

Area Council Meeting Minutes - January

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F. Wayne Elggren

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Cc: Craig C. Christensen; Michael Tally Ringwood; Larry Young Wilson; M. Scott Newbold; Patrick H. Price;
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Area Seventies and Mission Presidents,

Attached are the Area Council Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2016 and the PowerPoint presentations.

Thank you for your service.

Brother Wayne Elggren

Executive Secretary to Elder Craig C. Christensen

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Utah Areas Area Council Meeting

JSMB - Relief Society Room - Friday, January 8, 2016 - 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Presiding: President Craig C. Christensen

Welcome: Elder Larry Y. Wilson

Opening Hymn: #66, *Rejoice, The Lord is King*
Conducting: Elder Craig B. Terry
Piano: Elder Ralph W. Dewsnup

Invocation: President John C. Eberhardt

Introductory Remarks: President Craig C. Christensen

1. What do I need to do better? Consider reviewing new year's resolution scriptures such as: D&C (11:23); Alma 37:37; Ether 12:41; Luke 4:18; Luke 3:4-6; D&C 68:25-28; Alma 32:41; 2 Ne 25:26; Mosiah 2:20-21; or D&C 107:33, 38. Review what we have learned and what attributes we need to seek after. Obtain a strong doctrinal underpinning for the things you wish to accomplish. Give your leaders a vision of what needs to be done and how they can do it. Listen and counsel.
2. President Nelson reviewed D&C 88:118-125 with the Quorum of the Twelve and Presidency of the Seventy.
3. President Packer: "No matter how good you are to your wives you are not good enough."
4. You have been called of God.

Business Items:

1. **Policy Changes regarding the Baptistry.** See letter for instructions.
2. **Announcement of New Utah Mission Presidents.** President David E. Poulsen will be replaced by President Brad Risenmay in the Temple Square Mission starting January 15, 2016. The remaining new mission presidents commence their service July 1, 2016. President Brent J. Hillier replacing President John C. Eberhardt in the Utah Salt Lake City East mission. President J. Christopher Lansing replacing President Robert E. Chambers of the Salt Lake City South Mission. President D. Zachary Smith replacing President John C. Center of the St. George mission.
3. **Missionary Transfer Meetings.** Arrange transfers without a major meeting of all missionaries. Make sure all missionaries have and are always with a companion during this process.
4. **Upcoming Assignments of the Twelve/Presidency of the Seventy.** Reach out to presiding authority to make arrangement. Don't wait for them to contact you. The Twelve want a reality check of what is really happening in the Church. They may want focus groups and the feedback should be honest. Don't over program. Don't get the Brethren into situations they shouldn't be in. They will want some down time. Mission presidents have the option to participate. Not all of the brethren will do a missionary meeting. If another member of the Twelve was recently there then don't plan a meeting unless directed to do so by the presiding authority. Don't over program your missionaries.
5. **Scheduling the Bountiful Regional Center and the Ogden Tabernacle.** Davis and Weber County stakes ought to hold stake conference in their stake centers rather than using these

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buildings. Many stakes do not fill the buildings and their state centers are more appropriate places to hold stake conferences.

6. **Area Chart of Callings.** Brother Newbold is organizing a “chart of callings” for the Area, much like that in *Handbook 2*. We will be distributing a draft in the next few weeks for your review, comments and additions of callings not on the list. Your input will be greatly appreciated.
7. **Meetinghouse Optimization.** This is not about administering but about ministering to the members. Start by strengthening the underlying elements before reorganizing the structure. The most important goal is to strengthen faith. The wards need to be large enough to minister to all their members. Don’t do anything we will regret in 10 years. We need to have a long-term vision for what we are doing. President Monson goes right to the impact on individual and families when considering these things. We are not looking for massive reorganization. The 15-minute rule is the guideline in Utah. Use wisdom in these decisions. A recent study indicates that wards with 350-400 deliver best results. You might consider helping neighboring stakes combine where appropriate. *Planning Guiding Principles* was handed out.

Discussion Items:

Increasing Convert Baptisms and Changes to the Missionary Application

President Craig C. Christensen

1. See PowerPoint presentation *Teach Repentance and Baptize Converts*.
2. There are two presentations that will be available to both mission presidents and Area Seventies. One broadcast was held on December 8th and the next will be January 20th.
3. Area Seventies can attend the January 20th broadcast. Contact your mission president for time and place where they will be viewing it. Area Seventies will be granted access to both broadcasts through GA Resources and will have access to the mission presidents’ portal in the near future (see *Teach Repentance and Baptize Converts* ppd. for instructions). All Area Seventies need to view both broadcasts.
4. Converts are those who have qualified themselves to join the Church and stay active.
5. In 3 Ne 11 the risen Lord taught repentance and baptism 13 times, the doctrine of Christ, and the need to repent and be baptized. Baptism qualifications require a change of heart. Don’t baptize until the investigator has become converted. D&C 20:37 has the definition of becoming converted.
6. How would you teach repentance unto conversion? Do your own research.
7. Repentance is the application of the Atonement and will be accompanied by the mighty change of heart.
8. We have an expectation that we will do better in this area.
9. Successful stakes and wards have leaders who lead by example.
10. Strengthen the work and relationship between members and missionaries. They need to work together to invite others to come unto Christ. President Monson has said that now is the time for members and missionaries to work together.
11. Mission presidents and wives are to become the lead trainers and teachers. They need to be engaged in teaching.
12. It is more difficult to teach repentance after baptism. Investigators need to be taught and understand how to handle setbacks or failure, before and after baptism. Repentance and application of the Atonement continues after baptism.
13. We (missionaries) need to be better teachers.
14. A missionary leader’s area should be the best area in the mission, zone, district (the model area). Missionaries should come into the model areas to work during exchanges.
15. Help stake presidents establish the relationship between stake and mission presidents.

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16. Help stake presidents establish a vision of their missionary work responsibilities.
17. Teach the importance of missionary preparation.

Changes to Missionary Application:

1. Changes are being made to improve the process for missionaries with emotional and medical issues.
2. Teach the principles not just the changes in policy.
3. We need to reduce medical and emotional releases, and belated confessions.
4. Full and complete disclosure is necessary even though it might affect where or how the missionary serves. It is necessary for the call to be issued to the appropriate mission.
5. Worthiness interviews need to be specific and explicit (e.g. not just, “Do you live the law of chastity?”). The *For the Strength of Youth* pamphlet is very helpful in interviews of this kind.
6. Candidates for missions need to be “stable and functional in a companionship”. Each missionary needs to be able to protect his/her companion in order to be able to serve.
7. Stake presidents have to get this message to bishops and parents.
8. The new change requires certification by each missionary, parent, bishop and stake president.
9. President Hinckley taught that there is no medical or mental conditional that will not be exacerbated by a mission. Hence the need for full disclosure.
10. This is not a filter nor are we “raising the bar” to reduce the number of missionaries. This allows for issues to be handled before entering the mission field where they can be dealt without the trauma and disappointment of being sent home.
11. Every worthy, stable and functional young man should serve a mission.
12. The First Presidency excuses those who are unable to serve.
13. Alternative service opportunities are available.
14. Parents can learn a lot by looking at their children’s phone, device, or computer.
15. We want to see members and missionaries: teach repentance, lead by example, and work together to invite investigators to become converted and be baptized.

Effective Working Relationships with Mission Presidents

President Michael T. Ringwood

1. Mission presidents report directly to the Area Leadership.
2. Area Seventies are most helpful for mission presidents by helping them work with stake presidents and helping them with get LAH missionaries called (one for every stake).
3. Make your relationship between with stake presidents personal and effective.
4. Model areas for missionaries require stakes that do missionary work.

Disciplinary Councils for Apostasy Including Review of Previous Training on this Topic by Elders Cook/Clayton

President Larry Young Wilson

1. See PowerPoint presentation *General Authority Area Seventy Training on Church Discipline*, January 8, 2016.
2. Area Seventies can help stake presidents handle difficult matters. Elder Dewsnup is an important resource.
3. Please review Elder Cook and Elder Clayton presentation on Church discipline contained in GA Resources. This is restricted information.
4. In some cases, when repentance isn’t done in the right way members progression can’t move forward in the right way. Church discipline is there to help the member heal. Alma 42:24, “none but the truly repentant are saved.”
5. Remember to teach righteous principles to prevent the problems in the first place.

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6. Review D&C 1:14, 27, 31, 32.
7. Church discipline includes informal, and formal discipline; and counseling and warnings.
8. Area Seventies are not to direct stake presidents or bishops for a specific outcome.
9. We sustain stake presidents and bishops.
10. Stake presidents and bishops who are unwilling to address disciplinary matters are subject to being released.
11. D&C 64:12-13. Those who will not apply the appropriate discipline have misunderstood what compassion is.
12. Church discipline is given in the spirit of love.
13. Disciplinary councils not courts.
14. Consider if other church members are actually being harmed? Will disciplinary action harm the Church?
15. Assist stake presidents to frame written communication and procedures. Elder Dewsnup should be involved in difficult or public cases. He may recommend that Public Affairs participate.
16. Incidents of apostasy affecting multiple stakes require counsel with President Christensen and other stake presidents involved.
17. A disciplinary council is mandatory for a member who is in apostasy.
18. How do we help a stake president who is reluctant to step up and handle the situation?
 - a. Teach the doctrine of the stake president's keys.
 - b. Council with him, get the facts and develop possible approaches together.
 - c. Review resources available to stake president.
 - d. Approach in methodical manner and be deliberative.
 - e. The member might ask for their name to be removed. Elder Christensen to get policy statement on this to Area Seventy.
19. The stake president is in control of the disciplinary council and can determine which, if any, witnesses can be called (witnesses have to be Church members). To do so, the stake president needs to ask who the witnesses are, what they will testify to and the relevance of their testimony. The stake president notifies potential witnesses of the date, time, and location of the disciplinary council and controls the time a witness can take during the council.
20. The stake president should counsel with the member and teach them.

Welfare Needs and Training

Elder Michael T. Ringwood

1. See *Self-Reliance and Welfare Assistance* PowerPoint presentation.
2. This material will be discussed in the next Friday call.

Questions and Answers:

Elder Michael T. Ringwood

1. Restoration of Blessings assignments are now being given to Area Seventies. They come to you through GA Resources. The questions and instructions are specific. Follow the instructions exactly. Be careful what you are restoring. You are working directly under the direction of the First Presidency. You will get the non-routine kind. If you have questions call us. Your spiritual preparation for the interview is key.
2. What are the Jordan River Temple district boundaries during its closure? Temple presidents have them. Notice will be given to those who will be retained or released from their temple assignments.
3. How can we provide support to stake presidents? Be in their homes; be in sacrament meetings and ward councils with them; visit with them (have stake presidents call ahead for appointment and to introduce the Area Seventy that will be coming on the visit with him); have stake presidents in your home (they are grateful for your attention); once a year temple meeting with

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stake presidents and wives; or, be there to support and elevate (rather than checking up on) them. You learn how they serve as you watch them serve. Call in advance. Don't change what they are doing for your visit.

4. Same sex attraction of missionaries. It is critical that these issues are known and understood prior to a missionary being called. They don't stay in the field if we know about them.
5. A stake president who has a brother who did not support Church leaders still comes to church with his family and partakes of his sacrament. Everyone is welcomed to church as long as their conduct is orderly (D&C 46:3, 3 Nephi 18:22, 32). If a man is unworthy to partake of the sacrament the bishop or stake president "shall forbid him" (3 Nephi 18:29).
6. A stake president with a brother who has transgender desires wants to dress as a woman in church, sit by his wife and go to Relief Society. Counsel to the brother should be given not to disrupt the church or its members. They come to church dressed and acting like who God made them. They should understand that it is important to keep everyone else comfortable. It can be very helpful if you will review everything that the First Presidency has said on this subject (in the *Handbooks*) and read Elder Hales "*Plan of Salvation, A Sacred Treasure of Knowledge to Guide Us*" (Ensign, October 2015).

Testimonies:

President Poulson, Elder Leavitt, Elder Wilson, Elder Ringwood, President Christensen.

Closing Hymn: #264, *Hark, All Ye Nations!*

Benediction:

Elder Alin Spannaus

Attendance

Area Leadership: President Craig C. Christensen, Elders: Michael T. Ringwood and Larry Y. Wilson

Area Seventy: Elders: Stephen B. Allen, Jorge E. T. Becerra, Michael H. Bourne, Gene R. Chidester, Mark P. Durham, Ralph L. Dewsnup, J. Kevin Ence, Peter F. Evans, Michael R. Jensen, Steven O. Laing, Bryan R. Larsen, Kyle S. McKay, Dane O. Leavitt, Dale H. Munk, Norman R. Nemrow, Steven M. Peterson, John C. Pingree, Jr., Gary B. Porter, Steven K. Randall, R. Scott Runia, Evan A. Schmutz, Alin Spannaus, Lynn L. Summerhays, Craig B. Terry, Terry L. Wade, David T. Warner, and Kevin J. Worthen

Mission Presidents: Presidents: Jerald K. Allred, John R. Center, Robert E. Chambers, John C. Eberhardt, John C. Hodgman, Jeremy R. Jaggi, Chris D. Killpack, L. Scott Palmer, David E. Poulsen, and Scott Spendlove

DTA and

Executive Secretaries: Brothers: N. Scott Newbold, F. Wayne Elggren, and Patrick H. Price

Excused: Elder Gary B. Doxey