

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

## **Leader of world's largest Islamic organization visits Church leaders, Orem Utah Temple**

The Church of Jesus Christ and Nahdlatul Ulama have worked together on several humanitarian projects over the last five years

by Trent Toone | December 13, 2023



KH Yahya Cholil Staquf, general chairman of Nahdlatul Ulama Central Board, presents President Dallin H. Oaks of the Church's First Presidency with a book in the Church Administration Building in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Monday, Dec. 11, 2023. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

The leader of the world's largest Islamic organization visited leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Utah this week.

KH Yahya Cholil Staqf, general chairman of Nahdlatul Ulama Central Board, and a delegation of six others visited the house of the Lord in Orem, Utah, on Sunday, Dec. 10, and met with [President Dallin H. Oaks](#) of the Church's First Presidency and other leaders at Church headquarters on Monday, Dec. 11, according to a [news release on ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#).



President Dallin H. Oaks of the First Presidency, joined by Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, left, greets KH Yahya Cholil Staqf, general chairman of Nahdlatul Ulama Central Board, in the Church Administration Building in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Monday, Dec. 11, 2023. | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

## What is Nahdlatul Ulama?

Nahdlatul Ulama was founded in 1926 and is based in Jakarta, Indonesia. The organization has a membership of more than 100 million people. In addition to promoting tolerant Islamic teachings, Nahdlatul Ulama has a network of some 7,000 boarding schools and 44 universities, is involved in economic and social studies and provides social services, mostly in Indonesia.



KH Yahya Cholil Staquf, general chairman of Nahdlatul Ulama Central Board, speaks to President Dallin H. Oaks of the First Presidency in the Church Administration Building in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Monday, Dec. 11, 2023. | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

## Meeting Pak Yahya

The Church’s association with Pak Yahya started one year ago when [Elder Gary E. Stevenson](#) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles met him at the [G20 Religion Forum in Bali, Indonesia, in 2022](#). As part of their visit, the two discussed the pamphlet “[Muslims and Latter-day Saints: Beliefs, Values, and Lifestyles](#),” which introduces [Muslims and Latter-day Saints](#) to each other.

“When citizens learn to live together with respect and unity despite religious differences, we have the foundational stones to true peace,” Elder Stevenson said at the 2022 event. “The gospel of Jesus Christ calls on us to love people of all faiths, cultures, races and nations for the common good — all are alike unto God.”



Elder Gary E. Stevenson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles shares the pamphlet “Muslims and Latter-day Saints: Beliefs, Values, and Lifestyles,” with KH Yahya Cholil Staquf, general chairman of Nahdlatul Ulama Central Board, at the G20 Religion Forum in Bali, Indonesia, on Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2022. | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

In November of this year, [Elder Anthony D. Perkins](#), General Authority Seventy, met Pak Yahya briefly at the pre-COP 28 Faith Leaders Summit in Abu Dhabi.

## Visiting Utah

[Elder Adilson de Paula Parrella](#) and [Elder William K. Jackson](#), both General Authority Seventies, led Pak Yahya’s group on a tour of the [Orem Utah Temple](#) on Dec. 10. This new house of the Lord is [scheduled be dedicated on Jan. 21](#).

The following day he met with President Oaks, [Elder David A. Bednar](#) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Elder Perkins, [Elder Matthew S. Holland](#) and [Elder David P. Homer](#), General Authority Seventies.



KH Yahya Cholil Staquf, middle with cap, general chairman of Nahdlatul Ulama Central Board, visits the Orem Utah Temple with Church leaders and members of his own delegation on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023. | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



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