

Jehovah's Witnesses and Assembling for Worship



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**'Let us not forsake our meeting
together . . . but encourage
one another.'**

—Hebrews 10:24, 25

Jehovah's Witnesses view meeting together as a core part of their faith. Their meetings are dignified; many congregations are multiracial, multicultural, and multilingual. They are patterned after the way the first-century believers met together. Jehovah's Witnesses are thankful that governments protect their right to assemble freely.

MEETING PROGRAMS

Jehovah's Witnesses usually assemble twice a week for their Bible study program. Their meetings consist of prayers, songs, Bible-based presentations, and audience discussions. The source material for their meetings is the same worldwide. Presentations focus on helping attendees to apply Bible principles in everyday life. Meetings are conducted in a peaceful and welcoming atmosphere.

Meetings are open to the public, and no collections are taken. Times and locations are published on their official website, jw.org[®]. The study materials are available for free download. Multiple congregations meet together in large assemblies three times a year.

**The meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses
consist of prayers, songs, Bible-based
presentations, and audience discussions**



VIEWS ABOUT KINGDOM HALLS

"The construction of a new place of worship, along with the love and unity shown by Jehovah's Witnesses, is a jewel in the community, worthy of imitation by other churches."

—The local chief in Chabwenzi, Malawi

"In various parts of the country, the Kingdom Halls of Jehovah's Witnesses are, almost without exception, beautifully planned. The care for the environment leaves hardly any passersby indifferent. . . . The building and the extensive grounds work together in exuding calmness and balance."

*—Finnish Association of Landscape Industries,
regarding the medal of recognition
awarded for a Kingdom Hall*



MEETING PLACES

Jehovah's Witnesses call their places of worship Kingdom Halls. Larger places of worship designed to accommodate many congregations are referred to as Assembly Halls. These are modest structures, architecturally compatible with the neighborhoods in which they are built. Local Witnesses volunteer to maintain the Kingdom Hall and its surroundings. Many communities are pleased to accommodate Kingdom Halls and Assembly Halls.

When larger assemblies are held in rented facilities, Witness volunteers thoroughly clean the premises and associated facilities before and after use. Proprietors are often pleased to rent their facilities to the Witnesses, knowing that the venue will be respected and well cared for.

Places of worship of Jehovah's Witnesses are simple and dignified structures. They are built and maintained using voluntary contributions

CONSTRUCTION WORK

Construction of Kingdom Halls and Assembly Halls is usually carried out by Witness volunteers. They have adopted a coordinated and efficient method of building functional and attractive structures. These methods have enabled the Witnesses to build dignified places of worship that are adapted to local circumstances.

COMMENTS ON LARGER RELIGIOUS ASSEMBLIES

"Everyone conducted themselves with good manners. I was amazed to see them cleaning the stadium better than our professional cleaning personnel. I wish our personnel had the same attitude when doing their work. If we are to practice religion properly, we need to become like Jehovah's Witnesses."

—Sangam World Cup Stadium manager, South Korea, following an international assembly of 56,000 Jehovah's Witnesses in 2014

"I would like to acknowledge the importance of the religious values and culture of peace and unity that you contribute to our society. . . . The love and strength that you show when teaching your faith is worthy of admiration."

—Deputy Minister Claudio Romero, Argentina, commending 47,500 Witnesses before their international assembly in Buenos Aires in 2019

"It's really impressive to see that this entire event, with 30,000 people a day for three days, almost a hundred thousand people, can be done with so much efficiency and with so much organization, and that at the end of the event, the stadium is left in a better condition than the way it was found."

—Mayor Francis Suarez, Miami, Florida, U.S.A., commenting on the Witnesses' international assembly in 2019





LEGAL PROVISIONS

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR):

- Article 18.1 “Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.”
- Article 21 “The right of peaceful assembly shall be recognized.”

The following international and regional human rights instruments outline similar provisions:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 18 and 20.1
- The American Convention on Human Rights, Articles 12 and 15
- The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), Articles 9 and 11
- The African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, Articles 8 and 11
- The ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, Articles 22 and 24

BIBLE PRINCIPLE

“Let us consider one another so as to incite to love and fine works, not forsaking our meeting together.”

—*Hebrews 10:24, 25*

