

Who is  
responsible  
for  
Family History Work?

President Joseph Fielding Smith said, *“It matters not what else we have been called to do, or what position we may occupy, or how faithfully in other ways we have labored in the Church, none are exempt from this great obligation. It is required of the apostle as well as the humblest elder. Place, or distinction, or long service in the Church, in the mission field, the stakes of Zion, or where or how else it may have been, will not entitle one to disregard the salvation of one’s dead.”*

*Some may feel that if they pay their tithing, attend their regular meetings and other duties, give of their substance to the poor, perchance spend one, two, or more years preaching to the world, that they are absolved from further duty.*

*But the greatest and grandest duty of all is to labor for the dead.*

*We may and should do all these other things, for which reward will be given, but if we neglect the weightier privilege and commandment, notwithstanding all other good works, we shall find ourselves under severe condemnation. Why such condemnation?*

*Because the greatest responsibility in this world God has laid upon us, is to seek after our dead.”*

Responsibilities for temple and family history work are outlined in the following handbooks:

*Church Handbook of Instructions Book 2*  
*Section 9*  
*Temple and Family History Work*

*Church Handbook of Instructions Book 2*  
*Section 1*  
*Melchizedek Priesthood*

*A Member's Guide to Temple and Family History Work*

The ultimate responsibility for family history work rests with each individual church member.

Let's identify this person as "each ward member".

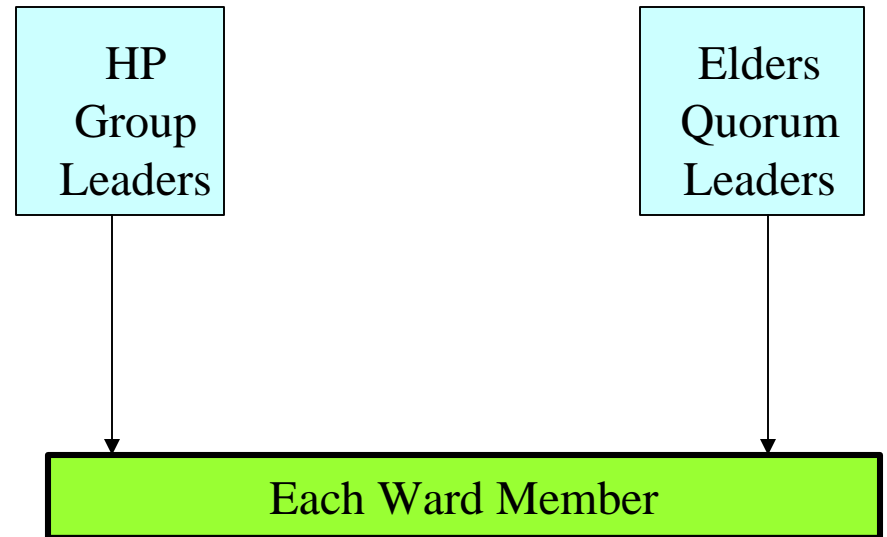
Each Ward Member

Who provides guidance and direction to the ward members?

**Their priesthood leaders.**

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Group and quorum leaders set an example in doing temple and family history work, including regular temple attendance. They are responsible to encourage, motivate, and help ward members to identify their kindred dead and to provide temple ordinances for them

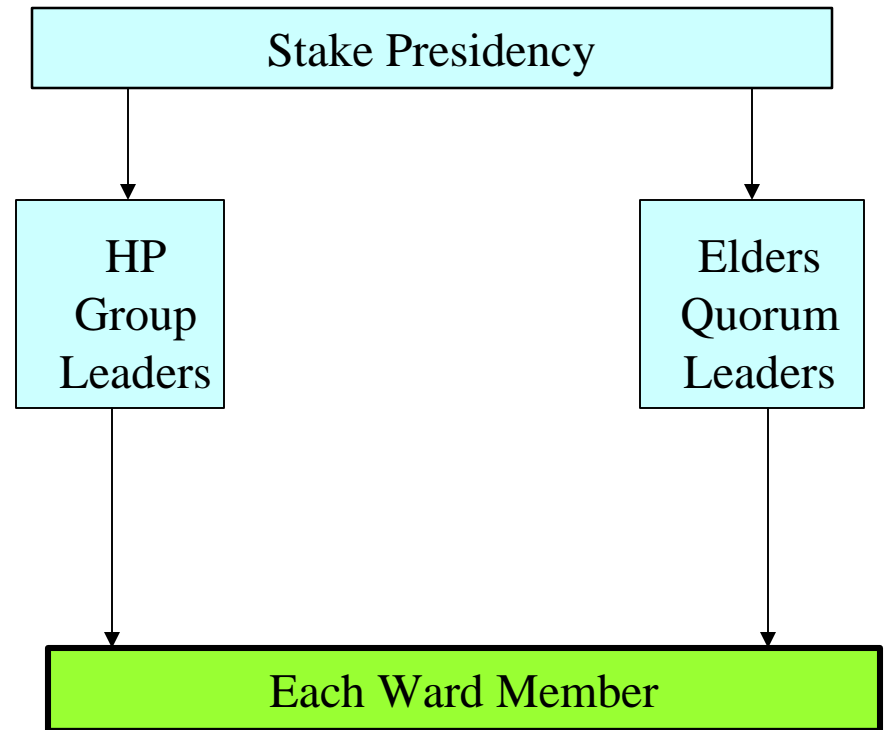


Who provides guidance and direction to the group and quorum leaders?

**Their priesthood leaders.**

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The stake presidency is responsible to teach priesthood leaders how to encourage, motivate, and help ward members do family history work.

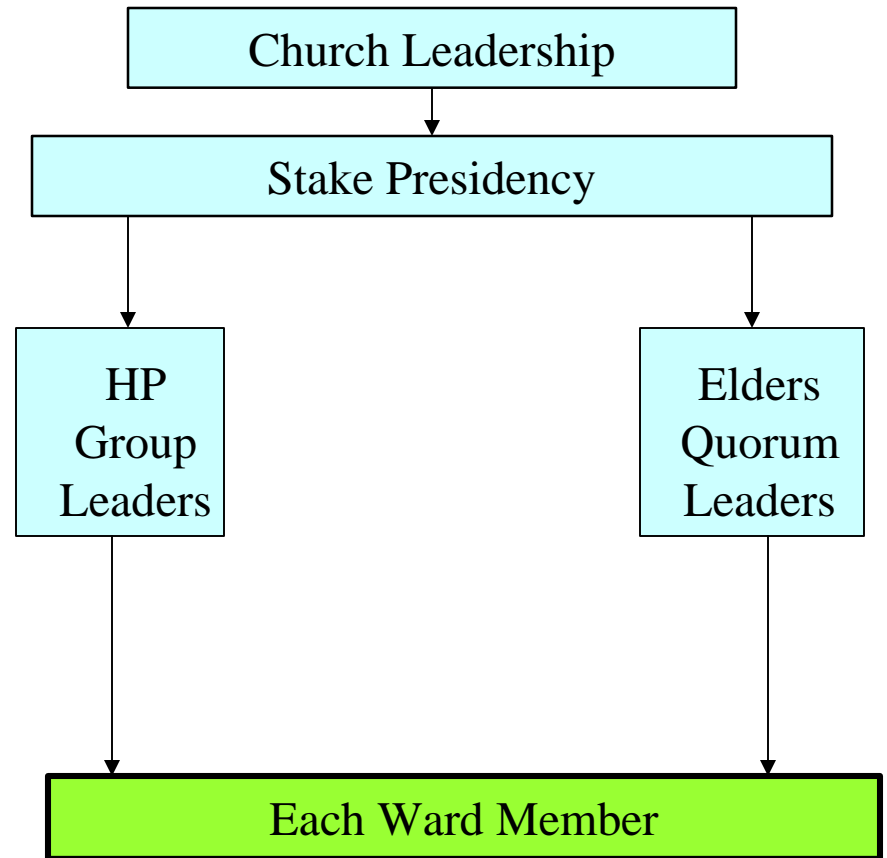


Who provides guidance and direction to the stake presidency?

**Their priesthood leaders.**

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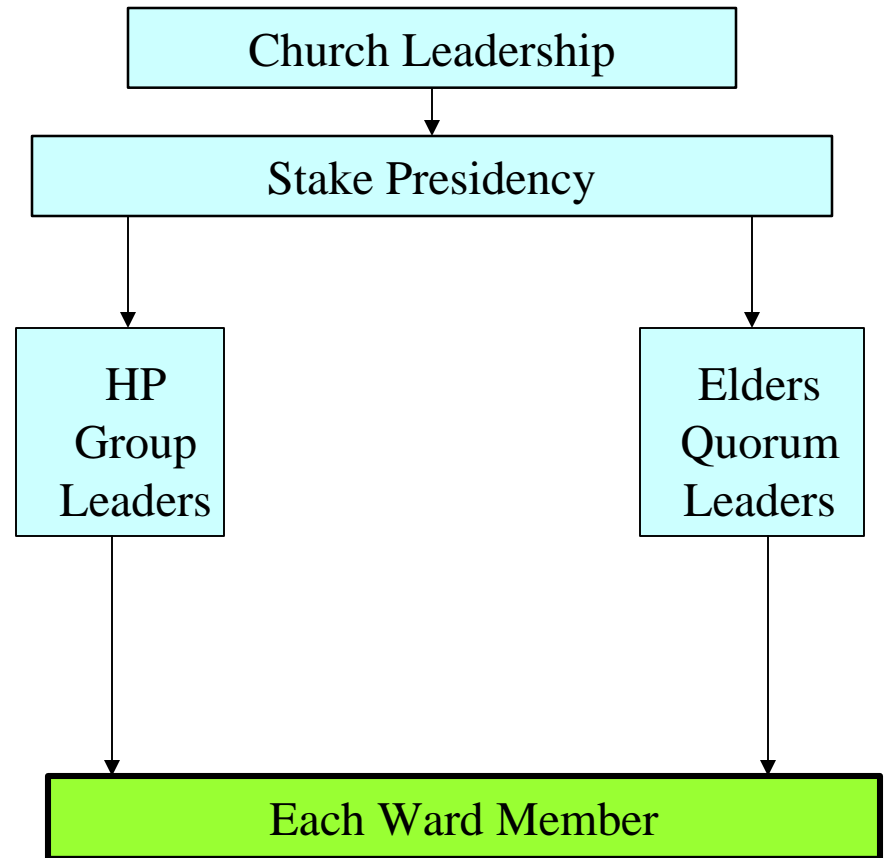
Church general leadership is responsible to teach stake presidencies how to encourage, motivate, and help church members do family history work.



What other aspects are there to family history work?

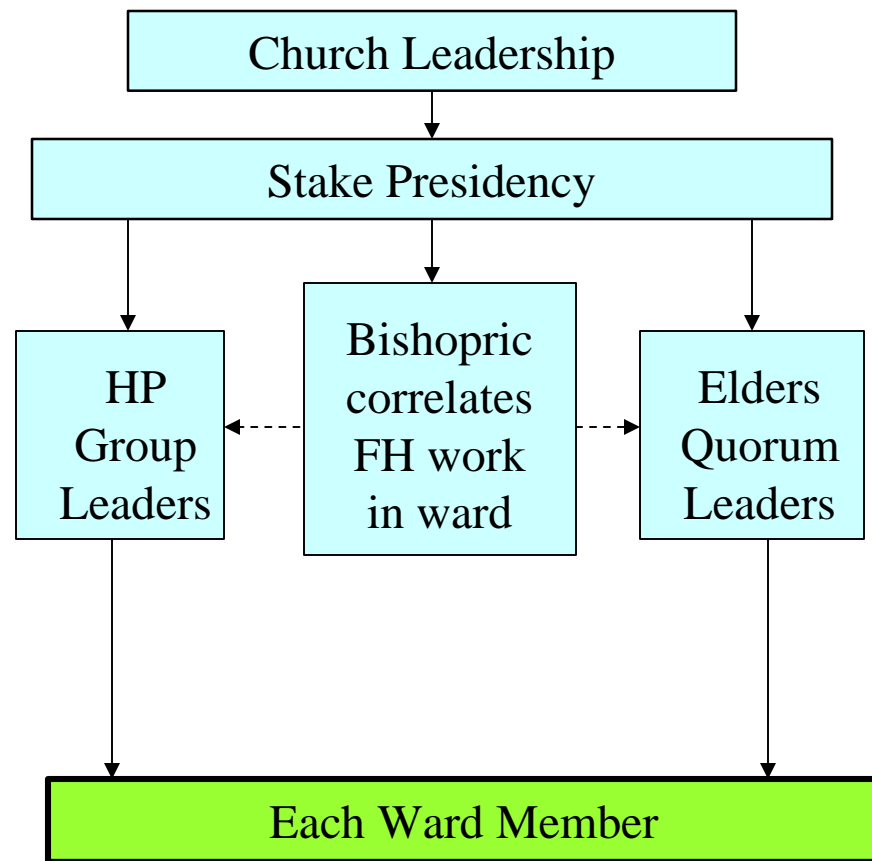
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Family History support organizations are established at both the stake and ward levels.

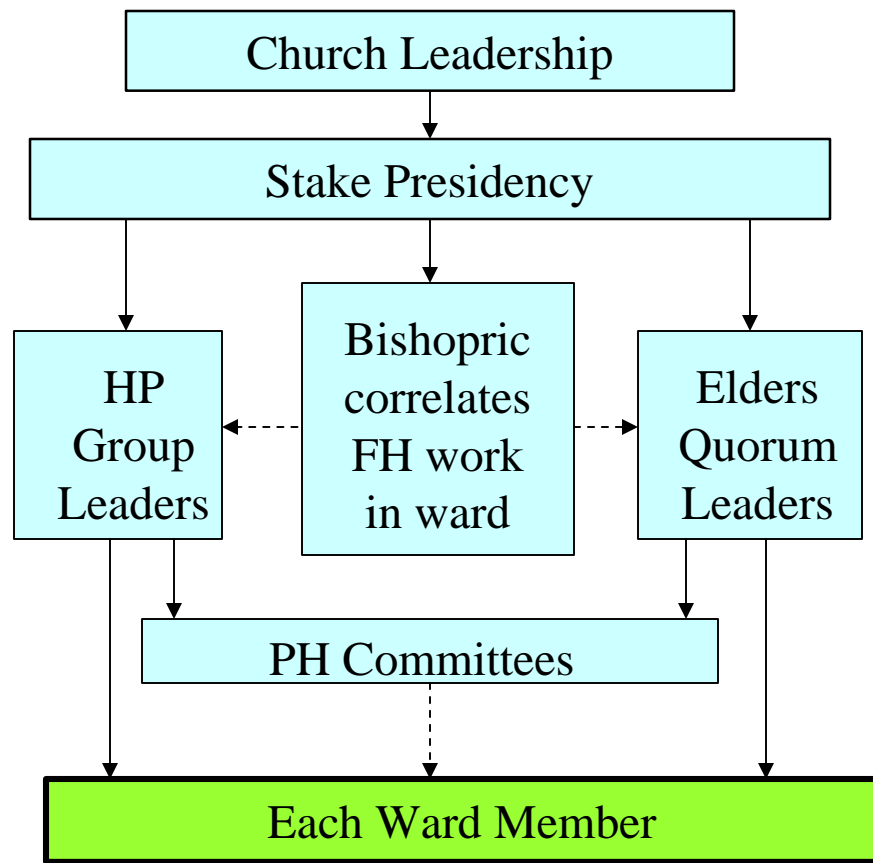


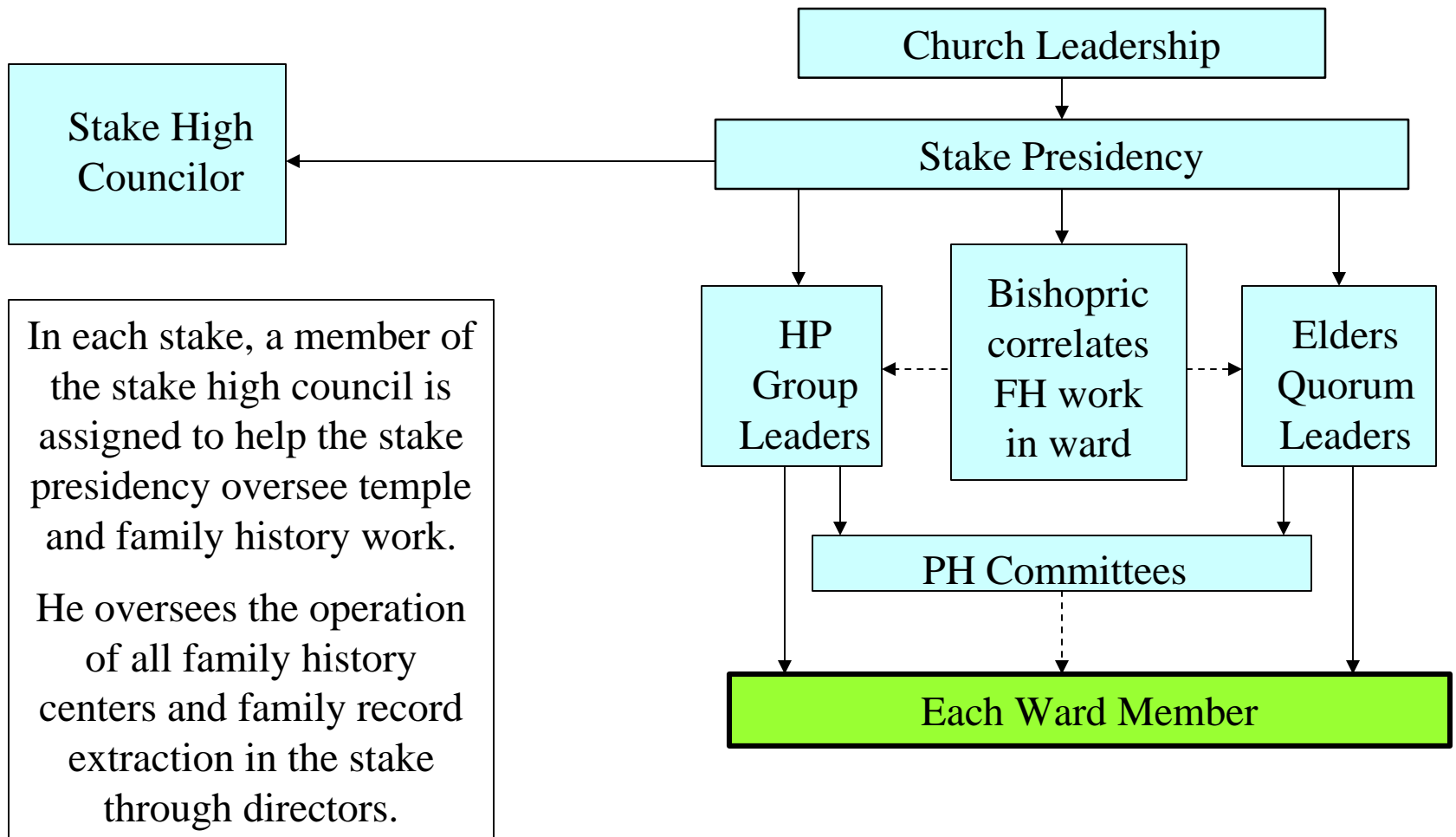
In each ward, the bishopric directs the correlation of temple and family history work through the Ward Priesthood Executive Committee and Ward Council.

At each PEC meeting, the bishop should encourage group and quorum leaders to report on the status of family history work in the families their quorum or group serves.



Priesthood groups and quorums in each ward should organize temple and family history committees to assist the priesthood leadership meet the needs of the members.





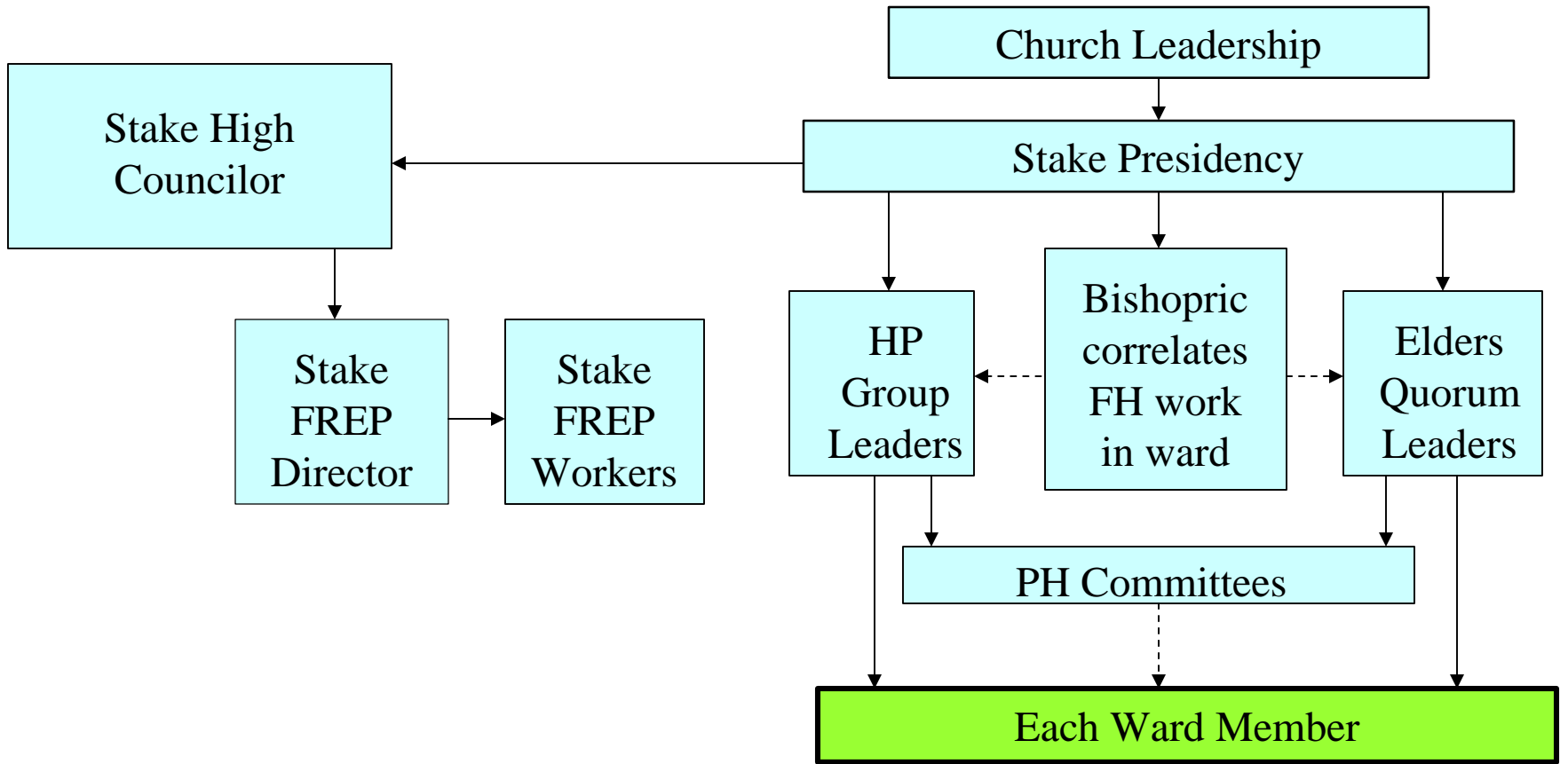
Priesthood leadership is essential in all areas of family history

If a stake participates in the Family Records Extraction Program (FREP), a Stake Family Records Extraction Program Director is called.

The stake FREP director receives guidance and training from and works under the direction of a member of the stake high council.

All FREP workers are called at the stake level and work under the direction of the stake FREP director.

Stake FREP workers are trained by the stake FREP director.



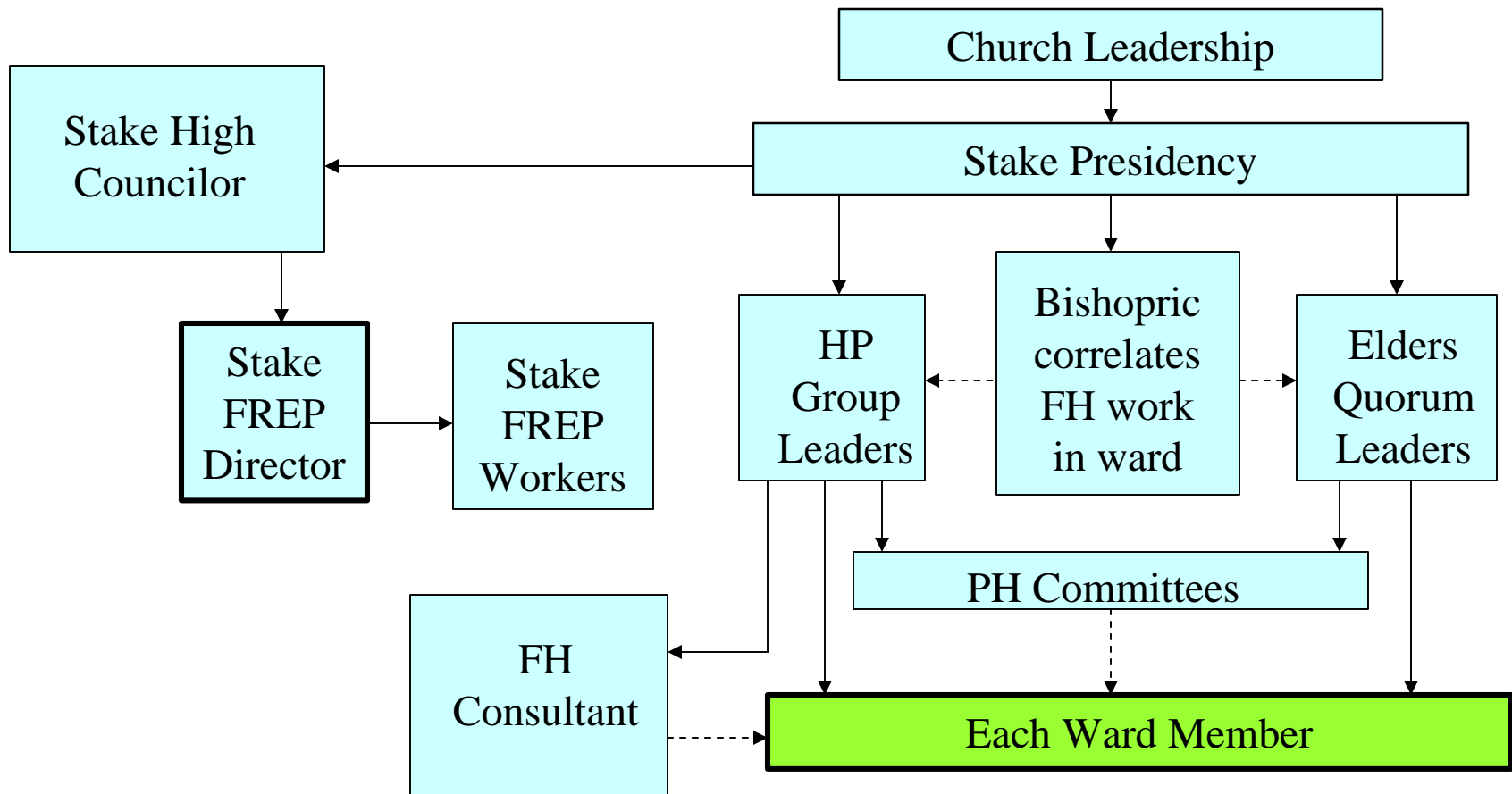
Family History Consultants are called at the ward level by the Bishopric.

Family History Consultants are responsible to help members identify ancestors and provide temple ordinances for them (three to five generations as a beginning).

Family History consultants are supervised by the high priests group leader. Consultants reach out to a few families at a time as identified by the ward priesthood executive committee and ward council.

Family History Consultants may be assigned to work as staff at the local Family History Center.

Training for all family history consultants is available by registering on the Church's web site on the internet. For family history consultants who serve as staff at the family history center, training on the computer programs and procedures used there will be accomplished under the direction of the center director.



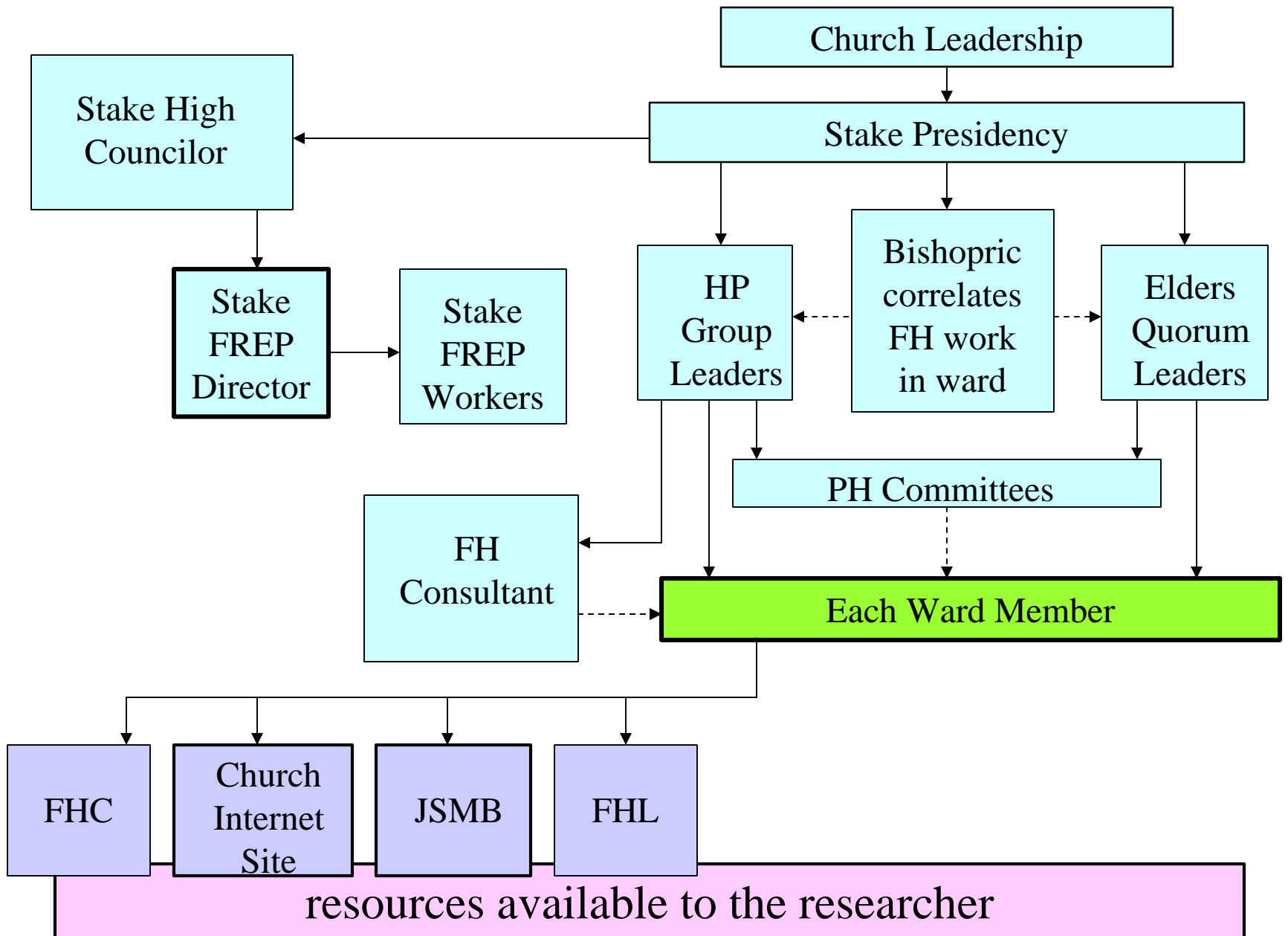
To help members accomplish their family history responsibilities, the Church has provided various resources:

Family History Library

Joseph Smith Memorial Building.

Family History Internet site at:  
**<http://www.familysearch.org>**

Family History Centers



# Family History Centers

The Church has established family history centers in many locations around the world as extensions of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Centers are designed to help members identify ancestors and provide temple ordinances for them.

Centers provide local access to microfilmed family history records of the Church and to Church family history computer resources including FamilySearch on the Internet.

Community patrons are also welcome to use resources available at the centers.

Family history centers are staffed by Church member family history consultants and non-member volunteers.

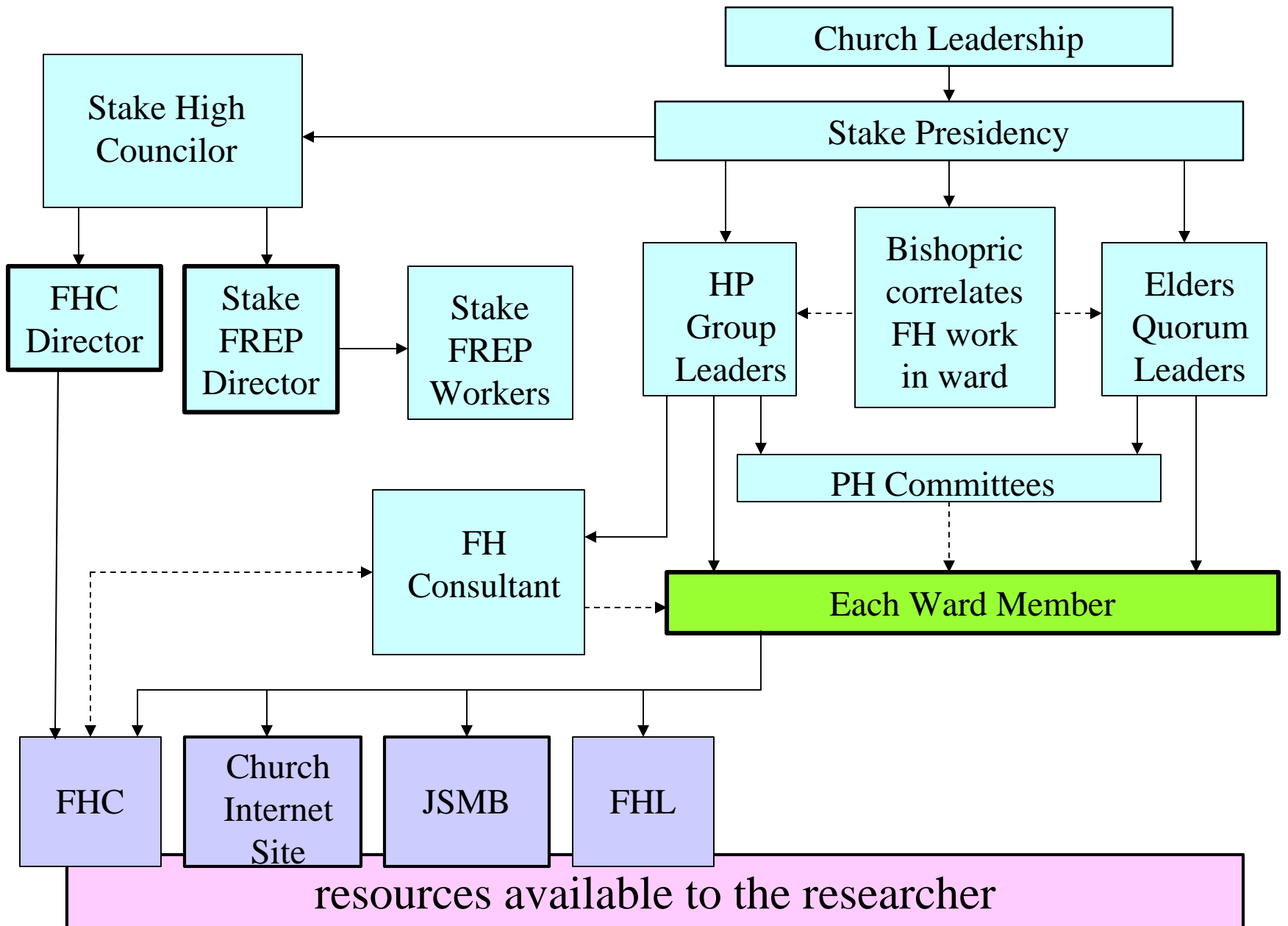
Family history centers operate under priesthood direction. A high council advisor for temple and family history work, under the direction of the stake presidency, oversees the family history centers in the stake.

In stakes with established Family History Centers, center directors are called and work under the direction of a member of the stake high council.

Family history centers are staffed by family history consultants from the wards which support the center.

The high council member assigns wards to provide staff to family history centers. Family History Consultants are then assigned by their high priest group leaders to serve as a staff member in family history centers.

Multi-stake family history centers operate under a council of the high councilors of the supporting stakes. The high councilor from the agent stake is the chairman of the council. All stakes which support the center provide family history consultants to staff the center.



## Other Records to Search

### Personal records:

Birth & Marriage Certificates

School records

Church records

Photographs

Awards

Journals

Family Bible

Obituaries

### Other records:

Printed Genealogies

County clerk.

Cemetery records.

Census records.

Military records.

Land & tax records.

Immigration records.

Naturalization records.

Probate Court records.

Newspapers.

Vital records.

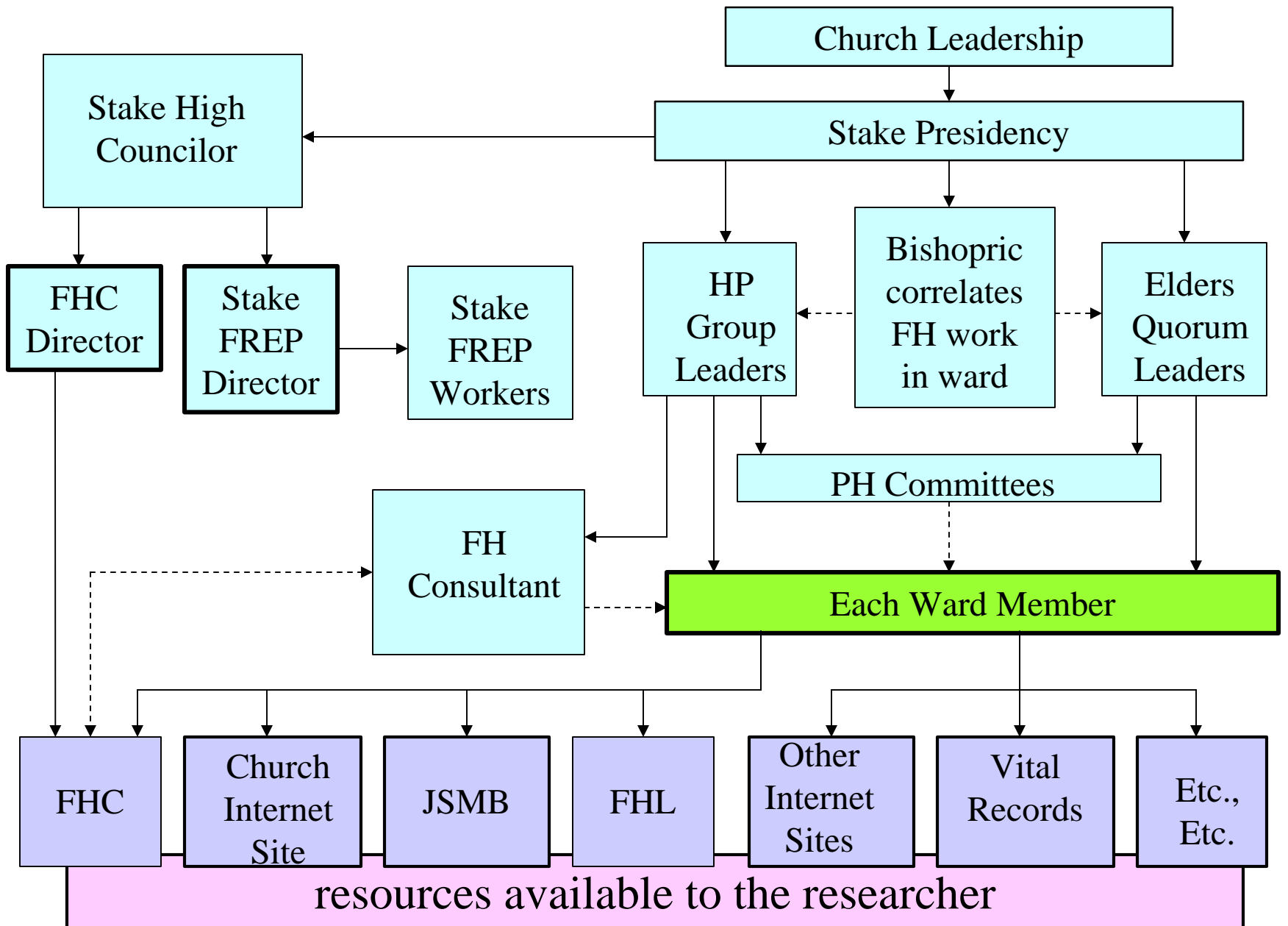
State Archive records.

Local archive records.

Tax records.

Historical Societies

Internet



Boyd K. Packer, *The Holy Temple*, Bookcraft, said, “*There somehow seems to be the feeling that genealogical work is an all-or-nothing responsibility. That is not so.*”

*Family History work is another responsibility for every Latter-day Saint. And we may do it successfully along with all the other responsibilities that rest upon us.*

*The bishop can do it without neglecting his flock. A stake missionary can do it without abandoning his mission. A Sunday School teacher can accomplish it without forgetting his lesson. A ward Relief Society president can do it without forsaking the sisters in the ward.*

*You can fulfill your obligation to your kindred dead and to the Lord without forsaking your other responsibilities.*

***You can do this work.***

*You can do it without becoming a so-called ‘expert’ in it. But the decision, the action, must begin with the individual.*

*The Lord will not tamper with our agency.*

*If we want a testimony of genealogical and temple work, we must do something about that work.*