

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

SPOKANE WASHINGTON NORTH STAKE

President Larry R. Larson
308 E. Shiloh Hills Dr.
Spokane, WA 99208

February 2, 2012

Dear bishops and members of ward councils of the Spokane Washington North Stake,

As was explained in our letter to be read in sacrament meetings, as a Stake Presidency, we have discussed, pondered, and prayed for specific direction that will further strengthen our members, families, and wards, as well as augment our current missionary emphasis. We have felt the promptings of the Spirit turn our thoughts directly towards the sacrament and sacrament meeting.

We ask that we collectively strive to improve our worship in sacrament meeting. Our specific recommendations are as follows.

We ask bishoprics and ward councils to regularly counsel together seeking direction that will lead to consistently spiritual sacrament meetings. In particular, we ask bishops and their counselors to study the materials referenced at the end of this letter. Bishops, please hold at least four ward councils throughout the year to discuss these items. As these items are discussed, we ask auxiliary leaders to discuss how they might teach these principles periodically in their respective organizations. Some activities might also be planned where these principles are taught.

We ask that the Melchizedek Priesthood quorums assist fathers and mothers who preside in their families by providing appropriate home teaching lessons and encouragement in doing our work of keeping commandments (see D&C 11:20).

We ask Aaronic Priesthood quorum presidents to counsel with their counselors and advisors seeking inspiration especially pertaining to their responsibilities for the ordinance of the sacrament.

We ask Relief Society presidencies to counsel about ways they may assist sisters, including wives, mothers, and especially those who attend sacrament meeting without a husband, to feel welcomed and supported. This may include those sisters whose husbands preside on the stand during sacrament meeting.

We ask ward mission leaders and ward missionaries to fast and counsel together that they may seek out and enhance the sacrament experience of those who may be visitors or new members and those unfamiliar faces in the congregation who may be returning to Sunday worship.

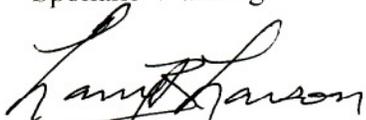
We ask Primary presidencies to continue to teach reverence and love for the Savior to our little ones.

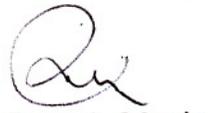
We understand the great role of sacred music in enhancing our feelings of the Spirit of God. We ask that bishops and those called to direct and accompany congregational hymns, choirs, and special musical numbers, pay particular attention to all aspects of music during this meeting.

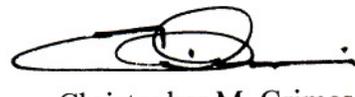
We wish to express our love for you, our fellow brothers and sisters. We pray for you, and ask for the blessings of heaven to be poured out upon you as we worship together in sacrament meeting.

Sincerely,

Spokane Washington North Stake Presidency


Larry R. Larson
President


Peter A. Martin
First Counselor


Christopher M. Grimes
Second Counselor

References for consideration:

Handbook 2, 18.2.2 and 18.2.3.

Elder Russell M. Nelson, "How to Plan and Conduct Sacrament Meetings," Worldwide Leadership Training Meeting, June 21, 2003.

Elder Boyd K. Packer, "Reverence Invites Revelation," October 1991 General Conference.

Elder L. Tom Perry, "The Sabbath and the Sacrament," April 2011 General Conference.

Elder Jay E. Jensen, "Bearing Testimony," *Ensign*, October 2005.

Elder Dallin H. Oaks, "Sacrament Meeting & the Sacrament," October 2008 General Conference.

Margaret S. Lifferth, "Respect and Reverence," April 2009 General Conference.

Spokane Washington North Stake Presidency, 1/15/2012 letter to be read in sacrament meeting.