LDS Apostle, Maxwell, Being Treated

Apostle Neal A. Maxwell of the LDS Church has been diagnosed with a "pre-leukemic condition," church spokesman Gerry Pond said Friday.

"He is receiving excellent medical help and is responding to medical treatment," said Pond, who did not elaborate on the nature of Maxwell's problem.

A Salt Lake City oncologist said "pre-leukemic" is a broad term that covers a variety of conditions. He said that without details he could not comment on the severity of Maxwell's condition.

Pond also declined to comment on Maxwell's prognosis but said the condition has not kept Maxwell from fulfilling his ecclesiastical duties.

Maxwell, 70, has just completed several days of rigorous church leadership training seminars in Seattle, Wash., as well as participating in several dedication services for the Mount Timpanogos temple in American Fork.

The apostle is sixth in line for the presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A former University of Utah educator, Maxwell is a popular speaker and author of more than a dozen books about Mormon theology.

— Peggy Fletcher Stack

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