

gency, additionally serve on various other administrative, executive, and policy-determining committees and councils, such as the Appropriations Committee, General Welfare Services Committee, Priesthood Executive Council, Temple and Family History Executive Council, and the Missionary Executive Council (*see* ORGANIZATION: CONTEMPORARY).

In 1977 a major organizational restructuring took place within the Church under the direction of the First Presidency. With the significant growth in Church membership the Presiding Bishopric was assigned much broader responsibilities for temporal administration throughout the world. Under the direction of the Presiding Bishopric, directors for temporal affairs were sent to a number of international locations to supervise the administration of the construction of meetinghouses and temples, the maintenance of membership records, and the preparation and distribution of scriptures and other curriculum materials. Departments at Church headquarters responsible for temporal operations were also assigned to the Presiding Bishopric for their direction. Since that time, the Presiding Bishopric has appointed managing directors for the various departments that support activities of the directors of temporal affairs, which include finance and records, LDS FOUNDATION, printing services, distribution of curriculum materials, purchasing, scripture and curriculum translation, temple clothing production, transportation, information systems and communications, security, investments, temples and special project construction and remodeling, real estate acquisitions and sales, meetinghouse construction, welfare production and processing, LDS SOCIAL SERVICES, and property management.

In 1986 the First Presidency called AREA PRESIDENCIES to give supervision to ecclesiastical activities within defined geographical areas of the world. These area presidencies presently give direct supervision to directors for temporal affairs in international areas and to welfare and physical facilities activities in the United States and Canada. The Presiding Bishopric, along with headquarters departments, provides training, evaluation, manpower planning, technical support, and program design to assist area presidencies in their roles.

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PRESIDING HIGH PRIEST

“Presiding high priest” is a phrase sometimes used in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to refer to the priesthood officer in charge of a particular unit of Church organization (e.g., D&C 106:1). When used without qualification, it ordinarily refers to the PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH.

Local congregations or WARDS are presided over by a BISHOP, who may also be spoken of as the presiding high priest in his ward. Similarly, a STAKE PRESIDENT presides over a STAKE, and an AREA president presides over the stakes of a major geographical area. All of these preside as ordained high priests, even though the bishop and area president function on the basis of an additional ordination as a bishop or seventy, respectively.

Only the President of the Church, by right of his ordination to this office, is designated the presiding high priest of the whole Church (D&C 107:91). His calling includes being “President of the High Priesthood of the Church; or, in other words, the Presiding High Priest over the High Priesthood of the Church” (D&C 107:65–66). In 1832 the Prophet Joseph SMITH was sustained as President of the High Priesthood and ordained to that office by Sidney RIGDON. An 1835 revelation further directed that a FIRST PRESIDENCY of three men be chosen, “appointed and ordained to that office, and upheld by the confidence, faith, and prayer of the church” (D&C 107:22). The President’s counselors may preside in his absence, and are also called presiding high priests (D&C 107:22), but do not function independently in this role.

ROY W. DOXEY

PRESS, NEWS MEDIA, AND THE CHURCH

Early press coverage of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was shaped by the traditions of the partisan press. Some journalists treated the Latter-day Saints with a degree of fairness, but the