



**INTERFAITH  
ALLIANCE**  
PROTECTING FAITH AND FREEDOM

## **5 Starter Facts About The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**

1. Founded in 1830 by the prophet Joseph Smith, Jr. in Fayette County, New York, adherents view the Church as a restoration of that originally established in the Bible. The Church does not embrace creeds developed in the 3rd-4th centuries that are now central to other Christian churches. It has a global following of ~15.8 million and ~6.5 million in the United States.
2. The Book of Mormon is a central text. It was originally published by Smith in 1830 to document the journey of a group of Hebrews from Jerusalem to live in America in around 600 BCE.
3. Many Mormons do not drink alcohol, coffee, or tea or smoke tobacco or use any other drugs in accordance with the Word of Wisdom, a dietary code that promotes good health and a sense of community among Mormons.
4. The Church has an unpaid ministry, running through volunteers on all but the highest levels of Church leadership. In the United States, Mormons are among the most highly involved in their congregations, with 67% participating regularly in Church activities. They pride themselves on this dedication from their members.
5. Many Mormons 18–25 years old serve on a two-year mission. Over 70,000 full-time missionaries serve in over 400 missions globally. Before arriving in the assigned area, they spend time at one of the training centers to learn how to share their beliefs and, if needed, the language of the people they'll be living among.

Learn more at:

<https://www.mormon.org/>

<http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/mormonism-101>

*These five points are not meant to be comprehensive or authoritative. We hope they encourage you to explore this spirituality more deeply and seek out members of this community to learn about their beliefs in action. In understanding our differences we will better understand our common humanity.*

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