

Terminology from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Apostles: An ordained leader of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that works in close relation with the Prophet/President of the Church and travels throughout the world on assignment from the Prophet to visit members and carry out administrative duties.

Bishop: A man assigned to preside over a ward. Similar to that of a pastor or priest in other Christian denominations.

Book of Mormon: A volume of scripture that members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints use in addition to the Holy Bible. Includes writings and records of people of the ancient Americas. Latter-day Saints believe that Jesus Christ visited the people there and that this book contains many of His teachings. The full name is “The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ.”

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: The official name of the “Mormon” or “LDS” church.

Conference Center: Located in Salt Lake City, this building serves as a meeting place for large religious and civic events for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, including concerts.

Elder: A title for many adult men in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, especially missionaries. Elders are authorized to carry out many of the administrative and ritual duties in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints under the supervision of a Bishop or Stake President.

Elders Quorum: A group of adult men in a ward.

Family Home Evening (FHE): Time set aside each Monday night for families to spend quality time with each other. Often, unmarried college students gather together to hold their own FHE.

General Conference: A globally televised meeting that occurs in Salt Lake City in April and October each year, when the leadership of the church provides spiritual guidance to members.

Institute: An optional educational program for college students offering classes relating to spirituality, scripture, and lifestyle.

Meeting house: The local place of Sunday worship for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; also used for a variety of purposes, including youth activities.

Missionary: A member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who volunteers to serve in a specific capacity for a set period; the majority of missionaries are young adults and serve for 18-24 months. Many missionaries serve abroad and learn a new language.

Primary: A program for children aged 3-11 within The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Primary generally takes place on Sunday.

Prophet: President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, believed to be authorized to receive revelation from God for all of the church as well as the wider world

Relief society: A program for adult women in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Sacrament: During Sunday services, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints partake of bread and water in remembrance of Jesus. Similar to that of communion commonly practiced among other Christian religions.

Stake: A collection of wards as determined by geographic region.

Stake Conference: A stake-wide meeting held twice a year where members receive guidance from stake leaders.

Stake President: A man called to preside over a stake..

Standard works: The scriptures commonly used among The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints members comprising four different volumes: The Holy Bible (King James Version), the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price.

Temple: A building recognized by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as a special and holy building of worship, where members in good standing go to make promises and commitments to God.

Temple Square: Location of the Salt Lake City temple and site of Church headquarters. Similar to the Vatican for the Catholic Church.

Ward: A local congregation usually determined by geographic location. Each meetinghouse usually accommodates 1-3 wards.

Word of Wisdom: A code of conduct among The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints members, wherein they abstain from illegal drugs, tobacco, alcohol, tea, and coffee.

Young Single Adults (YSA): The name given to a group of unmarried Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints members between the ages of 18-30. They often have their own wards.

Christian Terminology for Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Bishop: In many churches, including the Catholic, Orthodox, and Anglican churches, bishops claim apostolic succession, meaning direct historical lineage back to Christ's twelve apostles. Somewhat similar to a Stake President in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Catechism: The body of theological doctrine that serves as an introduction to the sacraments. Colloquially, it means the information required to participate fully in a Christian community. Similar to what students in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints refer to as seminary.

Confirmation: In many Christian congregations, the rite for welcoming someone into full adult fellowship.

Deacon: In many Christian congregations, a deacon is an office holder that ranks below a pastor or priest. Often a lay position.

Eucharist: Also called Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper. Sacramental bread and wine are consecrated and consumed. Similar to what members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints call the Sacrament.

Elder: Depending on the Christian denomination, an elder may be an ordained or lay person fulfilling pastoral or administrative duties for their congregation.

Laity: Any office-holder serving a church in a non-professional capacity.

Pastor: an ordained leader who is responsible for the spiritual care of their congregation. Priest, minister, or reverend are also common names for these leaders. Often will be in charge of administering sacraments to members of their congregations. Similar to an Bishop in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Sacrament: The name for a Christian rite. Different Christian denominations will have a different number of recognized sacraments. For example, the Catholic Church recognizes seven sacraments: Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders, and Extreme Unction. Similar to how members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints refer to "saving ordinances".

Seminary: Typically, an institution for training students to become professional clergy.