

HOLDING BUSINESS MEETINGS IN THE CHURCH SANCTUARY

Ellen White does not discuss the holding of church business meetings in the church sanctuary. She certainly attended plenty of them, so she must not have felt there was anything amiss. In looking through our Question and Answer File to see what kind of questions may have been asked in this area, we do not find that particular aspect of the subject discussed. Through the years questions have been raised in regard to holding school in the sanctuary, eating in the sanctuary, etc. But we don't find where there has been any discussion of holding business meetings in the sanctuary.

Nowadays the business sessions for the Annual Council are always held in the Takoma Park Church sanctuary, and I have never heard of anybody who thought this was improper. The meetings are conducted in the spirit of Christ, and there is no thought that it is an improper use of the sanctuary. The General Conference family and the Review and Herald family are invited to the worship periods held each morning at eight o'clock. There is a song service beginning at 7:45, while people are coming in. These worships are an hour long, with singing, special music, prayer, and a sermon. Then there is a five or ten minute break, and the workers file out quietly to return to their desks or machines across the street. The delegates remain and the session for the day begins.

As for proof from the Spirit of Prophecy that holding a business session in the church sanctuary is appropriate, we are enclosing copies of a couple of sheets from the General Conference Bulletins of 1888 and 1889 that will show that the General Conference sessions were indeed held in the church sanctuary. Ellen White attended such meetings, as did her son W. C. White. I'm afraid that is all the "proof" we can give since she does not write about it, apparently not considering it a potential problem.

White Estate
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