

looked upon church organization as "a form of ecclesiastical despotism,"<sup>33</sup> and they did not want to have anything to do with it.

As the group grew, however, the need for organization became apparent. Very slowly, therefore, they began to organize. As they were in the process of organizing, the question arose concerning the creation of a legal organization for holding church property. At a meeting which was held in the Fall of 1860 A.D. this question was fully discussed. The outcome of that meeting was that the members of this group unanimously voted to legally organize a Publishing Association, and a committee of five was appointed to take care of the details of it. Since this Publishing Association was to be legally organized, the members of this group had to find a name for it. Various names were suggested, but the members of this group felt that the name should embody the main features of their belief. Therefore, the name Seventh-day Adventist was chosen. Then on May 5, 1861 A.D., The Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Association was legally organized.

In the next two years the members of this group continued to organize. Among the things which they organized were the churches which they called Seventh-day Adventist churches, and the State Conference which was composed of delegates from churches within the State.

Then in May, 1863 A.D. the Michigan State Conference sponsored a General Conference which was held in Battle Creek, Michigan. This General Conference was composed of delegates from the State Conference. These delegates organized the General Conference, and the General Conference became the governing body of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. The headquarters of the General Conference was located in Battle Creek, Michigan from the time it was organized until 1903 A.D. when it was transferred to Takoma Park,

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<sup>33</sup>Howell, op. cit., p. 49.