

Standard Interview Questions for Prospective Missionaries

Frequently Asked Questions

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

October 20, 2017

The following information answers questions about how to implement the questions for interviewing prospective missionaries. See First Presidency letter, “Standard Interview Questions for Prospective Missionaries,” dated October 20, 2017.

General

Why is the Church providing a standardized list of questions for missionary interviews?

Church leaders want every missionary to have a spiritual and faith-building experience. Missionaries are most likely to experience success when they are worthy and physically, mentally, and emotionally prepared for missionary service. The interview questions will help prospective missionaries gauge their own preparedness for missionary service. The questions will also allow prospective missionaries to have meaningful conversations about the qualifications for missionary service with their parents (in the cases of young prospective missionaries) and priesthood leaders.

Have the standards for missionary service changed?

No. These questions are being provided to Church leaders, parents, and youth so that the standards are understood prior to missionary service and so that prospective missionaries can prepare spiritually, physically, mentally, and emotionally for a mission.

Why are these questions different than for a temple recommend?

Many of the interview questions are similar to those asked in a standard temple recommend interview and are included to help priesthood leaders determine whether a prospective missionary is worthy to serve.

However, missionary service is far more physically, emotionally, and mentally demanding than is temple attendance. The additional questions help gauge the prospective missionary’s physical, mental, and emotional preparedness to serve.

Is this a worthiness interview or an eligibility interview?

Both. Personal worthiness is one qualification to serve a full-time mission. In addition, a missionary candidate needs to meet physical, mental, and emotional qualifications in order to serve.

Prospective Missionaries

Do I need to speak with my bishop and stake president about sins for which I have already repented?

Your bishop and stake president want to help you make sure you are worthy, eligible, and ready for full-time missionary service. It is important to be open with them regarding past transgressions, even previously resolved ones, so that they can help you determine your spiritual preparedness to serve.

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Will some serious sins keep me from serving a full-time mission?

It is possible that some serious sins may disqualify you, either temporarily or permanently, from serving a full-time mission. Because each situation is unique, be open and honest with your bishop and stake president. They will know how to guide you.

My bishop and stake president have no medical training. How do they determine whether I am physically, mentally, and emotionally prepared to serve a mission?

As part of the recommendation process, you will be asked to receive a physical examination and a dental check. If mental or emotional issues need to be considered, your bishop or stake president may also ask you to visit with a mental health professional. Each medical or mental health professional who examines you will complete a medical form, and these forms will be submitted along with your missionary recommendation. Medical and mental health information included in the medical forms and gathered from the interview questions will be shared with and evaluated by medical and mental health professionals in the Missionary Department.

This information helps guide General Authorities in determining the best assignment opportunities for missionaries. In some situations, General Authorities may suggest that a missionary candidate consider serving a Church-service mission.

I have a condition that I believe may disqualify me from serving as a full-time missionary. Should I even consider serving a full-time mission?

Counsel with your bishop and stake president regarding your condition. They can help you better understand the physical, mental, and emotional requirements for missionary service. If you have questions that they are unable to answer, your stake president should contact the Missionary Department.

If I am unable to serve a full-time proselyting mission, what other opportunities are available for me?

If you are unable to serve in a proselyting assignment and desire to serve a mission, speak with your bishop and stake president. They can direct you to Church-service missionary assignments and other valuable opportunities for meaningful service.

Parents

What should I do to help my children prepare to serve a full-time mission?

Take an active role early in helping your children prepare for missionary service. Teach them about the qualifications for missionary service and encourage them to live those standards. You may want to use the information attached to the interview questions as topics for family home evening lessons and discussions. As your children begin to prepare for missionary service, be sure they understand the questions they will be asked in interviews with the bishop and stake president.

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Bishops, Branch Presidents, Stake and Mission Presidents

What should I do if I feel a candidate is not ready or eligible to serve a mission? Whom can I contact?

You should submit a missionary recommendation only when you are satisfied to the best of your knowledge that a missionary candidate is spiritually, physically, mentally, and emotionally able to fulfill the responsibilities for which he or she is being recommended.

If a bishop or branch president has questions about qualifications for missionary service, he should speak with the stake president. If a stake or mission president has questions, he may contact the Missionary Department.

How can I help the youth, parents, and leaders understand the qualifications for missionary service?

Discuss the missionary interview questions and attached resources with the ward, branch, stake, or district council. Bishops and branch presidents may consider sharing the questions with parents and other adults during a fifth-Sunday lesson or other teaching opportunity. Discuss with them how parents and leaders can help youth prepare for missionary service. Seek opportunities to share and discuss the questions with the youth during youth lessons and interviews.