

**Stake Conference Priesthood Leadership
Presidency Meetings
Mike Baird, Dec 3, 2016**

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Directed to hold Presidency Meetings

- Handbook 2: 18.2.6 Bishopric Meeting
"The bishopric usually meets at least weekly."
- Handbook 2: 7.7.2 Elders Quorum Presidency Meeting and High Priests Group Leadership Meeting
"The elders quorum presidency holds a presidency meeting regularly. The high priests group leadership holds a leadership meeting regularly."
- Handbook 2: 8.3.4 Ward Young Men Presidency (Aaronic Priesthood Quorum Advisers)
"They hold Young Men presidency meetings."
- Handbook 2: 18:3:5 Stake Presidency Meeting
The stake presidency meets regularly.

The Why of Presidency Meetings

NOTE: Presidency general term used here after to refer to SP, bishopric, HPGL, EQP, YMP

Why do we have presidency meetings

- Why are we directed to have presidency meetings?
 - President Wight: "To *receive and follow up on inspiration* about how to lead the wards/quorums/organizations of the Lord's church"
- Couldn't the President/Bishop just receive this inspiration and then tell everyone what to do?
 - No that is not the way things work in the Lord's church
- Two problems with that model if you were to choose to follow it all the time:
 1. Revelation comes to a leader in different ways
 - Doesn't always come while you are pondering or at the end of your prayer.
 - President Dalton: "Bishop, your job is *not* to receive all revelation but to recognize it when you hear it. It may come in the words of a scripture, or it may be in the words of a counselor, a primary or a RS president. "
 2. There is no unity in that model

Principle – Unanimity:

- Look to the first Presidency of the church as an example
- D&C 107:22, 27, 30
 - 22) Of the Melchizedek Priesthood, three Presiding High Priests, chosen by the body, appointed and ordained to that office, and upheld by the confidence, faith, and prayer of the church, form a quorum of the Presidency of the Church.
 - 27) every decision made by either of these quorums must be by the unanimous voice of the same
 - 30) The decisions...are to be made in all righteousness, in holiness, and lowliness of heart, meekness and long suffering, and in faith, and virtue, and knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity"

- I cannot stress this principle enough
- Results of unanimity:
 - Spirit of brotherhood and of love that I have not felt elsewhere
 - Spirit of trust
 - When I served as bishop of the Cooper Mt ward unanimity was a paramount principle for us a bishopric
 - Patriarch Ogden and Bro Barnes and I were the three high priests, chosen, appointed and ordained to the bishopric and upheld by the confidence, faith and prayer of the ward.
 - I knew I had their trust, confidence and support because we were unified
 - They knew they had my trust, confidence and support because we were unified
- Can you feel unified if you don't meet together?
 - Rod Barnes:
 "Only when we meet together, pray together, sharing that same Spirit can we truly be unified in what we do. Certainly, we do reach unanimity in our own presidency outside of meetings when that is required, but that is always the exception and not our preferred means of operation, and then it is always based upon the foundation we have from the regularly meetings we do have."
- I cannot stress this principle enough

The What of Presidency Meetings

How often should we meet?

- What does regular mean?
 - Handbook - Bishoprics usually meet weekly
 - For the Stake Presidency it means weekly
 - Is once a month regular enough? - No

What should we accomplish?

- President Wight:
 " Turn the keys of the priesthood. Seek, receive, and follow inspiration about what the Lord would have us *do* in our respective stewardships."

How do we ensure that we accomplish what we should?

- Do we just go into a presidency meeting with nothing planned and then sit around waiting for the Spirit to move upon us?
- GPS analogy
 - No direction if we do nothing
 - Once we begin moving we will be redirected if we get off the right path
- Neal A Maxwell:

When we speak about teaching by the Spirit it is not about a mystical process which removes responsibility from the missionary or teacher for prayerful and pondering preparation. Teaching by the Spirit is not the lazy equivalent of going on "automatic pilot." We still need a carefully worked out "flight plan." Studying out something in one's own mind is, in itself, an invitation to the Spirit in our preparations as well as in our presentations. We must not err, like Oliver Cowdery, by taking no thought except to ask God for His Spirit (D&C 9:7). The Lord is especially willing to take the lead of an already informed mind in which things have been "studied out." (Neal Maxwell *That Ye May Believe*, pp. 40-41., Also in Neal A Maxwell quote book, pg 338)
- In Presidency meetings our "flight plan" is an agenda
 - In the handbook is suggestions for what an agenda may contain
- Do as President Wight said: "Seek, receive, and follow inspiration about what the Lord would have us do"
- If we need to deviate from our "flight plan" the Spirit will so direct
 - **D&C 46:2**

But notwithstanding those things which are written, it always has been given to the elders of my church from the beginning, and ever shall be, to conduct all meetings as they are directed and guided by the Holy Spirit.
- We seek unanimity in what we do

What should be the results of our Presidency Meeting?

- President Wight: "Make and then follow up on assignments"
- President Wight "drive him crazy" is when there is great discussion about people or things such that everyone is feeling good about things or that there is something to do and then there is no assignments or actions
 - "And now what are we going to do?"
- SP Example
 - We discuss items on our agenda
 - Come to a unity on what to do
 - What he does when President Garret not here – Let's get his feelings before we proceed
 - Then President Wight will assign us (and sometimes himself) to do assignments
 - Bro Barnes keeps track of the assignments
 - One of the first items on our agenda every week is follow up on assignments from the previous meeting

That was the Why and the What training now.

Each Presidency Self Evaluation & Discussion (5 minutes)

Self Evaluation

Discuss changes need to be made

Report based on self-evaluation and plans (5 minutes)

Q & A (5 minutes)

Testify

- File a flight plan (Agenda)
- Seek our Heavenly Father's will with regards to what we should do to bless the lives of our members
- As have unanimity in our presidencies
- We will receive inspiration
- There will be a spirit of Love and brotherhood