

Sandy Utah Willow Creek Stake 2018 Historical Summary

Introduction and note from the Stake Presidency

2018 was another wonderful year for the Sandy Utah Willow Creek Stake. As has been noted by our general church leaders, we live in a revelatory season. We saw many changes, including the combining of the Elders Quorum and High Priests Group into a single Elders Quorum; introduction of a new and holier way to minister; announcement of home-centered, church-supported gospel study including the shortening of our meeting block to two hours; many new temples; and much more.

Our stake focused on several priorities including preparing more senior couples to serve missions, helping our young people live morally clean lives, strengthening the faith of all, and being temporally and spiritually prepared.

We called and set-apart four new Bishoprics; we sent out 40 full-time missionaries; and we continued to provide more than 60 members from our stake to serve church service missions.

Our stake presidency was reorganized in March of 2018, following the call of President and Sister Esplin to preside over the Japan, Tokyo mission.

We are grateful for the faithfulness of the members of our stake; the manner in which they live their lives and serve so diligently. We are appreciative of our friends throughout our neighborhood and for our association with them.

Most importantly, we are grateful for a kind Father in Heaven and for His son Jesus Christ and for all they do for us.

Willow Creek Stake Presidency

Joseph Staples,

Alan Matheson,

Davis Smith

1.0 Stake Events and Activities

Table 1 below provides a selected list of important stake activities during 2018. Note that the theme for Ward Conferences listed as held in January and February was: “Yea, come unto Christ and be perfected in him...” (Moroni 10:32).

Table 1: Selected List of Important 2018 Stake Calendar Items

General Conferences
Mar. 31, Apr. 1,
Oct. 6, 7
Stake Conferences
Sat-Sun, Mar. 17-18
Sat-Sun, Sept. 8-9
Ward Conferences
Jan. 14: 6th ward, 1st ward
Jan. 21: 4th ward, SA ward
Jan. 28: 7th ward
Feb. 11: Wentworth branch
Feb. 18: 3rd ward, 2nd ward
Feb. 25: 9th ward
Jordan River Temple Rededication
May 20 (3 sessions)
Senior Missionary Fireside
August 12
Annual Stake Priesthood Meeting
Sept. 30, 4 pm
Stake High Priest Quorum Mtg/Fireside
Oct. 21, 7 pm
Stake Conference for Youth
Nov. 11,12

The Stake Presidency asked the Stake High Council to speak on the following topics during their monthly ward speaking assignments that occurred throughout the year.

Month	Topic
Jan/Feb	The Law of the Fast
June	"If Ye believe these things, see that ye do them." (Mosiah 4:10)
July	Continue to Minister. (3 Nephi 18:32)
Aug.	"Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord." (D&C 38:42)
Nov.	Atonement, Agency, and Accountability
Dec.	Savior of the World (3 Nephi 1: 13-14)

2.0 2018 Stake Conferences

Two regular stake conferences were held during the year 2018.

March 17-18, 2018

Our first Stake conference was held March 17-18, and was presided over by Elder Taniela B. Wakolo, of the Seventy, who was accompanied by Elder Todd B. Hansen, of the Seventy. This was a very eventful conference as a new Stake Presidency was called and sustained.

This reorganization was necessitated when Pres. Kimo Esplin was called to serve as President of the Japan Tokyo mission, with his assignment starting July 2018.

The Stake Presidency was reorganized as follows:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Released</u>	<u>Sustained</u>
President	Kimo Esplin	Joseph Staples
1st Counselor	Kevin Ludlow	Alan Matheson
2nd Counselor	Joseph Staples	Davis Smith

The conference was very well attended as there was great interest in the business to be conducted. As part of his responsibilities Elder Wakolo submitted a report of this conference separately to church headquarters, and this was not available for inclusion here. However, additional historical material is provided in Appendix A, which includes the "officers sustained" form and the meeting agenda's for the three sessions that were held.

Sept. 8-9, 2018

Our second Stake Conference was held Sept. 8-9, and was presided over by Pres. Joseph Staples. A brief synopsis of these meetings, as prepared by the stake clerk, is as follows.

Adult Session (Sat. Sept. 8)

The Sat. evening session was conducted by Pres. Smith (2nd Counselor) and focused on the new ministering program that replaces the home/visiting teaching programs. Pres. Matheson (1st C) gave an opening address introducing the theme and sharing key principles that have impressed him about the ministering program. After a musical number, Pres. Matheson invited six members of our Stake to come to the front and participate in a "Ministering Panel". Pres. Matheson then posed a series of questions to the panel that related to the new ministering program, and invited them to respond. This interactive discussion covered many topics and provided many valuable insights into how we can engage in this important work. Following the panel, President Staples (stake president) spoke about four priorities for our stake (more senior missionaries, helping our YM/YW to live morally clean lives, meeting the needs of the younger adult members of the stake, and preparing for things to come). He emphasized how these are specific to our stake, but fit in with the mission of the church and the area plan.

Priesthood Leadership Session (Sun. Sept. 9)

The Sunday morning leadership meeting was conducted by Pres. Matheson and included members of our Stake and Ward Councils. This meeting again focused on the new ministering program with the theme being "A newer, holier approach". Pres. Smith began by sharing a set of video clips from our Prophet and other general authorities drawn from the resources the church has provided online. Several ministering examples of the Savior were read and discussed (The Good Samaritan, the woman at the well, . . . etc.) as a framework for leading an interactive discussion with the attendee's to compare "the old way" with "the new way". Many insightful comments were made by leaders from the ward/stake councils as we worked through these examples. One particularly poignant experience about ministering out of love was spontaneously shared by our patriarch, Pres. Sperry, who exactly 40 years earlier had

been called to be Stake Pres. of this stake by Elder Thomas S. Monson, then of the Twelve. At that time Elder Monson had been privately ministering on a regular basis to an excommunicated former Bishop who now lived in this area, and he tasked Bro. Sperry to continue this labor of love for this brother, whom he loved despite his serious sins. He emphasized that the work of the Savior is "to save souls".

General Session (Sun., Sept. 9)

The Sunday morning General Session was conducted by President Matheson (1st C.). The meeting began with some Stake business concerning Melch. Priesthood ordinations. Then short talks from six speakers were given. The first two were youth speakers (Samantha Morgan and James Fetzer) who spoke to the topic of "What I learned from the Prophets challenge", referring to Pres. Nelsons recent address to the youth of the church. The next two were Bro. and Sis. Feil, who spoke to the topic of "Ministering through missionary service". Bro. and Sis. Feil have previously served as Senior missionaries and have just been called to serve in Germany. Then Pres. and Sis. Lansing of the SLC South Mission spoke on missionary work. After a beautiful rendition of "The King of Love, My Shepherd is", by the 1st Ward choir, two speakers gave talks on the topic of "Prioritizing the gospel in my life". Bro. Zach Smith spoke from the perspective of the father of a busy young family with many demands. Sis. Ksenia Volkova, of the Sandy Single Adult ward, spoke from the perspective being a convert to the church in Ukraine during the collapse of the Soviet Union, her struggle to immigrate to the United States, and how important the teachings of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ have been to her journey. The last speaker was Pres. Staples. He encouraged us to replace lesser things in our lives with better things and to not drift with the world. He asked us to envision a personal PPI with the Savior, and what would really matter. He shared his strong testimony of the Savior and His Gospel.

3. Selected Stake and Ward Leadership Changes

In addition to a new Stake Presidency, many other changes were made to Stake and Ward leadership positions during 2018. Highlights are listed here.

3.1 High Council

There were six changes to the Stake high council during 2018.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Released</u>	<u>Sustained</u>
June 10	Steven Eyre	Steven A. DeJohn
June 10	Steven Glick	Clint Weaver
Sept. 2	Jeff Merchant	David S. Olson
Sept. 23	Cristopher Garf	Lon Secrist
Dec. 16	Lon Secrist	Mark K. Hesterman
Dec. 16	Steven Gough	Daniel J. Martinez

3.2 Stake Young Mens Presidency

In August 2018 a new Stake Young Mens Presidency was called and sustained.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Released</u>	<u>Sustained</u>
President	Brian Groneman	Scott Hyland
1st Counselor	Scott Hyland	Timothy Shumway
2nd Counselor	Brock Hansen	Brock Hansen
Secretary	Derek Matsumori	Spencer Hill

3.3 Stake Young Womens Presidency

In September 2018 a new Stake Young Womens Presidency was called and sustained.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Released</u>	<u>Sustained</u>
President	Amie Aslami	Lisa Ashley Nielsen
1st Counselor	Chamane Monson	Chamane Monson
2nd Counselor	Michele Goasland	Michele Goasland
Secretary	Camille Merkley	Katie Park

3.4 Stake Relief Society

In June 2018 a new counselor in the Stake Relief Society Presidency was sustained.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Released</u>	<u>Sustained</u>
2nd Counselor	Valery Gines	Jennifer Anne Sass

3.5 Stake Sunday School

During 2018 several changes in the Stake Sunday School Presidency occurred.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Released</u>	<u>Sustained</u>
2nd Counselor	Allen Mumford	Steven Summers
Secretary	Jacob Smith	Shawn Olsen

3.6 Ward Bishoprics

Five ward Bishoprics were reorganized during 2018. The four associated with family wards are listed next. The other ward reorganization is listed under Section 4 as it involved the division of the Draper SA ward.

A new Willow Creek 6th Ward Bishopric was sustained on April 22, 2018

<u>Position</u>	<u>Released</u>	<u>Sustained</u>
Bishop	Alan Matheson	Scott F. Anderson
1st Counselor	Brent Wilhite	Terence Kevin Shoell
2nd Counselor	Mark Stevens	John Roger Curtis

A new Willow Creek 7th Ward Bishopric was sustained on July 15, 2018

<u>Position</u>	<u>Released</u>	<u>Sustained</u>
Bishop	Antone Frandsen	Brian Scott Groneman
1st Counselor	David Nielsen	Mikol Robert Anderson
2nd Counselor	Dan Preece	Peter Charles Fisher

A new Willow Creek 4th Ward Bishopric was sustained on Aug. 26, 2018

<u>Position</u>	<u>Released</u>	<u>Sustained</u>
Bishop	Jeffrey A. Duke	Stephen S. Aslami
1st Counselor	Stephen S. Aslami	Kreg O. Peterson
2nd Counselor	James L. Dallas	Cristopher S. Garff

A new Willow Creek 3rd Ward Bishopric was sustained on Oct. 28, 2018

<u>Position</u>	<u>Released</u>	<u>Sustained</u>
Bishop	Richard Mortensen	Richard B. Goaslind
1st Counselor	Paul Glad	Donald K. Stepan
2nd Counselor	Bill Coles	Brett M. Hopkin

4.0 Stake Units and Membership

At the beginning of the year, the Sandy Utah Willow Creek Stake consisted of seven family wards (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, and 9th), the Draper Utah SA ward (a “mid-singles” ward), and the West Ridge Academy branch (associated with a youth correctional facility). The Wentworth dependent branch (Wentworth care facility) was staffed by church members and associated with the Willow Creek 1st Ward.

Two important changes were made during 2018:

- (a) the division of the Draper SA ward, and
- (b) the reassignment of the West Ridge branch.

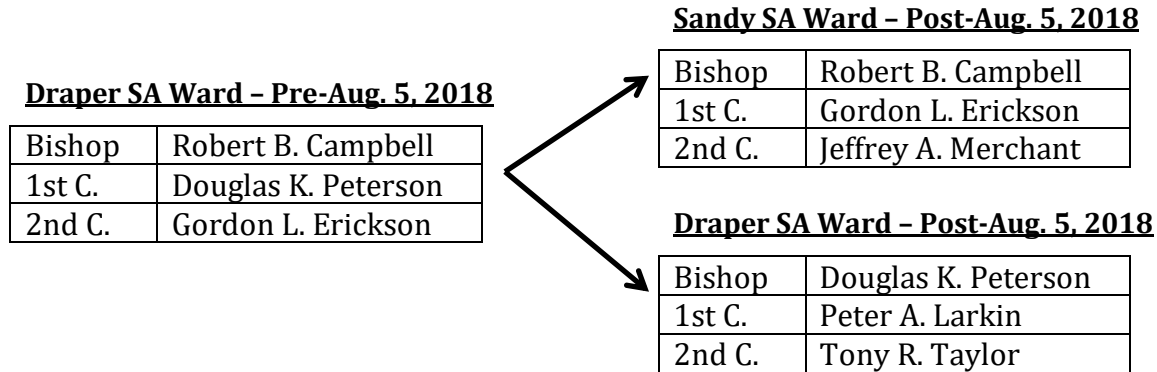
4.1 Division of the Draper SA Ward

On August 5, 2018, the Draper SA Ward was divided into two wards:

1. The “new” Sandy SA Ward, which remained (under a new name) as part of the Willow Creek Stake and continues to meet at the building on 2350 Creek Rd, and
2. The “new” Draper Single Adult Ward, which maintained the ward name but became a part of the Draper Eastridge Stake, and now meets at a building located at 552 East 11400 South.

At the time of this change, the membership of the SA ward had grown to approximately 600 members (almost all active) who were organized into three Elders Quorums and Four Relief Society groups. Before division, the geographical area associated with the Draper SA ward corresponded to the ~28 Stakes in the Sandy and Draper Coordinating Councils (Coordinating Councils are groups of Stakes that are under the direction of Area Leaders). After the division, the new SA wards were partitioned geographically by the boundaries of each of their respective coordinating councils. A map showing this geographical division is provided in Appendix C.

This change required the creation of two new Bishoprics, as illustrated below.



4.2 Reassignment of the West Ridge Branch

On July 10, 2018 a letter was sent to Pres. Staples from Elder Craig C. Christensen of the Seventy informing Pres. Staples that the stewardship assignment over the West Ridge Branch was being reassigned to the Sandy Utah Granite View Stake. This letter is included in Appendix D. This initiated a process that involved working with the Boundary Leadership Change Committee to enact this change. This process was formally completed in August 2018.

4.3 Membership Statistics

Based on quarterly reports, the 2018 beginning and ending membership statistics for the Sandy Utah Willow Creek Stake are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 2018 Beginning and ending membership Statistics

Date	Number of Units	Total members	YM (12-18)	YW (12-18)	Primary (3-11)
Jan. 1, 2018	9	3890	156	169	420
Dec. 31, 2018	8	3691	163	157	440

5.0 Missionaries sent out during 2018

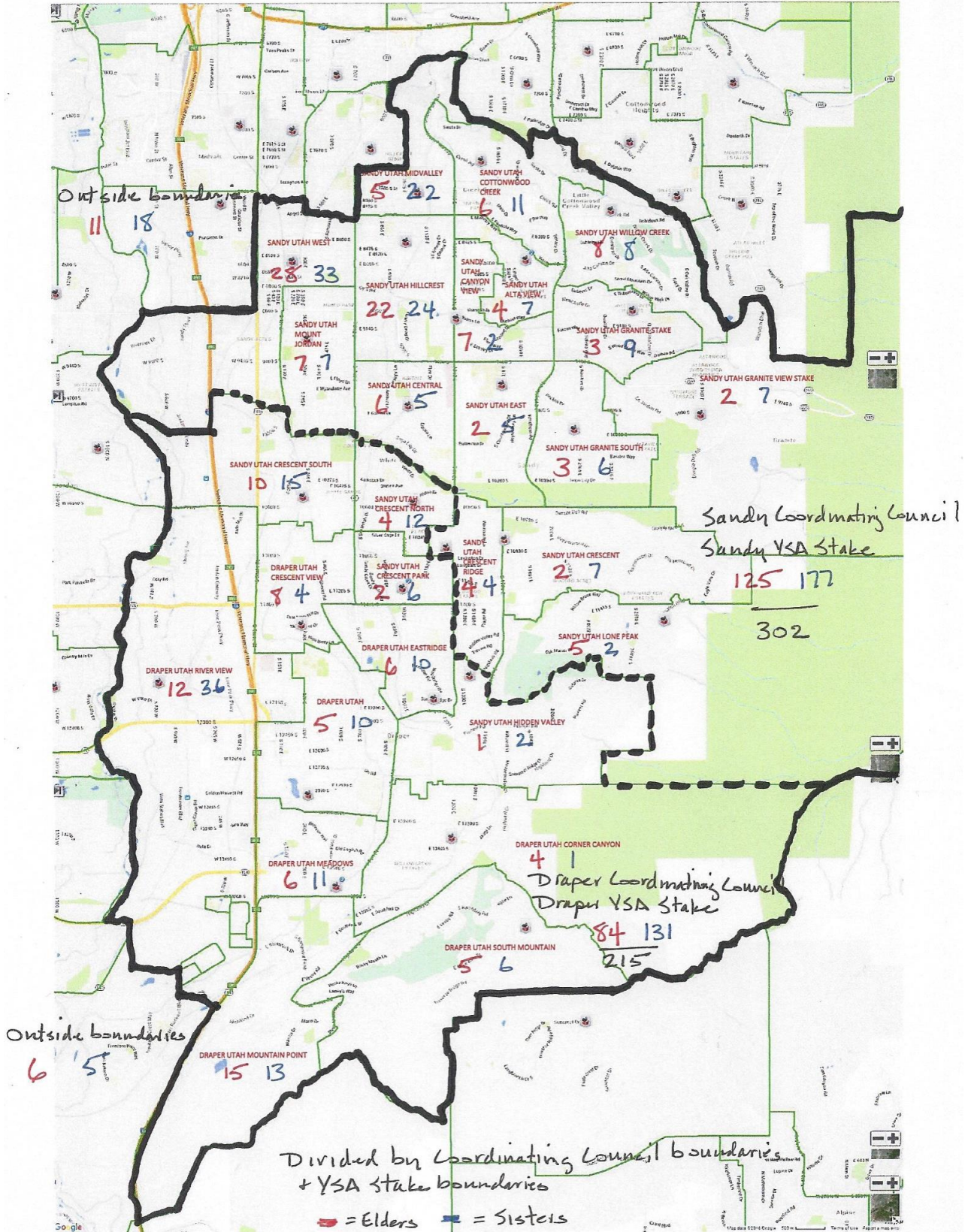
During 2018, 40 missionaries left our stake to serve full time missions. These missionaries, and their assigned missions, are listed in Table 3 (see next page) in order of when they left.

**Table 3 Full Time missionaries who left during 2018
from the Sandy Utah Willow Creek Stake**

Name(s)	Mission	Departure Date
Jones, Galen R. and Patricia Ann	Ecuador Quito	8 Jan
Hyland, Rachel	Chile Osomo	9 Jan
Fackrell, Sarah Caroline	Belgium/Netherlands	10 Jan
Hyland, Caroline	Texas Fort Worth	17 Jan
Owens, Taylor K.	New Jersey Morristown	23 Jan
Adams, Joseph Keith and Myrie June	Australia Sydney	22 Jan
Durling, Jenaia	Guatemala Retalheleu	31 Jan
Paul, Jackson Wayne	Portugal Lisbon	31 Jan
Powell, Katie Ann	Portugal Lisbon	31 Jan
Robison, Gary L. and Peggey Jean	New Zealand Wellington	12 Feb
Sansom, Matthias R. and Janice Gaye	California Irvine	2 Apr
Walker, Elizabeth Ann	New York New York City	2 May
Smith, Lane F. and Waltraut Martha	Europe Area	14 May
Weaver, Mary Elizabeth	Honduras Tegucigalpa	6 Jun
Esplin, J. Kimo and Kaye	Japan Tokyo	29 Jun
Dunn, Connor A.	Mexico Queretaro	24 Jul
Westover, Jeffrey J.	Mexico Torreon	24 Jul
Mendel, Justin	Texas McAllen	26 Jul
Hunt, Jared S.	Chile Rancagua	7 Aug
Mosteller, Erick A.	Italy Milan	8 Aug
Ringwood, Dallin V.	Uruguay Montevideo West	8 Aug
Goaslind, Jackson R.	Missouri Independence	29 Aug
Harmer, Zachary J.	New York New York City	29 Aug
Turley, Derek Chase	Peru Chiclayo	29 Aug
Miller, Ariana Elba	Argentina Rosario	30 Aug
Fisher, Peter	Oregon Portland	26 Sep
Feil, Leslie K. and Barbara Dianne	Europe Area	4 Oct
Allen, Lauren Renee	Jamaica Kingston	10 Oct
Hulbert, Scott G.	Italy Milan	31 Oct
Dalgleish, Ellie Joy	South Carolina Columbia	6 Nov
Young, James Thomas	Colombia Cali	21 Nov
Grosclaude, Nicholas G.	England Leeds	12 Dec
Jorgenson, Richard Diego	South Africa Cape Town	12 Dec

Appendix A

Map showing geographic division of the Draper SA Ward



Appendix B
**Letter from Elder Christensen concerning stewardship re-assignment
over the West Ridge Branch**

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
THE PRESIDENCY OF THE SEVENTY
47 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE STREET, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84150-1200

July 10, 2018

President Joseph A. Staples
Sandy Utah Willow Creek Stake
8684 Willow Green Cir
Sandy, UT 84093

Dear President Staples,

Correctional Facility Branch Assignment

Periodically, changes are made in stewardship assignments for correctional branches. Your stake has served faithfully in its responsibilities and stewardship for the West Ridge Branch Youth Facility. We now release the stake from its assignment for this branch, and express our gratitude to you as stake president and for the members of your stake.

We are inviting the Sandy Utah Granite View Stake under the direction of President Daniel E. England at 801-891-0633, to assume the responsibility over the West Ridge Branch. This change is effective upon your receipt of the First Presidency's approval letter. We ask that both stake presidents work closely to ensure a smooth and seamless transition within a feasible timetable. As part of the transition process, it is important that this change of unit assignments be updated in the Church Directory of Organization and Leaders (CDOL). This is done by the leaders involved in this change submitting a request through the Boundaries Leadership Change Committee (BLCC). We ask that the stake president currently with the assignment initiate the request by contacting a BLCC analyst at 801-240-1007 to obtain the necessary form. The stake president receiving the assignment will be required to endorse the proposal by also signing the submittal form. A copy of this letter should also be included with the submittal to BLCC.

Thank you for your devoted service. May the Lord bless you as you continue to render further service in the Lord's kingdom.

Sincerely,


Craig C. Christensen

c: Elder David T. Warner, Area Seventy
Elder Spencer J. Condie, Utah Corrections Committee Chair