issuer if lost or stolen. (See “Lost or Stolen Recommends” in the instructions for issuing recommends in *Book 1: Temple Recommend* or *Book 2: Recommend for Living Ordinances*.)