

Priesthood Leadership

USING PATHWAY IN YOUR MINISTRY



Watch the video below about using Pathway in your ministry.



Pathway has been designed around three primary objectives, which are intended to serve as a catalyst in students' lives both academically and economically. In addition to the obvious educational and career benefits Pathway provides, perhaps the most valuable aspect of this program for the students who participate is the spiritual nourishment that comes through regular gospel study and the association of fellow students. Pathway's objectives are:

1. GET THE GOSPEL DOWN INTO STUDENTS' HEARTS

Students' testimonies will grow as they enjoy the fellowship of other LDS students and participate in courses taught within the framework of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

2. HELP STUDENTS BECOME CAPABLE LEARNERS

Pathway eases students into higher education and helps them build confidence in a supportive environment. As part of BYU-Idaho's Learning Model, students take control of their own learning through a process of preparation, teaching others, and internalizing their learning through reflection and application.

3. PREPARE STUDENTS TO LEAD AND SUPPORT FAMILIES

Throughout their education, Pathway students will gain skills, learn doctrine, and strengthen values that will enable them to gain meaningful employment as well as be better parents, providers, citizens, and Church members.

Many Pathway students have reported significant benefits relative to their participation in Pathway. Students surveyed near the completion of their first year in the program have reported the following:

INCREASED TESTIMONY OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST	98%
GREATER FAITH IN THE LORD'S ABILITY TO HELP ME IN MY LIFE	98%
IMPROVED PERSONAL PRAYER	94%
MOR CONFIDENCE IN MY ABILITY TO SUCCEED IN COLLEGE	92%
IMPROVED PERSONAL SCRIPTURE STUDY	88%
MORE CONFIDENCE IN MY ABILITY TO PROVIDE FOR MY FAMILY	82%

Pathway can be a great blessing to priesthood leaders who support the program and use it as a key part of their ministry. Many priesthood leaders have recognized the blessings Pathway can provide and use the program as a rescue tool with spiritually less-active or inactive Church members.

Foundation

For more than 120 years, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been offering educational opportunities to students in Rexburg, Idaho. However, it has long been realized that there is more the Church can do to provide a Church-based education to many more individuals. In 1971, Henry B. Eyring said the following in his inaugural address as president of then Ricks College:



"We must also find ways for this college to serve young people whose needs are shaped by a great variety of cultures and situations, and who may not be able to come to this campus.... We will find direct ways to move the blessings of education ... from this campus out into the lives of men and women everywhere."

PRESIDENT HENRY B. EYRING, INAUGURAL RESPONSE, DECEMBER 1971



"It will be necessary for us ... to serve ever better the thousands of students we have on campus while simultaneously reaching out to bless the lives of tens of thousands of young Latter-day Saints throughout the world... We must learn to assist and bless institute students and other LDS youth in Rhode Island and Rome while effectively serving our students on campus in Rexburg."

PRESIDENT DAVID A. BEDNAR, INAUGURAL RESPONSE, FEBRUARY 1998

Both of these men echoed a similar sentiment: BYU-Idaho must find ways to educate more students. And in 2009, a new program was introduced to do just that. Partnering with existing institutes of religion, the BYU-Idaho Pathway program was launched in three U.S. locations with about 50 students, and it has now grown to thousands of students in dozens of locations worldwide. The university has truly found, as Elder Eyring said, "direct ways to move the blessings of education ... from this campus out into the lives of men and woman everywhere."

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Priesthood Leadership

GETTING STARTED



Click here to download the Pathway Priesthood Leadership Handbook.

Priesthood Support

For Pathway to succeed, local priesthood leadership and support are critical. In areas where Pathway has been most successful, priesthood leaders discuss the program openly in councils, training, or other church meetings. We recommend a tight alignment and investment in the program at the Seventy, stake (presidency, high council, auxiliary), and ward levels.

Implementation of Pathway will be easier for those areas who have complete support from:

- Area Presidency (international locations mainly)
- Area Seventy
- Stake Presidents
- Institute Director (and CES Area Director)

Assess Local Interest

Pathway works best when multiple stakes work together to establish a central location for implementing the program. To gauge the scope of interest, Area Seventies and/or stake presidents may consider the following:

1. Take 5 minutes in a coordinating council to show the video titled, *“Using Pathway in Your Ministry,”* featuring Kim B. Clark., president of BYU-Idaho. This is a good opportunity to share brief information about the program and ask stake presidents how they feel about bringing Pathway to their area.
2. Take a similar approach to #1 with stake councils and bishops training meetings. In turn, bishops can proceed to introduce Pathway to their ward councils.

For those desiring to provide more detailed information regarding Pathway, the Pathway Priesthood [Leadership Guide](#) can be downloaded and distributed.

Agent Stake President Assignment

The effort to launch Pathway in an area can gain traction when a stake president either volunteers or is delegated to take the lead. Generally this means completing and submitting an [application to formally request Pathway](#), coordinating the selection of [Church Service Missionaries](#) to administer the program, and serving as a point of contact for BYU-Idaho until service missionaries are in place.

[Learn more](#) about the roles of Pathway service missionaries, and download the [Church Service Missionary Form](#).

Pathway Group Types and Locations

GROUP TYPES

Pathway may be offered to one or more group types. Students are assigned to a group at the time of admission, and assignments are based primarily on age. (Age 18-30 group, Age 31+ group, and Age 18+ group (international sites only).

GATHERING LOCATION(S)

As part of the application, a single gathering place that is central to all participating stakes should be selected for each group type. Gatherings take place weekly during the first year of the program and occur on Thursday evenings. For Pathway to be most successful, a minimum of 15 applicants (for a given group) is required to start a new class.

Age 18-30 Group: Gatherings are best suited at an institute building or a Church facility where institute classes are taught.

Age 31+ Group: Gatherings are best suited at a church meetinghouse or a stake center. Such gathering locations should be in close proximity to the Age 18-30 group location.

Age 18+ Group (international locations only): Gatherings may occur at either an institute facility or a church meetinghouse or stake center.

L Version: Gatherings are best suited at a church meetinghouse or a stake center (U.S. & Canada). Internationally, gatherings are also permitted at an institute facility.

Recruitment

Pathway primarily targets young-adult Church members who are not currently attending college, but admission is open to all adult Church members. Identifying such individuals and encouraging them to give higher education a try requires a concerted effort on the part of local priesthood leaders and Pathway service missionaries. Pathway missionaries will head the recruiting effort, but priesthood and auxiliary leaders are asked to help support the missionaries in their efforts.

Promote Initial Leadership Training Meeting

Upon approval¹, the most successful sites encourage stake presidencies, stake Relief Society presidencies, high councilors with relevant assignments, institute directors, and other key leaders to attend a leadership training provided by a Pathway administrator. This training offers a more detailed overview of the program and an opportunity to strategically plan the implementation based on the best practices observed at other Pathway sites.

BYU-Idaho trains Pathway missionaries to seek opportunities to take 5-30 minutes to present Pathway in stake and ward councils, combined priesthood/Relief Society meetings, firesides, and other meetings as approved by local leaders. There is a strong correlation between enrollment and the number of these presentations made by missionaries.

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¹ BYU-Idaho must seek and receive approval for each new Pathway site. While general communication regarding the program is acceptable prior to that approval, formal efforts to implement Pathway may not occur until after BYU-Idaho provides notification that a site has been approved.



If you are ready to request Pathway in your area, click here to access the Pathway application.

Priesthood Leadership

ROLES AND RESPONSABILITIES

Because Pathway is administered at the local level, BYU-Idaho relies heavily on priesthood and auxiliary leaders, institute directors, and Pathway Church service missionaries for the on-site management and ongoing success of the program.

Roles of Priesthood Leaders

Priesthood support is vital to the success of the program at each individual Pathway location. While BYU-Idaho does not direct the priesthood in their duties, the university does ask local priesthood leaders to offer support and assist in the process of identifying Church members who could potentially benefit from Pathway's educational and spiritual blessings.

The basic priesthood roles in support of Pathway include:

AREA SEVENTIES

- Garner strong stake leadership support for Pathway
- Establish recruitment goals, and distribute responsibility
- Coordinate multi-stake cooperation and execution

STAKE PRESIDENCIES

- Assist with initial program implementation
- Identify and call Church service missionaries
- Work with Pathway Church service missionaries to ensure program success
- Encourage other stake leaders and ward bishoprics to support the program
- Assist in the recruitment of prospective students

Role of Institutes

Because Pathway’s primary target audience is Church members between the ages of 18 and 30, local institute directors play an important role in the program. Here are some of the ways institutes help support Pathway:

- Coordinate Book of Mormon classes for Pathway students (not applicable for Age 31+ group or L Version in the U.S. & Canada)
- Provide classrooms and access to buildings during the BYU-Idaho semester calendar (not applicable for Age 31+ group or L Version in the U.S. & Canada)
- Assist with student recruitment

Role of Pathway Missionaries

BYU-Idaho relies heavily on Church service missionaries to assist with the on-site management of Pathway. While priesthood leaders and institute directors support the program, the missionaries do the bulk of the work to ensure Pathway is successful and that students have a meaningful experience. Missionaries are primarily asked to:

- Promote Pathway by personally engaging priesthood and auxiliary leaders in each stake and ward
- Identify and recruit potential students by: a) working with local priesthood/auxiliary leaders, and b) implementing a variety of recruiting tactics
- Facilitate weekly Pathway gatherings
- Monitor student academic success, participation, attendance, and retention

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PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

As you prepare to start Pathway in your local area, please consider the following:

Priesthood Support

For Pathway to succeed, local priesthood leadership and support are critical. In areas where Pathway has been most successful, priesthood leaders discuss the program openly in councils, training, or other church meetings. We recommend a tight alignment and investment in the program at the Seventy, stake (presidency, high council, auxiliary), and ward levels.

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- Area Presidency (international locations mainly)
- Area Seventy
- Stake Presidents
- Institute Director (and Area Director)

Pathway Service Missionaries

In most cases, the Area Seventy assigns a stake president to call Pathway service missionaries. These missionaries are typically married, retired couples, but could be any worthy individuals within the stake. Pathway missionaries play one of the most important roles within the program as they head up recruiting and ensure the ongoing success of the program from semester to semester. Learn more (This link is broken) about the roles of Pathway service missionaries, and download the Church Service Missionary Recommendation Form.

Pathway Class Assignments and Locations

Weekly gatherings during the first year of the program take place on Thursday evenings. Students are assigned to a group at the time of admission. Group assignments are based primarily on age. Individuals age 30 or younger are assigned to an Age 18-30 group. Students age 31 or older are assigned to an Age 31+ group. Combining the two age groups into one group is not permitted.

For students age 18 to 30, Pathway is best suited within an institute building (where one exists). For students age 31+, Pathway may be facilitated in a church meetinghouse or stake center. Central locations that can serve a wide radius of stakes are ideal.

Pathway Class Size

The size of Pathway classes plays a key role in the overall student experience. Pathway's minimum class size is 15 students and the maximum is 40. In areas where the minimum is not reached, students must be instructed to wait until the next available semester. When enrollment exceeds 40 students, the class should be split, which may require additional Pathway missionaries.

Recruitment

Pathway primarily targets young-adult Church members who are not currently attending college, but admission is open to all adult Church members. Identifying such individuals and encouraging them to give higher education a try requires a concerted effort on the part of local priesthood leaders and Pathway service missionaries. Pathway missionaries will head the recruiting effort, but priesthood and auxiliary leaders are asked to help support the missionaries in their efforts.

Bring Pathway to Your Area

U.S. & CANADA LOCATIONS ONLY

If you're ready to bring Pathway to your local area, fill out an application. Applications are submitted to BYU-Idaho and are approved by both the university and the Church Board of Education. To begin Pathway in fall (September), applications must be received by mid December. To begin Pathway in winter (January), applications must be received by mid April.

INTERNATIONAL LOCATIONS

International locations depend on their respective Area Presidency to support and request a Pathway site. Therefore, we suggest requests go through appropriate ecclesiastical channels, including bishops, stake presidents and area seventies, who in turn can brooch the subject with the Area Presidency. Once Area Presidencies decide that Pathway would bless their area members, they may contact the International Pathway director at BYU-Idaho to start conversations on the approval process, which requires not only internal approval but also CES Executive Committee and Board approvals (sought three times per year). Once approval is received, preparations will begin to open the new site as soon as reasonably possible.

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PATHWAY SITE APPLICATION

INTERNATIONAL

For all international site requests, contact:

Gene Hayes

+1 208-496-1831

hayese@byui.edu

U.S. & CANADA

1

Download the application and save a copy to your computer.



Click here to go to the Pathway site application form.

This application requires Adobe Reader, which can be downloaded for free at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>.

2

Once you are ready to submit the application, email a copy to justesenb@byui.edu.

For application deadlines, or for questions about this application or the approval process, please contact:

Bryan Justesen

208-496-1821

justesenb@byui.edu

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