



***Come and See / Come, Follow Me***



“At the time of my call to this sacred office, an invitation was given for all members of the Church to establish the temple of the Lord as the great symbol of their membership and the supernal setting for their most sacred covenants.... I would hope that every...member would be worthy of—and carry—a current temple recommend.

Let us be a temple-attending and a temple-loving people. Let us hasten to the temple as frequently as time and means and personal circumstances allow. Let us go not only for our kindred dead, but let us also go for the personal blessing of temple worship, for the sanctity and safety which is provided within those hallowed and consecrated walls.

President Howard W. Hunter, *Ensign*, October 1994

***Come and See: Temple Open House***

The dates of the Temple Open House have been adjusted to provide more opportunities for people to attend. The new dates are:

**Wednesday, August 10, through Friday, September 9, 2016**  
**Mondays, 8am-5pm and Tuesdays-Saturdays, 8am-8pm**

Those who rarely travel into the city of Philadelphia and are unfamiliar with how to get around, may be a bit concerned about coming to the Temple. We will soon be making available a guide to help you easily find your way to and from the Philadelphia Temple.

Consider making a trip to see the Temple before the Open House. It is a beautiful sight to behold – day or night! This experience would also help you become familiar with how to get to the Temple. That knowledge will help you encourage others, who may share the same concerns, to *Come and See* the Temple.

Continue to consider those you can invite to the Open House. Member Invitation Cards are expected to arrive this month. The registration website, where visitors can sign up for free tickets, will be available at the beginning of June.

We are hoping that 150,000 people will tour the Temple. We want as many people as possible to feel the spirit of the Temple. So, we need to invite everyone we can.

***Come, Follow Me: Temple and Family History Work***

The Philadelphia Temple will be dedicated and open in about 4 months. Are we spiritually prepared?

As the completion of the Salt Lake Temple drew near in 1893, the First Presidency issued a letter to all members of the Church that contained counsel good for us to consider. In part, it said:

*“...none [of the members of the Church] can for a moment doubt the supreme importance of every member... being at peace with all his or her brethren and at peace with God.... That before entering into the Temple to present ourselves before the Lord in solemn assembly, we shall divest ourselves of every harsh or unkind feeling against each other... and ask forgiveness one of another; that we shall plead with the Lord for the spirit of repentance, and, having obtained it, follow its promptings; so that in humbling ourselves before Him and seeking forgiveness from each other, we shall yield that charity and generosity to those who crave our forgiveness that we ask for and expect from heaven.”*

*“Thus, may we come up into the holy place with our hearts free from guile and our souls prepared for the edification that is promised!”*

*The House of the Lord, page 129*



**Volunteers Needed to Staff the Open House!**

During the 27 days of the Public Open House, volunteers are needed to serve as various types of ushers and to help with parking. The days will be divided into 2 or 3 shifts and about 120 volunteers are needed for each shift. Youth, ages 14 and up can also volunteer! There is also a need for those with special skills, such as a medical or security background.

Each stake will be given accountability for several shifts throughout the Open House. You may sign up to serve in any of those shifts. But, you are also welcome to sign up for any day or time that better suits your schedule. You are also free to sign up for as many shifts as you would like. A website will soon go live where you can volunteer for any number of shifts for which you are available.

What a unique opportunity to serve our Father in Heaven by helping those of His children who *Come and See* the Philadelphia Temple to enjoy a very special and meaningful experience.

**Suggestions of Things We Can Do to Prepare for the Temple**

- Have a weekly “temple moment” in your Relief Society, Priesthood, Young Women, or Primary classes at Church where people can share their experiences in inviting people to the Open House
- Invite the missionaries to your home to teach you how they extend invitations and answer questions
- Take a group (ward/branch, quorum/class, family) to see the temple before the Open House
- Share pictures of the Temple and Temple Newsletters with those who do not have access to them
- Organize efforts in the ward/branch to make sure all investigators, new members, and less-actives are personally invited to attend the Open House
- Consider planning a ward or branch bus trip to the Open House and invite people to come with you. Group tours can be arranged by calling the number that will be printed on the Member Invitation Cards

**Serving Others By Serving in the Temple**

The Temple is getting closer to us. Are we getting closer to the Temple? Are we arranging our schedules and making plans to attend the temple as often as our personal circumstances allow?

Depending upon your current circumstances, one thing some might consider is to serve as either a temple ordinance worker or a veil worker. To make the temple available as much as possible so as many of our sisters and brothers in the temple district can enjoy its blessings often, we will need a sufficient number of temple workers.

Sisters who serve as ordinance workers must have received their endowment, hold a current temple recommend, not have children at home under the age of 18, and be available to serve at least two shifts a month.

Brothers who serve as ordinance workers must also have received their endowment, hold a current temple recommend, not currently serve in a bishopric, branch presidency, or stake presidency, be clean shaven, and be available to serve at least two shifts a month.

Brothers who serve as veil workers must have received their endowment, hold a current temple recommend, and be clean shaven.

If you have any questions, please contact your bishop or branch president.

What a special opportunity to serve your sisters and brothers who come to the temple to make sacred covenants, either for themselves or for their ancestors living on the other side of the veil!

**INVITATIONS**

- Volunteer to help with the Open House, as your personal circumstances allow
- Come and visit the Temple site *before* the Open House and feel the spirit of that sacred structure
- Consider serving as a temple ordinance worker or veil worker once the temple opens
- Attend the Washington DC Temple as often as your circumstances allow in preparation to serve in the Philadelphia Temple