



Council room in the Salt Lake Temple where the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and other General Authorities meet each Thursday.

cisions, and coordinate across subunit boundaries. Participation in councils helps prepare members for future leadership responsibilities.

Church councils are also convened for DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES. Such councils, which may be held at the ward, stake, or general Church level, consider serious infractions where individuals may need institutional help in the REPENTANCE process beyond the personal counseling of a leader or where excommunication or other disciplinary action may be necessary. Individual circumstances are considered by the council and the final decision is made by the bishop or president, with council ratification. Disciplinary councils are set up to protect both the individual and the Church by assigning council members to represent the interests of both parties (D&C 102:15).

J. BONNER RITCHIE

PRIESTHOOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, STAKE AND WARD

The WARD priesthood executive committee (PEC) consists of the leaders of key ward organizations. The PEC generally meets weekly under the direction of the BISHOP and his counselors to direct and coordinate ward PRIESTHOOD programs that have been designed to promote the spiritual and temporal welfare of each individual and family in the

ward. This committee includes leaders of MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD quorums, who administer welfare (physical and material well-being), temple, missionary, and family history (genealogy) activities, and leaders responsible for youth priesthood programs. A ward executive secretary prepares each meeting's agenda, and the ward clerk records its minutes. The PEC also coordinates ward efforts to activate its members not regularly participating in the Church.

The PEC thus provides a forum for ward priesthood officers to foster the well-being of ward members; discuss applications of Church policy; participate in and sponsor leadership training; and report their stewardship concerns to the bishop, including problems discovered through monthly home teaching visits to congregation members.

The STAKE PRESIDENCY and HIGH COUNCIL compose the Stake Priesthood Executive Committee. They oversee the administration of all Church programs in the stake; consider issues that affect all wards in the stake; and approve nominations of members to be called for service in ward BISHOPRICS, stake priesthood quorums, and stake AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS. The stake PEC usually meets twice a month. The stake president presides and conducts. The stake executive secretary and stake clerk assist the stake presidency with the agenda and minutes of the meeting. Both the ward and stake priesthood executive committees are augmented periodically by leaders of the PRIMARY, YOUNG WOMEN, and RELIEF SOCIETY organizations to form two additional councils.

[See also Home Teaching; Ward Council.]

DAVID C. BRADFORD

PRIESTHOOD INTERVIEW

The Church has developed a system of regularly scheduled priesthood interviews for effective overseeing of delegated responsibilities. Commonly used in HOME TEACHING accountability (referred to as Home Teaching Interviews) and in other Church programs, these private meetings between a priesthood leader and a member who reports to him are designed to increase communication, resolve concerns, maintain accountability, build spirituality, and empower members to fulfill their responsibilities.