

TENTH BUSINESS MEETING

Sixtieth General Conference session, July 7, 2015, 2:00 p.m.

DELBERT BAKER: Good afternoon, everyone. We would like to welcome you to our business section. To this point, we have made great progress with all our business, and we'd like to continue this afternoon. So welcome.

First, it is my privilege to introduce the members here in the front. We have to my far left Wendy Trim, who is taking our minutes, records; and we have our second, Harald Wollan; and, of course, on my right we have Todd McFarland, our parliamentarian. They have been doing great work so far. And we want to continue with this session.

At this time we'd like to begin our session with just quality time of prayer, and then we'd like to follow that by having special music. So right now we're going to ask Jonas Arrais if he'd come and lead us in a season of prayer.

Pastor.

[Prayer.]

JONAS ARRAIS: As you know, prayer is an essential element of our daily walk with God. For this reason we are going to have a few minutes to pray before we start the business meeting this afternoon.

My father, who lives in Brazil, is almost 90 years old. During the past few months I've called him many times, and he's always repeated the same phrase in our conversation: "Jonas, I'm praying for you, but I'm also praying every day for this coming General Conference session. And it is my prayer that this can be the last one and the most spiritual General Conference session." Is it possible, brothers and sisters? For sure. We believe that.

So for this reason, this afternoon we are going to break into groups of two or three, and we are going to spend a few minutes praying that God can help us to fulfill the church mission in so powerful a way that this can be the last General Conference session. And let's pray also that this can be the most

spiritual General Conference session. The Holy Spirit is among us. Let's pray at this moment to feel His presence in our hearts.

And I'll finish it with a short prayer.

[Prayer.]

We are going to hear at this moment a special song presented by Earlyn Alexander from the North American Division.

[Song.]

DELBERT BAKER: Marvelous. Thank you for the wonderful music. There is a wonderful quotation in *Christian Service*, page 42: "The time has come for a thorough reformation to take place. When this reformation begins, the spirit the prayer will actuate every believer, and will banish from the church the spirit of discord and strife."

A wonderful promise. What I'd like you to do is to help me as we open this meeting this afternoon. Turn to a neighbor and say, "I'm praying for the spirit of unity." Turn to a neighbor around you and say, "I'm praying for the spirit of unity."

Thank you. And we're delighted at this time to have our General Conference Corporation member meeting, and it will be chaired by world president Ted Wilson. Pastor Wilson.

[General Conference Corporation member meeting.]

DELBERT BAKER: OK. We are on schedule. We have completed the fundamental beliefs changes this morning, so that is behind us.

Now we are moving on to the *Church Manual*. The agenda for that has been distributed already. You have it either in hard copy or electronically.

So at this time, we'd like to invite Pastor Miranda as well as Harald Wollan to lead in this discussion. And in the place of Harald Wollan as secretary will be John Thomas. So we thank you for that.

So, gentlemen, let's begin with the discussion of the *Church Manual* items. Thank you.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Thank you, Dr. Baker.

And before we go to the agenda to the item 413, I would like to just explain, because a question just came to me from two or three of the members of the *Church Manual* Committee. They were asking when we are going to meet and where. So we hope that this afternoon we just finish with the items that we're going to introduce, and as soon as we finish, we are going to announce where and what time we're going to meet to review and discuss the items that were referred back to the *Church Manual* Committee.

So, Mr. Chairman, now we'll go to item 413. And in this case, the item is referring to the way deacons are trained and who is responsible for the training of the deacons and deaconesses.

Last year the Annual Council took an action to approve that the Ministerial Association is in charge of the training of deacons and deaconesses. In order to reflect this, we propose to you the section that has to do with the training of the deacons and deaconesses, and we are inserting this into the *Church Manual*.

So I would ask the secretary of the *Church Manual* Committee to introduce and read this proposal.

HARALD WOLLAN: Thank you. Item 413, lines 41 to 43. And we briefly brought this on the floor before we broke for the evening a few nights ago, and we read as it is stated in your documents.

However, I need to make a correction of what we brought to you previously, because by mistake we have actually added on line 41 "of the conference." That should actually not be there, so I would hope that we can agree to delete that part.

And the purpose with deleting it is to make it clear that it is the Ministerial Association that is responsible for providing training material.

The General Conference Ministerial Association already has developed some material that is very, very well done. I also have seen other divisions having material here.

So I would like to move that we read from line 41 to 43 as follows: "The Ministerial Association, in connection with the departments, promotes the training and equipping of deacons. However, the pastor, in conjunction with the elder(s), has the primary responsibility for training the deacons."

Following on the next page, it deals with some of the responsibilities with elders. But I think this is slightly a different item, so maybe, even though it is one item on the floor, we can divide it in two for clarity's sake.

So I'd like to move the new reading that I brought to you for lines 41 to 43.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. It's been moved. Is there a second? I see a second. Properly moved, seconded.

Discussion on the item now. I see two at mike 2. First we have Justin Lyons from the North American Division. OK. He's not there? OK. That's fine.

Then we have at mike 2 Louis Torres, North American Division.

LOUIS TORRES: I concur with the action. I just wish that it could be "Ministerial Association of the conference, slash, mission," and that would include us as well.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Brother Chairman, if you allow me. The word "conference" in the *Church Manual* is applied to conferences, missions, and other areas like a local field.

On page 20 of the current *Church Manual* it says, "*Conference, mission, section, delegation, field, union of churches*—For purposes of editorial and printing economy, 'conference' in these pages means 'conference, mission, field, section, delegation, and union of churches.' "

So it's included. It's according to what we voted in the last General Conference session.

DELBERT BAKER: OK, thank you.

HARALD WOLLAN: Mr. Chairman, just a clarification, because I'm afraid that the correction that I made may not have been understood. Because what I read is that the Ministerial Association, in connection with, and so on. The three words after "conference" will be deleted simply because it means that the Ministerial Association at all levels has the responsibility.

DELBERT BAKER: OK, thank you. We have a speaker at mike 6, Jonas Arrais, General Conference.

JONAS ARRAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support this suggestion, because, by doing that, we will see the same that appears in the *Church Manual*, page 75, when it talks about the elders. Over

there it says “the Ministerial Association” but does not mention “conference.” So it eliminates the idea that only on the conference level do we have people in charge to train and to equip the deacons and deaconesses in our church. My suggestion is also to include what is written in page 106 regarding deaconesses, because the same phrase appears there.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: And we agree with that, Brother Chairman, to be consistent.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. OK. Next we have at mike 4 Lawrence Schalk from the General Conference.

LAWRENCE SCHALK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we gather in this group, we all understand that when we say “Ministerial Association” we’re talking about the Seventh-day Adventist Church. However there are many ministerial associations in a local community, in a state, etc., that would have the same designation.

Would it be well to put “the Ministerial Associations of the Seventh-day Adventist Church” so it’s identified who the Ministerial Associations are?

ARMANDO MIRANDA: OK. Pastor Chairman, it seems to me it’s clear that we are referring to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, because the *Church Manual* is applied only to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

DELBERT BAKER: All right. Thank you.

Next we have mike 2, Justin Lyons.

JUSTIN LYONS: Mr. Chairman, I’m just a little bit confused as to where we’re at with the motion. I saw the motion on the screen saying that we would approve the situation as amended. And I’m not real clear. Has it been divided into two parts?

HARALD WOLLAN: As I explained, we will deal with the first page, and then we’ll go to next page afterwards.

JUSTIN LYONS: Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. We’re ready for the motion now, the main vote. Do I see a hand here to my right? OK. We’re fine.

OK. Then we're ready for the motion to approve the deacons *Church Manual* amendment as presented.

It's been moved and seconded? We have a speaker. OK, mike 1, Osei Amo-Mensah, West-Central Africa Division. Please.

OSEI AMO-MENSAH: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for the opportunity. This is a *Church Manual*, and if you take off the conference—the Ministerial Association of the conference—we're going to have a difficulty of responsibility and accountability. Because at the local church we don't have Ministerial Associations. The Ministerial Association is basically at the conference and the mission level.

HARALD WOLLAN: Mr. Chairman, there is no Ministerial Association in a local church. When we talk about the Ministerial Association, it is on all levels. And they will provide the material, but the training itself will take place by the pastor and the elder. That is the intention.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you. Mike 1, please. Mike 1.

OSEI AMO-MENSAH: This is about training, isn't it? And if it's about training and if it's the Ministerial Association, who should a church elder be reporting to or be asking for that training if it's not his or her conference?

DELBERT BAKER: All right. Thank you.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: If you go to the same page, page 104, and go to line 42, the second section, it says, "However, the pastor, in conjunction with the elder(s), has the primary responsibility for training the deacons."

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you. Mike 6, Maunga Naini, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

MAUNGA NAINI: Concerning "the Ministerial Association, in connection with departments." I just want to get clarity, because I have seen a situation where, in some churches, you find even the personal ministries is held above all other departments on many things.

Now, in order to get clarification on the meaning of all of the departments, is it that deacons are a department? Or which other departments are we talking about which should be working together with the Ministerial Association?

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you.

HARALD WOLLAN: We are talking about the training of the deacons in order to take care of all aspects of the church. There are various departments that deals with various sections of the mission of the church, and they cooperate together with the elders and the pastors where there is a need. The training material is provided and produced by the Ministerial Association. Sometimes the material comes from the General Conference; sometimes from the union; sometimes from the conference. But the primary contact for the pastor to get the training material will be the local conference.

But the departments we are talking about are not the departments necessarily providing the training material—or the departments at the local church providing the training material. We are talking about the departments on administrative levels.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you very much. Ready for the motion? It's been moved and seconded. We're ready for the vote now.

All those in favor, please uplift your card.

OK. Thank you.

All those opposed, same.

It is carried.

HARALD WOLLAN: Thank you. We move to the next page. This deals with the fact that deacons and deaconesses cannot preside at the Lord's Supper. And we have also taken out a difficult English word, "ordinance." It's an old expression.

And to make it clear for all what we are talking about, we are stating it as you see on lines 3, 4, and 5: "Deacons are not authorized to preside at the Lord's Supper, baptism, or business meetings, and are not permitted to perform the marriage ceremony or officiate at the reception of transfer of members."

There is also on line 7 a clarification. “Church leader” is put there instead of “it.” And on lines 19 and 20 we have a correction: “At the service of foot-washing the deacons or deaconesses provide everything needed, such as towels, basins, water, and buckets.”

I’d like to move these changes.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. It’s been moved. Is there a second? I see several seconds there. Good.

Now for the discussion. OK. We have mike 2, Justin Lyons, North American Division.

JUSTIN LYONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In line 4 the word “baptism” has been inserted. In Acts, Philip was a deacon, and in Acts 8 he baptized a eunuch. And I’m wondering if we’re putting ourselves at odds with Scripture.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you.

HARALD WOLLAN: Thank you. It’s a good observation, but we have never practiced that individuals of the church can baptize unless they’re ordained elders or pastors. Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Mike 4, Gerard Damsteegt, General Conference.

GERARD DAMSTEEGT: The other change here that you refer to is the substitution of the word “ordinance.” And I’ll make it “service.” In other places you have also the same thing, so in about five or six places that the word “ordinance” is removed.

Now, it would be helpful to find out what the difference is between “ordinance” and “service.” And the Spirit of Prophecy is very helpful. You have three major sacred ordinances: marriage, baptism, and the Lord’s Supper. What we are now doing is simply a matter of eliminating that and saying it is a service.

But just as with the words “type,” “typical,” “typological,” I feel we should preserve this. In the Bible, in the Old Testament, ordinances are special commands, stipulations given by the Lord.

And so in the New Testament, we have three ordinances, sacred ordinances. It’s a little different than a service. Again the Spirit of Prophecy can be helpful. If you look at Ellen White’s writings, we see that when she used “sacred service,” it is the worship service. But here we have special stipulations that are given by the Lord for performing sacred duties. And if the people don’t understand, then they need to

be educated, instead of removing this and going to the word “service” there, which is a denigration of the sacred services of marriage, baptism, and the Lord’s Supper.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Brother Chairman, we received this recommendation from one of the divisions. And one of the reasons they presented to us is that the word “ordinances” is a difficult word to translate into different languages. We discussed this item and consulted with several people, persons who are experts in the English language. If there is another word that can replace it that can be easily translated into different languages, we have no objection from that.

DELBERT BAKER: All right. Thank you. Mike 3, Patrick Manu.

PATRICK MANU: Mr. Chairman, the committee has spread out the ordinances and also included the marriage ceremony and transfer of membership. My concern here is about child dedication. I think it may be an oversight, or we can refer to it somewhere.

DELBERT BAKER: OK.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: So if you have any good suggestion that may solve this situation, we are open. Just let us know, or suggest to the body, and we can decide to go in one direction or another, to refer back or to allow to include that word. It all depends. We’re not just thinking about the issue of the word “ordinances.” It seems to me that’s a concern.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you. Mike 2, Louis Torres, North American Division.

LOUIS TORRES: Just a quick question. Funerals are not mentioned here, and in many places pastors or elders perform funerals. Can you explain to me why that was omitted? Thank you.

HARALD WOLLAN: Because it wasn’t there from before.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. All right. We have mike 6, Jonas Arrais, General Conference.

JONAS ARRAIS: Mr. Chair, I support this motion as it is. On line 19 the word “service” is not describing or typifying the ordinance. It is just describing the service of foot-washing. So it’s not describing the ceremony itself, but the service that happens during that ceremony.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. That’s very helpful. Same mike. We have Finn Eckhoff.

FINN ECKHOFF: Mr. Chairman, the *Church Manual* does not explain what is meant by the word “ordinance,” and to leave it in without explaining it makes for confusion.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Brother Chairman, if the body considers that it’s important to have in the *Church Manual* every single detail, dots and commas, we can just go to an extreme, and perhaps we’re going to find a way to include all the things.

It seems to me the *Church Manual* has sufficient information. It’s true that sometimes we need to think and to change some words. But the information, it seems to me, is clear. And if we want to include every dot and comma, every single thing could be just produced, we can produce an encyclopedia in order to help the local church, to—

DELBERT BAKER: So you’re saying it’s clear the way it is, Pastor Miranda?

ARMANDO MIRANDA: It seems to me that it’s clear.

DELBERT BAKER: OK.

I see on mike 6 Megan Mole, Trans-European Division.

MEGAN MOLE: Mr. Chair, I move to call question on the previous motion.

DELBERT BAKER: The question is called. Second? OK. Ready for the vote. We need two-thirds.

All those in favor, please—OK. Just a second. We’re not acting on the motion. We’re speaking simply about ending debate now.

All right. So all those—we need two-thirds. All those in favor, please show by the uplifted card.

OK. Those opposed, the same sign.

It’s clear we will end debate. Ready for the main motion.

OK. All those in favor of, then, please show by the uplifted card. The main motion. OK.

Those opposed?

It is carried. Thank you. The next item, please.

HARALD WOLLAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Item 414 is similar except it deals with the deaconesses. And therefore, on lines 21 to 23, you have the same wording. And we want to suggest the

same wording as we used for the deacons, which then would read as it is in your documents except for the three words “of the conference.” So it would read as follows: “The Ministerial Association, in connection with the departments,” and so on.

And since we have already dealt with the same thing, I think we can look at the whole section here. Because it talks about ordination here, “Such a service, like the ordination of deacons,” and so on, would be carried out by ordained pastors, and so on.

Then if we go down to lines 36, 37, and 38, the same is mentioned previously, that a deaconess is not authorized to preside. I don’t think I need to read that section. We already are acquainted with it.

Then we go down to line 40. And by mistake we have not copied exactly what we have voted for the deacons. So line 40 would read: “If a church has no one authorized to perform such duties,” instead of “it,” it should read, “the church leaders shall contact the conference for assistance.”

So the sentence would then read the same as we had. If you want to compare it, go back to the previous item on lines 7 and 8, and you have exactly the same. And that’s what I’m proposing.

And then going to the next page, it is also stating here on lines 8 and 9: “Before the communion service begins, deaconesses set the communion table” and so on. And then I have a deletion. And then going to line 13: “deaconesses assist in the service of foot-washing.”

I’d like to move the amendments here.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. It’s been moved. Is there a second? Properly seconded. Thank you.

All right. Discussion? I see a number—five people at different mikes. First we have mike 2, Ed Galan, North American Division.

ED GALAN: Mr. Chair and distinguished leaders that are helping, in order to help clarity, I would implore, again, that the GC leaders who help formulate and conceive things like this manual offer some form of glossary. I’m not asking that every jot and tittle and period and “T” be crossed.

I agree with what Elder Miranda said before: it’s impossible to do that in every section. But a glossary of definitions that are generally accepted for ordinance, for license, for credentials, for things like this, is going to go a long way to helping all laypeople and workers of all divisions.

DELBERT BAKER: All right.

ED GALAN: Thank you very much. Just a strong suggestion. I don't make it as a motion. I make it as a strong suggestion.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Excellent suggestion. Thank you. OK. We have mike 6 as well, Finn Eckhoff, Trans-European Division.

MEGAN MOLE: Yes, me again.

DELBERT BAKER: Megan Mole, OK.

MEGAN MOLE: Yes, thank you very much. On [the previous] page, lines 36 through 38, I see the word "ordinances" still in the amendment. I suggest that we bring this in line with lines 3 and 4 of page 105 by replacing "ordinances" with the phrase "the Lord's Supper," comma, "baptism," and also replacing the word "cannot" with the phrase "are not permitted."

I'd like to move this amendment.

DELBERT BAKER: Is there a second to that? I do see a second.

Is there any response to that, any comments on the amendment? All right. Any feedback?

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Fine.

DELBERT BAKER: All those in favor see show by the uplifted card. OK.

Those who are opposed?

OK. So the amendment is carried.

All right, back to the discussion now.

HARALD WOLLAN: Mr. Chairman, can I just ask Mrs. Mole to make sure that I have all of it so we don't forget anything?

DELBERT BAKER: Yes, they're asking for your comments.

HARALD WOLLAN: We will bring it to the *Church Manual* Committee, so if you can give it to me afterward. I don't need you to read it now.

DELBERT BAKER: We simply need a copy of your notes on that.

MEGAN MOLE: Thank you. I'll bring it to the front after the—

DELBERT BAKER: That's fine.

MEGAN MOLE: Thank you very much.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Back to the discussion on the motion. On mike 2, Shirley Chang, North American Division.

SHIRLEY CHANG: Line 24 on page 105. I don't know if there's a glossary somewhere that defined "wine." Are we using wine in communion services?

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Of course not. We are not using wine.

SHIRLEY CHANG: Do you really want that word there?

ARMANDO MIRANDA: OK. We are referring to line 24.

DELBERT BAKER: Well, it's really not in order. This is not one of the edited items. She's simply making an observation. Thank you for that.

All right. Any further discussion? If not, we're ready for the vote. We have no speakers at this time. OK. We're ready for the vote.

All those who are in favor, please show the uplifted card.

Those who are opposed, same sign.

OK. It is carried. Thank you. Next item.

HARALD WOLLAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We are moving to item 415, which is an amendment. It deals with funds of auxiliary organizations.

And there is, first, a change of name of the Adventist Youth. Instead of Adventist Youth it's now called Adventist Youth Ministries, and then the addition of Adventist Community Services or Dorcas Society. Because previously it was written Community Services/Dorcas Society. That seemed to have caused a lot of confusion in some fields where they felt it was needed to have both. That is not necessary. Either one or the other. That's why we have put it the way it is here.

I would like to move this change.

DELBERT BAKER: It's been moved. Is there a second? I see it seconded right away. Thank you.

Now for discussion. I think this is pretty straightforward. Are there comments, though, on this item? We're simply clarifying here. I see no speakers. And so this is our first vote that there's no speakers, so we're ready to go. OK. Ready for the vote.

All those in favor, please show by the uplifted card.

OK. Those who are opposed, same sign.

Good. It's carried. Thank you.

Next one.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Brother Chairman, before we go to the next item, just to clarify, it's not part of the items that we were discussing. But because of the question or system just presented a few moments ago in regard to the wine, it's clear that we are not referring to alcohol.

To have the information from the *Church Manual*, if you go to page 120, second paragraph, it says, "Unfermented wine (grape juice)." And then it says, "Neither the wine nor the bread contained elements of fermentation because," and the evidence of the first day, etc., just referring to the Passover. So it's clear in the *Church Manual* that we are not recommending and we are not using alcohol or wine the way people outside of the church understand this element.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you, Pastor, for that explanation. That's helpful.

Next item, please.

HARALD WOLLAN: Thank you. We move to item 416. This is a brief addition in which we outline who might be helpful in counting offerings to make sure that it is done in a proper fashion. So in order to make sure that we do not forget our deacons and deaconesses, we have included that on line 12.

So I'd like to move this addition.

DELBERT BAKER: All right. It's been properly moved. I see a second.

Any discussion of this item? OK. It's a clarification. No speakers, no discussion. Ready for the vote.

All those in favor, please showed by the uplifted card. OK.

Those who are opposed, same sign.

Good. It's carried.

Next one, please.

HARALD WOLLAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Item 417 deals with the Community Services/Dorcas Society leader. As I mentioned previously, we have found it necessary to specify or redefine the services there. And after some consideration, we are presenting the following.

It is actually a clarification of the duties of Dorcas Society or the Adventist Community Services. Should I read it?

DELBERT BAKER: Let's read it, yes.

HARALD WOLLAN: On line 9: "Adventist Community Service leader or Dorcas Society leader—The church elects the Adventist Community Service leader or Dorcas Society leader, assistant leaders (as needed), and secretary/treasurer of Adventist Community Services, which in some areas is known as the Dorcas Society."

Then we refer to the note section, note 14 on page 170. Continuing: "This organization gathers and prepares clothing, food, and other supplies for those in need and works closely with the Adventist Men, deacons, deaconesses, and other church departments in community outreach. Adventist Community Services or Dorcas Society ministry, however, includes more than giving material aid. It focuses on identifying needs and responding with services based on these specific needs. Examples are educational seminars, community development, visiting, counseling, and other services relevant to the community."

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you.

HARALD WOLLAN: Then on lines 25 to 26: "The Adventist Community Service Leader or Dorcas Society Leader is a member of the Personal Ministries Council and the church board." And then on line 28: ". . . who is a member of the council as well as the church board."

I move these changes.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. We have a point of order on mike 3.

ED KEYES: Mr. Chairman, this is Ed Keyes, North American Division. Just a simple thing. It would be helpful to have the actual page number read. It doesn't fit with the numbers of order in there. If

someone could read what page number they're on. It takes us a little while to get those page numbers in the written material.

DELBERT BAKER: That's a good observation. Thank you.

It's page 110, for your information, but that's a good note. We will keep that in mind. OK. Now, it's been properly moved. Is there a second to the motion that we accept the reading that we just saw here? It's been moved. Seconded? OK.

Now, for discussion on this item. We see two names. Mike 6, Qedumusa Mathonsi, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

QEDUMUSA MATHONSI: Mr. Chairman, I think mine is a request for clarification.

DELBERT BAKER: OK.

QEDUMUSA MATHONSI: Is Community Services synonymous to Dorcas? And if that's the case, is the Adventist Men organization excluded in Community Services?

DELBERT BAKER: Good question.

HARALD WOLLAN: I don't know if Mrs. Colon is in the congregation here. The discussion we had here is that Dorcas Society, in some places, takes the form of the Adventist Community Services. Other places, it does not. Adventist Men does not need to be part of the Dorcas or the Community Services. But there are entities who do community-service work together.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Well, thank you for that. But let's go first to May-Ellen Colon on microphone 4, who will tell us about that. We'll go back to the speaker after her, please.

First we'll go to May-Ellen, and then Stephan after that. Thank you.

MAY-ELLEN COLON: In many parts of the world the Dorcas Society is doing identical work with Adventist Community Services. And in the manual it appears that sometimes they can coexist. And in some parts of the world, that has caused confusion. One church told me that they had a Community Services leader and a Dorcas leader and they didn't know how to work together. So this is to clear up confusion.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you. We'll go to the same mike, Stephan Sigg.

STEPHAN SIGG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a question on behalf also of several others, a question for clarification.

Line 13, what is meant by “Adventist Men”?

DELBERT BAKER: OK.

HARALD WOLLAN: In some parts of the world, instead of women’s ministries we have something called Adventist Men. Sometimes it’s called Adventist Ministry or Men’s Ministry; I’m not sure. But that is what we are referring to.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you. We have mike 3, Marc Woodson, North American Division.

MARC WOODSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. This is an editorial issue. On line 26 “Personal Ministries Council” is capitalized, but right underneath it on line 27, it is not capitalized.

DELBERT BAKER: OK.

MARC WOODSON: So just for consistency it should be one or the other.

DELBERT BAKER: All right. Good catch there. Thank you.

OK. We see no other—one other speaker—no speakers now. All right. Now we’re ready for the vote.

All those in favor, please show by the uplifted card.

OK. Good.

Those who are opposed, the same sign.

Good. It’s carried. Next item.

HARALD WOLLAN: Mr. Chairman, if we can agree by common consent that in the heading we use Adventist Community Services or Dorcas Society leader, that we have the same there on line 3 as we have on line 9.

DELBERT BAKER: The common consent item. All those in favor, say “Aye.”

Those who are opposed.

I think we’re clear. OK. Thank you.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next item is number 418.

DELBERT BAKER: What page is that?

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Page 111.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: And this case is referring to the Youth Ministries. And because we accepted a new program in the Youth Ministries department, I'm referring to Public Campus Ministries. And it was accepted and voted during the 2014 Annual Council and is not included in the *Church Manual*.

We have also the suggested change of name of Adventist Youth Society to Adventist Youth Ministries. This is more inclusive. So we are bringing a series of changes, in some cases deletions, you're to see, in the last two pages of that section that begins with page 111 and ends on page 118.

We received from the Youth Ministry Department the suggestions. And we discussed, and we would like to be sure that Brother Cangy is on the floor, because we need his support with this.

But, Brother Chairman, the secretary will introduce the suggested changes and deletions in this section.

DELBERT BAKER: OK.

HARALD WOLLAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are starting a lengthy section here starting on page 111.

DELBERT BAKER: OK.

HARALD WOLLAN: It's agenda item 418, beginning on page 111.

And then, as already mentioned, we have a change of name of the Adventist Youth. Instead of "society," it is now Adventist Youth Ministries. And we have incorporated that on lines 15, 16, and 17.

This whole section we are starting on is actually a total rewrite. So we will see at the end of the document on this agenda item a lot of cross-outs.

And there are some definitions on lines 24 through 29. Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) mission, motto, and aim. Then on lines 31, 32, and 33, are the various levels of youth ministries.

And now I need to read that section. From line 31: “The youth ministries program of the church comprises three broad categories; namely, Junior Youth,” and it’s specified here in parentheses; “Senior Youth,” also specified in parentheses; “and Public Campus Students,” and that is specified as well.

If we then turn the page, there are several places recording the change of name. Those are underlined, so they should be clear.

From line 28 on page 112 the Adventist Youth Ministries Committee is described.

On line 31 the Adventist Youth Ministries Committee includes the following church-elected officers: young adults, director, Public Campus Ministries director or coordinator, Ambassador director, Pathfinder director, Adventurer director.

And then further down we are also changing just a matter of capitalizing “S” in “schools,” Sabbath School. And then we include the children’s ministries leader.

That is what we have on this page. On the next page—

DELBERT BAKER: Page 113. OK.

HARALD WOLLAN: On line 1, it describes what takes place if there is no Ambassador ministry or youth ministry established in the local church.

Line 5, Pathfinder and Adventure Ministries. It’s described here that they are organized. And if they are not, until such are organized, some plans need to be made for this age group to be taken care of.

From line 9 to line 11 we talk about the Adventist Youth Ministry director, and we refer to the previous name and the description of what that person will do.

From line 18 to line 20, Young Adults Committee, we describe how that functions. The Young Adults Committee is responsible for the young adults’ activities and so on.

And this continues down to line 13, the Public Campus Ministries—and this is an addition. And I hope that all of you take note of this, because this is something that we hope can be strengthened and much more accomplished than we have today.

DELBERT BAKER: Very good.

HARALD WOLLAN: That is why the General Conference actually has the Public Campus Ministries leader in the youth department.

And I need to read from line 31: “Strengthening the Youth Ministries of the church, Public Campus Ministries (PCM), in collaboration with the Adventist Ministry to College and University Students (AMiCUS), provides vision and strategic planning for ministry to and support for Seventh-day Adventist students (ages 16-30+) who attend public colleges, universities, and tertiary educational institutions around the world.”

Line 37 describes the coordinator or the director of the Public Campus Ministries.

Do I need to read all this?

DELBERT BAKER: I don’t think so. You’re doing well to summarize it as you go.

HARALD WOLLAN: Well, the fact that it’s a new section dealing with something that is new—

DELBERT BAKER: Sure. OK.

HARALD WOLLAN: We probably should read it. Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: Go right ahead.

HARALD WOLLAN: “The church may appoint a public campus ministries director/coordinator to develop an intentional ministry with the purpose of caring for the special needs of public college/university students, in consultation with and support of the Adventist Youth Ministries Committee.”

Then we go to page 114. We are introducing the Ambassador Ministry, and it is described there from line 1. “The Ambassador Ministry provides a specialized program to meet the needs of youth, ages 16 to 21.”

It is a rewrite from the previous section. So I think this is something that most of you are acquainted with and should have read before. So I jump down to line 18, describing the Pathfinder Club, and it is also a rewrite from previously.

DELBERT BAKER: OK.

HARALD WOLLAN: If we then go down to Pathfinder Committee, it's the same. Lines 33 through 36 is something that you will find repeated word by word in several places. And I want to underline this because this is something that becomes more and more important that we have in place. "Everyone involved in work with minor children must meet church and legal standards and requirements, such as background checks or certification. Local church leaders should consult with the conference, which will ascertain and advise as to what background checks and certifications are available and/or required." So I will not read that section again when we come to it later on. I will just mention that it is dealt with.

Adventurer Club has also been dealt with previously. This is a slight reiteration, reworded.

Then on page 115, continuing with Adventurer Committee on top of the page on line 6:

"Resource materials are available from the conference youth ministries director." Then the section that I mentioned is repeated, and it is there to strengthen that this really takes place.

Line 13 has only the new name, "director," of the four youth ministry entities in this section here. And that is basically what we have. If we go down to lines 30 and 31, the secretary-treasurer will keep records of the activities of the responsible ministries and so on.

HARALD WOLLAN: On line 35: "The respective assistant secretary-treasurers (if needed) assist with the secretary-treasurers' work as assigned."

Then the bottom of the page, the sponsor is described. If you then go to the next page, which is page 116, you find a slight rewording. The same section underlines the need for certification, background checks, and resources.

This is a lengthy section; I hope you've had time to read it. I move the acceptance of these changes.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. So that whole section is really a rework. We have a couple new sections with it, one being Public Campus Ministries.

We have here our Youth Ministries director, Gilbert Cangy, General Conference, at mike 4.

GILBERT CANGY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just would like to bring a couple of points of clarification that might be helpful to process all of this information that is being presented.

Essentially, in terms of substance, there is no significant changes to the previous document. We have cleaned up the language in a number of places. But there are three elements here that the body would need to be clear on.

First of all, there is a change in nomenclature. You will see that throughout the document what was previously known as Adventist Youth Society is being changed to Adventist Youth Ministry. Now, traditionally, Adventist Youth Society embraces all branches of youth ministry, from Adventurer, Pathfinders, Ambassadors, young adults. But in practice the word AY or AY Society had come to define largely what we used to call AY Meeting or Senior Youth. But we wanted to bring a corrective to that in order to bring current practice into harmony with our documentation in the *Church Manual*.

So instead of this definition, Adventist Youth Society, we now have Adventist Youth Ministries, which embraces all branches of youth ministry, starting with Junior Youth, which covers Adventurers and Pathfinders; Senior Youth, etc.

The second change is related to the introduction, of the Ambassador Ministry, which is a new level of ministry that focuses on the needs of young people between 16 and 21. Because of that we have come up with a relatively new term, "Young Adults," to distinguish between Ambassadors and the older ones. So under Senior Youth the ages 16 to 30 is now divided in two: Ambassadors, covering 16 to 21; and Young Adults, 22 to 30.

And the third category is new, because the church has embraced a new ministry for our students all over the world who are present on public campuses. The church felt a need for that. And so a new position has been created, and we now have a special ministry for young adults on public campuses. We would normally put that under Senior Youth Ministry, but because of the fact that it's unique and special in character, we have put it on the side as a separate category and also because there is accountability and partnership with AMiCUS, which is essentially education, chaplaincy, health, and a number of other ministries.

Otherwise, when it comes to details, most of what was in the previous version of the *Church Manual* is repeated here, with a few editorial additions.

DELBERT BAKER: All right. Thank you, Pastor. If you would—it's been moved. We'll give you the opportunity of seconding it in just a moment.

Could you say a word about Public Campus Ministries, seeing how that's a new section?

GILBERT CANGY: Certainly, Mr. Chairman. There has been a need that has been expressed and discussed by the church at the General Conference for many years. And we do recognize that in many parts of the world, if not in all divisions, there is the presence of ministry to public campuses—students on public campuses.

However, General Conference was doing most of its work for public campus students through the AMiCUS Committee. And most of the work of the AMiCUS Committee was, in a sense, producing the *Dialogue* magazine and providing a little bit of supervision. But it was felt that greater intentionality should be brought to bear in terms of ministering to the thousands of our young people who are facing all kinds of challenges in our secular society on public campuses. And therefore at the last Annual Council an action was taken to create a new position in the Youth Ministries Department. So we have a new associate youth director who is now leading out in the work of public campuses.

DELBERT BAKER: Excellent. Thank you for that explanation. Are you ready to second the motion? Pastor?

GILBERT CANGY: Yes, certainly. I would second it.

DELBERT BAKER: Surely. OK. It's been properly seconded.

OK. Now, discussion on this whole section. First we have mike 2, Adwoa Asamoah-Addo, West-Central Africa Division.

ADWOA ASAMOAH-ADDO: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Adding to what Cangy said on public campus ministries, I think some of us moved for it, because those of us in public institutions very much—we're not taken notice by the church. Church attention was only on those who were in the church institutions, very much to our disadvantage.

And so considering the provisions in the *Church Manual* on public campuses, I would move and add that the chaplaincy ministries should also be added so the group that bears responsibility or the council that takes responsibility for Public Campus Ministries would also include the chaplaincy ministry.

My second issue has to do with the new motto for the Adventist Youth Ministries, which says that the love of Christ compels us. It sounds very vague and very incomplete, and so we need to make it complete. It compels us to do what? Compels me to do what?

Bearing in mind, it used to be, “The love of Christ constrains it.” It was a restrictive provision, but now it’s compelling you, but to do nothing. So I think we should have a look at that.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you very much. Moving to mike 3, Leezel Deza, North American Division.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: If you allow me to respond to the first question. In regard to chaplaincy, it’s part of the AMiCUS Committee, as Gilbert mentioned. The AMiCUS Committee is a group of departments at the General Conference level that work together in order to support and help and give advice and provide help to the Adventist young people who are studying in public campuses. So it’s included.

And in regard to the motto, I’d like to ask Gilbert if he can just explain.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. A quick word coming to mike 4, please, Pastor Cangy.

GILBERT CANGY: Mr. Chairman, there is no change of intent there. It’s the same scriptural passage that is being used, but the word “compels” has been chosen in preference to “constrains,” more in terms of a modern version, a modern expression of the same word. The intent is still the same.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you for those two explanations. Let’s move quickly to mike 3, Leezel Deza.

LEEZEL DEZA: Thank you.

I’m wondering if this would be an appropriate time to add a provision for an intended ministry to meet the needs of children ages 0 to 5, one that’s age-appropriate, more intentional, purposeful, that sends

a message to them that they are valuable, that they are important, and that they're not just tagging along with their older siblings.

I'm just wondering if this is the appropriate time.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you. They've taken note of that, and that's a suggestion that they can consider as well. Thank you for that.

Moving to mike 4, Gabriel Acevedo-Hidalgo, General Conference.

GABRIEL ACEVEDO-HIDALGO: Thank you, Brother Chairman. Just a couple of details.

Page 111, line 17, it says "towards," and it should be "toward."

Page 113, line 19, it says "Young Adult," and it should be "Young Adults."

Page 114, line 25, when speaking on electing officers, instead of "secretary and treasurer" it should be "secretary," hyphen, "treasurer" for consistency with the officers mentioned before.

Thank you.

HARALD WOLLAN: Excuse me. Just remain there for a second. Could you repeat the last two?

GABRIEL ACEVEDO-HIDALGO: Yes, sir. Page 113, line 19, currently says "Young Adult," and it should be "Young Adults."

And then page 114, it says "secretary and treasurer," and it should be "secretary," hyphen, "treasurer," just for consistency with the other lines.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you.

GABRIEL ACEVEDO-HIDALGO: Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Going to mike 6, we have Onalenna Balapi, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

ONALENNA BALAPI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In the section about children's ministries there's a requirement for the team that is dealing with children's ministries to be meeting the standard in the legal requirements. I wish to know who provides the curriculum that will meet that legal requirement. And what do we mean by legal? Are we referring to what is required by the political government, or required by the church? Basically, who provides the curriculum that will meet those requirements?

Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: It's a legal requirement in the majority of the countries.

DELBERT BAKER: OK.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: And it's indicated here in the *Church Manual*, if this section is approved, that the local conference will provide the orientation and the procedure they need to follow—that every person who will work with the children will need to go through that process. It's the local conference.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. Dr. Gayares—OK.

HARALD WOLLAN: Let me respond to that.

Mr. Chairman. It's impossible for us to specify the laws because they vary from country to country. So we are referring to the legal laws, but we as a church have an even higher standard.

DELBERT BAKER: All right. Thank you. Going to Mike 3, Hector Gayares, Southern Asia-Pacific Division.

HECTOR GAYARES: Thank you, Brother Chair. Congratulations to those who have made the proper corrections to our nomenclature, and now we have Adventist Youth Ministries from society.

Now, please refer to page 113, lines 31 to 40. With the new subministry of the AYM—and that is Public Campus Ministries—if we are correcting names right now, may I suggest that we also correct Public Campus Ministries, because this is not inclusive of students who are enrolled in private campuses who are not Seventh-day Adventist institutions.

So if I may suggest to those who are making these names, because on line 35 it says, "And other tertiary educational institutions around the world." But then again on line 39, it says there's special need of public college/university students.

Again, our youth in private campuses who are not Seventh-day Adventist campuses are somewhat excluded from this ministry. So my suggestion is if we can correct this to make it inclusive of even our Adventist students in private campuses.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. Very good point.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Brother Chairman, when we are talking about the Adventist students in public colleges and universities, we are also considering the private institutions. We are referring to those Seventh-day Adventists who are not part of the Adventist system of education.

But if we consider that it's going to be appropriate to include the word "private institutions," non-Adventist private institutions of education, there is no problem.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you. A very good note there.

Mike 6, Qedumusa Mathonsi, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

QEDUMUSA MATHONSI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm seeking for consistency in the wording. I assume that the Adventist Youth Ministries is the department and then Young Adults and Ambassadors to be a subset of Adventist Youth Ministries. But it looks like Young Adults is just a committee, while Ambassadors is expressed as a ministry.

Why not have both of them, Young Adults Ministries and then Ambassador Ministries, or Young Adults Committee and Ambassadors Committee? Of course, I see that in the Public Campus Ministries on page 113 there is an assumption that it is slightly different from Youth Ministries. I wonder if there could be some kind of coordination so that there's consistency.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. Good suggestions. They've taken note of that. They said they can easily make those changes. No problem with that.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Mike 6, we have Frenslly PannefleK.

FRENSLY PANNEFLEK: Just for clarification, can somebody explain the difference between AMiCUS and Public Campus Ministries?

DELBERT BAKER: OK.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: AMiCUS is the acronym of Adventist Ministries to College and University Students. And Public Campus Ministries is the ministry that, at the General Conference level, functions as part of Youth Ministries. But in order to be clear, let me try to explain.

AMiCUS is the umbrella that include several departments, including chaplaincy, youth, education, health ministries. At least these four departments are part of the Adventist Ministry to Colleges and University Students. And Public Campus Ministries is the specific ministry that works and deals with the Adventist students in public colleges and universities.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. We have at mike 5 James Daniel, Inter-American Division.

JAMES DANIEL: Yes, Brother Chairman.

I observe that the change was made to refer to those who lead out in the areas of Adventist Youth Ministries. They are called directors. But the other leaders of ministries at the local church level are called “leaders,” as we find on page 112, lines 31 to 34. There must be some rationale to refer to those who lead out in Adventist Youth Ministries as directors. In the past we were told that we have leaders at the local church level but directors at the organizational level. What is the rationale?

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. All right.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: I’d like to refer to Gilbert Cangy, who is the General Conference Youth Ministries director.

GILBERT CANGY: Mr. Chairman. I think we can do some work on that. The intent is the same. But if there is a need to review the nomenclature and if, indeed, at the local church the accepted term for leadership for these respective ministries is “leader,” we’re quite happy to entertain those changes.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. By consent, and the note is made here that that clarification can be made editorially. Thank you for the observation. And they have so noted that. OK. Thank you.

Mike 4, Musa Nzumbi, East-Central Africa Division.

MUSA NZUMBI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Chaplaincy Ministry is an independent entity in the church. But also within the Youth Ministry we have this composition of those students who are attending school. When they come to the Youth Ministry, maybe they would be accounted in the Youth Ministry. But when they go to the Chaplaincy Ministry, they would be accounted in the Chaplaincy Ministry. So I wanted to know the harmonization, because sometimes maybe they would be at odds with each other. The

program of Chaplaincy Ministry is equivalent to the program that is within the Youth Ministry. So I wanted to know exactly the harmonization of that.

Also, I wanted to know the legal standards that are on page 114. It has been asked, but I need some more clarification on that. Thank you. Mr. Chair.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. They will make the explanation. Thank you, on mike 4, to that point. But we have a point of order on mike 5. Point of order, mike 5.

HUDSON KIBUUKA: Mr. Chairman, I hear a lot of good suggestions being made, but they are not being put in motion. What would happen if somebody calls question at this moment? What will happen to those additions?

DELBERT BAKER: OK. On the items in particular as related to the leaders and directors, the observation made, it was decided that they can make those changes. But I think it would be in order that, by common consent, we make those changes and bring them back to the audience.

So all those who are in favor of the items concerning the designation of the leaders and directors, the clarification that the editors will make, let's agree we will bring it back to the audience.

All those in favor of that, would you please show by the uplifted card?

OK. That's clear.

All those opposed, the same sign?

It is passed. So we will bring it back, gentlemen. And thank you for that clarification. So we're clear on that.

OK. Thank you. We're just clarifying the fact that we will bring these changes back to you. They are significant. So we want it to be noted that we will bring it back to the audience. You will be able to see those changes.

OK. Mike 3, Jean-Pierre Mulumba. East-Central Africa Division.

JEAN-PIERRE MULUMBA TSHIMANGA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to address two or three issues.

DELBERT BAKER: Two minutes. Please go ahead.

JEAN-PIERRE MULUMBA TSHIMANGA: When it comes to ministries, I think that it is very distinct now that in Youth Ministry we have a series of ministries, we have a good number of ministries. But it has been felt also that some of the areas have not been addressed. In a local church, if nothing is included in the *Church Manual*, you can ask leaders to do something, but they will not move. They will always ask you, “Where is it in the *Church Manual*?” So it is very, very important for us to cover all aspects of Youth Ministry, including the ministry to the singles.

Singles is a very special ministry. We have very many in our church. It should appear clearly that we are going to address not only singles ministry but also young professionals. For instance, young professionals, you will not find them with the adults, you will not find them with the youth. They are somewhere in between.

We need in Youth Ministry a ministry addressing the needs of young professionals, those of our children who have finished college and university who have not been able to engage either in adult ministry or have not been able to engage in Adventist-named ministry.

You remember that that’s the reason Ambassador Ministry was created, because the children age 16 to 21 did not find where they belonged. And we have another section of our young people: young professionals. They should also find a place where they fit in. This is very important.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. Thank you, Pastor.

HARALD WOLLAN: Thank you. It’s a good observation.

The problem is that this is not something that we have under discussion now. I would suggest that you bring these suggestions to the *Church Manual* Committee through the regular channels as described in the beginning of the *Church Manual* so it can be dealt with at a later time.

DELBERT BAKER: All right. Thank you. Mike 4, David Trim, General Conference.

DAVID TRIM: Thank you. Brother Chair. Two quick points, one editorial, the other a little more substantive.

First on page 113, line 19, I respectfully disagree with Brother Acevedo. Young Adult here should not be young adults, because it’s being used as an adjective, and actually, in this case, “Young

Adult” is correct. More substantially, on line 39, I’d like to speak in support of the view of my brother from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division little a while ago.

By restricting this to public college/university students, there is the danger of misunderstanding. Many Adventist tertiary students are in private institutions; not Adventist institutions, but private ones. Elder Miranda did indicate that he might be willing to change it. But seeing this is part of the proposed change, then if this is being referred back, perhaps that could be looked at.

The wording I would suggest would be on line 39, “The special needs of tertiary students on nondenominational campuses,” as I think that would cover everything. And I would request the committee look at it when it’s taken back.

DELBERT BAKER: They’re asking that you repeat the last point, David.

DAVID TRIM: Yes. “The special needs of tertiary students on nondenominational campuses.”

DELBERT BAKER: All right. Thank you.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: We have no objections. It’s—

DELBERT BAKER: OK. No objection, no problem with that.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: It’s accepted.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you. Mike 6, Machel Mbano, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

MACHEL MBANO: Mr. Chairman, I was looking at the constituencies. I realized the Adventist Youth Ministries director or leader has no constituents. With adults, Youth Ministry—the adult leader is a constituent, the Adventurer director is a constituent, Pathfinder and others below are constituency. So to me it looks like it’s a CO position, which is overseeing but without any constituents.

Therefore, I am making a motion that the Adventist Youth Ministries director should also be responsible for young adults, for that person to have constituents.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. We’re not entertaining motions right now, but your point has been noted. Any comments from the front?

All right. So they'll just refer it back. So point taken. Thank you for that observation, and they will refer it back.

OK. Mike 1, Lante Thompson, West-Central Africa Division.

LANTE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to plead if it's possible for us to move the Public Campus Ministries from the Youth Department to the Chaplaincy Department.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: OK. Let me tell you that the General Conference has approved in the Annual Council that, at the General Conference level, Public Campus Ministries will be under the Youth Department. But we never took any vote in regard to divisions and unions and local fields. We said that each level will decide under what umbrella Public Campus Ministries will work, will function.

So the fact that the Public Campus Ministries is under the umbrella of the Youth Ministries of the General Conference doesn't mean that the rest of the levels—the divisions, unions, and local fields—need to do the same. We were clear on that in Annual Council.

And thank you for just making that comment, because you need to know that it's under the Youth Ministries umbrella only at the General Conference level. But each division will decide. In reality, the divisions, in several cases, are working in Public Campus Ministries under the Chaplaincy Department or even Education Department.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Good comment and good response to that. Moving to mike 4, Eugen Hartwich, Inter-European Division.

EUGEN HARTWICH: Hello, Mr. Chair. So many good suggestions have been made so far. Is it possible to refer this amendment back or the whole motion back to the committee and invite everybody who's going to speak to go to this committee, make those amendments in front of the committee, and we can continue here with the other motions?

I would like to make this motion.

DELBERT BAKER: That's not really in order. You can move the previous question if you like. But what's happening right now is that people are making observations on the youth section. They're

noting these changes, these observations, carefully, and some items will be brought back to the group, so the process is moving on.

But thank you for that.

OK. I see no response. Mike 3, Edwin Magdadar, Southern Asia-Pacific Division.

EDWIN MAGDADARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, my comment is on page 111, lines 31 to 33.

I have an observation with regard to the age group.

DELBERT BAKER: OK.

EDWIN MAGDADARO: Some departments have different age groups when it comes to youths' reports. I would like to bring the concern that we have the same age level when it comes to youth in the presentation of the reports in our local churches.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. All right, thank you. Jorge Rodriguez, mike 5, Inter-American Division.

JORGE RODRIGUEZ [translated]: Good evening. I'd like to add a leader who is in charge of the missionary activities for the youth so that the youth would have an evangelistic purpose at the worldwide level. A leader in charge of youth, as is done in other countries, would be of great benefit for this ministry, along with the changes that you have already suggested. This is my suggestion. Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: All right. Thank you. Good suggestions. We have so noted it.

Mike 2, Leroy Chacon, North American Division.

LEROY CHACON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move the previous question.

DELBERT BAKER: All right. The previous question has been moved, and we need a two-thirds majority to end debate and refer the section back.

So all those in favor, lift the cards.

We need two-thirds.

All those opposed.

OK. Thank you. It will be referred back. Thank you very much.

HARALD WOLLAN: If Pastor Cangy could still be there, I would propose that we go to page 129, because it deals also with the youth, since we have just—

DELBERT BAKER: Pastor Cangy at mike 4.

HARALD WOLLAN: —dealt with it.

On pages 129 and 130, it is a rewritten definition of the youth meetings using the terminology that we have talked about previously. And if I could ask Pastor Cangy to briefly speak to this, because I would like to move this.

DELBERT BAKER: First we have a point of order on mike 4, Lloyd Gibson, General Conference.

L. JAMES GIBSON: Mr. Chair, you took a vote on moving the previous question, but you never followed that up with a vote on the main motion.

DELBERT BAKER: That's appropriate because we're referring it back, so we're not voting on that. Referring it back to the committee for further study. But thank you for that observation.

OK. Next item.

GILBERT CANGY: Mr. Chairman, the only clarification that I could bring here is simply that if you look on line 15 of page 129, Senior Youth Ministries, now you have meetings for ambassadors and meetings for young adults. Previously, it was only one category. Essentially, it's a repetition of what was there before, but it's outlining the fact now, even in line 21, that there is Public Campus Ministries meetings as well. And it was not in the previous version of the manual, because this is a new ministry. It's a repetition with addition of new ministries that have been incorporated under the umbrella of Adventist Youth Ministries in the local churches.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you.

HARALD WOLLAN: I moved it.

DELBERT BAKER: All right. With that explanation, it has been moved. Is there a second?
Seconded. OK.

All those in favor, show by the uplifted card.

All right.

Those who are opposed, same sign.

Thank you. Next item.

HARALD WOLLAN: We now go to page 119. This deals with the question of something being referred back to the Nominating Committee, because it's not been very clear how a referral dealt with.

So the new wording we are suggesting is on lines 24 to 26 on page 119: "After giving due consideration to the objections presented, the committee will exercise its judgment as to whether or not any change is warranted in the committee's recommendation to the church business meeting."

I'd like to move this, Mr. Chairman.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. It's been moved. Is there a second? I see a number of seconds.

All right. Any discussion?

OK. Ready for the vote. All those in favor, uplifted card.

All right. Those who are opposed, the same sign.

OK. It is carried. Thank you.

HARALD WOLLAN: Mr. Chairman, on page 120 we are dealing with an issue that we had referred back earlier on that is very closely connected. So I will take that back, together with the previous—

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you.

HARALD WOLLAN: I'm just mentioning it here for clarification's sake.

On item 421, which you'll find on pages 121 and 122, we are deleting the word "ordinance of" on line 16 and describing what we are talking about, the foot-washing.

And then on the next page, 122: "this sacred service is celebrated" and so on. And then on lines 24 and 25, we are again mentioning that the communion service is to be conducted by an ordained/commissioned pastor or an ordained elder. And we will introduce the same—there was a question regarding the definition of "commissioned," so probably this one will also need to be referred back.

To save time, Mr. Chairman, I think I'll just do that, because we need to harmonize this one with—

DELBERT BAKER: Sure.

HARALD WOLLAN: —the discussion we had previously.

DELBERT BAKER: All right. So you'll refer it back. Point noted. Thank you.

HARALD WOLLAN: I think we might be getting a report from something else. Item 422, on page 123, we are beginning a section that is—

No. This is a separate section.

On the next page, we are beginning a lengthy—

DELBERT BAKER: So what pages—

HARALD WOLLAN: Page 123, we are dealing with a business meeting—

DELBERT BAKER: 123.

HARALD WOLLAN: —of the church. It's a definition of the business meeting of the church. It hasn't been clearly understood that the business meeting is actually the constituency meeting of the local church. That's why we have made a change on lines 11 and 12 specifying that the business meeting is the constituency meeting of the local church.

And we find, then, on line 30 that, based on those reports that have been presented, a proposed plan of action for the next year, including an annual budget, should be presented. We are including here that we need also at the annual business meeting to have a budget for the next year.

So these two changes I'd like to move, Mr. Chairman.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. It's been moved. Those two changes. Is there a second? I see it.

All right. Any discussion? Ready for the vote.

All those in favor, uplifted card. All right.

Those who are opposed, same sign. [Voted.]

HARALD WOLLAN: If the chair allows me, we will jump to page 128.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. Page 128, next item.

HARALD WOLLAN: This is a new section. We are introducing here the Finance Committee, defining it. And it reads from line 11, "Each church should have a mission-driven, broad-based consultative financial planning and budgeting process with a committee structure that can give detailed review of the ongoing financial planning and budgeting. In some cases, this may take the form of a finance committee. In other cases, in smaller churches, this process may be handled directly by the church board. If the church establishes a separate committee for this purpose, the responsibilities should include reviewing budget requests and the review of the annual operating budget as well as a review of the financial position of the church as reflected in the financial statements. The approval of the budget and the review of the financial statement shall then be recommended to the church board and onward to the business meeting of the church for action."

I move this addition to the *Church Manual*.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Just note that it is a new section. It's not underlined, but it is a new section there. It's been moved. Is there a second? This new section. OK. It's been seconded properly.

Is there discussion on the motion? OK. We're ready for the vote.

All those in favor, uplifted card.

OK. Those who are opposed, the same sign.

It's carried. Good. Next item.

HARALD WOLLAN: Let's go back to page 124. And we probably may have to stop if we get the report from another committee.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Page 124. The Nominating Committee's report is pending; when they come in, we will break for that. But let's move on to the next item.

HARALD WOLLAN: OK. Let me give a brief explanation. We begin on page 124. We are talking about the operation of the church board and its meetings.

At the end of last year we had a nurture-and-retention summit at the General Conference, and we talked about how we can improve the retention of our members, the nurturing of them to keep them. And a request was made that something be added to the *Church Manual* to deal with this specific item.

Based on this, the *Church Manual* has worked on it and has restructured the responsibilities of the church board. And I will try to guide you through this.

On page 124, line 12: “Every church must have a functioning board whose members have been elected” and so on.

Then it says, “Its chief concern is having an active discipleship plan in place, which includes both the spiritual nurture of the church and the work of planning and fostering evangelism.” The underlined sections here are significant additions that we will come back to in a few minutes, because it’s specified later on in the document. Based on this, we have renumbered the responsibilities of the church board.

Number 1: “An active discipleship plan.” Number 2: “Spiritual nurture and mentoring of members.” And then if you go down to number 5, which previously was 4, we have “Upholding of Christian standards.” Number 7, which previously was number 6, we have changed to say, “Oversight of church finances.”

And then, of course, the renumbering follows automatically.

Then on line 36: “The gospel commission of Jesus tells us that making disciples, which includes baptizing and teaching, is the primary function of the church.”

Then going down to line 40, it says that it involves “every member in proclaiming the good news and making disciples.”

Again, we feel that active members are members who are growing, and we will retain them.

Now, going over to the next page, we have a lengthy new section dealing with which what I already have explained.

On line 1: “Spiritual Nurture—Christ’s love for the church needs to be manifested within the church by His followers. True discipleship entails not only biblical teaching (Matthew 28:20), but also a passionate commitment to loving our fellow believers unconditionally. This was the heart of Christ’s message to His disciples as He faced the cross (John 15:9-13). Christ’s command to them applies to us: that we ‘love one another.’ Ellen G. White’s powerful insight into this historical scene is still vital for us: ‘This love is the evidence of their discipleship.’—*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 677, 678.”

Line 9: “Therefore, it is one of the primary functions of the board to ensure that members are nurtured and mentored in a personal, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ.”

Line 12: “Discipleship. The purpose of the church as the body of Christ is to intentionally disciple members so that they continue in an active and fruitful relationship with Christ and His church.

Line 15: “Discipleship is based on an ongoing, lifelong relationship with Jesus. The believer commits to ‘abiding in Christ’ (John 15:8), to being trained by fruitful discipleship by sharing Jesus with others, as well as to leading other members to also be faithful disciples.”

Line 19: “The church, individually and collectively, shares responsibility for ensuring that every church member remains part of the body of Christ.”

Line 22: Membership—The board is elected by the members at the time of the regular election of officers. (See pp. 70, 71.) In addition to conference-appointed pastors, the church should elect a representative board that includes the following officers.” And we have some additions there.

On line 32 we have added “Adventist Community Services leader or” and then the Dorcas Society leader that was there before.

Then on line 34 we have introduced a new name, Adventist Youth Ministries director.

On line 41 we have deleted, because it’s already mentioned in line 32.

Going over to page 126, line 6, we introduce also the Public Campus Ministries director/coordinator.

On line 12, Young adults leader.

On line 22 and onward: “Work of the Board—The board is responsible to: 1. Ensure that there is an active, ongoing discipleship plan in place, which includes both spiritual nurture and outreach ministries. This is the most important item for the board’s attention.

“2. Study membership lists and initiate plans for reconnecting (reclaiming) members who have separated from the church.

“3. Train church leadership in how to encourage intentional spiritual growth in themselves and others.”

Then on line 33: “Evangelize the outreach (missionary) territory of the church.”

And then once a quarter, we are mentioning here. I don’t think I need to read the rest of that.

There is a correction on line 39 and onward, where we have some deletions just for clarification. We have mentioned something earlier.

On line 42 it says: “To avoid conflict in timing, competition in securing volunteers, and to achieve maximum beneficial results, coordination is essential.”

Then instead of “encouraging” we have on line 7, line 11, and line 14, “encourage” and so on.

On line 15 we’re talking about “Sabbath meetings in regards to spiritual nurture and evangelism.”

Line 18, “receive” instead of “receiving.”

I’d like to move this complete revision with its additions to the *Church Manual*.

DELBERT BAKER: Well, that’s a great section, a very powerful section, in fact, to enhance the ministry of the church internally and externally.

It is moved. Is there a second for that? It’s been seconded.

Now for the discussion. Here’s how we can do this. OK. We’ll go first to discussion to see how many comments we have here. But first, on microphone 2, Larry Boggess from the North American Division.

LARRY BOGGESS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a little clarification.

I noticed on page 124, lines 11 and 12, the board is to be elected during a church business meeting. Then at the bottom, you have line 44 which has been crossed out where the members are elected at the time of the regular election. Then when you go over to page 125, you’re saying there that the board is elected by the members at the time of the regular election of officers.

My question is, on lines 11 and 12 on page 124, what is the difference between a business meeting and the time officers are elected?

HARALD WOLLAN: The officers of the church are always elected at a business meeting.

DELBERT BAKER: OK?

LARRY BOGGESS: What is the difference between Nominating Committee and a business meeting?

HARALD WOLLAN: A Nominating Committee nominates names and brings them to the church. The church votes them, and that is the business meeting.

LARRY BOGGESS: So what you're saying is that these are interchangeable terms?

HARALD WOLLAN: In this document, yes.

LARRY BOGGESS: OK. Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you. We're moving to mike 2 again, Ronald Oliver, North American Division.

RONALD OLIVER: I was going to make exactly the same point—

DELBERT BAKER: Very good.

RONALD OLIVER: —but it's covered. But additionally, in the second point, it says the board will be elected by the members. And I believe that's ambiguous, because someone would probably initially assume that the board was elected by the members of the board. And it should say that members of the church or the church members.

HARALD WOLLAN: I agree. Could you refer to the page and where?

RONALD OLIVER: Well, it's the second—I don't have a page number here, but it's the second point at which it talks about the election of the membership.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. OK. We go to Megan Mole, Trans-European Division, at mike 6.

MEGAN MOLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have two amendments. The first is on page 124, line 20. I move to amend this to "spiritual nurturing and mentoring of members" so we have two gerunds and the sentence flows better.

And then on page 126, line 6, I move to amend that we write "Public Campus Ministries" with three capital letters, so capital P, capital C, capital M, as you've done with other titles in this list. And as you write Public Campus Ministries on page 111, for example, on line—

HARALD WOLLAN: Could you repeat? Which page did you say?

MEGAN MOLE: For the second or the first?

HARALD WOLLAN: Second.

MEGAN MOLE: Page 126.

HARALD WOLLAN: Thank you.

MEGAN MOLE: Line 6.

HARALD WOLLAN: Line 6?

MEGAN MOLE: Yes.

DELBERT BAKER: Megan, we can make these without any amendments. They're simple changes. They can make those changes.

MEGAN MOLE: OK. Great. Thank you very much.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you very much. Mike 3, Jean-Pierre Mulumba, East-Central Africa Division.

JEAN-PIERRE MULUMBA: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I want to refer to page 124, reading about the church board responsibilities. We noticed, Mr. Chairman, that in many of our churches they don't have strategic plans. They don't even plan at all. What they do is just to seat the line—they write down activities and they put them in a map, and they say this is planning. And I believe it is very important to plan at the local church level.

Someone said if you fail to plan, you've already planned to fail. So if our local churches are not initiated into the planning of activities, it will be very, very difficult for them even to budget those activities. So it's very important that we introduce, among responsibilities of the church board, the planning, but our planning should go hand in hand with budgeting.

And I'm suggesting that we should say that the church board has the responsibility of overseeing the church planning and budgeting.

DELBERT BAKER: Thirty seconds.

JEAN-PIERRE MULUMBA: And on page 128 we have the Finance Committee. This committee should not be called Finance Committee, but maybe should be called Planning and Budgeting Committee so that the activity of planning and that of budgeting will go hand in hand.

And that would be something I would like to just suggest.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you, Pastor. Good observations. One they can deal with now; one's a new suggestion that will be referred to the *Church Manual* Committee. But thank you. We have taken note of that. We appreciate that.

Mike 3, Kevin Rhamie, North American Division.

KEVIN RHAMIE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the emphasis by the committee on the discipleship where the board develops a discipleship plan, and that, for most churches, is a new emphasis. What provisions have been made to assist churches on how to develop a discipleship plan?

DELBERT BAKER: All right. Good question.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: This kind of support needs to come from the local conference. Every level of the church, from the local church to the General Conference, needs to develop a strategic plan.

DELBERT BAKER: OK.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: And every year the General Conference, divisions, unions, local conferences, or local fields are producing initiatives. And the different departments of the church always are ready to support, and they have initiatives and plans that share with the different churches of the local church level and local field, so the provision is there.

Apart from that, at the present time, and because of the media, social media, and Web sites, the organization opened the facility to each one of the churches and even individuals to search and to look for tools for the different areas of the work of the church.

So there are enough resources. And that's the reason the departments exist, to support the different areas of service of the church, beginning with the local church, even to the General Conference or vice versa.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Very good. Good question, good response.

Moving to mike 4, Paolo Benini, Inter-European Division.

PAOLO BENINI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a proposal.

On page 124, I believe line 37 tells us that making disciples—I like the expression “making disciples.” But the first day of the session, we changed our mission statement, writing “calling to discipleship.” I believe that this is clearer than “call to discipleship.” So there is a little bit of difference between the official statement and this declaration.

I would like to change the mission statement and not this.

HARALD WOLLAN: We cannot do that.

PAOLO BENINI: Second, the following page, 125, line 15: “Discipleship is based on ongoing, lifelong relationship with Jesus.”

I would like to suggest that in this paragraph we add the three words that are in our program, “Reach up, reach in, and reach across.” Those are characteristic of discipleship, according my understanding of the Bible.

I move this proposal.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Mr. Chairman, before you proceed or you consider accepting the motion, I’d like to comment on this. Because even the translation of “reach out” and “reach up” and “reach across” is, for many languages, difficult. On the other hand, this is a program for one quinquennium, and we don’t know what will be for the next.

If we include this as mandatory for how we need to change the next GC session to another kind of impression. So in this case this is something that will remain, because it’s part of the mission of the church, the reason we exist as a church.

The details, the specific things that do not affect the mission was the church, it seems that we don’t need to express here—the specific things that will pass through the years.

DELBERT BAKER: Well, thank you for that explanation. You are basically saying that the theme for the quinquennium should be put in the *Church Manual*, but it’s a good suggestion and that’s something the local churches can keep in mind.

So we have Mike 6, Pumulo Muyunda, Southern African-Indian Ocean Division.

PUMULO MUYUNDA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My comment is concerning page 126, on the expansion and constitution of the church board members. I appreciate the fact that young adults, leaders are included, as well as public ministries, campus leaders, in order to strengthen the operations of the youth ministries and also address the critical issues that affect many of our young people.

I would also suggest that, as we expand the church board, we probably also need to include HIV/AIDS coordinators as part of the church board under health ministries. Because going by the report that was given by the secretary, the mortality rate has actually gone high. And Adventist AIDS ministries was established in order to address that particular issue, but it doesn't seem to have the attention that it deserves in the local church. Including HIV/AIDS coordinators would help to actually add pathos and power and strengthen the ministry of the church.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. Thank you for your observations.

HARALD WOLLAN: May I respond? The reason we haven't included that here is that only in a few divisions do we have HIV coordinators. There is nothing saying that you cannot include them in the church board. But introducing it here means that those areas where they don't have it need to establish it. And I would rather see that those places where we have such a leader or coordinator be invited to be part of the church board. Each local church can add to this list.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you. Mike 3, Robert Cundiff, North American Division.

ROBERT CUNDIFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am on page 126, line 30, number 3, under the work of the board. These first three words, "train church leadership," leave me feeling somewhat uncomfortable, because I can see a setting where a local church board would interpret that as though they are supposed to be training the pastor. And, of course, the pastor is not trained or supervised by the local church board. His training and supervision resides in

the conference office. But I can just see that this may be problematic for some pastors and some boards that have trouble understanding that.

And so I would suggest that we add a word, “train elected church leadership,” and I would simply leave that suggestion with the committee.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you for that suggestion. So noted. At this time we have a report from the Nominating Committee, Homer Trecartin, chair, and Leslie Pollard, secretary.

HOMER TRECARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a report. It’s still not our last report, but we are making progress. And our secretary, Dr. Leslie Pollard, will read that to us.

LESLIE POLLARD: Thank you very much, Brother Chairman. We do have a report. We will present the slate of names, and we’d like to take an action for the chairman, per yesterday’s desire of the delegates, to vote the entire slate.

The first name that we are presenting is for the director of General Conference Publishing: Almir Mauricio Marroni. He is new to this position. And the Nominating Committee is recommending his name.

The next position is for General Conference associate treasurer: Mr. Delbert Pearman. Someone has retired from the department, and he is being recommended by the Nominating Committee.

The next position, General Conference Education associate director, Dr. Mike Lekic, is an incumbent. And he is continuing in the position.

The next General Conference Education associate director, Dr. Hudson Kibuuka, is also an incumbent who is continuing in his position.

The third General Conference Education associate director, Dr. John Wesley Taylor, is also an incumbent, and he is continuing in the position.

We had a retirement from the department, and thus the next recommended name is Dr. Julian Melgosa. And he is a General Conference Education associate director. He is coming forward because of a retirement.

In the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department, we have an associate director, Dr. Ramon Canals, who will be coming forward because of the retirement of Elder Swanson.

For the General Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department, we have a promotion that has taken place, with Dr. A. Ganoune Diop being moved forward to director. And so the name being presented for associate director is Dr. Nelu Burcea, currently the Romanian Union PARL director.

For associate director, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department, we have a continuation, Attorney Dwayne Leslie, and he is an incumbent.

For the Women's Ministries Department, the associate director continues as an incumbent, Mrs. Racquel Arrais.

Then General Conference Children's Ministries associate director, Dr. Saustin Mfunne, is an incumbent, and his name is also being recommended by the Nominating Committee.

We now turn to the General Conference Ministerial Association, and Mr. Jonas Arrais, an associate director, is an incumbent. He is being recommended for continuation.

The General Conference Ministerial Association associate director Dr. Robert Costa is an incumbent and is continuing.

Dr. Derek Morris is being recommended to the General Conference Ministerial Association as an associate director. He is also an incumbent.

Another incumbent, Dr. Willie Hucks II, is also being recommended to the Ministerial Association as an associate director.

General Conference Ministerial Association associate director Dr. Anthony Kent is an incumbent who is also being recommended for continuation in the Ministerial Association.

This is the slate of names representing the recommendations of the Nominating Committee, Brother Chairman, and I so move them.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. It's been moved. Is there a second? Properly seconded.

OK. Discussion on the slate of names. There are no names for discussion. We're ready for a vote of the slate.

So all those in favor of as read, please show by the uplifted card.

Think it's very clear. Thank you.

Those opposed, same sign.

Excellent. Thank you.

HOMER TRECARTIN: Mr. Chairman, if we could bring them out to be introduced.

[Applause.]

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. We're welcoming the new persons.

HOMER TRECARTIN: Mr. Chairman, if I could just say that we won't be able to interrupt you again tomorrow, because the Nominating Committee has been asked to be here with the group tomorrow. Our next report will come on Thursday, and probably we will finish things up then.

DELBERT BAKER: All right. Thank you for the report. Thank you very much. And we'll just continue on with the items with the *Church Manual* for the next few minutes. Let's give them a hand. Thank you.

[Applause.]

OK. We're going to mike 6, Sven-Inge Frantzen, Trans-European Division.

SVEN-INGE FRANTZEN: Mr. Chairman, having worked as a minister for the past 20 years with church growth, it's been my experience that outreach evangelism—that is, the systematic teaching of the teachings of the Bible, or, if you will, the doctrines of the church—has been the best way of getting new members. And when we involve members in evangelism, it's the best way of nurturing them and keeping them within the church.

I see from the changes suggested here that it's going to make my job as a minister much harder to get the church involved in outreach evangelism when it's buried down in lots of confusing language. I note especially on page 126, line 22, where it previously stated that the most important item on the agenda

should be the planning of evangelization. This has now been moved down to point 4. I notice also on page 124 that evangelism in all its faces has been moved from number 2 to number 3.

In the Western world it is really hard to get the church activated in teaching systematically the doctrines of the church or the teachings of the Bible, which I consider to be the same. And when you now move these things and shift evangelism down into obscurity, it makes my job that much harder.

And, therefore, I speak against this motion at this time. Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. So noted.

All right. Mike 6, German Vega Huaman, South American Division.

GERMAN VEGA HUAMAN [translated]: Good evening, Mr. Chair.

I'd like to show my appreciation for this motion. What is written in the record on page 124 is balancing the boards of the local church. Because before we would have an emphasis in the numbers of baptism, and now with this proposal we have a balance in the work of the board. And we have already been practicing it in our field. It's very important to implement the cycle of discipleship. And I congratulate this initiative.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you very much.

Mike 2, Larry Blackmer, North American Division.

LARRY BLACKMER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to thank the committee for the work they've done on this.

There is one area that I feel is lacking in the document, and that is the area of Adventist education and the encouragement of Adventist education by the church board. Unless we have our church boards and our school boards working together in harmony, we will continue to have a bifurcation of the mission of the church. And I believe that the school and the church have the same mission, and by adding an encouragement of the church board to support Seventh-day Adventist education, I believe is a point addition that needs to be added.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, it talks about the education secretary being one member of the church board. In many cases, that is very different from the principal of the school or the head teacher. And I

would recommend that we add if the individual that is elected as church education secretary is different than the school principal or head teacher. Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. Thank you for that. It has been noted, and it will be referred to the *Church Manual* Committee. Thank you.

All right. Mike 3, Samuel Lumwe, East-Central Africa Division.

SAMUEL LUMWE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My observation comes from pages 124 and 125, but I think the first one has been read by one of my colleagues.

The point here is we need to remain focused on evangelism. I know there is a need of having a strong nurturing program, but evangelism is always a number-one item. But now I can see there is a shift, and it's put at number 3. That, again, as it has been said, will cause a kind of a relaxation for our church members.

Page 125, line 32, Adventist Community Services leader or Dorcas. I know we have already taken an action on this, but I'm a bit concerned, Mr. Chairman, because Adventist Community Services, in my view, is kind of an umbrella department—

DELBERT BAKER: Seeing how that's an item that we're not addressing now, could we hold that one? Could we hold that item? We're not addressing it now, so rather than going further on that, do you have another comment you want to make?

SAMUEL LUMWE: OK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

DELBERT BAKER: You can finish your comment, just not on that point that we're not discussing now.

SAMUEL LUMWE: OK. According to my understanding, Adventist Community Services is in a number of departments where Dorcas and Adventist Men walk hand in hand.

DELBERT BAKER: Sure. OK.

SAMUEL LUMWE: But if we make it just part of Dorcas or—

DELBERT BAKER: Sure.

SAMUEL LUMWE: —a subset department, then we lose a focus of community-service activities in the local churches.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you very much.

All right. Mike 6, Lorraine Questel, Trans-European Division.

LORRAINE QUESTEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'd like to say how encouraged I am by the emphasis on retention and following up on the interests that are in harmony with our mission. We are, as a church, very good at developing projects, but oftentimes we fail dismally on follow-up. We put a lot of finance and energy into the projects themselves, but we don't find the members to keep those contacts and interests.

And I think I'd like us just to look at page 127, where you have on line 11, "Encourage the interest coordinator to ensure that every interest is personally and promptly followed up by an assigned layperson."

I'd like to recommend that it's assigned not just to one interest coordinator or layperson, but that there is a team dedicated to following up interests. Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. Thank you for that suggestion there.

OK, we have mike 1, Ezekiel Adeleye, West-Central Africa Division.

EZEKIEL ADELEYE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I am in full support of the rearrangement of page 124. We are very good in going out to bring in new souls, but we have been failing in the areas of discipleship and nurturing.

However, I want to point our attention to page 125, a revision there, lines 32-39. There we discover that the Adventist Men's is given the title "coordinator"; for Adventist Youth Ministries we have "director"; for the children's ministries we have "leader"; and for church music we have "coordinator."

I know that in other levels of the church, such as conferences, unions, divisions, we have directors in charge of these various departments, and in the local churches we have leaders. But now, having a director and coordinator or leaders at the local level, there is a kind of discrepancy. I want to suggest that

we have a leader instead of director in our local level, that we use that word “leader” as it has been pointed out in our paper here.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: We are not changing, Brother Chairman, lines 35 to 39. We’re only changing line 34, Adventist Youth Ministries director instead of leader. Because, even at the local church level, the departments exist, and the right nomenclature is “director.”

DELBERT BAKER: Well, thank you for the observation. It is so noted, and you heard a response to that.

Here’s the dilemma we’re facing now. We have about 10 more minutes before our session ends, and we have nine speakers. In fact, we just jumped to 11.

So here’s the situation. We can end the discussion and vote, or we’ll have to refer it till Thursday. So we’ll take the next name, and we’ll have to decide right after that what we’re going to do in terms of this. We’d like to finish today, if it’s OK with you. If not, we’ll have to refer it until Thursday, because of the subject matter taking all of tomorrow.

OK. We’ll take one more here, mike 3, Stefan Giuliani, Inter-European Division.

STEFAN GIULIANI: Mr. Chairman, that’s an interesting coincidence. I very much agree with the amendments. I like the focus on discipleship, which I consider to be the core of basically any church activity, including evangelism. We’ve heard a number of comments. I think none of them were in direct opposition to the amendments.

And so I move the previous question.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Good. The previous question is moved. Is there a second? OK. It’s been seconded. All right. One second, please.

HARALD WOLLAN: Mr. Chairman.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Then it’s been moved and seconded. And this means, then, that we will vote on it today.

All those in favor of ending debate, show by the uplifted card. All right.

Those who are opposed.

OK. So that's clear. [Voted.]

HARALD WOLLAN: Mr. Chairman, we have gotten a lot of good input. And I think it is necessary that the *Church Manual* Committee reevaluate the document in line of some of the valuable input we have gotten. So we are coming toward the end of the documents. There is one item we have not covered, which is found on line 131. That actually deals with an issue we had referred back earlier on. So I will, without any further discussion on that item, take it back to the *Church Manual* Committee, because it is exactly the same wording that we need to restudy in a previous document that was referred back. So based on that, we need to meet with the *Church Manual* Committee, and our chair will tell where.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: Brother Chairman, if you just finish with the motion, because it seems to me we ceased the discussion, but we are not all ready to take the decision on the main motion.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. In light of this it's being suggested that we refer the document back to the committee and we would bring it back to you on Thursday or Friday, because there have been a lot of comments, a lot of good suggestions, that this would come back to you.

ARMANDO MIRANDA: OK, Mr. Chairman, can we announce the meeting and the hour? We needed to invite the *Church Manual* Committee to join us. Are we ready, Mr. Chairman, to make the announcement, or—

We need to make the announcement. We'd like to invite the church committee members to join us immediately just finishing this afternoon meeting, this meeting, in room G, in the dome. Room G. And then we are going to determine what will be the time we're going to spend, so we need to meet first to decide some details. So immediately after we finish this business session, we are inviting the *Church Manual* Committee members to join us in room G.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. We have a point of order on mike 4. David Trim, General Conference.

DAVID TRIM: Thank you, Brother Chairman. We voted to put the previous question.

DELBERT BAKER: We did.

DAVID TRIM: The meeting took that decision. It can't just be ignored.

DELBERT BAKER: We will not ignore it.

OK. Here's the situation. We have discussed the item, and we have looked at it thoroughly. They want to take it back, they want to refer it back to the committee for further study, work, and then bring it back on Thursday. So if it's with the general consent of the audience, by common consent we end it here, we don't vote on the action, but we take it back to work on it and bring it back on Thursday or Friday. So that's where we are now.

With that said, let's just have a vote of common consent. If that's acceptable to you, would you please show by the uplifted card.

OK.

Those who oppose that?

Good, good. That's excellent. That gives a chance take a look at it again after Wednesday. We'll come back Thursday or Friday.

With that said, thank you for a very productive session, and thank you for the good work of the *Church Manual* Committee and all involved with that.

At this time we'd like to have our benediction by Andrei Moldovanu. Let's stand for our benediction.

ANDREI MOLDOVANU: I will pray in my language.

[Prayer.]