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The hands of the Trinity

Devotional message presented Friday evening, July 5, 1985.

By C. D. Brooks  
General Field Secretary,  
General Conference, and  
Speaker/Director of the  
Breath of Life

Jeremiah 31:3: "The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."

Just after college graduation I was sent to a remote little town as tent master for an evangelist. Loneliness enshrouded me and was compounded because my fiancée was hundreds of miles away. Then a package arrived for me containing an enlarged photograph of her. It was autographed, "Eternally Yours." I remember thinking, That's a long, long time.

An era is a fixed point from which time is measured. The Jews count from Adam. Their years are denoted A.M. (anno mundi). The Romans counted "from the building of the city" (ab urbe condita—753 B.C.). We count our years from the coming of Jesus (anno ab incarnatione Domini).

The Bible encompasses seven ages of time:

1. Antediluvian
2. Postdiluvian
3. Abraham’s call to David
4. David to captivity
5. End of Davidic kings to Christ
6. First Advent to the Second Coming
7. Second Advent to end of the millenium, when eternity is joined

All these are but "moments" to God! His love is everlasting.

More than 2,000 years after Creation, God revealed truth to Moses. He had been educated in Egyptian universities, and had absorbed heavy courses in Egyptian mythology that made bold declarations concerning "beginnings." Then came the Word of God, declaring, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1).

But did twigs become worms? Did pebbles become bugs? Moses perhaps heard that in the school of Egypt. Revelation to Moses said God created all living creatures, including humans.

There is a new book out, Darwin’s Enigma, by Luther Sunderland. In reviewing this book, the Washington Post said that three giants of recent times "promised to unlock the door to human happiness."

1. Marx, perceiving the true nature of human society, pointed the way to rational organization of all social effort.
2. Freud revealed the basic structure and drives of the human mind.
3. Darwin’s theory of evolution promised to explain the origin and development of all living forms.

But all these are now largely discredited. Marx has suffered the worst. There is hardly a Marxist government on earth that is not in explicit or veiled retreat from his principles. Whatever of Freud’s insights and teachings are salvaged, no one any longer pretends they constitute a definitive description of the human psyche. Darwin counted on further "fossil discoveries" to fill in "gaps" that separated particular species from their presumed ancestors.

One hundred years later these links are still missing! Basic organisms appear abruptly in fossil records and undergo little change thereafter.

Early confidence that the origin of life was simply a chance concentration of the right chemicals, perhaps energized by a lightning bolt, has crumpled before mathematical realization. Such a possibility is comparable with a chance tornado sweeping through a junkyard and assembling a Boeing 747 from the material therein. Evolutionists are quarreling, but like parents, they don’t want to argue in front of the children (the rest of us).

The Sabbath commandment puts it succinctly. "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is." And that is reliable revelation.

Whence came sin? Egyptian mythology explains cosmic good and evil with a cleverly contrived story about one deity being raped by another, producing an evil, antagonizing seed. Surely this strains credulity! Revelation says Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating of the forbidden fruit. Later, Cain’s sin produced religious intolerance, cults, malice, anger, fratricide, hatred, and racism—resulting at last in the great Flood.

God soon broke the common dialect into scrambled speech, and from this Babel confusion came the great "diaspora," developing clans, tribes, nations, races, and peoples speaking in numerous tongues. Revelation says so! We need Genesis. We need God’s Word to avoid confusion.

Incorrect figuring

Scientists deal in billions of years, and a few hundred thousand years this way or that is inconsequential to them. The Bible shows their figuring to be incorrect.

For generations Jehovah searched for a man upon whom He could build a nation and a church. This called for separation. God called Abraham, and by faith he set out to please God, laying the foundation for a church and theocracy. On Mount Moriah, under the glint and flash of the knife, obedience, faith, and self-renunciation all coalesced and galvanized. The father of the faithful was ready to sacrifice his son when God intervened, showing him instead the ram caught in a thicket.

Through the ages, proclaims our Father, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love." Through chastisement, through wars, through the rage and fury of godless nations, I have loved you. I am eternally yours. Through your apostasy and disaffection, through your treasons and disloyalty, I have loved you.
When you were caught like sheep in the claws of the lion, I have loved you! You have survived because I have loved you! I have protected and defended you! I have multiplied you while you were diminished. While Satan was toiling desperately to destroy you I saved you. When in every person's judgment it appeared you would fall I upheld you.

To feel that God will now leave His people destitute and abandoned as we near the very time for which creation has groaned and God Himself has longed is to accuse God of criminal irresponsibility. This is blasphemy! "I have loved thee with an everlasting love." Thou art mine, He declares.

For you I opened a sea and congealed its waters. For you I repelled bacteria so that disease did not afflict you or fever prostrate you. Your clothes did not wear out; they were as though woven with iron threads. I prevented rust and decay. For you, my beloved, I conscripted hornets and sent their humming squadrons to terrorize and vanquish your enemies. For you I came out of heaven to personally deliver my faithful ones from death's whitened jaws. For you I came down to dwell in a sanctuary that we might be near each other. "I have loved thee." Ah! For you I came to visit a planet in rebellion. I became poor for your sakes. I was arrested, abused, and murdered for you.

Yes, but I rose from the dead for you, bursting the vault door to Joseph's tomb. I ascended up on high for you, and sent the Comforter to you. I now intercede for you. I am preparing a place for you. I will come again for you.

As we close in on this climactic and glorious event, will He forget or abandon us? "I have loved thee with an everlasting love." He responds.

Hebrews 12:6: "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth." Let not saints or sinners misunderstand this. Though My people are careless and insolent in peaceful times and though I visit them with judgments, yet by their cries and complaints I am aroused and My great arm is moved.

In affliction you are still Mine; in your weakness you are Mine. Though I have been reproached and My name dishonored, I have not cast you away. Satan cannot take you out of My hand. You are Mine. Return unto Me. Ask for the door to Joseph's tomb. I ascended up on high for you, and sent the Comforter to you. I now intercede for you. I am preparing a place for you. I will come again for you.

The battle was begun in heaven. It will soon culminate decisively in an Armageddon down here. The church is "walled in," but let her look up. She is not forsaken. Like David, she may ask God to put her tears in a bottle. Danger forecast already is here. The last days will be perilous times (2 Tim. 3:1-5). The great danger is that God's church will be forecast already is here. The last days will be perilous times (2 Tim. 3:1-5). The great danger is that God's church will be discouraged or overwhelmed by the world and the times, that she will lose her anchor and be set adrift, that she will assume she is forgotten and abandoned, that she will grow weary of watching.

Listen! My wife is more precious to me than I am to myself, and the evidence of this would be more certain and apparent if she were in danger. The church is Christ's beloved wife. "The church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard."—The Review and Herald Publishing Association, 55 West Oak Ridge Drive, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740. Second-class postage paid at Hagerstown, Maryland. Postmaster, send address changes to Adventist Review, 55 West Oak Ridge Drive, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740. Vol. 162, No. 34.

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Church! Do not remain uncovered, unshielded, unprotected. Put on the armor. Get into the wedding garment. Enter into your secret chambers and contain yourself quietly there. He says, Come thou, My people, enter within thy chambers and shut the door after thee. Hide thyself a very little while until the indignation be past.

I saw a mother, carrying two bags of food from the store, walking along a busy street with her little son holding on to her skirt. Suddenly the little fellow let go and quickly darted into the street. That mother dropped her bags and threw herself into harm's way and like a flash rescued the thoughtless child. As I passed I heard her saying firmly and softly to the confused and frightened lad, "Didn't I tell you to stay close to me?"

God told us to stay close to Him.

God says, I loved you when I died on the cross, and even before that. That is why I died. I loved you when I made heaven and earth, and before that. That is why I made them for you to abide in, and you shall inherit them. There is a beginning to this world, but not a beginning for My love for you. "I have loved thee with an everlasting love." There has never been a pause, never an ebb, never a failure.

Leap into the future. Encompass your own deathbed. I shall comfort you with this: "I have loved thee with an everlasting love." Fear not! In a judgment that causes angels to tremble, you will be assured, for "I have loved thee with an everlasting love."

Roll on, ages, love abides! Die out, sun and moon, love remains! O time, be burned out in the glory of eternity. Yet love will continue.

This is heaven!

Ellen White’s last General Conference

Ellen White attended her last General Conference session in 1909 on the grounds of Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Maryland. Nearly 82 at the time, she realized this might be the last General Conference she would attend. Mrs. White spoke several times in the big tent during the session, including the afternoon meeting on the last day.

Later, W. A. Spicer, secretary of the General Conference, recalled her last appearance before the delegates: "Well I remember the last words this faithful servant spoke in the general assembly of the movement. ... Mrs. White spoke a few words of good cheer and farewell, and then turned to the pulpit, where lay a Bible. She opened the book, and held it out with hands that trembled with age. And she said:

"'Brethren and sisters, I commend unto you this Book!' "Without another word, she closed the book, and walked from the platform. It was her last spoken word in the world assembly of the remnant church. Well was it symbolic of the lifelong ministry through this gift, ever exalting high, supreme above all, the Holy Scriptures as the foundation of the faith of the people of the Advent Movement.

Fourteenth business meeting
Fifty-fourth General Conference session July 5, 1985, 9:30 A.M.

Session actions
[Session proceedings were published in Bulletin 8, p. 28.]

General Conference Constitution and Bylaws—Amendments

Voted, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws to read as follows:

Constitution

Article I—Name
This organization shall be known as General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Article II—Object
The object of this Conference is to teach all nations the everlasting gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and the commandments of God.

Article III—Membership
Sec. 1. The membership of this Conference shall consist of:

a. Such union conferences and union missions, either in organized division sections or without divisional affiliation, as have been or shall be properly organized and accepted by vote of the General Conference in session.

b. Such local conferences and properly organized local missions not included in any division, union conference/mission, or such local conferences/missions/unions of churches directly attached to divisions as have been or shall be properly organized and accepted by vote of the General Conference in session.

c. Four delegates from each division, without regard to member-ship, and one additional delegate for each 200,000 or major fraction thereof, of the division membership, such delegates to be appointed by the division committee and their credentials to be ratified by the General Conference in session. Calculations for these delegate allotments shall be based upon the membership as of December 31 of the year preceding the session.

Sec. 4. Regular delegates shall be appointed in the following manner:

a. Delegates representing union conferences shall be appointed by the respective unions.

b. Delegates representing union missions, and local conferences/missions/unions of churches attached to the division but not to any union, shall be appointed by the division committee in consultation with the organization concerned.

c. Delegates representing union missions, and local conferences/missions/unions of churches, without division affiliation, shall be appointed by the General Conference Committee in consultation with the organization concerned.

Sec. 5. Regular delegates shall be appointed and accredited on the following basis:

a. Delegates from union conferences/missions. Each union conference/union mission shall be entitled to one delegate in addition to its president, without regard to number, an additional delegate for each local conference and each regularly organized mission in its territory without regard to number, and an additional delegate for each 5,000, or major fraction thereof, of the membership of the union conference or mission.

b. Delegates from attached local fields. Each local conference/local mission/union of churches directly attached to a division or to the General Conference, as has been or shall be properly organized and accepted by vote of the General Conference in session, shall be entitled to one delegate without regard to number, and an additional
delegate for each 5,000, or major fraction thereof, of the membership of the local conference or mission.

c. Calculations for delegate allotments shall be based upon the membership as of December 31 of the second year preceding the session.

Sec. 6. Credentials to sessions shall be issued by the General Conference to those appointed as provided for in harmony with the provisions of this article.

Article IV—Officers and Their Duties

Sec. 1. The officers of this Conference shall be a president, vice presidents, a secretary, an undersecretary, associate secretaries, a treasurer, an undertreasurer, and associate treasurers, who shall be elected by the Conference.

Sec. 2. President: The president shall preside at the sessions of the Conference, act as chairman of the Executive Committee, and labor in the general interests of the Conference, as the Executive Committee may advise, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to such office.

Sec. 3. Vice Presidents: Each vice president shall at the time of his election be assigned to serve as a general administrative assistant to the president or to preside over a division field.

Sec. 4. Secretary, Undersecretary, and Associate Secretaries: It shall be the duty of the secretary, undersecretary, and the associate secretaries to keep the minutes of the proceedings of the General Conference sessions and of the General Conference Committee meetings, to maintain correspondence with the fields, and to perform such other duties as usually pertain to such office.

Sec. 5. Treasurer, Undertreasurer and Associate Treasurers: It shall be the duty of the treasurer, undertreasurer, and the associate treasurers to receive all funds of the General Conference, and disburse them in harmony with the actions of the Executive Committee of the General Conference, and to render such financial statements at regular intervals as may be desired by the General Conference or by the Executive Committee. The undertreasurer and associate treasurers shall assist the treasurer in his work.

Article V—Election

Sec. 1. The following shall be elected at each regular session of the General Conference:

a. A president, vice presidents, a secretary, an undersecretary, associate secretaries, division secretaries, a treasurer, an undertreasurer, associate treasurers, division treasurers, general field secretaries, division field secretaries, an auditor, associate auditors, division auditors, a secretary and associate secretaries of the Ministerial Association, a director and associate directors of each duly organized General Conference department; namely, Communication, Education, Health and Temperance, Lay Activities, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, Publishing, Sabbath School, Stewardship and Development, Youth; a director of Archives and Statistics, a director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, a director of Adventist Personnel Service, a director and associate director of the Office of Human Relations, a director and associate director of Trust Services, a director of World Foods Service; division Ministerial Association secretaries, division departmental directors, division directors of Trust Services, and division directors of World Foods Service.
b. Other persons, not to exceed 60 in number, to serve as members of the Executive Committee, one third of which shall be laymen.

Article VI—Executive Committee

Sec. 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of:

a. Those elected as provided by Article V except the General Conference auditor and associate auditors, and division auditors.
b. Presidents of union conferences, presidents of union missions, past presidents of the General Conference holding credentials from this Conference, the president of Andrews University, the director and associate directors of the Biblical Research Institute, the president of Christian Record Braille Foundation, the president of the General Conference Risk Management Service, the director of the Geoscience Research Institute, the president of Harris Pine Mills, the director of Home and Family Service, the president of the Home Study International, the president of Loma Linda University, the president of the Ellen G. White Estate, the speaker of the Breath of Life, the speaker of the Voice of Prophecy, and the speaker of the La Voz de la Esperanza (Spanish) radio program.

Article VII—Term of Office

All officers of the General Conference and those members of the Executive Committee provided for by Article VI, Sec. 1a, shall hold office from the time of election until the next ensuing regular session, or until their successors are elected and appear to enter upon their duties.

Article VIII—Incorporations and Agents

Sec. 1. Such incorporations may be authorized by the General Conference in session, or by the General Conference Executive Committee, as the development of the work may require.

Sec. 2. At each regular session of this Conference, the delegates shall

Session becomes venue for family reunion

The General Conference session was more than just a church business meeting for the Gordon Jenson family (above). For them—and probably for many other families—it was a family reunion.

The Jenson missionaries to India since 1948, currently are at Spicer College, where Gordon is head of the theology department and his wife, Betty, is head of the Occidental (Western) music department.

Their three sons (from left, Charles, Wesley, and John—"We’re not of Methodist background, however," said Gordon, referring to their names) and their families took full advantage of this opportunity to be together. Charles and John are pastors in Iowa and California, respectively, and Wesley is a nutritionist at Glendale Medical Center in California.

JAMES COFFIN
elect such trustees and corporate bodies connected with this organization as may be provided in the statutory laws governing each.

Sec. 3. The Conference shall employ such committees, secretaries, treasurers, auditors, agents, ministers, missionaries, and other persons, and make such distribution of its laborers, as may be necessary effectively to execute its work.

Sec. 4. The Conference shall grant credentials or licenses to ministers and missionaries except in division fields, in union and local conferences, and in organized union missions.

Sec. 5. The General Conference Corporation is an organization formed as an instrumentality of the General Conference for the purpose of assisting the General Conference in carrying out its purposes.

Article IX—Sessions

Sec. 1. This Conference shall hold quinquennial sessions at such time and place as the Executive Committee shall designate and announce by a notice published in the Adventist Review in three consecutive issues at least four months before the date for the opening of the session. In case special world conditions seem to make it imperative to postpone the calling of the session, the Executive Committee, in regular or special council, shall have authority to make such postponement, not to exceed two years, giving notice to all constituent organizations.

Sec. 2. The Executive Committee may call special sessions of the General Conference at such time and place as it deems proper, by a like notice as of regular sessions, and the transactions of such special sessions shall have the same force as those of the regular sessions.

Sec. 3. The election of officers and the voting on all matters of business shall be by viva voce vote or as designated by the chairman, unless otherwise demanded by a majority of the delegates present.

Article X—Bylaws

The voters of this Conference may enact bylaws and amend or repeal them at any session thereof, and such bylaws may embrace any provision not inconsistent with the Constitution.

Article XI—Amendments

This Constitution or its Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voters present and voting at any session, provided that, if it is proposed to amend the Constitution at a special session, notice of such purpose shall be given in the call for such special session.

BYLAWS

Article I—Division Sections

Sec. 1. The General Conference shall conduct its worldwide work in division sections, each section to operate within a specified territory in harmony with the policy of the General Conference.

Sec. 2. Union conference and union mission field organizations, together with all other organizations and institutions within the territory, shall be responsible to the respective division committees, or in the case of fields without divisional affiliation, to the General Conference Committee.

Regency’s glass-backed elevator up and down, up and down. What made this so interesting was that we never knew who might get on next. Those doors could part to admit a 10-year-old swimmer or the General Conference president. There lay the adventure.

There was the college chaplain who boarded at 23 with an empty ice bucket and no specific destination. “Down?” he muttered to himself. But the elevator was already in its descent when he began frantically pushing buttons. He wanted 20, but he got 15.

“It would be fun to shoot straight up to 18,” commented a dignified Scandinavian delegate. “I’ve never gotten to do that.” A young rider recommended he come at midnight. “I guarantee you will go straight up and straight down, no stops.” He sounded experienced.

I think passengers were a little surprised when Neal Wilson stepped onto our elevator. Probably none of us had ever thought of him taking a lift with the hoi polloi. But it’s a long way to the twenty-seventh floor, and not even the GC president has wings. Well, Elder Wilson was friendly and personable to his awestruck traveling companions, who were all trying to think of something brief and unforgettable to say. Two people, including a GC Communication Department member, became so absorbed in the president that they nearly missed their elevator stops. “Whose floor is this?” the communicator called out. It was his.

During the time of our elevator duty it rained, and judging by the condition of those who entered our domain, it rained quite hard. One teen, umbrella in hand and drenched to the skin, presented to our wondering eyes a curious paradox. We finally discovered that his family, still sheltered at the Superdome, had voted him Least Likely to Suffer Water Damage if Rained Upon and had sent him to the hotel to pick up an umbrella for the rest of them. No sense in everyone getting wet.

All this brings up an important point. Business sessions alone do not a General Conference make. When we get together every five years to polish, repair, and alter the structure, we do not neglect its heart—the fun, the fellowship, the laughter, the love. And it’s all here—the fun, the fellowship, the laughter, the love. And it’s all here.

Behind closed doors

Never underestimate the significance of an elevator—especially at General Conference time.

By DEBORAH ANFENSON-VANCE

An elevator is an elevator is an elevator. It goes up, it goes down, and occasionally it goes nowhere at all. We are thankful for elevators on a hot day, on a hurried day, on a moving day, and on any day we have to rise higher than the second floor. Apart from this, we don’t pay much attention to the elevator unless it isn’t there or it isn’t working. Most elevators are kind of boring.

Except, of course, at a General Conference session. Then the lowly elevator becomes a committee room, a fellowship hall, an entertainment center, a church, and the home of serendipitous or providential reunions (if only for a minute or so). Transient nature aside, I assign the elevator high marks as it relates to the goings-on of any given General Conference session.

So for more than an hour a REVIEW photographer and I willingly turned ourselves into human yo-yos, riding the 27-floor Hyatt
Sec. 3. The division sections shall be known as: Africa-Indian Ocean Division, China Division, Eastern Africa Division, Euro-Africa Division, Far Eastern Division, Inter-American Division, North American Division, South American Division, South Pacific Division, Southern Asia Division, Trans-European Division, The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The boundaries of these division sections shall be subject to adjustment only at a session (sessions) of the General Conference, or at an annual council (annual councils) of the General Conference Committee.

Sec. 4. If a territorial adjustment is made at an annual council, it shall be made only provided the division(s) affected is (are) represented at the council by at least one of its executive officers. An exception to the requirement of division representation shall be made in a condition of emergency. In such a case the General Conference Committee shall make whatever adjustments are necessary for the conduct of the work in the territory affected.

Article II—Standing Committees

Sec. 1. At each regular session of this Conference, such standing committees as may be found necessary, including the following, shall be elected to consider such items of business as may be referred to them and to bring in their reports and recommendations to the session:

a. Constitution and Bylaws Committee
b. Nominating Committee
c. Plans Committee

Sec. 2. a. The membership of the Nominating Committee shall consist of the following:

(1) Each division and each attached union shall be entitled to membership on the Nominating Committee based upon its proportion of the world membership as of December 31 of the second year preceding the session. The total under this provision is not to exceed 200, provided, however, that no division have less than eight members on the Nominating Committee.

(2) One member for each attached union and one member for each of the following General Conference institutions: Andrews University, Christian Record Braille Foundation, Harris Pine Mills, Home Study International, Loma Linda Foods, Loma Linda University, Oakwood College, Pacific Press Publishing Association, Review and Herald Publishing Association, and Seventh-day Adventist Radio, Television and Film Center.

b. The members of the Nominating Committee shall be chosen as follows:

(1) Each division delegation shall act as a unit in selecting the members to which it is entitled on the basis of church membership. Delegates at large will join the delegations from the divisions in which they are or were last employed, or now reside.

(2) The election of division representatives on the Nominating Committee shall be by the method of voting considered by the division to be most convenient and efficient, taking into consideration the size of the delegation and other circumstances.

c. Each division delegation in selecting its representatives on the Nominating Committee shall take into account the following points:

(1) The division’s representation on the Nominating Committee should, as far as possible, represent the various geographical areas, organizational segments, and types of activity of the division.

(2) Those chosen as members of the Nominating Committee must be duly accredited delegates in attendance at the General Conference session.

(3) Members of the General Conference Committee whose term of service is expiring at the session and therefore stand for reelection shall not be members of the Nominating Committee.

d. No delegate shall nominate more than one person for election to the Nominating Committee.

e. The Nominating Committee shall elect its own chairman and secretary under the temporary chairmanship of the president of the General Conference.

f. The Nominating Committee shall limit its nominations to those positions for which budgetary provision has been made.

g. In order to expedite the work of the Nominating Committee, the representatives from each division, including North America, shall be allowed a reasonable amount of time to meet and consider the personnel needs of their respective divisions and to make recommendations to the full Nominating Committee. Decisions of these groups shall not be binding on the Nominating Committee as a whole, but shall be submitted as recommendations which will be considered. The North American Division group shall recommend personnel for the following offices in the General Conference:

Two associate secretaries.
Two elected members of the General Conference Communication.
One associate director for the Department of Communication.
One associate director for the Department of Education who shall serve as executive secretary of the NAD Board of Higher Education and who shall have been recommended by that board.
One associate director of the Department of Education who shall serve as executive secretary of the NAD K-12 Board of Education and who shall have been recommended by that board.
One associate director of the Department of Health and Temperance.
One associate director of the Department of Education who shall serve as executive secretary of the NAD Office of Higher Education.
One associate director of the Department of Church and Temperance in the field of nursing.
One associate director of the Department of Lay Activities.
One associate secretary of the Ministerial Association.
One director of the NAD Office of Human Relations.
One associate director of the NAD Office of Human Relations.
One associate director of the Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty.
One associate director of the Administrative Department.
One associate director of the Sabbath School Department.
One associate director of the Stewardship and Development Department.
One associate director of the Youth Department.

General field secretaries assigned to North America.

Article III—Vice Presidents

Sec. 1. General vice presidents shall be elected to assist the president with the general administrative work of the General Conference.

One additional vice president shall be elected for each division of the General Conference.

Sec. 2. The general vice presidents shall in the absence of the president serve as chairmen of the Executive Committee and shall assist the president in his administrative work.

Sec. 3. The vice presidents of North America shall work under the direction of the General Conference Committee.

Sec. 4. The vice presidents elected for the divisions outside of North America shall act as chairmen of the division committees operating in their respective fields and shall have charge of the work in those fields under the direction of the division committees and shall be designated within their respective division territories as presidents of the divisions over which they preside.

Article IV—Undersecretary and Associate Secretaries

An undersecretary and associate secretaries shall be elected to share with the secretary the responsibilities of his office. They shall perform such duties connected with the Secretariat as may be assigned to them by the secretary.

Article V—Division Secretaries

Sec. 1. A secretary shall be elected for each division outside of North America to be designated "division secretary."

Sec. 2. Division secretaries shall work under the direction of their respective division committees. It shall be their duty to keep the minutes of the division committee meetings, to collect information and make such reports as may be required, and to do such other work as usually pertains to such office.

Sec. 3. Division committees may appoint such associate and assistant secretaries as may be required to carry on the work.

Article VI—Undertreasurer and Associate Treasurers

An undertreasurer and associate treasurers shall be elected to share with the treasurer the work of his office. They shall perform such duties connected with the Treasury as may be assigned to them by the treasurer or by the Executive Committee. They may be authorized by the Executive Committee to sign checks under the instruction of the treasurer.
Treasurers

Article VII—Division Treasurers

Sec. 1. A treasurer shall be elected for each division outside of North America to be designated “division treasurer.”

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the division treasurers to receive and disburse the funds of the General Conference made available for their territory, under the direction of their respective division committees, and to perform such other duties as usually pertain to such office.

Sec. 3. A division committee may appoint an undertreasurer and such associate treasurers and assistant auditors as may be required to carry on the work.

Article VIII—General and Division Field Secretaries

Sec. 1. The term “general field secretary” shall be used to designate general field workers elected in addition to the officers to serve in carrying the field responsibilities of the General Conference.

Sec. 2. The general field secretaries shall work under the direction of the General Conference Committee and the president, and be assigned either to field service or to special projects or responsibilities as may be determined by the General Conference Committee.

Sec. 3. Division field secretaries may be elected as shall be deemed necessary to labor in the divisions under the direction of their respective division committees.

Article IX—Departments—Directors/Secretaries, Associates, and Assistants

Sec. 1. The departmental, association, and service directors/secretaries and associates elected by the General Conference shall work under the direction of the Executive Committee of the General Conference, or in the case of departmental, association, or service directors/secretaries in divisions, under the direction of their respective division executive committees, and shall occupy an advisory relation to the field.

Sec. 2. The term “associate director/secretary” shall be used to designate such individuals as may be elected to associate with the director/secretary of any General Conference department, association, or service in carrying the responsibilities of his office. Such person shall have the requisite experience, background, and expertise to facilitate the work of the department in carrying out the functions assigned to it not only at headquarters but also throughout the world field. Certain specialized associate activities may be largely accomplished without extensive field activity.

Sec. 3. The term “assistant director/secretary” shall be used to designate such persons as are appointed by the General Conference Committee to assist the director/secretary and his associates in any department, association, or service in carrying the work of the General Conference office, usually in one or more special procedures or functions. These special assignments shall be carried on largely in the office and serve to expedite the work of the departmental staff. Field appointments for departmental assistants shall be of a very limited nature and shall normally be confined to the North American Division.

Article X—Departmental Advisory Committees

The Executive Committee shall appoint a representative advisory committee for each department, association, or service of the General Conference. Such committee shall in each case be composed of the director/secretary, associates, and assistants of the department, association, or service; the directors/secretaries of departmental, association, or service work in the divisions; and such other persons as the Executive Committee may deem necessary.

Article XI—Division Departments—Directors/Secretaries, Associates, and Assistants

Sec. 1. Division departmental, association, and service directors/secretaries shall be elected by the General Conference for the respective division fields and shall labor under the direction of their respective division committees.

Sec. 2. Division committees shall appoint such associate and assistant directors/secretaries as may be needed to serve in special capacities, to labor under the direction of their respective directors/secretaries.

Article XII—Director of Archives and Statistics

At each regular session the General Conference shall elect a director of Archives and Statistics, whose duties shall be to administer the General Conference Archives and to compile and report the statistics of the world work, and who shall serve under the direction of the Executive Committee.

Article XIII—Executive Committee

Sec. 1. a. During the intervals between sessions of the General Conference, the Executive Committee is delegated the authority to act on behalf of the General Conference in session, including the authority to elect or remove, for cause, officers, directors, and associates of departments/services and committee members and to fill for the current term any vacancies that may occur in its offices, boards, committees, or agents by death, resignation, or otherwise.

b. The Executive Committee shall have power to grant or to withdraw credentials or licenses and to approve such committees and employ such personnel as may be necessary to execute its work effectively.

c. The Executive Committee shall have power to effect the retirement, before the expiration of the term for which they have been elected, of persons elected under Article V, Sec. 1a, of the Constitution who may develop a health condition that prevents them from properly discharging their duties.

d. The removal from office by the Executive Committee of any person elected under Article V, Sec. 1a, of the Constitution or its withdrawal of credentials or licenses shall be by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any regular meeting.

Sec. 2. a. A meeting of the Executive Committee, known as the Annual Council, shall be held annually for the purpose of considering budgets from the fields and making appropriations, and for the transaction of other business and the adoption of such policies as may be necessary in the operation of the worldwide work.

b. A meeting of the Executive Committee, known as the Spring Meeting, shall be held annually for the purpose of receiving the audited financial reports of the General Conference and for transacting regular Executive Committee business as provided in the General Conference Working Policy relating to Spring Meetings. 

Pathfinders were among the marchers in Monday’s parade.
Sec. 3. A majority of the full membership of the Executive Committee, including the president or a general vice president, is empowered to transact denominational business of any nature at any time and place.

Sec. 4. Any 15 members of the Executive Committee, including an officer of the General Conference, shall, after due notice to available members, constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee and shall be empowered to transact such executive business as is in harmony with the general plans outlined by the Committee at the designated place of meeting of the Executive Committee as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 5. All meetings of the Executive Committee, except majority meetings, shall be held at the General Conference headquarters, or at such other place as may be definitely arranged by a majority meeting of the Executive Committee, or by the quorum of at least 15 members meeting in regular session at general headquarters.

Sec. 6. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called at any time by the ranking officer of the Conference who may be present at headquarters, and such officer, or any member of the Committee appointed by him, shall act as chairman of the meeting.

Article XIV—Division Committees

Sec. 1. In each division outside of North America, a division committee shall be constituted as hereinafter provided for the transaction of business pertaining to the division.

Sec. 2. The members of a division committee shall be the president, the secretary, the treasurer, and the field secretaries of the division; the presidents of union conferences; the presidents of union missions; the division departmental, association, and service directors/secretaries; and any other members of the General Conference Committee present. Other members may also be appointed by the division committee.

Sec. 3. The actions taken by division committees pertaining to the administration of affairs in division fields shall be considered final, provided they are in harmony with the plans and policy of the General Conference as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws, and with its Executive Committee actions at regular Annual Councils.

Sec. 4. Five members of a division committee, including the chairman, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. When the chairman is unable to be present, the secretary may convene such a meeting at headquarters and shall serve as chairman unless otherwise determined by the president. Minority meetings of fewer than five members of the division committee may be held for the transaction of necessary routine business, but actions taken at such meetings shall not be final until the minutes of such meetings have been approved in a meeting with a quorum present.

Article XV—Corporation Boards

At each regular session of the General Conference the requisite boards of trustees, according to their respective constitutions and bylaws, shall be elected for each legal corporation serving as trustee and holding properties and receiving gifts and legacies for the General Conference unincorporated. The trustees of the General Conference Corporation shall also constitute the Board of Trustees of the General Conference Association.

Article XVI—Auditors and Audits

Sec. 1. The Executive Committee shall have the accounts of the General Conference and of its legal corporations audited at least once each calendar year, and the auditor or one of the associate auditors shall report upon the same to the Executive Committee annually. The auditor or an associate auditor, as may be arranged, shall report also the General Conference at its regular sessions. The General Conference auditor and the associate auditors shall also be made available for auditing the accounts of union conferences and general institutions as well as division accounts. The auditors shall be under the general direction of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. The division auditor or auditors shall audit the books of such organizations or institutions within their territories as the division committees shall direct.

Article XVII—Wages and Expenses

Sec. 1. The Executive Committee shall appoint annually eight persons not in its employ who, with the officers of the General Conference and not less than seven presidents of union conferences, shall constitute a committee to audit the expense accounts of employees and to fix their wages for the succeeding year.

Sec. 2. The Executive Committee shall have power to make such adjustments from time to time in the wage of clerks, stenographers, and other routine workers as may be necessary.

Article XVIII—Funds

Sec. 1. The funds of the General Conference shall be as follows:
   a. A tithe of the tithe receipts of the union conferences and union missions and of the local confer-
Shelton Kilby III, a pianist from Nashville, Tennessee, played a stirring musical prelude to the Wednesday evening meeting.

ences and missions not included in union conferences and union missions.

b. Regular mission offerings.

c. Special donations and proceeds from the maturities of deferred gifts.

d. Such percentage of the tithe of local conferences and missions as may be determined by a committee composed of the conference and mission presidents and the division executive committee, or, in the case of North America, the conference and mission presidents and the General Conference Executive Committee.

e. Surplus tithes which may be appropriated by local and union conferences for the mission field.

f. Appropriations from our publishing houses, sanitariums and other institutions that are under the control of the General Conference which, because of the character of their work, have more than local influence and responsibility as may be arranged by joint counsel of the Executive Committee of the General Conference with the board of management of each institution.

g. Such percentage of the funds of union and local conferences and missions, institutions, and Adventist Book Centers in North America as may be arranged by the General Conference Committee in counsel with conference presidents, the same to be known as the Retirement Plan for the support of aged and infirm workers and for the dependent widows and orphans of workers.

Sec. 2. Divisions outside North America shall adopt a retirement plan which shall be in harmony with principles set forth in the General Conference Retirement Plan.

Article XIX—Appropriations

Sec. 1. The Executive Committee shall make its appropriations for home and foreign work at the Annual Councils, said appropriations to be based on budgets from the fields requiring financial help.

Sec. 2. Appropriations shall be made subject to the receipt of the full amount of funds estimated in the General Conference budget. In case of a shortage, the distribution shall be on a pro rata basis to all the interests represented in the budget.

Sec. 3. Appropriations for major permanent investments shall be held in trust for the purpose for which the appropriation was designated. In case the project is abandoned, the funds shall revert to the General Conference. Other funds appropriated to division fields shall be administered by the division committee.

Sec. 4. All funds raised in division fields, except the regular funds belonging to the General Conference, as indicated under Article XVIII, may be used for the advancement of the work in the fields in which they were raised.

Sec. 5. General Conference funds in all the world shall be made available to meet the annual appropriations of the General Conference.

Article XX—Finance

Sec. 1. To tide over a possible financial depression and to provide a working fund for regular operations, the General Conference shall maintain an amount of working capital as defined and specified in the Working Policy.

Sec. 2. The Executive Committee, acting through its legal agency, the General Conference Corporation, shall have power to make such annuity contracts as may seem desirable; but all moneys obtained in this way shall be invested in securities and not be made available for appropriations until the annuity contracts have matured.

Sec. 3. The tithes and mission offerings received by the General Conference shall be held as a trust for appropriation to the work of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. It shall not be within the prerogative, therefore, of the General Conference Committee, the Treasury, nor of any agent or agency of the denomination, to loan these funds to private individuals, to endorse notes, sign bonds or other securities, or in any other way to divert the funds of the General Conference from their intended purpose. Advances specifically authorized under regular policy, and made in order to enable workers to become located and equipped for service, are not a violation of this provision.

Sec. 4. The basis for computing goals and per capita funds shall be the average of the membership of the four consecutive quarters ending on September 30 of the preceding year as published in the General Conference official statistical reports.

General Conference Constitution and Bylaws—Provision for Advance Agendas to Session Delegates

Voted, To provide to each delegate to a General Conference session a copy of the proposed agenda eight weeks prior to the opening of the next regular session, with supporting materials that would provide information regarding the items, recognizing that the agenda is not closed at that time and that items may still be added for presentation at the forthcoming session.

[Adjourned.]

KENNETH J. MITTLIEDER
Chairman
D. R. CHRISTMAN, Secretary
J. W. BOTHE, Actions Editor
MARTHA HORN
Recording Secretary

SAC GUIDES YOU

T

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The roots of the present Biblical Research Institute reach back to the Defense Literature Committee (instituted in 1943) and the Committee on Biblical Study and Research (appointed in 1952). These committees were merged in 1969. Gordon M. Hyde served until 1979 as the institute's first director.

During the present quinquennium its activities have been supervised by W. Richard Lesher (1979-1984) and, beginning in 1984, by George W. Reid. At present the staff includes three associates: Frank Holbrook, Herbert Kiesler, E. Edward Zinke; and two secretaries: Genevieve Bothe and Martha Lunt. Annette Graves and Elvira Segovia also served a portion of this period in a secretarial capacity.

Organization

Oversight and general supportive counsel to the operation of the institute is in the hands of a resident committee known as the Biblical Research Institute Administrative Committee (BRIAD). This advisory council includes members from the presidential, secretariat, treasury, and ministerial areas, and from the White Estate.

A large group of Adventist scholars (approximately 40), drawn from both North American educational institutions and overseas divisions, form the Biblical Research Institute Committee (BRICOM). These scholars, who meet semiannually, volunteer their time. At times specialists in allied fields are asked to meet with them. They form the working core of the institute, researching, writing, and critiquing the papers presented on the various issues the institute undertakes to study.

In recent years the world divisions have been encouraged to form Biblical Research Committees at the division level and to appoint their directors as members of BRICOM. At present four BRCs are functioning. The following six personnel are members of BRICOM and represent their respective divisions or BRC: Arthur Ferch (Australasian Division); John Fowler (Southern Asia Division); Mario Veloso (South American Division); W. H. Vhymeister and James Zachary (Far Eastern Division); Bertil Wiklander (Northern European Division); and Jean Zurcher (Euro-Africa Division). Through the exchange of minutes and papers with concerns common to all divisions or unique to some, this arrangement enables the world church to move together in unity of belief and practice.

The Biblical Research Institute Science Council (BRISCO) functions under the direction of BRIAD and deals with issues related to science and the Scriptures. Ariel Roth, chairman of the Geoscience Institute and a member of BRICOM, gives direction as chairman of this council of scientists and Bible scholars. A staff member of the Biblical Research Institute serves as secretary. In this manner BRISCO forms a link between the two institutes and provides an opportunity for scientists and Bible scholars to study together. BRISCO meets annually, often in a field location, to examine problems and to seek solutions in harmony with the Biblical view of Creation and the Flood.

Activities

The overall purpose of the institute is to provide the church and its ministers with resource information and materials in the area of the Bible and theology. In general, it is active in four principal areas.

In-service assistance. The institute functions as "theologian in residence" for the benefit of the officers and departments of the General Conference. Members serve on a variety of committees where Biblical or theological input is needed. The institute also responds to requests from departments for assistance on particular projects. Correspondence from the world field on Biblical matters commonly is routed to the institute.

Research. The institute is engaged continually in research projects for the purpose of providing positive, spiritual insights for the well-being of the church. In this way assistance is provided by the scholars who compose BRICOM and by invitees who are experts in their disciplines. During this quinquennium, papers were prepared on the role and function of the prophetic gift in the Adventist Church. Another project dealt with a Seventh-day Adventist concept of human sexuality. At present the institute is beginning extensive research in the area of ecclesiology (the church—its nature and mission).

During this quinquennium the institute also has assisted the Daniel and Revelation Committee in its research and study of these two important prophetic books. The institute arranges for the committee's sessions, and edits and publishes its materials.

"Issues in the Book of Hebrews" (Adventist Review, Feb. 7, 1985) and several articles have been published recently for the Daniel and Revelation Committee under the auspices of the institute. At present a volume is in preparation that discusses the issues in Daniel and Leviticus. Other works on Hebrews, Revelation, and doctrinal development in the Seventh-day Adventist Church will follow.

Recently the institute entered into a joint venture with the Review and Herald Publishing Association to prepare a large book on Seventh-day Adventist doctrinal beliefs. This work, involving some 34 overseas and American scholars, will become volume 11 of the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary Reference Series. Its projected date of publication is the summer of 1988.

Apologetics. The institute often is requested to critique challenges to the doctrinal positions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Materials developed in response to current issues generally are published and can be obtained from the institute's offices.

Field service. The institute conducts Bible conferences for the Adventist ministry in the world divisions and makes presentations at conference workers' meetings in North America in response to requests. In the past two years the institute has joined with the Ministerial Association and the White Estate to provide a series of lectures for ministers in a program of continuing education. To date the series has been presented at workers' meetings in the Arizona, Montana, and Minnesota conferences.

In this quinquennium 14 Bible conferences on the general theme of eschatology have been conducted in several divisions: three in the Euro-Africa Division; three in the Southern Asia Division; and eight in the Far Eastern Division. While the institute organizes these conferences, much of their strength stems from the participation of scholars and ministers from the Theological Seminary, the ADVENTIST REVIEW, North American Division, and elsewhere.
A man had been healed; as a result Peter and John were threatened and released. In boldness they took the position that they must witness to the things they had seen and heard. They gave their report to the assembled brethren and sisters, who in response “lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is” (Acts 4:24). Then followed that fantastic event described in verse 31: “And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.”

Too often we stop with amazement, wonder—yes, longing—as we read these verses. They remind us that even as there was an early rain there will also be a latter rain. What situation prevailed during the early rain? “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul.” That is the experience we yearn for. “Neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common” (verse 32). This was a time when the apostles witnessed to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with great power, courage, and love.

At the time of the early rain people were obsessed with sharing the gospel and meeting the needs of their fellow believers. This dedication led to a beautiful experience: “Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of things that were sold, and laid them down at the apostles’ feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need” (verses 34, 35). Apparently the first man to do this was Barnabas. You might say he was the first trustor of the Christian church. Barnabas came from Cyprus; his name means “encouragement.” Having land, he “sold it and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet” (verse 37). This same Barnabas “brought . . . [Saul] to the apostles, and declared unto them he had seen the Lord in the way” (chap. 9:27). He also had faith in young Mark, adding him to his team. These things happened in the time of the early rain. Is this not what we would expect also during the latter rain? Is it not already beginning to happen?

Today we too can lift up our voices with one accord and praise the Lord and say, “Thou art God.” We are seeing baptisms around the world in numbers surpassing those of the early rain. There is a growing crescendo of God’s people dedicating their assets and properties to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ that will culminate in the glorious coming of our Lord. Success does not come without dedication and often trauma; but succeed we will, for this is God’s way of accomplishing His work. I wish we had time and space to share the many thrilling stories of people whose hearts have been touched and how they have responded. What a blessing their means have been to God’s work!

Today, from Papua New Guinea to Finland, from South Africa to Alaska, from Iceland to the Philippine Islands, men and women are remembering the Lord in planning the use of their earthly possessions. The needs of their families and God’s greater family are being prayed over and planned for under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and with the assistance of dedicated personnel.

The past five years have been good years. More than $112.5 million or its equivalent has been made available by the planned giving of God’s people through trust services. What a blessing these funds have been for evangelism, churches, schools, relief and development programs! More than $34.5 million of this became available in 1984. Note the continuing growth during this quinquennium:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>$15,377,340</td>
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<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>$19,976,979</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>$19,991,811</td>
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<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>$22,647,382</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>$34,682,597</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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One of the modern “Barnabas” families is the Wilbur James family of College Place, Washington. Not only have they given a lifetime of service, but they have dedicated their means to the Lord’s work in this time of the latter rain. Farms have been sold and the funds put into God’s work now. Why have they done this? Because of their deep love for each other, the Lord, and their fellowmen.

People have been brought into the message through this important work. I think of a frugal man, an insurance agent and landscape artist, who was impressed with the charitable work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He contacted Everett Shull, conference trust officer. Elder Shull and I went to see this gentleman. It was the first of many contacts. From reading books given to him, he started keeping the Sabbath. Later, after Gordon Harris took him every evening to Kenneth Mittledier’s evangelistic series, he was baptized into the remnant church. Today, at 85 years of age, this man is a happy, alive, and alert Christian, who prays God for this faith.

Let us thank the dedicated and trained personnel in trust services who work untringly to assist so many in dedicating means for the completion of God’s work—men and women who have witnessed to the things that they have seen and heard.

We praise the Lord for this success. But could it be that there should be even more modern Barnabases in every country of the world? Think of the greater successes that could be had with greater dedication in the days of the latter rain, when the majority of God’s people will be fully consecrated to the Lord and His message—a message to men and women with so many spiritual and physical needs. Today we have one in 20 who are modern Barnabases, and we praise the Lord for them. Tomorrow could there be one in ten or one in five, or even better, one in two, and the final goal, everyone? What an outpouring of the latter rain that will be! What a rejoicing when we can all say, “Thou art God!”
Let there be music!

Among the musicians at the session (clockwise, beginning top left): Philiacord, from Grand Terrace, California; the Oakwood College Aeolians; Carol and Bernie Paulson, from Oregon; the Kidayo Central Choir, from the Eastern Africa Division; members of the Collegedale, Tennessee, Suzuki Strings; Ivan Kasanov, from the U.S.S.R.
Fifteenth business meeting
Fifty-fourth General Conference session
July 5, 1985, 1:30 P.M.

Session proceedings

ANN CHANIN: [Opening prayer.]

J. W. BOTHE: I move the adoption of the following recommendations: To request the General Conference Committee to develop a proposal for codifying the provisions of General Conference Constitution Article III, Section 3b, for the purpose of establishing more specifically how the provisions of that section are to be applied and to submit the proposal to the fifty-fifth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. [Motion was seconded and voted.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Elder Wilson will now bring us a report from the commission appointed to study the role of women in the church.

NEAL C. WILSON: An extensive survey was made toward the end of 1976 in North America with respect to the feelings of church members on women serving as local elders, being ordained to the gospel ministry, and serving as deacons.

The survey was filed in the president's office and became the subject of discussion and evaluation during the following year or two.

Certain changes were made about 1977 whereby in North America it was made possible for individuals who had completed ministerial and seminary training to be invited into conferences as licensed ministers (not ordained), and to be assigned to a particular church. Such persons also were ordained as local elders.

The Annual Councils of 1976, 1977, and 1978 also provided that women should be encouraged to seek training along ministerial lines to assist in the evangelistic outreach of the church. While not being eligible for ordination, they could be used as associates in pastoral care. There were discussions then as to what designation should be used. At that time it was not contemplated that this would lead to ordination, but that these individuals would receive missionary credentials.

With that encouragement, some very fine young ladies did go through training in our colleges. They certainly had a very deep commitment to serving in the pastoral role, and many of them have been blessed with talents that seem to commend them.

Those provisions did not reach beyond North America, even though the Annual Councils opened the way for other divisions to endorse them if they so chose. Nearly all other divisions felt that the time was not appropriate.

With this encouragement, young ladies completed college and received a stipend for seminary training. They completed their studies in the seminary just like the young men did. They were called to a church to serve in a ministerial role. But young ladies were given a missionary license or a commissioned minister's license; and young men were given a ministerial license, which presupposed moving on to ordination. It became a little bit difficult to justify the difference between the credentials given to the young women and those given to the young men.

White Estate board elects new trustees

Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 2, the Ellen G. White Estate board increased the number of trustees from 13 to 15. The bylaws were amended so that they now call for eight trustees to be elected for five-year terms, in addition to the seven lifetime trustees.

Trustees reelected to serve another five years are C. E. Bradford, W. G. Johnsson, and J. Zurcher. Newly elected to a five-year trusteeship is Enoch Oliveira. The remaining four five-year trustees will be elected at a later date.

Tenure policies for White Estate staff members were brought into harmony with General Conference employment policies. Instead of being elected for an indefinite period, as heretofore, the secretary and associate secretaries will now be elected for five-year terms.

Officers of the White Estate board and staff reelected are Kenneth H. Wood, chairman; R. W. Olson, secretary; Paul A. Gordon, undersecretary; Roger W. Coon, associate secretary; Elbio Pereyra, associate secretary; and George Rice, associate secretary.

The vice-chairman and the treasurer of the board will be elected at a later date. The chairman and vice-chairman of the board of trustees also serve as president and vice president, respectively, of the Ellen G. White Estate Corporation.

Paul A. Gordon was reelected as an alternate board member.
young men, all things else being equal. This was a rather difficult and embarrassing situation for the church.

The Columbia Union Conference requested that the General Conference look into the problem and, with the North American Division, try to make some determination. So the General Conference in response to this request did set up a commission to look at this whole matter. It was composed of 66 individuals, 14 of whom were women.

Each division of the General Conference was represented and made a contribution. This particular 24-page report gives the results of their study. This commission was one of the most productive commissions that we have had for a long time. A great deal was learned. It was quite evident from the reports of the divisions that at this time there is no strong support for ordination of women. It was also very evident from the reports that we are prepared to move together.

There was very strong concern on the part of the commission that the ministry should not be fragmented. In the Seventh-day Adventist Church, ministerial ordination is universal, accepted in any part of the world.

The commission brings several recommendations to the General Conference session.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: I now ask our secretary to read the recommendations.

J. W. BOTHE: I move that we approve the following:

1. To urge that "affirmative action" for the involvement of women in the work of the church be a priority plan with church leadership, and to request leaders to use their executive influence to open to all women all aspects of ministry in the church that do not require ordination.

2. To give special emphasis to ordaining women by assigning specific topics to scholars and theologians for research.

3. To assign discussion of the documents growing out of such research to a special representative committee that will be scheduled to meet early in 1988, its findings to be presented in a report to the 1988 Spring Meeting of the General Conference Committee and subsequently to the 1989 Annual Council, at which time the entire issue will be reviewed.

4. To assign discussion of the documents growing out of such research to a special representative committee that will be scheduled to meet early in 1988, its findings to be presented in a report to the 1988 Spring Meeting of the General Conference Committee and subsequently to the 1989 Annual Council, at which time the entire issue will be reviewed.

[Motion was seconded and voted.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Now we turn to the next recommendation.

J. W. BOTHE: I move the adoption of the following:

1. To urge that "affirmative action" for the involvement of women in the work of the church be a priority plan with church leadership, and to request leaders to use their executive influence to open to all women all aspects of ministry in the church that do not require ordination.

2. To give special emphasis to ordaining women by assigning specific topics to scholars and theologians for research.

3. To assign discussion of the documents growing out of such research to a special representative committee that will be scheduled to meet early in 1988, its findings to be presented in a report to the 1988 Spring Meeting of the General Conference Committee and subsequently to the 1989 Annual Council, at which time the entire issue will be reviewed.

[Motion was seconded and voted.]

The work of Bible instructors, both women and men, and to urge that conference and field administrators restore this ministerial category to importance and accord it proper recognition in the work of the church.

4. To recognize the desirability of a pastor and his wife working together as a team and the spiritual strength that would result through such combined ministry, and to urge that this concept be studied further, together with the development of a financial plan and training program that would support its implementation wherever feasible.

5. To recognize that a great need exists to educate our people regarding the major roles that women may fill in the Lord's work without ordination, and to request that specific plans to meet this need be developed and presented to the 1985 Annual Council.

[Motion was seconded and voted.]

I move that we approve the following: To institute a reform in the church's ordination practices for the purposes of limiting ministerial ordination only to those who perform direct pastoral, evangelistic, ecclesiastical, or other clearly ministerial-type duties.

[Motion was seconded and voted.]

I move that we approve the following recommendation: To request the North American Division committee to clarify the functions of ministerial workers who hold ministerial licenses, including how such functions relate to women who serve as pastors or associates in pastoral care, and to request that a complete proposal on roles and procedures be submitted by the North American Division to the 1985 Annual Council for consideration.

[Motion was seconded and voted.]

Please note the item entitled "Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries." In 1983 the Annual Council established an Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries. Study was given as to whether this should continue as an independent office or whether it...
should merge with some of the other departments. It was finally agreed that it would be better served if it would function as an independent office.

I move that we approve the following recommendations:
1. To provide for setting up an office to be known as the Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM).
2. To amend the General Conference Constitution to provide for the ACM and for its director to be an elected member of the General Conference staff.

[Motion was seconded and voted.]

NEAL C. WILSON: Because of the time consumed with the Role and Function Commission report, we in a sense lost about two days of floor time. I am not suggesting that this was not essential, for it does indicate clearly that our various organizations around the world should be in harmony with General Conference recommendations and model constitutions. This is one of the uniting factors of our church.

There is the feeling that the constitution ought to be relatively brief, and the bylaws more extended and explanatory, that the constitution should be identical or at least similar in various parts of the world, whereas there might be some flexibility in the bylaws.

I think the commission has done a very good job, but we have only 50 minutes before we adjourn.

Because we do need model union/conference constitutions and bylaws, I move that the matter be studied by divisions, unions, and...
During Euro-Africa's report, Edwin Ludescher, division president, said farewell to delegates from Greece, one of the countries leaving Euro-Africa and joining the newly formed Trans-European Division. He and a Greek girl enjoy a lighthearted moment.

Bart Whitaker is our coordinator in the Superdome. Bart has given tirelessly of himself and of his time. He has really excelled in being available from morning till night.

As a token of our appreciation to these three outstanding people, we would like to share a little gift with them—with Lou, Sallee, and Bart. This is a little book, *Steps to Christ*, written by my great-great-grandmother. Your names are inscribed on the cover. Some 30 million copies of this book have been distributed around the world, and it has been translated into 122 languages. I hope that you will enjoy it and that it will help you to remember your friends the Seventh-day Adventists.

NEAL C. WILSON: There have been several requests for an open discussion of the Statement of the Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists. I want to explain why we chose not to do this at this session. There seems to have been a very favorable world reaction to and acceptance of the Fundamental Beliefs as voted in 1980.

The introduction states that "when the church is led by the Holy Spirit to a fuller understanding of Bible truth or finds better language in which to express the teachings of God's Holy Word," wording revision could be discussed again. Frankly, over the past couple of years there has been no one who has revealed to us that the Holy Spirit has led in making any substantive changes.

There needs to be a degree of permanence to a Statement of Fundamental Beliefs. It should not be opened up every time we meet, seeing how we could do it differently. When the Holy Spirit leads us to some different conclusions or when it seems as though the Holy Spirit points out that it be done, I think it could be made to work.

Sallee Pavlovich, with the New Orleans Tourist and Convention Commission as sales manager, has been our contact for several years, steering us through a maze of city regulations, helping us to make necessary contacts.

There were others besides the members of the Nominating Committee whose services we appreciated. Bob Woolford, an aide to the committee, helped us find people on the floor. LaVerne DeVaughn served as recording secretary and kept us in order when names came in quite rapidly. Ed Bahr and Ed Henkel developed the electronic system by which our voting was done, and kept it operating.

NOEL S. FRASER: [Presented the final report of the Nominating Committee, found on page 8 of *Bulletin* 8. Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: I believe that completes our Nominating Committee report. We want to thank the committee very much for the work it has done.

There is a group of people within the Seventh-day Adventist Church who are doing an outstanding work. They are known by many as members of the ASI, Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries.

[The report of the ASI was presented.]

D. E. ROBINSON: Before we conclude the business of this afternoon's meeting, I would like to express appreciation to a number of people. We have had a multitude of helpers. It is with some trepidation that I select names of those who would like to say a special Thank you to, because there are so many. We would like to personally thank each one of you publicly if we had the time to do so.

There are a number of individuals who have carried particularly heavy burdens. Special thanks go to Karl Bahr, who has served as assistant session manager. I next mention a lady who has seen very little of what has gone on here in the Superdome, my secretary, Naomi Wilmot. I want to recognize those who organized the volunteer workers, Evadene Peters and Henrietta Stumph. They provided a service that we appreciate very much. They spent endless hours on the mezzanine level answering questions and helping people.

Another team has provided a very necessary service here at the Superdome—Clinton Wall and Millie Kurtz. Together with their helpers, they have done an outstanding job. Thank you, Clinton and Millie. I hope that you and your helpers were able to hear that round of applause. If some of you feel the lines have been too long, please volunteer to help feed our people in Indianapolis in 1990.

Thanks to the guides, the hostesses, the many volunteers, to Frank Jones, who has been a great help in caring for all the office equipment, and to Eddie Pullen and David Jones, who have done an outstanding job in providing sound and lighting. I want to thank Jim Vuko and Travelite, who have taken care of our registration and hotel arrangements.

There are some to whom I want to pay a very special tribute. I would like to invite our student pages from Southwestern Adventist College to come forward to the upper steps of the platform. [Applause.] They are the finest living exhibit here in New Orleans. These young people, and others like them who are right now in the exhibits around the plaza level, volunteered their time. They were assigned to different aspects of the session, gaining a wealth of experience, seeing you as you really are, learning how the church functions, and getting some insights that will enrich the rest of their lives. Young people, we sincerely appreciate what you have done to help us.

We want to thank Southwestern Adventist College for working with us and helping to lighten our burdens.

I would like three special helpers to come forward to the platform at this time. These three people have done a tremendous amount to help us as we planned for the session, to care for our many needs.

Lou Plasencia is the sales manager at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and has so ably cared for our many needs in our headquarters hotel. The hotel management has done everything it could to make our meetings run smoothly.

Sallee Pavlovich, with the New Orleans Tourist and Convention Commission as sales manager, has been our contact for several years, steering us through a maze of city regulations, helping us to make necessary contacts.

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[The report of the ASI was presented.]
mind, and soul, dependent upon God for life and breath and all else.” [Italics supplied.]

This statement was clearly an editorial slip. You know that a person is not made up of body, mind, and soul, but that body, mind, and spirit make a living soul. It is a clear theological point.

I would hope that the delegates would agree that this be corrected editorially by common consent rather than by formal vote.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: The chairman will ask for consent. May we have a show of hands of those who are in full accord. [It was unanimously agreed to make the editorial change.]

NEAL C. WILSON: Many of you know that during the past quinquennium the church has been charged with a “cover-up” in connection with the work of Ellen White. It has been alleged that Ellen White borrowed heavily and that she was almost entirely dependent upon other writers. The allegations of plagiarism have been made, at times, in very unethical ways.

It was felt by some of us that a careful study should be done to ascertain whether these allegations were true or not. We first selected Dr. James Cox, a New Testament scholar, to do this work, but shortly after he had accepted this assignment he was invited to go to Australia as the president of Avondale College. Finally we selected an individual who was well qualified to do this particular job, an outstanding scholar, a careful researcher, a person who has been known for his openness and honesty in terms of his academic pursuits, Dr. Fred Veltman, of Pacific Union College.

The Desire of Ages was selected for this study because it covers one of the more familiar themes, the life of Jesus. It is also one of the most prized books of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, because it contains so much devotional and theological material. Perhaps no century produced more “lives of Jesus” than the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, when Ellen White lived, ministered, and wrote her books.

With a small staff and a number of volunteer helpers to identify similar paragraphs, words, phrases, and sentences in the book The Desire of Ages, the work began. It took much longer than had been anticipated, because of the painstakingly thorough work that was done. Dr. Veltman wanted to be sure he would have an answer for anyone who challenged his work. He wanted a project that would have credibility in all circles.

Personally I am very grateful for his work. Dr. Veltman’s personal testimony is that he had a rare privilege to read much of Ellen White’s writings in handwritten, typewritten, and published forms. He developed a greater respect and appreciation for and confidence in Ellen White than before.

We all knew five years ago when this project was launched that Ellen White had to some degree used many literary sources. She had access to many books and read widely, but the degree of her dependency or “borrowing” was undetermined. As a result of Dr. Veltman’s study, he is satisfied that Ellen White was not a plagiarist, and he makes this a part of his declared statement and summary. That she used other sources is clearly evident, and on that point there really should be no dilemma. A careful study of Ellen White’s writings gives clear credit to her independence and creative work.

Dr. Veltman and his staff examined computerized carefully about 500 books to try to identify significant similarities. It is very satisfying and faith-confirming to me to know that the study that Dr. Veltman has done provides conclusions that he is very willing to have challenged. Because of the magnitude and detail of this work, only 15 randomly chosen chapters were analyzed in four years. He has condensed his report on these 15 chapters into 1,500 pages. His covering letter to me is very significant.

Dr. Veltman found that 1,798 of the 2,624 sentences in these 15 chapters showed no dependence whatsoever on any author outside of the Bible. Thirty sentences were taken, almost verbatim, from other sources, but not one sentence was found to be word for word the same as the works of any other author. Eighty-five sentences contained Scripture quotations that also were expressed in the works of other authors. The remaining 711 sentences had key words or sometimes paraphrased materials similar to that found in the writings of other authors.

The results of the study reveal a very different picture from what some have tried to lead this church and the world to believe about Ellen White’s books and work. I am thankful this afternoon for the preliminary report of this research, because it gives us great assurance that God did indeed use this human instrument as a part of His continued self-revelation and to bring great blessing to all of us. [Applause.]

G. RALPH THOMPSON: During the past few days, greetings from the divisions have piled up. The South American Division sent us more greetings than any other division. We have quite a list from the Inca Union, and then practically every organization in Brazil. We would like to record and reciprocate those greetings.

One very interesting greeting came this morning. We were talking with Pitcairn Island last night for an hour by ham radio and this morning gave us the following message: “Greetings to all at the General Conference session. Wish we could be with you. We have taken a special offering for the Guam radio station. God bless you all. Pastor Webster and Betty Christian.” We certainly appreciate these greetings.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: All right, a motion is in order to record with appreciation these messages that have come. [Motion was made, seconded, and voted.]

NEAL C. WILSON: There are a few other reports that I wish we had time for, but we have run out of time. There are some great people serving this church from whom we have not heard. I wish I had time to tell a little about what is being done by Milton Murray in Philanthropic Service for Institutions. I wish I could have told you something about the International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency. I wish you could have learned a little more about North American Missions and the evangelistic Soul Winning Institute in Chicago, the work of the Office of Human Relations, and several other very important areas of activity of the church. At the next session we will try to give them the number one spot. Many of these people are very self-effacing, but some of us feel they should be mentioned.

I also wish personally to thank our Secretariat for the marvelous job they have done during this session. This task goes on behind the scenes. Thank you for everything that has been done.

The ushers, the beautiful flowers that have been furnished, the platform, and the music have added to our comfort and pleasure. All have simply been magnificent in doing their job, and we are all deeply indebted to them.

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness. I am certain those who have done these jobs appreciate the comments you have made. I am going to ask our secretary to bring two more actions to us.

J. W. BOTHE: I move that all unfinished business be referred to the General Conference Committee. [Motion seconded and voted.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER: Now we come to our Resolution of Gratitude. [Read and voted. See Actions section.]

How thankful we can be for the way the Lord has blessed. [Meeting was adjourned.]

ARTHUR WARD: [Benediction.]

K. J. MITTLEIDER, Chairman
J. W. BOTHE, Secretary
D. A. ROTH
and C. D. WATSON
Proceedings Editors
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Requirements: 8 units required for graduation; a unit equals one semester's work. Students must be 25 or over. Some previous college work is desirable, though exceptions are sometimes made.

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Session actions

GC Constitution and Bylaws—Review of Language and Terminology
Voted. To request the General Conference Committee to review the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws for the purpose of updating its language and terminology and to submit the results of the review to the fifty-fifth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

GC Constitution—Codification of Article III, Section 3b, Provisions
Voted. To request the General Conference Committee to develop a proposal for codifying the provisions of GC Constitution, Article III, Section 3b, for the purpose of establishing more specifically how the provisions of that section are to be applied and to submit the proposal to the fifty-fifth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Procedural Rules for General Conference Business Sessions
Voted. To request the General Conference Committee to compile and publish rules of procedure to be followed in conducting the business meetings of a General Conference session.

Parliamentarian for General Conference Business Sessions
Voted. To request the General Conference Committee to consider the possibility and practicability of appointing a parliamentarian for the business meetings of future General Conference sessions.

Division Institutions—Representation on Nominating Committee
Voted. To refer to the General Conference Committee consideration of the matter of representation from division institutions on General Conference session nominating committees.

Standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee
Voted. To request the General Conference Committee to name a standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee, which shall function between regularly scheduled General Conference sessions and shall submit its recommendations to the General Conference Executive Committee and to the General Conference session.

Ordination of Women to the Gospel Ministry
Voted. 1. To take no definitive action at this time regarding the ordination of women to the gospel ministry.
2. To maintain the church’s present position on this matter.
3. To prepare further Biblical and other studies on the question of ordaining women by assigning specific topics to scholars and theologians for research.
4. To assign discussion of the documents growing out of such research to a special representative committee that will be scheduled to meet early in 1988, its findings to be presented in a report to the 1988 Spring Meeting of the General Conference Committee and subsequently to the 1989 Annual Council, at which time the entire issue will be reviewed.

Women’s Participation in Church Work
Voted. 1. To urge that “affirmative action” for the involvement of women in the work of the church be a priority plan with church leadership, and to request leaders to use their executive influence to open to women all aspects of ministry in the church that do not require ordination.
2. To give special emphasis to the work of Bible instructors, both women and men, and to urge that conference and field administrators restore this ministerial category to importance and accord it proper recognition in the work of the church.
3. To recognize the desirability of a pastor and his wife working together as a team and the spiritual strength that will result through such combined ministry, and to urge that this concept be studied further, together with the development of a financial plan and training program that would support its implementation wherever feasible.
4. To recognize that a great need exists to educate our people regarding the major roles that women may fill in the Lord’s work without ordination, and to request that specific plans to meet this need be developed and presented to the 1985 Annual Council.

Ministerial Ordination—Reform of Practices
Voted. To institute a reform in the church’s ordination practices for the purpose of limiting ministerial ordination only to those who perform direct pastoral, evangelistic, ecclesiastical, or other clearly ministerial-type duties.

Ministerial Worker Functions in NAD—Clarification
Voted. To request the North American Division committee to clarify the functions of ministerial workers who hold ministerial
licenses, including how such functions relate to women who serve as pastors or associates in pastoral care, and to request that a complete proposal on roles and procedures be submitted by the North American Division to the 1985 Annual Council for consideration.

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) Office

Voted, 1. To provide for setting up an office to be known as the Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM).
2. To amend the General Conference Constitution to provide for the ACM and for its director to be an elected member of the General Conference staff.

The Nature of Man—Church Manual Amendment Directive

Voted, To advise the fifty-fourth General Conference session that the Church Manual Committee intends to make an editorial change in CM, p. 34, par. 7, The Nature of Man, as follows:

7. The Nature of Man
Man and woman were made in the image of God with individuality, the power and freedom to think and to do. Though created free beings, each is an indivisible unity of body, mind, and spirit, dependent upon God for life and breath and all else.

Remainder of this paragraph remains unchanged.

Unfinished Business

Voted, To refer all unfinished business to the General Conference Committee at headquarters.

Nominating Committee Report—12

Voted, To approve the following final report of the Nominating Committee:

General Conference
Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries Director: Charles D. Martin
Adventist Personnel Service Director: George R. Ramsey
Associate Directors, Communication: Shirley Burton, Victor H. Cooper, Tulio R. Haylock, Owen A. Troy
Associate Directors, Education: George P. Babcock, Victor S. Griffiths, Agripino S. Segovia
Associate Directors, Publishing: Rudi H. Henning, Richard L. McKee, Robert Smith

Ellen White paintings unveiled at White Estate booth

Five inspirational paintings unveiled June 28 reveal facets of Ellen White’s ministry to the Adventist Church. Artists Vernon Nye, Walla Walla, Washington, and Elfred Lee, currently at Oakwood College, painted the art pieces specifically for this General Conference session.

Paul Gordon, undersecretary of the White Estate, notes that “the watercolor and oil paintings will be kept in the Washington, D.C., center after this session.”

Four paintings portraying visions of Ellen White were prepared by Vernon Nye. In the center is Elfred Lee’s portrayal of the glorified Christ. Left to right:
1. Ellen in vision sees lights all around the world, representing literature from our publishing houses.
2. An angel stands with the tables of the Decalogue in hand. The fourth commandment is encircled by a ring of light, emphasizing reaffirmation of the seventh day as the Sabbath of the Lord.
3. The glorified Christ is based on the descriptions in Revelation 1 and Ellen White’s writings. The Saviour stands amid seven candlesticks with light radiating from His entire being. As Gordon points out: “His eyes are a beautiful blue—with a blue flame. Anywhere you stand, He seems to be looking at you.”
4. In the garden of life some people find the thorns among the flowers, but Ellen admonishes Christians to gather the roses, lilies, and pinks.
5. D. M. Canright, who left Adventism in the 1880s, tries to jump to another ship he thinks safer in the surrounding storm. But Ellen White is shown that the other craft is worm-eaten. He is told to stay by the ship.

“We’re grateful,” comments Gordon, “for what these men have done to further distinguish our Adventist heritage.”

PAUL RICHARDSON

ADVENTIST REVIEW, JULY 11, 1985
Along when I have to make trips away from home. It keeps me in touch with my church family, even when I'm away from my home church. It bolsters my faith.

The high quality of the writing in the Review appeals to me. As one who works with language, I am interested in more than just the thought. Miriam Wood's column is one of my favorites. She presents her ideas with wisdom, clarity, and simplicity. She is a writer! I also enjoy Dr. Johnsson's editorials. He always chooses subjects worth considering.

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Dr. Judith P. Nembhard, Assistant Professor of English, Howard University, Washington, D.C.

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Review and Herald Publishing Association
55 West Oak Ridge Drive, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740
54TH SESSION of the
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

June 27 to July 6, 1985
Louisiana Superdome
New Orleans, Louisiana

World Headquarters
6840 Eastern Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012
(202) 722-6000

FINANCIAL REPORTS of the
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
General Retirement Plan for North America
Hospital Retirement Plan for North America
General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists
General Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists

North American Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists

For the years
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984

presented by
L. L. BUTLER, Treasurer
W. L. MURRILL, Undertreasurer

To the Delegates of the Fifty-fourth
General Conference Session
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Washington, D.C.

We have examined the balance sheets of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists combined Tithe and Specific Purpose Funds, General and Hospital Retirement Plans for North America, the combined funds of the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists, and the General Conference Association or Seventh-day Adventists as of December 31, 1984, 1983, 1982, 1981 and 1980 and the related statements of activity and fund balances for the years then ended. Our examinations were made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

The accompanying financial statements include only the assets, liabilities, fund balances, and activity of the funds identified above as discussed in note 1. Accordingly, such statements are not intended to present the financial position or activity of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists or its affiliated organizations.

As discussed in Notes 1 and 2 the Specific Purpose, General Retirement and Corporation funds have investments in the General Conference Investment Fund (combined funds) which are carried at net asset value as required by the Investment Fund, underlying investments comprising 42.48%, 59.23%, 52.08%, 48.48% and 43.98% of the net assets of the Investment Fund as of December 31, 1984, 1983, 1982, 1981 and 1980, respectively, are valued at fair value. Generally accepted accounting principles require that investments of entities funds be valued at fair value.

To the Delegates of the Fifty-fourth
General Conference Session
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
March 15, 1985

Weinler, Cottenien & Ellis P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

(413) 123-7900

Mons, Louisiana Superdome 6840 Eastern Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012

Mons, Louisiana Superdome 6840 Eastern Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
COMBINED TIME AND SPECIFIC PURPOSE FUNDS
BALANCE SHEETS

December 31,

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See notes to financial statements.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
GENERAL RETIREMENT PLAN FOR NORTH AMERICA
BALANCE SHEETS

December 31,

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<td>Cash</td>
<td>$132,684</td>
<td>$140,748</td>
<td>$149,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>82,455,862</td>
<td>79,910,169</td>
<td>71,588,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts and notes receivable:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>3,317,697</td>
<td>4,033,732</td>
<td>3,267,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>87,046,545</td>
<td>86,752,075</td>
<td>87,535,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>1,467,284</td>
<td>1,820,249</td>
<td>1,842,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUND BALANCES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total available for plan benefits</td>
<td>$85,579,261</td>
<td>$65,405,235</td>
<td>$65,693,156</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See notes to financial statements.
### GENERAL CONFERENCE CORPORATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
#### HOSPITAL RETIREMENT PLAN FOR NORTH AMERICA
#### BALANCE SHEETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>December 31</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$ 209,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>117,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts and notes receivable - current</td>
<td>217,687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>3,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td>$ 567,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term receivables</td>
<td>1,353,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>1,872,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL OTHER ASSETS</td>
<td>$ 3,228,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td>$ 3,795,928</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GENERAL CONFERENCE CORPORATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
#### COMBINED FUNDS BALANCE SHEETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>December 31</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$ 611,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>5,965,437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts and notes receivable - current</td>
<td>217,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>3,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td>$ 6,953,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term receivables</td>
<td>17,889,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>5,278,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL OTHER ASSETS</td>
<td>$ 23,112,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td>$ 29,965,338</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See notes to financial statements.

---

### GENERAL CONFERENCE CORPORATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
#### HOSPITAL RETIREMENT PLAN FOR NORTH AMERICA
#### STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITY AND FUND BALANCE

#### Year ended December 31,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUES</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$ 28,356,046</td>
<td>$ 28,154,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>(102,114)</td>
<td>(10,018,830)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenues</td>
<td>$ 28,303,932</td>
<td>$ 18,106,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benefits paid</td>
<td>$ 9,393,583</td>
<td>$ 9,420,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative expenses</td>
<td>(14,181)</td>
<td>(13,227,283)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>$ 9,507,764</td>
<td>$ 13,347,507</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| NET APPRAIRED APPRECIATION IN FAIR VALUE OF INVESTMENTS | $ (22,853) | $ 11,029,914 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET INCREASE</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ 23,433,414</td>
<td>$ 28,182,303</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ 28,752,418</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| FUND BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR PLANS' BENEFITS, | Beginning of year | $ 101,986,270 |
| | | $ 72,871,023 |
| | | $ 99,994,315 |
| | | $ 106,537,860 |
| | | $ 27,000,078 |
| | | $ 30,531,375 |

See notes to financial statements.

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GENERAL CONFERENCE CORPORATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

COMBINED FUNDS STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITY AND FUND BALANCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$770,286</td>
<td>$629,900</td>
<td>$618,987</td>
<td>$650,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income and other</td>
<td>$576,010</td>
<td>$679,937</td>
<td>$1,117,007</td>
<td>$921,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General, administrative and other</td>
<td>$2,584,404</td>
<td>$1,884,304</td>
<td>$2,296,458</td>
<td>$2,072,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET INCREASE IN FUND BALANCES</strong></td>
<td>$(15,111)</td>
<td>$(161,011)</td>
<td>$(76,471)</td>
<td>$(56,341)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE I - SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists is a private, non-profit corporation. The combined financial position and activity of the worldwide organization of Seventh-day Adventists, which are affiliated with or owned or controlled by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, is not included in these financial statements.

Funds under the direct accounting control of the General Conference and certain affiliated organizations are accounted for in the Plant Fund.

The current operating funds of the General Conference utilize the following fund groups:

- **Current Operating Funds**
  - General
  - Administrative
  - Other
- **Endowment**
- **Investment Income and Other**
- **Matured Estates and Other**
- **Plant**
- **Retirement**
- **Resources**
- **Resources from sources other than tithes**
- **Gift Annuities**
- **Development**
- **General**
- **Relief**

See notes to financial statements. -15-

GENERAL CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

BALANCE SHEETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>due from General Conference Corporation</td>
<td>$4,046,676</td>
<td>$3,644,971</td>
<td>$3,644,971</td>
<td>$3,529,631</td>
<td>$2,942,141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUND BALANCE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of year</td>
<td>$876,110</td>
<td>$876,110</td>
<td>$876,110</td>
<td>$876,110</td>
<td>$876,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deduct tithing fee</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of year</td>
<td>$866,010</td>
<td>$876,110</td>
<td>$876,110</td>
<td>$876,110</td>
<td>$876,110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See notes to financial statements. -15-

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE I - SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

The Estates Fund was established to account for the receipt of non-cash assets and where the General Conference is a named beneficiary in a will. Cash assets are posted to the appropriate fund or organization when received. Non-cash assets are recorded at amounts not materially different from fair value at date of gift and remain in the Estates Fund until realized in cash. Gifts are recognized at the time the particular resources are used for the purpose specified by the donors. Benefits not expended are classified as deferred income.

In 1982 the General Conference received $346,720,378 from various funds, including $346,720,378 from the Frank Herbert and Elsie Oliver Smith Trust Fund. The income is to be used exclusively for the support of foreign missions, and at least half of which is to be expended for the support of foreign missions.

The Development and Relief Agency Fund is used to build and operate foreign missions.

The General Retirement Plan for North America is used to record the current operating expenses until the underlying trust or annuity matures.

Retirement funds - assets accumulated to provide retirement, medical and certain other benefits are accounted for in the General Retirement Plan for North America.

In addition to these funds there are other funds and/or organizations which are affiliated with or owned or controlled by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The accompanying financial statements are not intended to present the combined financial position or activity of the worldwide organization of Seventh-day Adventists.

The following funds and/or organizations are excluded from the financial statements included:

- **Pooled Investment and Annuities Funds**
- **Plant**
- **Retirement**
- **Resources**
- **Resources from sources other than tithes**
- **Gift Annuities**
- **Development**
- **General**
- **Relief**

The following funds and/or organizations are not included in the combined financial statements included:

- **Utilized Funds**
- **Combined Funds**
- **Plant**
- **Retirement**
- **Resources**
- **Resources from sources other than tithes**
- **Gift Annuities**
- **Development**
- **General**
- **Relief**

See notes to financial statements. -15-

ADVENTIST REVIEW, JULY 11, 1985

(939) 27
Investments - investments are recorded generally at the lower of aggregate average cost or fair current value reported net asset value of affiliated entities. Investments in the Retirement Plan are recorded at current value or reported net asset value of affiliated entities for the General Plan. The difference between current value and cost is reflected in the statement of activities. Realized gains or losses on investments represent the difference between the proceeds received and the costs of investments sold.

Property, equipment and depreciation - property and equipment used and used directly by the General Conference is recorded at cost in the Plant fund. Depreciation is computed over the estimated useful lives on the straight-line method. The Corporation is the legal entity for purposes of holding title to property on behalf of the affiliated organizations. The Corporation may also have signed mortgages or other evidences of indebtedness on behalf of its affiliates in connection with these properties. The property and related obligations, if any, are recorded directly on the books of the affiliates and are not recorded by the Corporation.

Real estate investments - investments in real estate are recorded at cost or, in the case of certain real estate transferred to the Corporation by an affiliated organization without consideration, at appraisal value at date of transfer. See above regarding depreciation policy.

Investments in affiliated organizations - investments in affiliated organizations are carried on original cost, or in the case of certain securities obtained by gift, at the fair value at date of gift, recognized by the contributors. Subsequent to the receipt of the gift, the returns on the investments are distributed directly to the contributor. Accounting for gifts annuities - gift annuities are recorded by the actuarial tables with the remainder to fund balance. Investment Income and gains are based upon revised life expectancies with the resulting actuarial gain for the current year.

Investments in affiliated organizations - investments in affiliated organizations are carried on original cost, or, in the case of certain securities obtained by gift, at the fair value at date of gift. Accounting for gifts annuities - gift annuities are recorded by the actuarial tables with the remainder to fund balance. Investment Income and gains are based upon revised life expectancies with the resulting actuarial gain for the current year.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

NOTE 2 - INVESTMENTS

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

Investments consist of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificates of deposit, bankers, Commercial paper and similar short-term items</td>
<td>13,103,976</td>
<td>16,544,151</td>
<td>19,950,003</td>
<td>20,329,887</td>
<td>20,987,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>18,355</td>
<td>13,059</td>
<td>15,872</td>
<td>15,901</td>
<td>16,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13,292,331</td>
<td>16,657,210</td>
<td>20,115,875</td>
<td>20,484,788</td>
<td>21,113,176</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total unrealized gain on investments sold: $1,272,733

Total unrealized gain on investments sold: $1,272,733

Current value: $13,565,058

Long-term advance account - Funds are repaid as cash flow permits.

Specific Purpose Funds:

(11) Tithe and Specific Purpose Funds:

(12) Certificates of deposit, bankers, Commercial paper and similar short-term items

(13) Other

(14) Total

(15) Current value

(16) Long-term advance account

(17) Total

(18) Specific Purpose Funds:

(19) Certificates of deposit, bankers, Commercial paper and similar short-term items

(20) Other

(21) Total

(22) Current value

(23) Long-term advance account

(24) Total

(25) Specific Purpose Funds:

(26) Certificates of deposit, bankers, Commercial paper and similar short-term items

(27) Other

(28) Total

(29) Current value

(30) Long-term advance account

(31) Total

(32) Specific Purpose Funds:

(33) Certificates of deposit, bankers, Commercial paper and similar short-term items

(34) Other

(35) Total

(36) Current value

(37) Long-term advance account

(38) Total

(39) Specific Purpose Funds:

(40) Certificates of deposit, bankers, Commercial paper and similar short-term items

(41) Other

(42) Total

(43) Current value

(44) Long-term advance account

(45) Total

(46) Specific Purpose Funds:

(47) Certificates of deposit, bankers, Commercial paper and similar short-term items

(48) Other

(49) Total

(50) Current value

(51) Long-term advance account

(52) Total

(53) Specific Purpose Funds:

(54) Certificates of deposit, bankers, Commercial paper and similar short-term items

(55) Other

(56) Total

(57) Current value

(58) Long-term advance account

(59) Total

(60) Specific Purpose Funds:

(61) Certificates of deposit, bankers, Commercial paper and similar short-term items

(62) Other

(63) Total

(64) Current value

(65) Long-term advance account

(66) Total

(67) Specific Purpose Funds:

(68) Certificates of deposit, bankers, Commercial paper and similar short-term items

(69) Other

(70) Total

(71) Current value

(72) Long-term advance account

(73) Total

(74) Specific Purpose Funds:

(75) Certificates of deposit, bankers, Commercial paper and similar short-term items

(76) Other

(77) Total

(78) Current value

(79) Long-term advance account

(80) Total

(81) Specific Purpose Funds:

(82) Certificates of deposit, bankers, Commercial paper and similar short-term items

(83) Other

(84) Total

(85) Current value

(86) Long-term advance account

(87) Total

(88) Specific Purpose Funds:

(89) Certificates of deposit, bankers, Commercial paper and similar short-term items

(90) Other

(91) Total

(92) Current value

(93) Long-term advance account

(94) Total

(95) Specific Purpose Funds:

(96) Certificates of deposit, bankers, Commercial paper and similar short-term items

(97) Other

(98) Total

(99) Current value

(100) Long-term advance account

(101) Total
NOTE 4 - REAL ESTATE AND OTHER INVESTMENTS

Real estate and other investments consist of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harris Plume Mills</td>
<td>$672,000</td>
<td>$657,000</td>
<td>$657,000</td>
<td>$657,000</td>
<td>$657,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loma Linda Foods, Inc.</td>
<td>$1,542,600</td>
<td>$1,542,600</td>
<td>$1,542,600</td>
<td>$1,542,600</td>
<td>$1,542,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Agency, Inc.</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Real Estate</td>
<td>$475,400</td>
<td>$478,963</td>
<td>$479,953</td>
<td>$476,191</td>
<td>$476,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loma Linda University Medical Center (land)</td>
<td>$1,126,400</td>
<td>$1,125,000</td>
<td>$1,125,000</td>
<td>$1,125,000</td>
<td>$1,125,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The carrying value of $1,126,400 represents the approximate notional value of the underlying net assets at the date the stock was received as a donation.

NOTE 5 - INVESTMENTS IN AFFILIATES

Investments consist of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harris Plume Mills</td>
<td>$672,000</td>
<td>$657,000</td>
<td>$657,000</td>
<td>$657,000</td>
<td>$657,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loma Linda Foods, Inc.</td>
<td>$1,542,600</td>
<td>$1,542,600</td>
<td>$1,542,600</td>
<td>$1,542,600</td>
<td>$1,542,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Agency, Inc.</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Real Estate</td>
<td>$475,400</td>
<td>$478,963</td>
<td>$479,953</td>
<td>$476,191</td>
<td>$476,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loma Linda University Medical Center (land)</td>
<td>$1,126,400</td>
<td>$1,125,000</td>
<td>$1,125,000</td>
<td>$1,125,000</td>
<td>$1,125,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The carrying value of Harris Plume Mills represents the fair value, as appraised, of the underlying net assets at the date the stock was received as a donation.

As of December 31, 1983, the General Conference owned or controlled 55% of the stock of Loma Linda Foods, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Corporation. The appraised value of $1,297,400 represents the approximate notional book value of the Group's ownership of the outstanding shares of Loma Linda Foods, Inc. as of December 31, 1983.

NOTE 6 - DEPRECIATION EXPENSE

Depreciation expense for the year:

---|---|---|---|---
$649,195 | $637,972 | $637,972 | $637,972 | $637,972

NOTE 6 - REAL ESTATE AND OTHER INVESTMENTS (Continued)

In 1983 Loma Linda University, a General Conference affiliate, transferred its land underlying the Loma Linda University Medical Center to the General Conference without consideration. The land has been recorded at appraised value at date of transfer. The historical cost to the university was approximately $150,000. The land is subject to a net lease to the Medical Center which expired in 1954. The monthly rent is $37,196. The Conference has agreed to appropriate the rent received back to the university.

The General Conference has agreed to appropriate the rent received back to the General Conference without consideration.

The General Conference has also agreed to appropriate the rent received back to the university.
NOTE A - RETIREMENT PLANS (Continued)

General

The following brief description of General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Retirement Plans for North America (General and hospital) is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the plan agreements for more complete information.

The plans are noncontributory, defined-benefit plans providing a retirement, disability, death and survivor benefits to employees of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, General Conference health care and other institutions and all conference organizations in the North American Division, who meet eligibility requirements.

Because they are church affiliated plans they are not subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and no election has been made to fall under these provisions.

Benefits

Employees with ten or more years of service are eligible for a normal monthly retirement benefit beginning at age 65 equal to the product of (1) the benefit rate factor, (2) years of service credit, and (3) the pension factor determined as of the date of each payment. The plans permit early retirement benefits beginning at age 55 for participants with at least thirty-five years of service credit. The monthly benefit under this election is equal to the product of (1) the benefit rate factor as of the date of actual retirement, (2) years of service credit, and (3) the pension factor determined as of each payment date.

A participant who has at least twenty years of service credit who has been married throughout the immediately preceding one year prior to retirement is entitled to a monthly spouse allowance equal to the product of: (1) the normal or early retirement benefit, and (2) 1/164 for each year of pensionable service. This spouse allowance is reduced under certain circumstances and terminates upon the death of the spouse.

Certain benefits are also payable to eligible participants in the event of retirement due to disability or death.

NOTE B - RETIREMENT PLANS (Continued)

Plan Amendment and Terminations

The General Conference may amend the plans in whole or in part except that no amendment may reduce any retirement benefit that has accrued as of the date of the amendment, to any participant who has completed one year of service and/or become a participant in the plans. The plans may terminate at any time as determined by the General Conference.

It is the intention of the General Conference to continue the plans indefinitely. However, the Conference has the right to terminate the plans in whole or in part for any reason at any time.

In the event of termination, retirement benefits accrued under the plans as of the date of termination, to the extent then funded, shall be nonforfeitable. Plan assets shall be allocated among participants and their beneficiaries as follows:

(1) Benefits to surviving participants shall be equal to the product of the normal or early retirement benefit, and (2) 1/164 for each year of service credit. This spouse allowance is reduced under certain circumstances and terminates upon the death of the spouse.

In the event of termination, participants shall receive a vested deferred retirement benefit equal to the product of: (1) the normal or early retirement benefit, and (2) 1/164 for each year of service credit. A participant with ten years of service credit who terminates employment other than by death, retirement, normal, early or postretirement disability is entitled to a deferred vested benefit beginning at age 65, or under certain circumstances, age 62. The benefit is based upon their benefit rate factor and years of service credit as of the date of termination and the pension factor determined as of the date of each payment. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who dies while the participant is still employed by the plans. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who retires due to disability or death.

Benefits which would have been in pay status three years prior to termination are payable to a surviving participant up to the amount of the spouse allowance. Benefits which would have been in pay status one year prior to termination are payable to participants and participants with at least thirty-five years of service credit.

For any purposes other than the plans, the plans provide for the distribution of plan assets to persons whose benefits under the plans are nonforfeitable and death and/or disability benefits payable to beneficiaries.

Changes in Actuarial Present Value of Accumulated Plan Benefits

The latest actuarial valuation of the plans was as of December 31, 1983. The foregoing accumulated benefit information as of and for the year ending December 31, 1983 was estimated by the plans' actuaries and is subject to revision based on the submission of participant data.

The actuarial present value of retirement benefits payable to participants as of December 31, 1983 was $192,773,123 which, based on thirty year amortization, will require annual payments of $18,733,123.

The nonforfeitable benefits of the plans are nonforfeitable and death and/or disability benefits payable to beneficiaries.

The following is a summary of the methodology used by the plans to determine the actuarial present value of retirement benefits:

(1) The nearest continuing benefit is payable to a participant at the earliest to age 65 or 25 years after retirement. The benefit is based upon the participant's benefit rate factor and years of service credit as of the date of termination. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who dies while the participant is still employed by the plans. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who retires due to disability or death.

(2) The benefit is based upon the participant's benefit rate factor and years of service credit as of the date of termination. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who dies while the participant is still employed by the plans. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who retires due to disability or death.

(3) The benefit is based upon the participant's benefit rate factor and years of service credit as of the date of termination. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who dies while the participant is still employed by the plans. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who retires due to disability or death.

(4) The benefit is based upon the participant's benefit rate factor and years of service credit as of the date of termination. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who dies while the participant is still employed by the plans. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who retires due to disability or death.

(5) The benefit is based upon the participant's benefit rate factor and years of service credit as of the date of termination. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who dies while the participant is still employed by the plans. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who retires due to disability or death.

(6) The benefit is based upon the participant's benefit rate factor and years of service credit as of the date of termination. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who dies while the participant is still employed by the plans. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who retires due to disability or death.

(7) The benefit is based upon the participant's benefit rate factor and years of service credit as of the date of termination. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who dies while the participant is still employed by the plans. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who retires due to disability or death.

(8) The benefit is based upon the participant's benefit rate factor and years of service credit as of the date of termination. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who dies while the participant is still employed by the plans. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who retires due to disability or death.

(9) The benefit is based upon the participant's benefit rate factor and years of service credit as of the date of termination. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who dies while the participant is still employed by the plans. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who retires due to disability or death.

(10) The benefit is based upon the participant's benefit rate factor and years of service credit as of the date of termination. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who dies while the participant is still employed by the plans. The benefit is also payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who retires due to disability or death.
NOTE B - RETIREMENT PLANS (continued)

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<tr>
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<td>withdrawals</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Plan

The last actuarial study of the plan was performed in 1979 and, accordingly, information regarding accumulated plan balance and changes therein, as required by FASB #15. is not available.

Since actuarial evaluation of the plan has not been performed since 1979 it cannot be determined if the amount charged to current expense in accordance with actuarial principles is in accordance with general accepted actuarial principles as promulgated by APB #40.


As of the end of year, the General Conference and its affiliated organizations amount to approximately $5,700,000 at December 31, 1984.

NOTE 10 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Essentially all transactions, other than certain investments and the purchase or sales of goods and services, are with related funds and organizations.

NOTE II - INCOME TAX STATUS

The General Conference and its affiliated organizations are exempt from federal, state, and local income taxes under provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

NOTE 12 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Note 13

The General Conference and its affiliated organizations are not engaged in operations that have the potential for significant losses.

The General Conference and its affiliated organizations are not exposed to potential losses in excess of their recorded assets.

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She came for the job. She stayed for the experience.

Drastic change in the autumn years of her life wasn't what Anne was looking for. Yet, looking back, she only wishes it had come years sooner.

Anne (Carlson) Anderson came to Florida Hospital five years ago to work in the Nutritional Services Department. Early on, she noticed a difference. People were more friendly. The food seemed more healthful. And the atmosphere more caring.

The longer Anne worked here, the more she wanted what this Seventh-day Adventist hospital had to offer.

Through her work, Anne met a Seventh-day Adventist and began studying the Bible. Their studies led from mutual respect to love. Now, a short time later, her baptism and their marriage together has marked a new beginning.

"I just can't stop now," she says. "My experience has so totally changed me. I see what I've missed and I want to help other people see it, too."

If you'd like to be part of this kind of caring, write to us at: 601 East Rollins, Orlando, FL 32803.

Florida Hospital
"It's not just the quality of our care. It's the quality of our caring."

Owned and operated by Adventist Health System/Sunbelt