

Sacrament Meeting Outline – Mike Baird

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Doctrines Related to Church Meetings

- Savior commanded His people to meet together often
 - 3 Nephi 18:22
 - " And behold, ye shall meet together oft;..."
 - See also Mosiah 18:25
- When we meet He will be there
 - Matt 18:20
 - " For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them"
- Purpose of meetings
 - "Church meetings are held to worship, pray, renew covenants, perform ordinances, teach and exhort, learn, sing, conduct business, and strengthen associations as brothers and sisters in the gospel" (Church Handbook of Instructions, pg 59, 2006 edition)
- Sacrament meeting
 - "One of the most important meetings is sacrament meeting " (Church Handbook of Instructions, pg 59, 2006 edition)
 - D&C 59:9
 - "And that thou mayest more fully keep thyself unspotted from the world, thou shalt go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day"

Planning & Conducting Church Meetings

- D&C 20:45
"The elders are to conduct the meetings as they are led by the Holy Ghost, according to the commandments and revelations of God."
- Revelations include Handbook of instructions
- D&C 46:2
"But notwithstanding those things which are written, it always has been given to the elders of my church from the beginning, and ever shall be, to conduct all meetings as they are directed and guided by the Holy Spirit."
- Moroni 6:9
"And their meetings were conducted by the church after the manner of the workings of the Spirit, and by the power of the Holy Ghost; for as the power of the Holy Ghost led them whether to preach, or to exhort, or to pray, or to supplicate, or to sing, even so it was done."
 - "They should use an agenda to help them focus on each meeting's purposes and use the time effectively, but they should remain open to the promptings of the Holy Ghost " (Church Handbook of Instructions, pg 59, 2006 edition)

Sacrament Meeting

- See pgs 64-66 in Church Handbook of Instructions, 2006 edition

Purposes

- Moroni 6:5-6
"And the church did meet together oft, to fast and to pray, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls.
And they did meet together oft to partake of bread and wine, in remembrance of the Lord Jesus."
- Main purpose:
 - "Each sacrament meeting should be a spiritual experience in which members of the Church renew their baptismal covenants by partaking of the sacrament " (Church Handbook of Instructions, pg 64, 2006 edition)

- Other purposes
 - To worship
 - Receive gospel instruction
 - Perform ordinances
 - Conduct ward business
 - Strengthen members spiritually

Planning & Conducting

- Members of the bishopric plan and conduct Sacrament meetings
 - May not turn the meeting over to auxiliaries or outside musical groups
 - Select music
 - Select topics that "focus on gospel subjects that ward members most need to build faith and testimony"
 - Ensure timeliness of meeting

Behaviors

- Before Sacrament meeting
 - Bishopric
 - "bishopric and speakers should be in their seats at least five minutes before the meeting begins so they can be spiritually prepared for a worshipful experience" (Church Handbook of Instructions, pg 64, 2006 edition)
 - Leaders
 - "Leaders should set an example of reverence during the time before sacrament meeting. This is not a time for conversation or transmission of messages." (Church Handbook of Instructions, pg 64, 2006 edition)
 - Members
 - "Members should be taught to make this a period of prayerful meditation as they prepare spiritually for the sacrament" (Church Handbook of Instructions, pg 64, 2006 edition)
- During Sacrament meeting
 - Members should be encouraged to arrive on time, sit together and be reverent
 - Bishopric ensures that the sacrament is blessed and passed in a reverent and orderly manner