

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

May 6, 2021

To: General Authorities; General Officers; Area Seventies; Stake, Mission, District, and Temple Presidencies; Bishoprics and Branch Presidencies

Senior Service Missionaries Around the World

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We are deeply grateful for the faithful service of senior missionaries around the world and for the significant contributions they make in building the kingdom of God. We continue to encourage members to serve either full-time missions away from home as their circumstances permit or senior service missions if they are unable to leave home. Starting this May, and based on Area Presidency direction and approval, eligible members anywhere in the world may be considered for a senior service mission.

Under the direction of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, each senior service missionary will receive a call from his or her stake, mission, or district president.

Senior service missionaries (individuals and couples) assist Church functions and operations in a variety of ways. Additional details are included in the enclosed document. Information for members interested in serving as a senior service missionary can be found at seniormissionary.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

Sincerely yours,



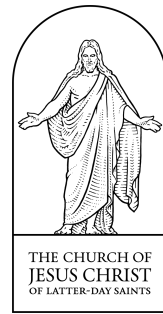




The First Presidency

Senior Service Missionary Opportunities

May 6, 2021



Opportunities to serve as senior service missionaries are presented to members through a website (seniormissionary.ChurchofJesusChrist.org) that allows a customized search to match Church needs to talents, interests, and availability of members. Once an opportunity is identified, senior service missionaries are called, under the direction of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, through their stake, mission or district president. Senior service missionaries serve in Church operations to help build and strengthen the Lord's kingdom.

Senior service missionaries generally live at home and serve for 6 to 24 months. If desired, the term of service may be extended by their stake president. Senior service missionaries offer service to the Lord as their circumstances allow through a minimum weekly time commitment determined by the Area Presidency (eight hours per week in the United States and Canada). Throughout their missionary service, senior service missionaries serve the Lord under the continued ecclesiastical direction of their stake presidents or district presidents.

The objectives for a senior service missionary include the following:

- Provide needed and valuable service to the Lord by assisting Church operations around the world (examples include bishops' storehouses, distribution centers, family history libraries, self-reliance programs, BYU-Pathway, temples, and employment centers).
- Provide an opportunity for all members to serve the Lord, increase their testimony of Him, and be spiritually fulfilled.

Senior Service Missionary Eligibility

Those who may be called to serve as senior service missionaries include worthy members (either individuals or couples) who live at home and are able to serve the minimum weekly hours established by the Area Presidency.

The minimum age for senior service missionaries is 26, unless an individual has already served as a teaching missionary or service missionary or lives in an area where the young service missionary program is not yet approved, such as outside of the United States and Canada. In those exceptions, the minimum age is 18 for men and 19 for women. Senior service missionary candidates under the age of 26 who live in areas where the young service missionary program is not available may be considered only if they are unable to serve as teaching missionaries.

The standards of worthiness required for senior service missionaries are the same as those required to hold a temple recommend. Throughout their service, senior service missionaries must remain temple worthy.

Senior Service Missionary Recommendation Process

All eligible worthy members with a desire to serve as senior service missionaries complete online recommendation forms and participate in interviews with their bishop or branch president and stake, mission, or district president. Where the necessary technology is not available, paper recommendation forms will be provided.

Senior service missionary candidates can review and request which kind of service they prefer. Candidates are invited to consider the types of senior service missionary assignments that will allow them to be spiritually fulfilled and use their gifts and talents in accomplishing the Lord's work. The missionary candidates are invited to talk with the respective Church operations manager during the recommendation process.

A stake, mission, or district president counsels with the individual or couple candidate(s) to determine the most appropriate senior service missionary assignment.

Senior service missionaries are invited to speak in sacrament meeting before and after their service, and they report to the high council upon completion of the service. A calling as a senior service missionary is also officially recorded on the missionary's membership record.

Service Mission Office at Church Headquarters

The Service Mission Office at Church headquarters works closely with the stake, mission, or district presidents in the recommendation and calling process, provides support to local priesthood leaders and to Church operations, and provides training, resources, and information.

Senior Missionary Coordinators and Support Advisers in the Field

Where needed, an Area Presidency authorizes an Area Seventy to call and set apart mature couples as senior missionary coordinators. These coordinators are trained by staff in the Service Mission Office and serve as a liaison between stake and district presidents and Church operations. They are responsible for outreach and support of both the senior missionary program and the senior service missionary program when interacting with priesthood leaders and members. These coordinators serve a minimum of two years and may serve longer under the direction of their priesthood leaders. Area Presidencies and Area Seventies work with support advisers called to assist senior missionary coordinators in senior service missionary efforts across the area. The Service Mission Office at Church headquarters is responsible for supporting, training, and sharing information with the support advisers throughout the duration of their calling. The support advisers are also responsible for coordinating the annual planning and assigning of senior service missionary resources needed by departments, operations, and areas around the world. The support advisers also provide the proposed plan to the Area Presidency for approval (known as the “Coordination Process”).

Senior Service Missionary Responsibilities

Senior service missionaries always wear name badges at their service assignment, at service missionary meetings, and at Church meetings.

Senior service missionaries are responsible for expenses related to missionary service. These expenses include but are not limited to housing, transportation, food, clothing, medical, dental, and any insurance costs. Senior service missionaries are responsible for transportation to and from their service locations and receive no financial support from the General Missionary Fund. Area Presidencies may authorize reimbursement for certain expenses.

Roles

Successful senior service missionary experiences can transform the lives of those who serve with all their heart, might, mind, and strength. The senior service missionary, priesthood leader, and Church operations manager are each responsible for ensuring a spiritually fulfilling experience while accomplishing the work of the service assignment.

The **bishop or branch president** reviews the candidate’s worthiness and readiness to serve. Where needed, a bishop or branch president can provide assistance in completing the online or paper recommendation form. He may also encourage members to consider senior missionary service through sacrament messages and other communications.

The **stake, mission, or district president** reviews the candidate's worthiness and readiness to serve. He reviews and approves the missionary recommendation form for those who serve the Lord as senior service missionaries. The Service Mission Office at Church headquarters finalizes the call and sends a call letter to the stake president. The stake president extends the senior service missionary call and sets the missionary apart. The stake, mission, or district president, or a priesthood leader he designates, provides support throughout the senior service missionary's service by regularly visiting with the senior service missionary about how he or she feels about his or her service to the Lord.

At the end of the missionary's service, the Service Mission Office at Church headquarters sends the stake, mission, or district president a certificate of missionary service. The stake president then interviews the senior service missionary and extends a grateful release.

More Information

Additional information can be found in chapter 24 of the General Handbook and at seniormissionary.ChurchofJesusChrist.org, including such topics as senior service missionary assignments, preparations, expectations, requirements, and finances.

Leaders may also contact the Service Mission Office at Church headquarters at 1-801-240-4914 (Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. mountain daylight time) or at support-servicemission@ChurchofJesusChrist.org.