

# SERVICE MISSIONARY PROGRAM

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What are service missionaries?

The purpose of the Service Missionary Program is to provide opportunities for members to give their time to the Lord through work-related service missions. Service missionaries serve at least 8 hours per week and normally serve for 6 to 24 months. Depending on the requirement of the job, service missionaries with disabilities and/or do not have financial means may serve while living at home.

### 2. What are the qualifications to serve?

All service missionaries must be at least 18 years for young men and 19 years for young women. There is no maximum age for serving a service mission. Service missionaries are worthy to hold a temple recommend and should have no minor children living at home. They must be physically, mentally, and emotionally able to fulfill the specific call and its related duties. Prospective missionaries must also provide their own transportation and financial support. Service missionaries are responsible for their own medical and dental needs, including eye-care and prescription drug expenses.

### 3. How is a call extended to the missionary?

The Stake President submits the recommendation form to HQ Service Missionary Office in Salt Lake City via email to [SSM-Recommendations@ChurchofJesusChrist.org](mailto:SSM-Recommendations@ChurchofJesusChrist.org). The call is processed and a letter sent by the HQ SM office to the stake president, recommending that he call the candidate(s) and have their bishop set them apart. The office also provides a letter of call for the president's use if he chooses. The name badges will be shipped from Salt Lake City to the bishop which may take time, normally within a month.

### 4. Can Service Missionaries fulfill other Church callings in the ward or stake? Service missionaries are encouraged to serve in ward or stake callings at the discretion of their local leaders, as long as their additional duties do not interfere with service missionary assignments.

### 5. Can Service Missionary continue to serve beyond the release date if the department wants him/her to do so?

A department may request an extension of the time period to be served by a missionary. If their stake president concurs, the Service Missionary Office will change the release date to reflect the additional service time approved by the stake president but only up to 30 months of total service. It is important he/she be released following this period of time. This gives the bishop and stake president an opportunity to re-evaluate the needs in the

home ward and stake, and also to check the personal situation as well as to verify temple worthiness of the missionary before recommending a mission.

**6. Can a Service Missionary request to serve again after completing his mission?**

Yes. A new interview with his/her bishop and stake president is required. The Church Handbook of Instructions states that the missionary must be released for six months before another assignment is given. With the approval of the stake president, however, this requirement may be waived. A new call may be issued for the same assignment if desired by the missionary and if needed by the department.