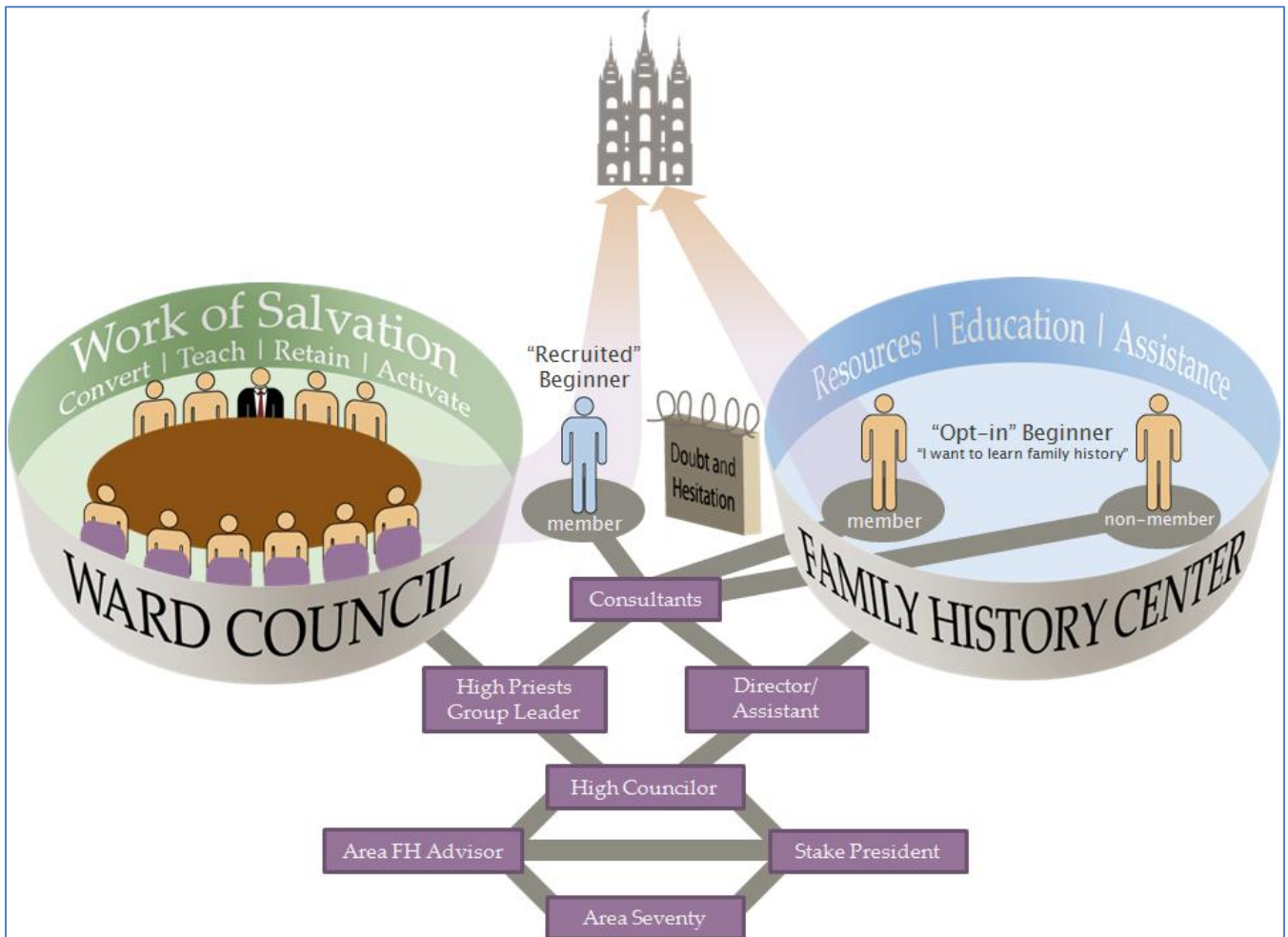


# Priesthood Leaders: Utilizing Family History in the Work of Salvation

FamilySearch Staff

## Family History: A Resource for Strengthening Members

Family history can help leaders accomplish the work of salvation both for the living and the dead. Leaders have the keys and inspiration to use temple and family history work as a way to strengthen members and their families. They can help others build testimonies and receive saving ordinances, keep covenants, and become consecrated followers of Christ



## **Work of Salvation Centered: Ward Councils**

Temple and family history work is not only about redeeming the dead. This work is actually an integral part of one great work – the work of salvation. Ward councils play a key role in this great work when they consider how temple and family history work can be a resource in accomplishing the many aspects of the work of salvation, including the following:

### ***Missionary Work***

Family history allows Church members to share a gospel topic with friends and neighbors of other faiths in a nonthreatening way. Most people have a natural interest in families. See pages 13 and 14 in “To Turn the Hearts” for ideas on how ward council members, including the ward mission leader, can encourage members to invite friends and family members to use family history in member missionary work.

### ***Convert Retention***

Those new members who do temple and family history work will have their testimonies strengthened because of the Spirit that attends the work. A 2001 study showed that new converts who do baptisms for their deceased ancestors in their first six months as members are more than twice as likely to still be active after 18 months than those who did not have temple experiences. See pages 13 and 14 in “To Turn the Hearts” for ideas on how Ward council members could use family history to help with convert retention.

### ***Activation***

As ward council members prayerfully identify less-active members, then use temple and family history work as a “means of bringing salvation unto them.” As the hearts of less-active members are turned to their deceased relatives in need of ordinances, they will be motivated to obtain a current temple recommend and go to the temple. For more ideas, see page 15 in “To Turn the Hearts.”

### ***Teaching the Gospel***

Members of the ward council help the bishop ensure that the doctrines, principles, and blessings of family history and temple work are taught regularly in ward meetings. They encourage members to receive their own temple ordinance and participate actively in family history and temple work. Holding a temple and family history class is a good way to increase participation and interest in family history. For more information see pages 17 and 18 in “To Turn the Hearts”

## **Family History Centers: Genealogy Centered**

Leaders use family history centers as a resource to bless the lives of members as well as to provide a valuable service to the community. Family history centers operate under priesthood direction.

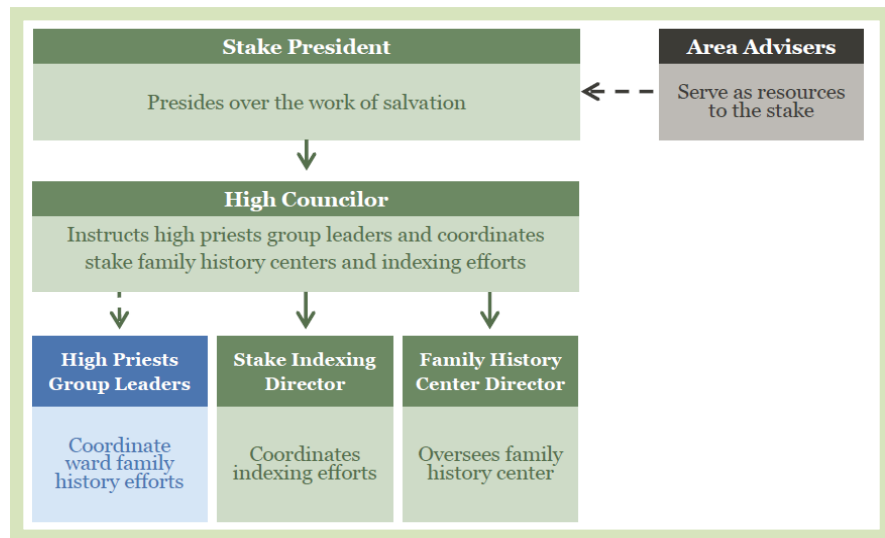
Family history centers give members and community patrons access to:

- Genealogical resources
- Classes and workshops
- One-on-one assistance

For more information on family history centers see pages 9 and 10 of “To Turn the Hearts.” Also come to the next class

## Stake Leadership

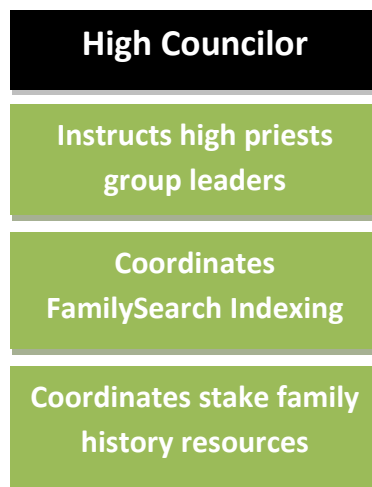
For more information on stake leadership, including stake indexing and family history centers, see pages 6 to 11 in “To Turn the Hearts.”



## High Councilor Assigned to Temple and Family History Work

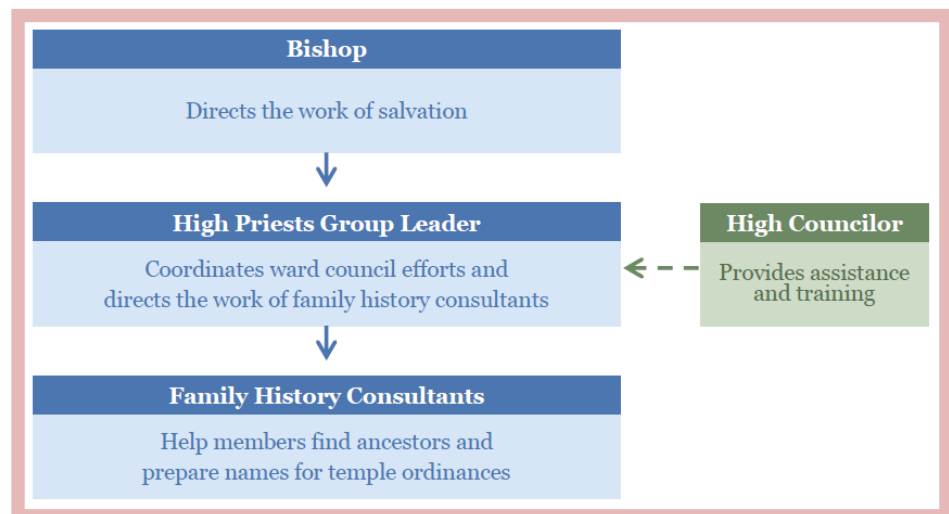
The high councilor (or councilors) assigned to temple and family history work coordinates temple and family efforts in the stake.

For more information, see page 7 of “To Turn the Hearts.”



## Ward Leadership

For more information on ward leadership, see pages 12 to 21 in “To Turn the Hearts.”



## Area Leadership

The Presidency of the Seventy or Area Presidency oversee temple and family history work in the area. They teach the doctrine of the work. They also teach leaders their temple and family history responsibilities.

### Area Family History Advisor

Area family advisors are a valuable resource to priesthood and family history leaders and can help them accomplish their goals. For more information on Area Leadership, see pages 22 and 23 in “To Turn the Hearts.”

## Leading Members to the Temple through Family History Work

As members do family history work, they are inspired to make the temple an important part of their lives. The direction and testimony of leaders is essential in leading members to the temple through family history efforts. Below are three things that leaders can do:

### Discover

Leaders can discover for themselves the power of family history by:

- Studying and pondering the doctrine of temple and family history work
- Viewing records and preparing ordinances for their deceased relatives at [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) [consultants can help you do this]
- Performing ordinances in the temple for their deceased relatives.

### Teach

Leaders teach members the doctrine of temple and family history work. They testify that it is a fundamental part of the work of salvation. Leaders inspire members to discover the joy of temple and family history work by teaching this doctrine and testifying of the blessings of participating in the work.

### Enable

Leaders determine the best way to invite members to participate in temple and family history work and the best way to help them do the work. Leaders provide the necessary resources to assist members in temple and family history work, including:

- Called and trained family history consultants
- Family history classes, events, and activities
- A family history center, if decided upon by the stake
- A FamilySearch indexing effort if decided upon by the stake or ward

## More Ideas

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