Mormon president nixes use of 'Mormon' or 'LDS' as church name

By BRADY MCCOMBS
Associated Press

AP Photo/Rick Bowmer, File

President Russell M. Nelson looks on following a news conference, in Salt Lake City.

SALT LAKE CITY — The faith has the famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir, recently made a documentary about its members called "Meet the Mormons" and uses "Mormon" in its official website addresses.

But on Thursday church President Russell M. Nelson said he wants people to stop using "Mormon," or "LDS" as substitutes for the full name of the religion: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Nelson said in a statement that the "Lord has impressed upon my mind the importance of the name he has revealed for his church."

The full name was given by God to founder Joseph Smith in 1838, according to the faith's beliefs.

Its presidents are considered prophets who lead the church through revelations from God. The 93-year-old Nelson ascended to church president in January when the previous president died.

An updated style guide posted by the faith suggests using "the Church," "Church of Jesus Christ" or "restored Church of Jesus Christ" when a shortened reference is needed. For church members, it requests using "Latter-day Saints" or "members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints."

The term "Mormonism" should no longer be used either to refer to the faith's doctrine, culture and lifestyle, the guide said.

The church says it will update websites and materials in the coming months to reflect the guidance.

The terms "Mormon," ''Mormonism" and "LDS" have been used for decades by the religion and by both members and non-members to refer to the Utah-based faith that counts 16 million members worldwide.

The church has always requested use of the full name, but accepted the use of Mormon and LDS as short-hand.

The church ran a series of ads starting in 2010 under the theme, "I'm a Mormon" to dispel stereotypes by telling the stories of individual Mormons. The campaign included TV ads, billboards and ads on buses. One video posted in 2011 featured Brandon Flowers, the lead singer of the popular rock song, The Killers. It ends with: "My name is Brandon Flowers. I'm a father, I'm a husband and I'm a Mormon."

In 2014, the faith followed up by making a documentary called, "Meet the Mormons" that told the stories of six church members living around the world, including Navy football coach Ken Niumatalolo.

It will be an "extremely difficult change" since the terms are ingrained among members, journalists, academics and observers, said Patrick Mason, a professor of religion at Claremont Graduate University in California, who is the chair of Mormon Studies at the college.

He recently published a book titled, "What is Mormonism?"

Mason said he expects church members will do their best to conform but predicted outsiders will continue to use Mormon and Mormonsim "both out of habit and ease, since the formal name of the church is so long."

Mason said Nelson has long insisted on using the full and proper name during his years on the Quourom of the Twelve Apostles, a governing body that sits below the church president and helps make church policy.

The decision sparked buzz on social media in Utah, with people pointing out that the news release was being disseminated from a Twitter account with "Mormon" in the name — @MormonNewsroom — and being posted on a website also featuring the word: mormonnewsroom.org.

FAITH BRIEFS

Christian church hosts park worship

PENDLETON — An old-fashioned outdoor worship service is planned in Pendleton.

Hosted by the First Christian Church, Worship & Picnic in the Park is Sunday at 9:30 a.m. at Pioneer Park, 400 N.W. Despain Ave., Pendleton. Christian music will be performed by Faith Street & Grace, a band from Walla Walla. Lunch will be served following the service.

Everyone is invited to attend. People are encouraged to dress casual and bring a lawn chair. For more information, call 541-276-5358.

Christian writers to attend summer conference in Portland this month

PORTLAND — Top editors, agents and award-winning authors will come together to assist writers of all levels and genres during a faith-based conference to reach their writing goals.

The Oregon Christian Writers Summer Coaching Conference provides Includes 10 in-depth (7 hours total) morning coaching classes and 23 hour-long afternoon workshops on such topics as the craft of fiction, nonfiction, blogging, children's and young adult writing, using humor, developing ideas and publishing articles. The conference also offers manuscript reviews, one-on-one meetings with editors, mentoring with published authors and professional panels.

The event is Aug. 20–23 at the Jantzen Beach Red Lion in Portland. The registration fee is $550 for OCW members, $595 for nonmembers and $350 for ages 23 and under.

Conference also features the Cascade Writing Awards ceremony and daily worship.

For more information or to register, visit www.oregonchristianwriters.org. For questions, contact summerconf@oregonchristianwriters.org.

Teen shares about near-death experience at church in Mission

MISSION — A teenage evangelist will share her testimony, which includes a near-death experience, at Mission Assembly of God Church.

While stricken with cancer as a youngster, Mishayle Nohea said she was in a coma and received a message from God to share with others. Now 18, Nohea of Soldier Girl for The Lord Ministries talks about being healed and that God is real.

Nohea is a special guest speaker Sunday, Aug. 26, at 11 a.m. at the Mission church, 47328 Short Mile Road. The public is invited to attend.

For more information, call Vern Kube at 541-276-0310 or 541-377-1880.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

White Eagle Grange serves Saturday breakfast

PENDLETON — A meal of pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage links, hash brown potatoes, eggs, ham and cheese omelet, ham scramble, biscuits and sausage gravy, and coffee and juice is available at the White Eagle Grange.

The breakfast is Saturday from 7 to 10 a.m. at 43828 White Eagle Road, located off Highway 395 between Pendleton and Pilot Rock. The suggested donation is $7 for ages 8 and older, $4 for ages 5-7 and free for those 4 and younger.

In addition, raffle tickets are being sold for a choice between an AR 15 223 or 5.56 caliber DPMS Oracle Semi-Auto 30 round mag 16" barrel, valued at $725. Tickets, which are $10 each, are available at Elite Guns & Bows, Elite Café & Coffee Shop, 1400 S.W. Court Ave., during functions at White Eagle Grange and at several area businesses.

The drawing will be held Oct. 26 and will benefit the White Eagle Grange Youth Fund and Pendleton Fourth of July fireworks fund. The winner must be at least 18 years old to claim the prize.

For more information, contact Gail Wilson at 541-310-9655 or gail11wilson@gmail.com.

Arts council sets annual meeting

PENDLETON — Members of the Arts Council of Pendleton are invited to attend the nonprofit organization's annual meeting.

The gathering is Sunday at 5 p.m. at Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. Members attending will receive a free pass to the Dani Joy concert at 7 p.m.

The meeting provides members with an opportunity to view yearly financial reports, hear from staff about the year's events and activities, and enjoy a picnic-style meal and refreshments with others who value creative pursuits.

The Arts Council of Pendleton established its nonprofit status in 1974 and oversaw the renovation of the old Carnegie library building into the Pendleton Center for the Arts from 1998-2001. The arts center provides opportunities for creative expression and community connection through experiences, education and advocacy in the arts.

Arts council yearly memberships are $30 for an individual and $50 for a household. Members receive keepsake postcards for each exhibit, discounts on purchases and class tuition, and invitations to special events.

For more information, call 541-278-9201 or visit www.pendletonarts.org.

Terrific Tuesday features leathers

PENDLETON — People interested in learning more about the process of creating leathers for Pendleton Round-Up royalty are invited to Terrific Tuesday.

The free event is Tuesday, Aug. 21, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Heritage Station Museum, 108 S.W. Frazer, Pendleton. Mary Bonifer, will lead the program, sharing about what goes into making the special outfits for the Round-Up queen and princesses.

For more information about Umatilla County Historical Society events, call 541-276-0012 or visit www.heritagestationmuseum.org.

Travel Club offers three destinations

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Travel Club will discuss upcoming trips during an Aug. 23 meeting.

A last call has been issued for an Oct. 30 departure for Croatia. Next up is Adventures to Costa Rica, Feb. 13, 2019. Also, a French Rivera itinerary Nov. 5, 2019 includes seven nights in Nice, France..

The Travel Club meeting is Thursday, Aug. 23, at the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, 1055 S. Highway 395, Suite 111.

For questions or to RSVP for the informational meeting, contact Debbie Pedro at 541-567-6151.

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922-3250
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10:30 - Worship Service
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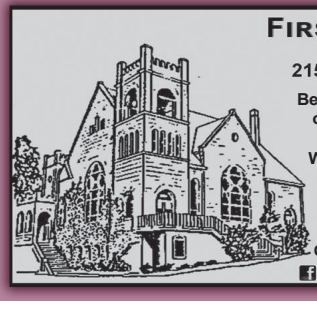

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Mon. Community Women's Study 9:30 AM & 6 PM
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