

# Creating a Spirit of Unity in the Presidency

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PRINCIPLE	A presidency united in heart and purpose can be a great influence for good as they lead their clas
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GOALS	Help class leaders — <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Understand why unity is necessary in the Lord's work.</li><li>2. Do the things that will make a unified presidency.</li><li>3. Learn how to communicate this spirit of unity to class members.</li></ol>
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MATERIALS	Doctrine and Covenants, <i>Young Women Handbook</i> , pencils, and paper.
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SUGGESTED STUDY STEPS

Step One	Read and discuss the meaning of Doctrine and Covenants 38:27 as it relates to a class presidency.
Step Two	Share the following statement by President George Q. Cannon, a counselor to Presidents Brigham Young, John Taylor, and Wilford Woodruff: "I suppose each one of us is fond of having his own way. I know I am. . . . But I do not like my ow way well enough to want it in opposition to my brethren's way. That is our duty as the First Presidency of the Church. It is the duty of every presidency throughout the Church. . . . "Suppose that one man has more wisdom than another; it is better to carry out a plan that is not so wise, if you are united on it. Speaking generally, a plan or policy that may be inferior in some respects is more effective if men are united upon it than a better plan would be upon which they were divided" ( <i>Gospel Truth</i> , sel. Jerreld L. Newquist, 2 vols. [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company 1957], 1:207). Ask what this statement means. Why are leaders more effective if they are united?
Step Three	Discuss the fact that as a presidency there may be some differences of opinion as plans are made. Ask the following questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How can these differences of opinion be helpful?</li><li>2. How will you, as a presidency, resolve differences?</li><li>3. After a decision is reached, what is the responsibility of each member of the presidency?</li></ol>
Step Four	A presidency will be more unified if they understand and agree on their responsibilities. Review the responsibilities of a class presidency in the <i>Young Women Handbook</i> , pages 16-17, and discuss how they plan to work together. Talk about other things they might do to build unity in the presidency such as praying together, fasting for a special purpose, or taking turns bringing a spiritual thought or scripture to start their meeting.
Step Five	Identify ways that unity can grow and extend to class members. Ideas might include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. As you plan, consider the needs of individual class members.</li><li>2. Show love for each of them by the things you say and do.</li><li>3. Let class members feel a part of things by keeping them informed.</li><li>4. Ask class members for their ideas and be generous with sincere compliments. Don't always bring completed plans to class.</li><li>5. Help them become better acquainted with each other by providing frequent opportunities to share thoughts and feelings.</li></ol>

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FOLLOW UP	Encourage class leaders to continually strive for unity in their presidency and their class.
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