

Legendary 101-Year-Old Ministry Leader Dies, Leaving Historic Impact

Russell M. Nelson, the oldest president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church), has died at the age of 101 in Salt Lake City. A figure whose life spanned over a century, Nelson devoted decades to guiding millions worldwide, leaving a lasting impact on his faith community.

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Born in Salt Lake City in 1924, Nelson first made his mark as a pioneering heart surgeon before turning his focus to ministry. Feeling called to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in 1984, he assumed the presidency of the LDS Church in January 2018. His leadership was defined by sweeping decisions, including encouraging members to use the church's full name rather than the nickname "Mormon," revisiting policies on the children of same-sex parents, and steering the church through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Nelson also championed a global vision for the LDS Church. He oversaw the construction of temples around the world, fostered international and diverse leadership, and strengthened ties with broader communities, including partnerships with organizations like the NAACP.

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He is survived by his second wife, Wendy Watson Nelson, and their ten children. Following tradition, Dallin H. Oaks is expected to assume the presidency of the LDS Church. His death comes as a horrific shooting at an LDS church in Michigan took place over the weekend.

Prepared by Charisma Media Staff.