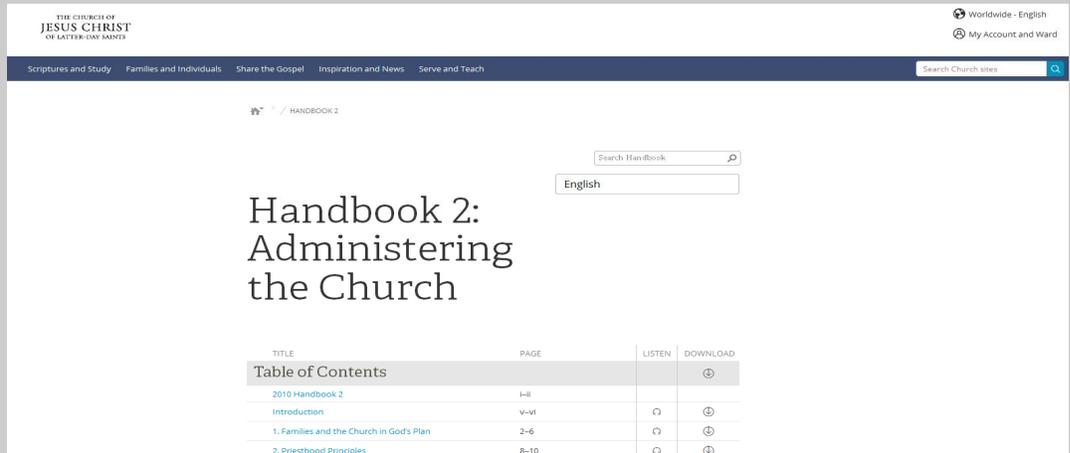


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URL

<https://www.lds.org/handbook/handbook-2-administering-the-church?lang=eng#>

Subject

Church-Administration- Handbooks, manuals, etc.

Accessibility

Free

Language

Multilingual

Publisher

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Brief History

The first Church Handbook of Instructions was published in 1899 as a small fourteen-page booklet. It primarily contained instructions on how to manage in-kind payments of tithing by church members. The handbook was revised every year until 1910 and approximately every five years thereafter. The book has been variously called the *Annual Instructions*, the *Circular of Instructions*, the *Handbook of Instructions*, the *General Handbook of Instructions*, the *Church Handbook of Instructions*, and finally, the *Handbook*. In 1998, the book was split into two volumes for the first time and was renamed the *Church Handbook of Instructions*. A new edition was published and released to church leaders in November 2010, with the new names *Handbook 1* and

Handbook 2. One of the major changes between the 2006 and 2010 versions of the handbook is that the 2010 version has softened the language about gay Mormons, eliminating statements that same-sex relationships 'distort loving relationships' and that gays should repent of their 'homosexual thoughts or feelings'. In 2010, the church placed the new *Handbook 2* on its official website, which was seen as part of a recent trend in the church to become more transparent.

Scope and Coverage

The topics in *Handbook 2* include guidelines involving families and the church in God's plan; priesthood principles; leadership in the church; the ward council; the work of salvation in the ward and stake; welfare principles and leadership; Melchizedek priesthood; Aaronic priesthood; Relief Society; Young Women; Primary; Sunday School; activities; music; stake organization; single members; uniformity and adaptation; meetings in the church; callings in the church; and priesthood ordinances and blessings. *Handbook 2* also contains some of the general church policies on administrative, health, and moral issues. The *Handbook* covers a wide variety of topics related to church organization and policy, media attention has focused largely on the church's policies on social issues that are outlined in the *Handbook*.

Kind of Information

The *Handbook* stands as the preeminent policy and practice guide for the leaders of the LDS Church. *Handbook 2* is subtitled *Administering the Church*. It contains information primarily relevant to the functions of the leaders of the church's priesthood quorums and auxiliary organizations.

Example One

"Families and the Church in God's Plan" – under this heading the handbook includes following kind of information:

1. **God the Father's Plan for His Eternal Family:** It includes the points like the pre mortal family of God, the purpose of morality, the role of families in God's plan and the role of church.
2. **Returning to the Father:** This heading includes the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and describes the role of church leaders and teachers.
3. **Establishing Eternal Families:** This heading displays the eternal relationships like husband and wife, parents and children, unmarried members of the Church.
4. **The Home and the Church:** Under this heading the role of the individual's home is described into the points like strengthening the home, family home evening, and strengthening individuals.

Example Two

The "Uniformity and Adaptation" heading includes information like where uniformity is required, and the circumstances like family circumstances, transportation and communication etc. and that may permit local adaptation.

Special Features

- The *Handbook* contains institutional church policies as opposed to church doctrine. The *Handbook* unifies the church's scripture and creeds with its ecclesiology and polity.
- Every article in this handbook can be accessed in audio format.
- The text of the articles includes cross reference terms.
- The headings and subheadings in these handbooks are numbered to make topics easy to locate or reference. Rather than refer to a page or group of pages, leaders may refer to a topic by its number.

Arrangement Pattern

The content of this handbook is arranged topic wise. Every topic (heading and sub headings) under this handbook is numbered and arranged one after another. The following example shows it in details:

2.1 Priesthood Authority

2.1.1 Priesthood Keys

2.1.2 Ordinances

2.1.3 Covenants

2.2 The Purpose of the Church

2.3 The Priesthood and the Family

2.4 Use of Priesthood Authority

Remarks

Church leaders needed the personal revelation to help them learn and fulfill the duties of their callings. By this handbook the purpose was fulfilled. Studying this helps leaders understand and fulfill their duties. Church leaders also learn their duties by studying the instructions in Church handbooks. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) only distributes copies of the handbook to individuals who fill certain leadership callings within the church hierarchy. *This Handbook 2* is a standard reference point for bishops and other leaders to make decisions. The handbook emphasizes that it has been prepared solely for use by general and local church officers to administer the affairs of the church.

Comparable Tools

- Church Handbook of Instructions
(<http://www.provocation.net/chi/chi00.htm>)

- Handbooks and Guidelines
(<http://www.united-church.ca/handbooks>)

- The United Methodist Church
(<http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/unitedmethodist/handbook/index.php#/56>)

- 2016-2017 Compensation Handbook for Church Staff
(<http://store.churchlawtodaystore.com/20cohaforchs.html>)

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