Teaching Emphasis for the Church Educational System

The CES objective indicates that Church education has a significant responsibility in strengthening the youth of the Church and inviting them to come unto Christ. Preparing students for missionary service and temple ordinances has always been a focus in Church education.

By implementing the following emphases and adjustments, CES will more directly prepare young people for effective missionary service, to receive the ordinances of the temple, and to exemplify and teach gospel principles throughout their lives. This will also help deepen their faith, testimony, and conversion.

- We are to learn and teach by the Spirit. We are to encourage students to learn and teach by the Spirit.

- We are to emphasize more strongly the importance of reading the scripture text for each scripture course of study. We are to help students develop a habit of daily scripture study.

- We are to help students understand the scriptures and the words of the prophets, identify and understand the doctrines and principles found therein, and apply them in their lives in ways that lead to personal conversion.

- We are to help students learn to explain, share, and testify of the doctrines and principles of the restored gospel. We are to give them opportunities to do so with each other in class. We are to encourage them to do so outside of class with family and others.

- We are to emphasize the mastery of key scriptural passages and help students understand and explain the doctrines and principles contained in those passages.

  *In seminary* this means we will emphasize scripture mastery so that students better understand the doctrines and principles in the one hundred scripture mastery passages and are encouraged to memorize those passages.

  *In institute* this means we will build upon the foundation of the one hundred scripture mastery passages and foster a depth of understanding of other key passages of scripture, with encouragement to memorize such passages.

- CES will develop a principle and doctrine competency expectation for each course of study. This will include such things as a clear understanding of the plan of salvation, the Atonement of Jesus Christ, the Apostasy and Restoration, and the unique position of the restored Church as the only true and living church upon the face of the earth.

16 May 2006