

# Memphis VERC

## REQUEST FOR WELFARE OPERATIONS

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**Requesting Area:** North America Southeast Area

**Location of Facility:** Memphis, Tennessee

**Requested Welfare Operation:**

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- Employment resource center
- Bishops' storehouse (May include: family home storage and used clothing)
- LDS Family Services office

### General Guidelines

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- Local stake presidents have expressed a need and have recommended the establishment of a welfare operation
- Local stake presidents are committed to support new operations with adequate volunteer staffing
- Established welfare operations are adhering to operating guidelines, including functioning agent stake operating committees and regional welfare committees
- Ward and stake welfare committees are trained and functioning
- The regional welfare committee and coordinating council have evaluated the need and concurs with the recommendation
- A member of the Presidency of the Seventy or the Area Presidency concurs with the coordinating council's recommendation

### Specific Guidelines – Employment Resource Centers

#### Professional Centers:

- Minimum five stakes within a reasonable distance (approximately 50-mile/80 km radius)
- Minimum of 800 member placements/enrollments per FTE per year

#### Volunteer Centers:

- Minimum of one stake/district
- Minimum of 200 member placements/enrollments per year

- In principle, for employment centers to be successful, they need to be accessible to members and employers
- When the above principle is met, the priority for location should be to co-locate with existing Church facilities, with an emphasis on Church service centers and CES institute buildings
- If Church facilities are not appropriate or available, leasing commercial space should then be considered

### Specific Guidelines – Bishops' Storehouse

- Minimum four stakes within a reasonable distance (approximately 20-mile/32 km radius)

### Specific Guidelines – LDS Family Services

- Minimum ten stakes within a reasonable distance (approximately 100-mile/161km radius)
- Ability to staff office with local, licensed mental health professionals who are worthy Church members

Member of the Presidency of the Seventy:

Walter F. Yung

Date:

August 3, 10

# Memphis, Tennessee

## Proposed Volunteer Employment Resource Center

### Background Information

- A volunteer employment center has been requested by stake presidents of the Memphis Tennessee, Memphis Tennessee North, Little Rock Arkansas and the North Little Rock Arkansas stakes
- Elder David H. Ingram, the Area Seventy, endorses this request
- The Arkansas Little Rock Area Coordinating Council stakes are in the North America Southeast Area and are supported by the Louisiana New Orleans Employment Center
- Stake employment specialists have been called and are functioning in the Memphis Tennessee stakes
- The unemployment rate in the Memphis area is 10.4%
- The unemployment rate in the Little Rock area is 6.6%
- There are 15,161 members in the Arkansas Little Rock Area Coordinating Council
- There are approximately 936 unemployed and 1,872 underemployed members

### Stakes within 50 mile radius

- Memphis Tennessee Stake Center (proposed center location)
- Memphis North Stake (4 miles – 10 minutes)

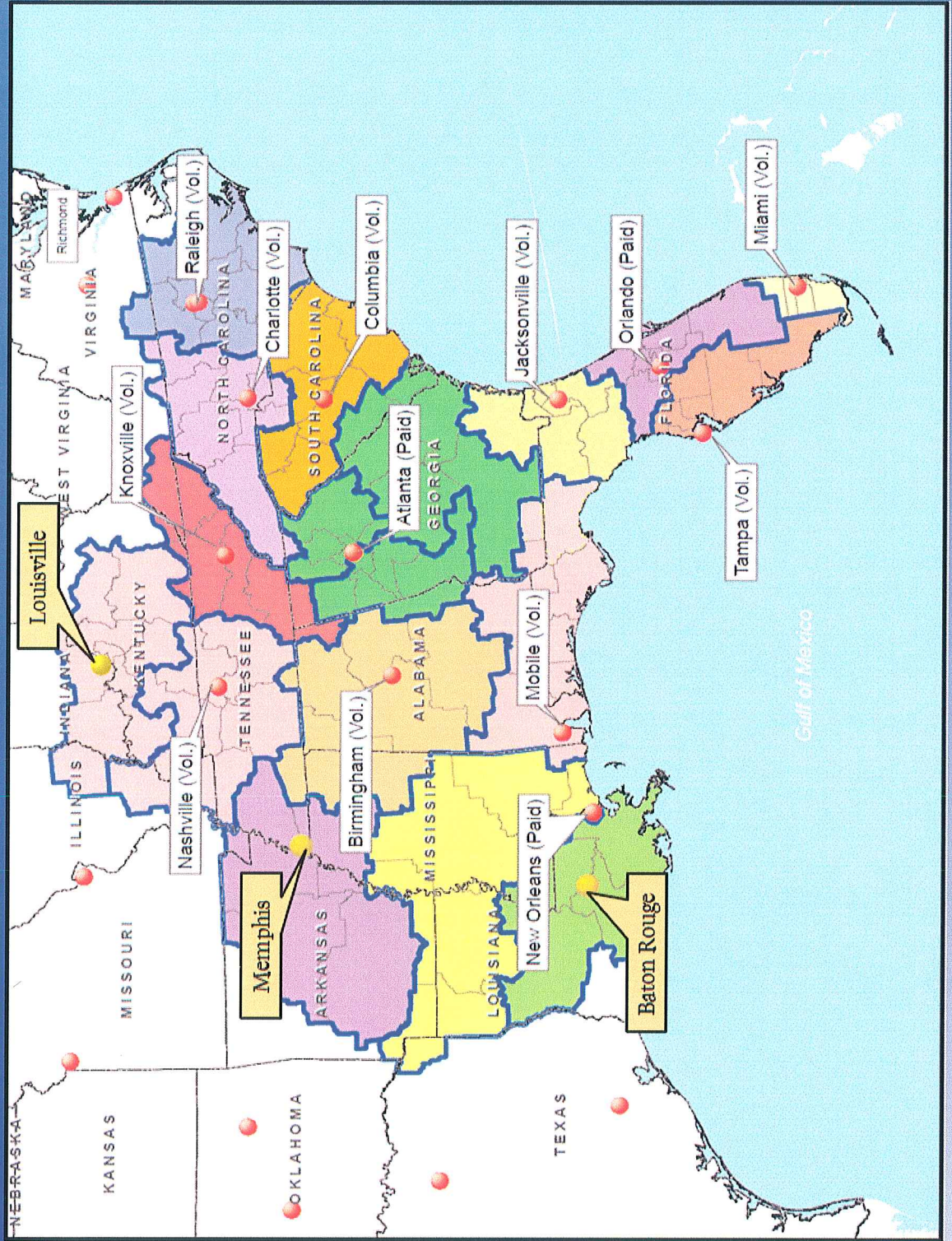
### Other stakes in proposed Memphis Volunteer Center service area

- Little Rock Arkansas Stake (167 miles – 2 hours 48 minutes)
- North Little Rock Arkansas Stake (154 miles - 2 hour 36 minutes)

### ERS Centers adjacent to proposed location

- Tennessee Nashville Volunteer Center (213 miles - 3 hours 31 minutes)
- Birmingham Volunteer Center (241 miles - 4 hours 40 minutes)

# Proposed Employment Resource Centers



## BACKGROUND/OVERVIEW:

The Little Rock Welfare Region enjoys a membership population of more than 15,161 members. Of these total members there are 8,514 families represented. At this time it is estimated that there are 1.3 workers per family which represents 11,067 members of the total 15,161 membership population. The table displayed below provides further breakdown of member and family total population by stake for this region:

<b>Little Rock Welfare Region</b>		
<b>STAKE</b>	<b>TOTAL FAMILIES</b>	<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>
Little Rock, AR	1,676	2,840
Little Rock, AR North	2,688	4,638
Memphis, TN	1,758	3,331
Memphis, TN North	2,392	4,352
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,514</b>	<b>15,161</b>

The current unemployment rate for the State of Tennessee is reported at 10.4% while the State of Arkansas is reporting a rate of 7.7% (as of May 2010). The average unemployment rate for the Little Rock Welfare Region is 6.6%. Based on the individual metropolitan unemployment rates for cities represented in the region there are approximately 936 members unemployed and 1,872 members under-employed. When self-employed members and members with education needs are also considered there is a potential customer base of 5,066 members who can benefit from employment resource services. The table displayed below provides a more detailed market assessment of members in the Little Rock Welfare Region:

<b>Little Rock Welfare Region Market Assessment</b>						
<b>STAKE</b>	<b>Un-employment Rate – May 2010</b>	<b>* Working Members per Family</b>	<b>Un-employed Members *</b>	<b>* Under-employed Members</b>	<b>* Self-Employed Members</b>	<b>* Members w/Education Needs</b>
Little Rock, AR	6.6	2,178	144	288	270	174
Little Rock, AR North	6.6	3,494	231	462	433	280
Memphis, TN	10.4	2,285	238	476	283	183
Memphis, TN North	10.4	3,110	323	646	386	249
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>11,067</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>1872</b>	<b>1372</b>	<b>886</b>
<b>POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS</b>						<b>5,066</b>
* Workers per family 1.3; Underemployment Multiplier-2; Self-Employment Percentage-12.4%; Education-Training Percentage-8%						

**LOCATION:**

To date, meetings have been held with leaders of the Memphis Tennessee Stake, as well as those from the Memphis Tennessee North Stake. Both are in concurrence and willing to support a volunteer employment center to be located at the Memphis, Tennessee Stake Center. The potential center would be positioned in an existing office/room that is adjacent to the Family History Center (FHC). The physical address of the volunteer employment center would be: 8150 Walnut Grove Road, Cordova, Tennessee 38018.

**RESOURCES:**

*Agent Stake Operating Committee* – The Little Rock Welfare Region consists of leaders who are committed in their support of an agent stake operating committee. They understand the need to meet regularly as a full committee, and will begin once an agent stake president is called and sustained. This committee will receive reports, and provide instruction and support to the operation regarding productivity, efficiency, effectiveness, and quality.

*Church Service Missionaries* – Both the Memphis and Memphis North Stakes are committed to provide the necessary staff as church missionaries to support the proposed volunteer employment center.

*Internet Service* – There is currently internet service provided to the Memphis Stake FHC with adequate bandwidth for additional users. Initially two personal computers will be utilized in the volunteer employment center with internet support provided by the FHC.

*Technology/Computers* – Two computers will be provided (one laptop, and one desktop) from existing inventory. Additional technology resources will be provided through the Slidell Employment Resource Center budget. This includes a combination copier/printer that will allow both systems to print documents including resumes for job seekers. Additionally, two analog telephone lines will be ordered and installed of which one will be split for fax and voice. A facsimile machine and two telephones with dual line capability will be purchased to accommodate staff and patron use.

*Furnishings* – The designated space for the center will accommodate two of the following: desk with return and hutch, desk lamp, bookcase, file cabinet, desk chair, and waste basket which will be purchased through the Slidell Employment Resource Center. Additional items to be furnished include: one printer/fax stand, one wall clock, one end table, and six guest chairs.

26 JULY 2010  
~~December 10, 2009~~

Elder Walter F. González  
50 E North Temple St  
Salt Lake City, UT 84150

**Re: Volunteer Employment Resource Center in Memphis, Tennessee**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUES:**

- Currently, stake employment programs exist in the Memphis Tennessee Stake as well as the neighbouring Memphis Tennessee North Stake which are separated by 11 miles. These two programs have the potential of becoming a cohesive multi-stake employment program; however, they lack an operating budget and equipment to adequately serve the needs of the members in their region.
- There is adequate space in the Memphis Tennessee Stake Center to house a volunteer employment resource center. The stake center is located on the MATA Route making it accessible by bus.
- There are four stakes within the Little Rock, Arkansas Welfare Region which include: Memphis Tennessee Stake and Memphis Tennessee North Stake as well as Little Rock Arkansas Stake and Little Rock Arkansas North Stake.
- The volunteer center would provide:
  - Placements and/or enrollments of 200 to 250 members annually.
  - Adequate space to accommodate the *Career Workshop* and *Self-Employment Workshop*.
  - A modest operating budget for volunteer staff to serve the needs of members in the five stakes.
- The Area Supervisor and local stake presidents are in support of the volunteer center.
- Proposal has been reviewed and is supported by Employment Resources Services of the Welfare Department.



**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the establishment of a volunteer employment resource center in Memphis, Tennessee.

Sincerely,



**Steven M. Dorius**  
President,  
Memphis, Tennessee Stake



**Claude E. Zobell**  
President,  
Memphis, Tennessee North Stake

**Richard A. Pierson**  
President,  
Little Rock, Arkansas Stake

**Bruce K. Berheimer**  
President,  
Little Rock, Arkansas North Stake