



AARONIC MINISTRIES

A Ministry of Presence

Community of Christ

We are a blessed community. Persons are being called and are accepting ministerial responsibility as Aaronic priesthood. These ministers witness for Jesus Christ by calling individuals, families, congregations, and communities into deeper relationships with each other and our Lord. Aaronic ministers' presence in our faith community is essential for our nurturing as a people who desire to be a global expression of Christ's Peaceable Kingdom on earth.

What follows are new ministerial focuses for each Aaronic priesthood office. These ministerial focuses will bring a fresh and expansive presence of Christ's ministry to our congregations and communities. We thank God for the presence of the Holy Spirit, which guided the development of these ministerial focuses.

—Aaronic Ministry Focus Team

TEACHER

As a Minister of Presence, the teacher, committed to Jesus Christ and the cause of the Peaceable Kingdom, will model "Jesus as Peacemaker" when expressing his or her ministry of reconciliation with individuals and families in the congregation and community.

Encourager

- Promotes the development and nurturing of a healing, redeeming, and prayerful environment.
- Is sensitive to the needs of the congregation.
- Encourages participation and inclusion of all to share in the blessings of community.
- Serves as an advocate for home ministry.

Worth of Persons

- Respects each person and expresses compassion for his or her life journey.
- Helps individuals build positive self-images and self-esteem.
- Partners with evangelists to provide ministry that empowers spiritual development.

Peace Building

- Assists persons in building relationships based on love and acceptance.
- Fosters development of positive communication and interaction.
- Promotes awareness of peace and justice issues in the church and community.

Conflict Resolution

- Promotes an environment that is ready to listen and slow to criticize.
- Is available for ministry should conflict arise.
- Encourages the use of trained individuals to address conflicts.

PRIEST

As a *Minister of Presence*, the priest, committed to Jesus Christ and the cause of the Peaceable Kingdom, will model “*Jesus as Friend*” when expressing his or her ministry with families, in congregations, and in community.

With Families

- Shares God’s gift of unconditional love for each family member.
- Interacts with families to support their spiritual growth and discipleship response through prayer, knowledge of scripture, and nurturing relationships.
- Extends the hand of reconciliation to those with broken spirits and assists in finding pathways for healing.

In Congregations

- Shares the ministry of Christ to bring peace and wholeness to every life.

- Understands and participates in the sacramental and worship life of the church.
- Promotes presence and participation in church life.

In Community

- Is involved in and knowledgeable about community services that may assist those in need.
- Serves as an advocate for members and families throughout the community (e.g., workplace, schools, civic organizations, and social agencies).

DEACON

As a *Minister of Presence*, the deacon, committed to Jesus Christ and the cause of the Peaceable Kingdom, will model “*Jesus as Comforter*” when expressing his or her ministry of service and nurturing individuals and families in the congregation and community.

Service

- Reaches out in loving and joyful service to the church and community.
- Is aware of and appreciates the forms and styles of worship to enhance the presence of the Spirit and provide supportive ministry.
- Welcomes those who come to church and provides a comforting environment for their worship and fellowship experiences.
- Understands the importance of well-kept church properties and provides leadership for ongoing maintenance and efficient operations.

Sharing

- Seeks out the needs of the poor, the sick, the helpless, and the unloved, reaching out to provide assistance.
- Is sensitive to the spiritual, physical, and temporal needs of individuals and families in the congregation.
- Assists persons in their stewardship response of temporalities (time, talent, and financial resources).

Invitation

All Aaronic priesthood are invited to participate in the Temple School course titled “Aaronic Ministers: Ministry of Presence.”