

societies and specifically enjoins upon the legislature the duty of passing laws to protect every religious denomination. From these provisions it is apparent that the law of Ohio recognizes no particular religion except the religion of man as spoken of in the case of *Minor vs. Board of Education*, supra.

To my mind, the use of a school building to a limited extent, for religious purposes is not a diversion of school property from its primary purpose. Religion is a part of our civilization and is therefore of necessity a part of our education. The discussion of religion and its relation to our civilization ought to be educational and beneficial; and when the Constitution provides that religion, morality and knowledge are essential to good government it links the three together in such a way as to indicate that each is related to the other and each a part of the other. There could be no valid objection to the use of school property for educational or moral uplift work and no objection should be made to its use for the furtherance of religious teachings.

Bearing in mind the provisions of Section 7622, supra, authorizing school boards in the exercise of their discretion to permit the use of school buildings for the holding of religious exercises and the constitutional provision that no preference shall be given by law to any religious society, I am of the opinion that, when *in the judgment of a board of education* it will be for the advantage of the children residing in a school district to permit the use of the school building for the holding of religious exercises therein such permission may lawfully be granted, even though the religious exercises conducted therein be under the auspices of some particular religious denomination.

Whether or not a board of education will permit a school building to be so used is a matter solely *within the discretion of such board*, which discretion will not be interfered with by the courts, except in a case of gross abuse thereof; and it goes without saying that the exclusive authority to permit such a use vested by law in the board includes the power to prohibit the same.

Respectfully,

EDWARD C. TURNER,

*Attorney General.*

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APPROVAL, NOTES OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN COSHOCTON, GALLIA,  
GUERNSEY, MONROE, MORGAN, PERRY AND PORTAGE COUNTIES.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, May 12, 1927.

*Retirement Board, State Teachers Retirement System, Columbus, Ohio.*