

They strive to find and fulfill their CALLINGS and fear to fall short of the divine purpose in their lives. They are constantly charged to magnify their callings and not to be weary in well-doing. Modern revelation promises that on condition of “persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned” (D&C 121:41), “[their] confidence [shall] wax strong in the presence of God” (D&C 121:45). This parallels the promise of John: “Perfect love casteth out fear” (1 Jn. 4:18).

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FELLOWSHIPING MEMBERS

Latter-day Saints consider themselves brothers and sisters (see BROTHERHOOD and SISTERHOOD) responsible to help one another. Their informal



A New Zealand Church member is greeted with the traditional “hongi” by John Shaw Welch, president of the LDS Maori Agricultural College (1917). Friendship, understanding, kindness, love, and service are fostered in Latter-day Saint communities through personal fellowshiping and social activities. Courtesy Edith W. Morgan.

acts of friendship and kindness foster congeniality within the Church and assist new members as they move into its social context. In addition, the Church has developed some practices specifically intended to help integrate new members.

After baptism, the full-time and stake missionaries present to new members a series of lessons entitled *Discussions for New Members*. Home teachers also teach them and help them become part of the local Church unit. The BISHOPRIC, priesthood quorum, and auxiliary leaders also help converts feel welcome. New members are encouraged to attend Church meetings and participate in other scheduled ward activities. Converts are also invited to accept Church CALLINGS (such as teaching a class or serving in an administrative capacity). Women are welcomed into RELIEF SOCIETY activities, and girls into YOUNG WOMEN; male adults and teenagers receive the PRIESTHOOD and begin functioning in their priesthood responsibilities. Newly baptized members grow in love for the gospel as they serve others. After one year of membership, worthy adult members are encouraged to attend the TEMPLE, where they receive TEMPLE ORDINANCES that bind families together as eternal units.

[See also Conversion; Joining the Church; Membership.]

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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FEMINISM

Feminism is the philosophical belief that advocates the equality of women and men and seeks to remove inequities and to redress injustices against women. Far from a monolithic ideology, feminist theory embraces a variety of views on the nature of women and argues for a pluralistic vision of the world that regards as equally important the experiences of women of all races and classes.

In the United States, “feminism” has been an umbrella term encompassing a coalition of those women and men who share a devotion to the cause of women’s rights but who often differ on specific goals and tactics. Personal, religious, and political values all influence which reforms and measures a specific feminist will support.