

A Brief History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in North Carolina



EARLY CHURCH HISTORY IN THE STATE: Shortly after the Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ in 1830, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints sent missionaries to North Carolina. The first known missionary to enter the state was Jedediah M. Grant, father to a future prophet of the Church. On May 18, 1838, Jedediah reported that he had preached for six months in Stokes, Surrey and Rockingham Counties and baptized four people. Before he left North Carolina, on July 12, 1845, he had organized a conference of 200 Latter-day Saints in seven congregations. These early missionaries preached from both the Bible and the Book of Mormon; an original 1830 edition of the Book of Mormon is now housed in the Rubenstein Library at Duke University.

CHURCH GROWTH: From those four baptisms in 1838, the Church has steadily grown. A building initiative begun in 1947 resulted in 16 new buildings in the state. On August 27, 1961, the first stake (a geographical grouping of multiple congregations, similar to a diocese)

was created in Kinston and led by Cecil Reese, followed the next month by a stake in Greensboro led by Eugene Gullede. In 2019, North Carolina membership reached 88,456 in 17 stakes comprised of 170 congregations.

CHURCH AND THE COMMUNITY: From the beginning of the Restoration, the Church has emphasized family, education and community. Members come from all walks of life and all ethnicities, are active in their communities and places of work, and are committed to being Christians actively living the gospel as espoused by Jesus Christ, their Lord and Savior. North Carolina members and missionaries were among many from Southern states to respond to storm-caused disasters in the South over the years. Most recently, in response to Hurricane Florence in 2018, North Carolina members provided approximately 19,406 volunteers, performing 262,601 hours and completing 5,559 in-state Crisis Cleanup work orders. (Each work order is typically a home or building in need of repair). Thousands of North Carolina members have also served full-time, 2-year or 18-month missions throughout the world. Presently 277 Latter-day Saint missionaries from North Carolina are serving in 41 countries, while approximately 381 missionaries serve in North Carolina from many different states and countries.

RALEIGH TEMPLE: The Raleigh North Carolina Temple, the first and only temple in the state, was dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley on December 18, 1999, in the suburban Wake County community of Apex. During the public open house prior to the dedication, approximately 30,000 guests toured the temple. The temple closed January 7, 2018, for extensive repairs and renovations and will be rededicated October 13, 2019. This temple will serve members in 12 stakes and 45,000 people in central and eastern North Carolina.

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS