

GENERAL CONFERENCE ARCHIVES FINDING AID SERIES

FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF 6:

# Creation



Edited by D.J.B. Trim  
and Benjamin J. Baker

General Conference Archives Finding Aids: Number One

# Fundamental Belief 6: Creation

A descriptive inventory of documents in the Archives of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, relating to the drafting and adoption of Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Belief no. 6

Edited by D. J. B. Trim and Benjamin J. Baker

2014

*General Conference Archives Finding Aids: Number One*

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## **6. Creation**

*God is Creator of all things, and has revealed in Scripture the authentic account of His creative activity. In six days the Lord made "the heaven and the earth" and all living things upon the earth, and rested on the seventh day of that first week. Thus He established the Sabbath as a perpetual memorial of His completed creative work. The first man and woman were made in the image of God as the crowning work of Creation, given dominion over the world, and charged with responsibility to care for it. When the world was finished it was "very good," declaring the glory of God. (Gen. 1; 2; Ex. 20:8-11; Ps. 19:1-6; 33:6, 9; 104; Heb. 11:3.)*



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## Preface

In the twenty-first century, significant interest has arisen among Seventh-day Adventists about the Twenty-Eight Fundamental Beliefs which formally state the denomination's doctrinal positions. There has been a great deal of discussion of how they were formulated, and in particular about how and why the wording of Belief number 6 (Creation) came to be adopted. Oral traditions differ. Rumors percolate. Debate flourishes.

The Fundamental Beliefs are currently being reviewed; the official statement of belief in Creation (no. 6) is on the agenda at the 2015 General Conference Session in San Antonio. For historical clarity, the committee tasked with reviewing the Fundamental Beliefs requested the General Conference Archives to examine the documentary record of the process by which the current wording was adopted.

The Archives at the Seventh-day Adventist world headquarters is the official repository of the records of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Its holdings on the drafting process, from 1975 to 1980, of the Fundamental Beliefs, are the most comprehensive extant. This, the inaugural volume in the GC Archives Finding Aid Series, lists each document pertaining to Belief 6 in the Archives' collections, and provides the location and a brief description. Since all the documents in question are more than thirty years old, each is available to researchers.

It is the hope of the editors that this comprehensive inventory will facilitate research in primary sources on this important episode in denominational history; and that this, in turn, will enable the church as a whole to reach a better understanding of the facts of the critical Fundamental Beliefs drafting process, and to utilize them wisely to inform present and future decisions.

D. J. B. Trim  
Benjamin J. Baker  
Silver Spring, Maryland  
March 2014

## Abbreviations

A-2499	Creation & Revelation Editing Statements Committee (see CRESC below)
AC	Annual Council
ADCOM	General Conference Administrative Committee
<i>AR</i>	<i>Adventist Review</i>
AU	Andrews University
BRI	Biblical Research Institute
C12	Andrews University Seminary committee of twelve
<i>CM</i>	<i>Church Manual</i>
CMC	Church Manual Committee (standing committee)
CRESC	Creation & Revelation Editing Statements Committee (ad hoc committee)
CMRFBC	Church Manual Revision Fundamental Beliefs Committee (ad hoc committee)
CRI	Creation, Revelation and Inspiration Committee (ad hoc committee)
CS	Committee on Statements (ad hoc committee)
FB	Fundamental Belief(s)
GC	General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
GCC	General Conference Executive Committee
GRI	Geoscience Research Institute
HOOUP	Home and Overseas Officers and Union Presidents meeting
LLU	Loma Linda University
NAD	North American Division
NEWAD	Northern Europe–West Africa Division
NPR	Nosoca Pines Ranch (Adventist-operated retreat center in South Carolina, used by the General Conference)
PRADCO	President’s Administrative Council
PREXAD	President’s Executive Advisory
PUC	Pacific Union College
WWC	Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University)
X-1535	Church Manual Revision Fundamental Beliefs Committee (see CMRFBC above)

# Introductory Note on Sources

by Benjamin J. Baker

This volume was produced with the aim of encouraging research on the process of the drafting and adoption of Fundamental Belief 6. This finding aid facilitates this in several ways. Firstly, it provides a listing of the primary source materials available on the topic. Secondly, it gives concise descriptions of the content of the relevant documents. Finally, it affords an accessible overview of the key people and committees that guided the process that resulted in Belief 6, and the dynamics, developments, dates, events and institutions involved in that process.

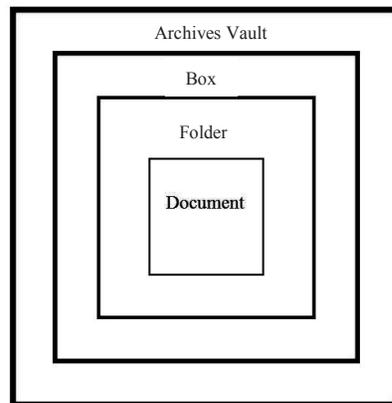
The sources within this finding aid are located in the Archives of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Silver Spring, Maryland. Their listing apprises researchers of the documents that are available and that they may wish to examine at the Archives Research Center (it should be noted that there is a mandatory application process for researchers).<sup>1</sup> The listing in this finding aid will additionally facilitate location of the materials for easy retrieval.

Most of the documents listed herein are primary sources—that is, generated by participants in the drafting and adoption of Fundamental Belief 6. Materials are listed in four sections:

- I. Committee Minutes
- II. Documents
- III. Correspondence
- IV. Online Resources

Each of these is briefly discussed in turn. However, first it will be helpful for researchers to understand how each document is listed.

The Archives vaults are the site of most of the Archive's holdings. The following illustration of a file path may be helpful:



<sup>1</sup> For information email [archives@gc.adventist.org](mailto:archives@gc.adventist.org).

Inside the main vault and some subsidiary vaults, holdings are stored in hundreds of boxes. Thousands of folders are inside the boxes. Tens of thousands of documents are within the folders. The principle guiding the order of the source listings in sections I-III is the file path and the location of the folder, or, in some cases, the minutes book in which an item is located.

The sources in this finding aid are characterized by the following:

Record Type  
 Record Group  
 Box Number  
 Folder Name  
 Abbreviation-Number Code  
 Document Name  
 Date  
 Length  
 Description

With this in mind, below is a detailed explanation of sections I-III.

### ***I. Committee Minutes (M)***

The process of the drafting and adopting of Belief 6 was driven by several committees. This section is comprised of minutes of the following General Conference committees, with the acronyms used throughout this finding aid in parentheses:

- Creation & Revelation Editing Statements Committee (CRESC) (also known by its internal administrative reference number: A-2499)
- Administrative Committee (ADCOM)
- *Church Manual* Committee (CMC)
- Creation, Revelation and Inspiration Committee (CRI)
- Committee on Statements (CS)
- General Conference Executive Committee (GCC)
- Home and Overseas Officers and Union Presidents meeting (HOOUP)
- President's Administrative Council (PRADCO)
- President's Executive Advisory (PREXAD)
- *Church Manual* Revision Fundamental Beliefs Committee (CMRFBC) (also known by its internal administrative reference number: X-1535)

The following is a typical entry for Committee Minutes:

Record Group	11
Box Number	MIN 224
Box Description	PRADCO Minutes 1976
Book	PRADCO 1976

*M2 and M3 are found in this folder.*

**M2**

Document Name: President's Administrative Council

Date: February 18, 1976

Page: 76-14

Members Present: Alf Lohne (chair), A.H. Roth (secretary), D.H. Baasch, C.E. Bradford, [etc]

Description: A request is made for the *Church Manual* Revision to clarify and revise chapter 14: "Organizing, Uniting, and Disbanding Churches."

The descriptors merit a word of note:

*Record Group* is a numerical designation indicating the department or office in the General Conference (and sometimes outside the GC) that generated the document. The two Record Groups occurring most often in this finding aid are 11 (Presidential) and 21 (Secretariat). By noting the Record Group number in the finding aid's entries, the researcher can immediately grasp the provenance of a document.

*Box Number* is for the box in which a particular file is found. The researcher need only worry about this designation for citation purposes. On the staff side, the box number enables the easy retrieval of the box.

*Box Description* is the actual title written or printed on the box, and the same guidelines for *Box Numbers* apply here.

*Book* is the name written on the book inside the box. *Note*: Usually the medium in which the document is stored is a folder instead of a book, in which case it will be listed as *Folder*; *Book* is mostly a committee minutes medium. Below are the guidelines for *Folder*.

*Folder* is the title written or printed on the folder. Once again, the researcher should use this for citation, but it is mainly to guide the staff member in retrieval.

The finding aid is organized thus: after any given box and folder headings are entries according to an alphanumeric system, e.g., *M2* and *M3*. Below every *Record Group*, *Box Number*, *Box Description*, and *Book/Folder* heading is the range of documents found in the particular book or folder. *M2* and *M3* indicates that the documents designated *M2* and *M3* are located in the book specified (in this case *PRADCO 1976*), and the listing will follow this sequence.

*Document Name* is usually the title that appears at the heading of the first page of the document (in this case *M2*). With Committee Minutes, the *Document Name* is usually simply the name of the committee.

*Date* is the month, day, and year of the particular minutes listing.

*Page* is the page number that is listed on the document.

*Members Present* lists the committee members in attendance at the particular session in which the listed minutes were taken.

*Description* offers a one or two sentence summary of the minutes.

## ***II. Documents (D)***

*Documents* are mostly drafts and revisions of the following statements:

- “Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists”
- “Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists”
- “Statement on Creation & Re-Creation”
- “Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible”
- “Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists”

There are also a few listings of non-draft documents, such as an article, notice, or report.

Here is a typical entry in *Documents*:

Record Group	11
Box Number	F85
Folder Name	Creation & Revel./Inspiration Statements (Latest Copies)

*D1-D3 are found in this folder.*

### **D1**

Document Name: Creation and Recreation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists

Date: Revised October 30, 1979

Length: 4 pages

Description: A draft of Creation & Re-Creation statement.

For purposes of brevity the areas previously covered will not be reiterated here, only the items that require information relevant to this particular section.

*Date* is the date appearing on the draft document, often the date when the revision (of which there are numerous) was completed.

*Length* is the number of pages of the draft.

## ***III. Correspondence (C)***

Correspondence is letters from an individual (or group) to another individual (or group). These letters date from between 1976 and 1980, and involve the participants in the Fundamental Beliefs process.

Here is a typical correspondence listing:

Record Group	11
Box Number	F82
Folder	Fundamental Beliefs (Letters)

*C1-C7 are found in this folder.*

**C1**

Letter: G.M. Hyde to W.D. Eva

Date: October 9, 1979

Length: 5 pages

Description: Hyde, Director of the Biblical Research Institute, writes to Eva concerning “brief suggestions for modification of the statements of our fundamental beliefs which I think may care for some long-range theological nuances which could be read into or ruled out of these statements as they now stand.” (1) Suggests changes to FB 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 26 and 27.

*Letter* states the sender and recipient of the letter.

*Date* is the date the letter was sent.

*Length* is the letter’s number of pages.

*Description* is a summary of the letter’s content. Each letter listed has some bearing on the process of drafting and adopting Belief 6.

**IV. Online Resources (O)**

The final section (*IV Online Resources (O)*) lists sources that can be accessed on the GC Archives website (<http://documents.adventistarchives.org/>). Although hard copies are held in the Archives, they are most readily available to the researcher online. The order of listing of *Online Resources* reflects the order in which they are featured on the website.

Here is a typical entry in the Online Resources section:

**O4**

Periodical: *Adventist Review*

Date: February 21, 1980

Pages: 1, 8-10

Address: <http://documents.adventistarchives.org/Periodicals/RH/RH19800221-V157-08.pdf>

Description: The *AR* invites church members “to examine carefully and to respond to a restatement of Seventh-day Adventists’ fundamental beliefs, which will be presented to the General Conference session in April.” The FB appear on pages 8-10.

*Periodical*, in this section, refers to an edition of the *Adventist Review* that has content pertaining to Fundamental Belief 6.

*Date* is the month, day, and year of the listed *Adventist Review* issue.

*Pages* are the pages in the document salient to Belief 6. The online periodical to which the page numbers refer can be viewed and/or downloaded in PDF.

*Address* is the item’s location on the Internet.

*Description* summarizes the pertinent reference in the *Adventist Review*.

**CONCLUSION**

A finding aid, by definition, exists to make it easier for researchers to *find* documents; and that is certainly one of the intended benefits of this first *GC Archives Finding Aid*. It enables researchers to identify the documents they wish to inspect and request them in advance, utilizing the document designation numbers (M, D, C) in this finding aid. However, it is also the case that, by publishing this descriptive inventory, researchers who may find it difficult to visit the GC Archives can still get a good sense of the complex process by which adding a Fundamental Belief on Creation gave rise, in 1980, to an entirely new statement of Fundamental Beliefs.

## I. Committee Minutes (M)

Record Group 11  
Box Number MIN 224  
Box Description PRADCO Minutes 1973 to 1975  
Folder PRADCO Agendas July 3, 1973 to December 29, 1976

NOTES

*M1 is found in this folder.*

### **M1**

Document Name: PRADCO Agenda

Date: March 24, 1976

Members Present: F.W. Wernick (chair), Arthur H. Roth (secretary), D.H. Baasch, J.W. Bothe, C.E. Bradford, N.R. Dower, C.O. Franz, Edwin Gibb, W.J. Hackett, J.H. Hancock, M.E. Kemmerer, Alf Lohne, M.S. Nigri, R.E. Osborne, W.L. Pascoe, A.J. Patzer, Arthur H. Roth, B.E. Seton, G. Ralph Thompson, F.C. Webster, R.F. Williams, K.H. Wood, A.G. Zytoskee

Description: This document cites the March 18 recommendation of the CMC to appoint an ad hoc committee (A-2499) to “study the coordination between ‘Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists’, ‘Doctrinal Instruction for Baptismal Candidates’, and ‘Baptismal Vow’” as well as the preparation of an FB on Creation.

Record Group 11  
Box Number MIN 224  
Box Description PRADCO Minutes 1976  
Book PRADCO 1976

*M2 and M3 are found in this folder.*

### **M2**

Document Name: President’s Administrative Council

Date: February 18, 1976

Page: 76-14

Members Present: Alf Lohne (chair), A.H. Roth (secretary), D.H. Baasch, C.E. Bradford, E.A. Crawford, N.R. Dower, W.D. Eva, W.W. Fordham, C.O. Franz, Edwin Gibb, W.J. Hackett, M. Carol Hetzell, H.D. Johnson, B.J. Kohler, R.E. Osborn, A.J. Patzer, H.F. Rampton, R.M. Reinhard, V.W. Schoen, G. Ralph Thompson, F.C. Webster, Bruce M. Wickwire, K.H. Wood, A.G. Zytoskee

Description: A request is made for the *Church Manual* Revision Committee to clarify and revise chapter 14: “Organizing, Uniting, and Disbanding Churches.”

### **M3**

Document Name: President’s Administrative Council

Date: March 24, 1976

Page: 76-32

Duplicate: M25

Members Present: F.W. Wernick (chair), A.H. Roth (secretary), D.H. Baasch, J.W. Bothe, C.E. Bradford, N.R. Dower, C.O. Franz, Edwin Gibb, W.J. Hackett, J.H. Han-

## NOTES

cock, M.E. Kemmerer, Alf Lohne, M.S. Nigri, R.E. Osborn, W.L. Pascoe, A.J. Patzer, B.E. Seton, G. Ralph Thompson, F.C. Webster, R.F. Williams, K.H. Wood, A.G. Zytkoskee

Description: X-1535 recommends the appointment of an ad hoc committee to study the coordination between the FB of Seventh-day Adventists (CM 32-39), Doctrinal Instruction for Baptismal Candidates (CM 53-59), the Baptismal Vow (CM 59-60) and preparing an additional FB statement dealing with the doctrine of Creation.

Ad hoc committee appointed: W.D. Eva (chair), B.E. Seton (secretary), C.E. Bradford, N.R. Dower, C.O. Franz, W.J. Hackett, Richard Hammill, G.M. Hyde, Alf Lohne, A.L. White

Record Group	11
Box Number	MIN 225
Box Description	PRADCO Minutes 1977-1981
Book	PRADCO 1978

*M4-M7 are found in this folder.*

**M4**

Document Name: President's Administrative Council

Date: February 15, 1978

Page: 78-15

Members Present: F.C. Webster (chair), A.H. Roth (secretary), W. Melvin Adams, D.H. Baasch, J.W. Bothe, W.J. Brown, W.W. Fordham, Edwin Gibb, J.H. Hancock, M. Carol Hetzell, H.D. Johnson, F.L. Jones, W.L. Murrill, R.E. Osborn, A.J. Patzer, R.L. Reynolds, W.M. Starks, Bruce M. Wickwire, R.F. Williams, A.G. Zytkoskee

Description: It is voted to name C.E. Bradford as secretary of X-1535, replacing B.E. Seton.

**M5**

Document Name: President's Administrative Council

Date: May 10, 1978

Page: 78-43

Members Present: G. Ralph Thompson (chair), A.H. Roth (secretary), W.J. Brown, W.W. Fordham, Edwin Gibb, Richard Hammill, J.H. Hancock, F.L. Jones, Alf Lohne, W.L. Murrill, R.E. Osborn, R.L. Reynolds, E.H.J. Steed, F.C. Webster, Bruce M. Wickwire, R.F. William, A.G. Zytkoskee

Description: A-2499 recommends to defer appointment of a committee to edit Creation and Revelation-Inspiration statements until May 24, 1978.

**M6**

Document Name: Tentative Statement on Creation & Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists

Date: Revised at NPR, February 1978

Length: 4 pages

Description: A tentative statement on Creation is proposed with "six literal consecutive

days" included.

NOTES

**M7**

Document Name: President's Administrative Council

Date: June 7, 1978

Page: 78-55

Members Present: W.D. Eva (chair), A.H. Roth (secretary), J.W. Bothe, C.E. Bradford, G.O. Bruce, N.R. Dower, C.O. Franz, Edwin Gibb, W.J. Hackett, Richard Hammill, C.D. Henri, M. Carol Hetzell, C.B. Hirsch, G.M. Hyde, D.S. Johnson, H.D. Johnson, M.E. Kemmerer, George Knowles, Alf Lohne, W.L. Murrill, M.S. Nigri, R.E. Osborn, A.J. Patzer, R.M. Reinhard, R.L. Reynolds, D.A. Roth, E.H.J. Steed, G. Ralph Thompson, F.C. Webster, F.W. Wernick, B.M. Wickwire, N.C. Wilson, A.G. Zytkoskee

Description: It is voted to appoint an ad hoc committee to edit statements on Creation and Revelation-Inspiration.

Ad hoc committee appointed: W.D. Eva (chair), G.M. Hyde (secretary), Milo Anderson, Roger Coon, Raoul Dederen, Richard Fearing, W.J. Hackett, Richard Hammill, Frank Holbrook, Warren H. Johns, Alf Lohne, James Londis, Robert W. Olson, Jack Provonsa, A.H. Roth, Cree Sandefur, William Scales, Jr., G. Ralph Thompson, Mervyn Warren

Record Group	11
Box Number	MIN 227
Box Description	PREXAD 1977-1978
Book	PREXAD 1977 Pt 1

*M8-M12 are found in this folder.*

**M8**

Document Name: President's Executive Advisory

Date: March 8, 1977

Page: 77-26

Members Present: R.H. Pierson (chair), W.D. Eva, C.O. Franz, Edwin Gibb (secretary), W.J. Hackett, Richard Hammill, C.D. Henri, M.E. Kemmerer, Alf Lohne, M.S. Nigri, G. Ralph Thompson, F.W. Wernick, N.C. Wilson  
 Invitees: A.J. Patzer, F.C. Webster

Description: Hackett, Eva and Hammill report on discussions with Bible and Science teachers at Columbia Union College on the Revelation-Inspiration and Creation Statements.

**M9**

Document Name: President's Executive Advisory

Date: March 22, 1977

Page: 77-31

Members Present: R.H. Pierson (chair), Edwin Gibb (secretary), W.D. Eva, C.O. Franz, Richard Hammill, C.D. Henri, Alf Lohne, M.S. Nigri, G. Ralph Thompson, F.W. Wernick, N.C. Wilson

Invitees: A.J. Patzer

## NOTES

Description: A discussion of how the Creation and Revelation-Inspiration statements will be used and the process of their drafting.

**M10**

Document Name: Tentative Statement on Creation

Date: March 22, 1977

Description: The third draft of the Tentative Statement on Creation is presented. "Six literal days" is maintained.

**M11**

Document Name: President's Executive Advisory

Date: June 28, 1977

Page: 77-55

Duplicate: D20

Members Present: R.H. Pierson (chair), Edwin Gibb (secretary), W.D. Eva, C.O. Franz, Edwin Gibb, W.J. Hackett, Richard Hammill, C.D. Henri, M.E. Kemmerer, Alf Lohne, F.W. Wernick, N.C. Wilson

Invitees: A.J. Patzer, F.C. Webster

Description: Hammill reports on meetings with college and university faculty about the Creation and Revelation-Inspiration statements. Committees are suggested to refine the statements.

**M12**

Document Name: President's Executive Advisory

Date: September 20, 1977

Page 77-85

Duplicate: D22

Members Present: R.H. Pierson (chair), Edwin Gibb (secretary), K.H. Emmerson, W.D. Eva, C.O. Franz, W.J. Hackett, Richard Hammill, C.D. Henri, M.E. Kemmerer, Alf Lohne, M.S. Nigri, G. Ralph Thompson, N.C. Wilson

Invitees: A.J. Patzer, F.C. Webster

Description: PREXAD adopts a seven-point procedure for refining the statements on Creation and Revelation-Inspiration.

Record Group	11
Box Number	MIN 227
Box Description	PREXAD 1977-1978
Book	PREXAD 1978

*M13-M15 are found in this folder.*

**M13**

Document Name: President's Executive Advisory

Date: April 18, 1978

Page: 78-44

Members Present: R.H. Pierson (chair), F.C. Webster (secretary and invitee), W.J. Hackett, Richard Hammill, M.E. Kemmerer, Alf Lohne, M.S. Nigri, F.W. Wernick, G. Ralph Thompson

Invitees: A.J. Patzer

Description: Members of a committee to edit the statements on Creation and Revelation-Inspiration are appointed.

Committee appointed: W.D. Eva (chair), G.M. Hyde (secretary), Milo Anderson, Roger Coon, Raoul Dederen, Richard Fearing, W.J. Hackett, Richard Hammill, Frank Holbrook, Warren H. Johns, Alf Lohne, James Londis, Robert Olsen, Jack Provonsha, Ariel Roth, Cree Sandefur, William Scales, G. Ralph Thompson, Mervyn Warren

#### **M14**

Document Name: President's Executive Advisory

Date: September 12, 1978

Page: 78-75

Members Present: R.H. Pierson (chair), Edwin Gibb (secretary), K.H. Emmerson, W.D. Eva, C.O. Franz, Richard Hammill, C.D. Henri, M.E. Kemmerer, M.S. Nigri, G. Ralph Thompson, F.W. Wernick, N.C. Wilson

Invitees: C.E. Bradford, A.J. Patzer, F.C. Webster

Description: Plans are made to have statements on Creation and four other doctrines ready for the 1979 AC and the 1980 GC Session.

#### **M15**

Document Name: Tentative Statement on Creation & Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists

Date: Revised October 1, 1978

Page: Between 78-96 and 78-97

Length: 4

Description: A draft on Creation is proposed. "Six literal consecutive days of creation" is maintained.

Record Group	11
Box Number	MIN 228
Box Description	PREXAD 1979
Book	PREXAD 1979

*M16 and M17 are found in this folder.*

#### **M16**

Document Name: President's Executive Advisory

Date: February 27, 1979

Page: 79-20

Members Present: N.C. Wilson (chair), Edwin Gibb (secretary), M.T. Battle, C.E. Bradford, K.H. Emmerson, W.J. Hackett, Richard Hammill, C.D. Henri, M.E. Kemmerer, Alf Lohne, M.S. Nigri, G. Ralph Thompson

Invitees: J.W. Bothe, A.J. Patzer, F.C. Webster

Description: A discussion on how best to present the Creation and Revelation-Inspiration statements to the church takes place. It is the consensus to continue to revise the statements by furnishing them to PREXAD; sending them to church theologians, scientists, etc; and debut them to general church membership in the *AR*.

## NOTES

**M17**

Document Name: President's Executive Advisory

Date: March 20, 1979

Page: 79-33

Members Present: N.C. Wilson (chair), Edwin Gibb (secretary), W.D. Eva, C.O. Franz, W.J. Hackett, Richard Hammill, C.D. Henri, M.E. Kemmerer, Alf Lohne, M.S. Nigri, G. Ralph Thompson

Invitees: J.W. Bothe, A.J. Patzer, F.C. Webster

Description: A suggestion is made that the Creation and Revelation-Inspiration statements should be reviewed by the AU Seminary faculty. Further plans are made to print the statements in *AR*.

*M18-M19 can be accessed online.*

**M18**

Minutes: General Conference Committee Minutes

Date: June 8, 1978

Pages: 78-139, 78-140

Address: <http://documents.adventistarchives.org/Minutes/GCC/GCC1978-06.pdf>

Members Present: W.D. Eva, J.W. Bothe, D.H. Baasch, W.S. Banfield, M.T. Battle, H.D. Burbank, Norman Doss, C.O. Franz, A.E. Gibb, W.J. Hackett, Richard Hammill, C.D. Henri, M. Carol Hetzell, C.B. Hirsch, D.S. Johnson, H.D. Johnson, M.E. Kemmerer, J.C. Kinder, G.E. Knowles, N.W. Litchfield, Alf Lohne, R.F. Mattison, J.W. McFarland, G.J. Millet, M.S. Nigri, A.J. Patzer, R.H. Pierson, H.L. Reiner, R.L. Reynolds, D.A. Roth, W.C. Scales, A.E. Schmidt, H.D. Singleton, E.H.J. Steed, C.R. Taylor, G. Ralph Thompson, F.C. Webster, F.W. Wernick, A.L. White, A.S. Whiting, Bruce M. Wickwire, DeWitt S. Williams, N.C. Wilson, W.H. Wilson, K.H. Wood, Ethel Young, A.G. Zytoskee

Others Present: James Balkins III, Orley Berg, B. Russell Holt, Ivan N. Jones, Betty Stirling

Description: An ad hoc Creation and Revelation Statements Editing Committee (A-2499) is appointed.

**M19**

Minutes: General Conference Committee Minutes

Date: October 1979

Pages: 79-334, 79-335, 79-336

Address: <http://documents.adventistarchives.org/Minutes/GCC/GCC1979-10a.pdf>

Members Present: N/A

Description: It is voted to adopt in principle the FB of Seventh-day Adventists which will then be sent to the *Church Manual* Committee for consideration. It is recommended that the *Church Manual* be revised by including a draft of the FB.

Record Group	25
Box Number	MIN 61
Box Description	<i>Church Manual</i> Committee Minutes
Book	<i>Church Manual</i> Committee MIN 62

*M20 and M21 are found in this folder.*

**M20**

Document Name: Minutes X-1535 *Church Manual* Revision "Fundamental Beliefs"

Date: July 23, 1979

Length: 1 page

Members Present: W.D. Eva (chair), B.E. Seton (secretary), N.R. Dower, C.O. Franz, Richard Hammill, A.L. White

Description: It is suggested that Eva, Hackett and Hammill meet with AU Seminary theologians to discuss the FB draft.

**M21**

Document Name: Minutes *Church Manual* Committee

Date: August 20, 1979

Length: 1 page, 9 pages attached

Members Present: G. Ralph Thompson (chair), M.T. Battle (secretary), W.D. Eva, J.W. Bothe, W.J. Brown, N.R. Dower, A.E. Gibb, W.J. Hackett, C.D. Henri, G.M. Hyde, H.D. Johnson, M.S. Nigri, R.A. Wilcox, J.H. Hancock

Description: It is voted to approve the inclusion of a copy of the FB in the NAD supplement of the *Church Manual*.

Record Group	0
Box Number	D260
Folder	53 <sup>rd</sup> GC Session Dallas, Texas 9 <sup>th</sup> Bus Mtg April 22, 1980
3:15 pm	

*M22 is found in this folder.*

**M22**

Document Name: Ninth Business Meeting at the 1980 Dallas General Conference Session at which delegates discuss Belief 6.

Date: April 22, 1980 3:15 pm

Length: 13 pages

Description: A transcription of the Ninth Business Meeting at the 1980 Dallas General Conference Session.

Record Group	0
Box Number	D260
Folder	53 <sup>rd</sup> GC Session Dallas, Texas 15 <sup>th</sup> Bus Mtg April 25, 1980
1:30 pm	

*M23 is found in this folder.*

**M23**

Document Name: Fifteenth Business Meeting at the 1980 Dallas General Conference Session. Delegates officially vote FB on page 5.

Date: April 25, 1980 1:30 pm

Length: 1 page

## NOTES

Description: Toward the close of the final business meeting, chair and General Conference president N. C. Wilson calls for a vote to accept the document as the church's FB by uplifted hands. The motion is carried overwhelmingly.

Record Group 11  
 Box Number B293  
 Accordion File Name RG 25 W. Duncan Eva materials-Committee on  
 Fundamental Beliefs 1980-1981 W. Duncan Eva materials-  
 ADHOC Committees-1980-1981  
 Transparent Folder Title: "Fundamental Beliefs Correspondence"

*M24 is found in this folder.*

**M24**

Document Name: PRADCO to W.D. Eva  
 Date: March 24, 1976  
 Length: 3 pages  
 Duplicate: M3

Description: X-1535 recommends the appointment of an ad hoc committee (A-2499) to study coordination between the FB of Seventh-day Adventists (CM 32-39), Doctrinal Instruction for Baptismal Candidates (CM 53-59), the Baptismal Vow (CM 59-60) and prepare an additional FB statement dealing with the doctrine of Creation.

Record Group 11  
 Box Number F85  
 File Name Creation & Revelation Statements Editorial Committee:  
 Prexad 78-44

*M25-M31 are found in this file.*

**M25**

Document Name: Creation/Revelation & Inspiration (continued)  
 Date: June 28, 1977  
 Length: 1 page

Description: PREXAD agrees that a committee should be appointed to study how to present the Creation and Revelation-Inspiration statements to the church and another committee to refine the statements for the 1978 AC.

**M26**

Document Name: Creation/Revelation & Inspiration  
 Date: September 20, 1977  
 Length: 1 page  
 Duplicate: M12

Description: PREXAD agrees to accept a seven-point procedure for refining the statements on Creation and Revelation-Inspiration.

**M27**

Document Name: Statements on Creation and on Revelation and Inspiration  
 Date: N/A [after June 1977]

Length: 2 pages  
3 copies in folder

Description: The ad hoc committee agrees to recommend the suggestions for dealing with Creation and Revelation-Inspiration statements made by PREXAD on June 28, 1977. Also agreed was that an editing committee be appointed to edit the statements prior to their presentation to PREXAD before publication.

**M28**

Document Name: Committee on Statements  
Date: April 7, 1978  
Length: 1 page

Description: It is recommended that PREXAD appoint a consultant group to the editing committee appointed by PREXAD on September 20, 1977. The proposed committee members are listed.

**M29**

Document Name: (A 2499) Creation and Revelation Statements Editing Committee  
Author: Creation and Revelation Statements Editing Committee  
Date: June 8, 1978  
Length: 1 page

Description: CRESC is appointed.

**M30**

Document Name: A 2499 Creation and Revelation/Inspiration Statements  
Date: March 20, 1979  
Length: 1 page  
Duplicate: M11

Description: Hammill reports on meetings with college and university faculty about the Creation and Revelation-Inspiration statements. Committees are suggested to refine the statements.

**M31**

Document Name: Creation and Revelation-Editorial Committee  
Author: PREXAD  
Date: April 18, 1978  
Length: 1 page

Description: A committee is recommended to edit the Creation and Revelation-Inspiration statements.

Record Group	11
Box Number	F82
Folder	Fundamental Beliefs (Letters)

*M32 is found in this folder.*

**M32**

Document Name: CMC at Annual Council  
Date: October 16, 1979

## NOTES

Length: 8 pages

Description: It is voted to revise Chapter 2, "Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists," found in the *Church Manual*, pages 32-39.

Record Group 11  
 Box Number B293  
 Accordion File Name RG 25 W. Duncan Eva materials-Committee on  
 Fundamental Beliefs-1980-1981 W. Duncan Eva materials-  
 ADHOC Committees-1980-1981  
 Transparent Folder Title: "Fundamental Beliefs Revision Minutes"

*M33 is found in this folder.*

**M33**

Document Name: "(X 1535) *Church Manual* Revision—Fundamental Beliefs (Ad Hoc)"

Author: N/A

Date: September 8, 1978

Length: 18 pages

Description: This document contains copies of minutes of eight committee meetings (X-1535: September 8, 1978; *Church Manual* Committee: January 22, 1979; *Church Manual* Committee: February 9, 1979 (2 copies); X-1535: February 14, 15, 1979 (2 copies); X-1535: April 9, 10, 1979; X-1535: June 13, 14, 1979 (2 copies); X-1535: July 23, 1979 (2 copies); *Church Manual* Committee: August 13, 20, 1979).

Record Group 11  
 Box 11636  
 Folder President's Council AC 1976 RHB06

*M34 and M35 are in this folder.*

**M34**

Document Name: President's Executive Advisory

Date: January 30, 1976

Page: 76-7

Description: PREXAD is requested to draft a statement on creation week and the age of the earth that will be presented to an AC.

Record Group 11  
 Box 14563  
 Folder President's Retreat—Coolfont Sept 18-Oct 1, 1978

*M35 is in this folder.*

**M35**

Document: Tentative Statement on Creation & Re-Creation as understood by Seventh-day Adventists

Date: Revised September 27, 1978

Pages: 4 (5 copies, two with handwritten markings)

Description: Five copies of the oft-duplicated Creation & Re-Creation draft appear in this folder, but with handwritten corrections/notes on two of the drafts, quite possibly from the hand of R.H. Pierson.

Record Group            11  
Box                        14567 (Presidential Correspondence)  
Folder                    Gordon Hyde

*M36 is in this folder.*

**M36**

Document: R.H. Pierson to G.M. Hyde

Date: July 19, 1978

Pages: 1

Description: Pierson, responding to a letter Hyde wrote to one Les Fraser, states that Hyde should have articulated the fundamental Adventist theology that God created the whole of earth in six literal days.



## II. Documents (D)

Record Group 11  
Box Number F85  
Folder Creation & Revel./Inspiration Statements (Latest Copies)

NOTES

*D1-D3 are found in this folder.*

### **D1**

Document Name: Creation and Recreation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists  
Date: Revised October 30, 1979  
Length: 4 pages  
2 copies

Description: A draft of Creation & Re-Creation statement.

### **D2**

Document Name: Study Documents  
Authors: The General Conference Officers  
Date: Undated  
Length: 2 pages

Description: An overview of the process of drafting the Creation and Revelation-Inspiration statements.

### **D3**

Document Name: Study Document  
Authors: The General Conference Officers  
Date: Undated (on attachments, "Revised October 16, 1979")  
Length: 15 pages

Description: This document includes the "Study Document"; and "Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible" and "Creation & Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists" (both October 16, 1979).

Record Group 11  
Box Number F85  
Folder Creation & Revelation Statements Editing Committee

*D4 and D5 are found in this folder.*

### **D4**

Document Name: Creation & Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-Day Adventists  
Date: Revised March 20, 1979  
Length: 4 pages

Description: A draft of the document "Creation & Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists."

### **D5**

Document Name: Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible

## NOTES

Date: Revised March 20, 1979  
 Length: 9 pages

Description: A draft of the document "Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible."

Record Group	11
Box Number	F85
Folder	Creation Statements

*D6-D10 are found in this folder.*

**D6**

Document Name: Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists  
 Place: Revised at NPR  
 Date: Revised February 1978  
 Length: 4 pages  
 2 copies (second copy has corrections in pencil)

Description: A draft of "Statement on Creation and Re-Creation."

**D7**

Document Name: Tentative Statement on Creation & Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists  
 Date: Revised September 27, 1978  
 Length: 4 pages

Description: A draft of "Statement on Creation and Re-Creation."

**D8**

Document Name: Tentative Statement on Creation & Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists  
 Date: Revised October 1, 1978  
 Length: 4 pages

Description: A draft of "Statement on Creation and Re-Creation."

**D9**

Document Name: Tentative Statement on Creation & Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists  
 Date: Revised March 7, 1979  
 Length: 4 pages

Description: A draft of the "Statement on Creation and Re-Creation."

**D10**

Document Name: Creation & Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists  
 Date: Revised March 20, 1979  
 Length: 4 pages

Description: A draft of "Statement on Creation and Re-Creation."

Record Group 11  
Box Number F85  
Folder Revelation/Inspiration

NOTES

*D11-D17 are found in this folder.*

**D11**

Document Name: Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible  
Date: Revised March 9, 1979  
Length: 9 pages

Description: A draft of "Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible."

**D12**

Document Name: Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible  
Date: Revised March 20, 1979  
Length: 9 pages

Description: A draft of "Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible."

**D13**

Document Name: Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible  
Date: Undated  
Length: 7 pages  
2 copies (one with penciled notes)

Description: A draft of "Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible."

**D14**

Document Name: Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible  
Date: Undated  
Length: 12 pages

Description: The first document is a draft of "Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible" that contains handwritten corrections. Next are the minutes of a February 19, 1978, committee which deals almost solely with the proposed edits in the first document.

**D15**

Document Name: Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible  
Date: Revised September 27, 1979  
Length: 14 pages  
3 copies

Description: Contains two drafts of "Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible." The first copy has written edits on it.

**D16**

Document Name: Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible  
Date: Revised Feb. 1978  
Length: 10 pages  
2 copies

## NOTES

Description: A draft of "Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible."

**D17**

Document Name: Committee Notice

Date: Undated

Length: Small slip of paper

Description: A notice that CRESC will meet on Wednesday, September 20, 1978.

Record Group	11
Box Number	F85
Folder	Creation & Revel. /Inspirat. Statements PREXAD

*D18 and D19 are found in this folder.*

**D18**

Document Name: Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible

Date: Revised March 20, 1979

Length: 9 pages

Description: A draft of "Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible."

**D19**

Document Name: Committee Notice

Date: September 25, 1978

Length: 1 page

Description: A notice of a meeting of CRESC.

Record Group	11
Box Number	F85
Folder	Material on Creation & Revel/Insp. Statements

*D20 is found in this folder.*

**D20**

Document Name: "Hackett says statements aren't creed"

Source: *Walla Walla College Collegian*

Author: Stephen Payne

Date: March 9, 1978

Length: 1 page

Description: Student writer discusses Hackett's denial of imposing creeds.

Record Group	11
Box Number	F85
Folder	Revelation & Inspiration Statements (Old copies)

*D21-D23 are found in this folder.*

**D21**

Document Name: Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible  
 Date: February 1978  
 Location: NPR  
 Length: 31 pages

Description: A revision of "Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible."

**D22**

Document Name: Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible  
 Date: Oct 1, 1978  
 Length: 7 pages

Description: A revision of "Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible."

**D23**

Document Name: Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible  
 Date: Revised March 9, 1979  
 Length: 9 pages

Description: A revision of "Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible."

Record Group	11
Box Number	F85
Folder	Creation & Re-Creation Statement (Old copies)

*D24-D34 are found in this folder.*

**D24**

Document Name: Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation  
 Date: January 26, 1977  
 Length: 3 pages

Description: A draft of "Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation."

**D25**

Document Name: Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists  
 Date: March 21, 1977  
 Length: 3 pages

Description: A revision of "Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists."

**D26**

Document Name: Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists  
 Date: April 20, 1977  
 Length: 3 pages

Description: A revision of "Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists."

## NOTES

**D27**

Document Name: Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists

Date: June 10, 1977

Length: 3 pages

Description: A revision of "Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists."

**D28**

Document Name: Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists

Date: June 21, 1977

Length: 3 pages

Description: A revision of "Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists."

**D29**

Document Name: Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists

Date: November 22, 1977

Length: 4 pages

2 copies

Description: A revision of "Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists."

**D30**

Document Name: Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists

Date: January 3, 1978

Length: 4 pages

Description: A revision of "Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists."

**D31**

Document Name: Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists

Date: February 1978

Location: NPR

Length: 4 pages

Description: A revision of "Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists."

**D32**

Document Name: Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists

Date: October 1, 1978

Length: 4 pages

Description: A revision of "Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as

Understood by Seventh-day Adventists.”

**D33**

Document Name: Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists

Date: March 7, 1979

Length: 4 pages

Description: A revision of “Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists.”

**D34**

Document Name: Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists

Date: March 20, 1979

Length: 4 pages

Description: A revision of “Tentative Statement on Creation and Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists.”

Record Group	11
Box Number	R1049
Accordion File Name	Nosoca Pines Papers, 1978

**D35**

Document Name: A report concerning the tentative statement on creation and re-creation as understood by Seventh-day Adventists (pgs. 471-479)

Author: R.H. Brown

Date: February 10-20, 1978

Length: 9 pages

Description: In this report to GC leaders at the NPR, GRI director R.H. Brown provides a brief history of the process of the drafting of the Creation Statement, and opposition to its literal interpretations of the first chapters of Genesis’ creation account among a “mathematically infinitesimal portion,” of the “best-educated segment of Adventists.”

Record Group	11
Box Number	F85
Folder	CM Fundamental Beliefs—Notes, etc. X-1535

*D36-42 are found in this folder.*

**D36**

Document Name: X-1535 Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists *Church Manual* Revision

Date: March 10, 1980

Length: 5 pages

Description: X-1535 draft of the FB.

## NOTES

**D37**

Document Name: Untitled  
 Date: Undated  
 Length: 2 pages

Description: A short document submitted to ADCOM for consideration for the *Church Manual*.

**D38**

Document Name: Fundamental Beliefs SDA *Yearbook*, Fundamental Beliefs *Church Manual*, Doctrinal Instruction for Baptismal Candidates  
 Date: Undated  
 Length: 8 pages

Description: A three-column document comparing FB as found in the SDA *Yearbook* and *Church Manual*, and the "Doctrinal Instruction for Baptismal Candidates."

**D39**

Document Name: The Determination of Fundamental Beliefs  
 Author: A.L. White  
 Date: Undated  
 Length: 31 pages

Description: White outlines a history of the process of determining FB. Supplementary addendum materials are attached.

**D40**

Document Name: Suggested Revisions for the Seventh-day Adventist *Church Manual*  
 Source: Department of Education  
 Date: Undated  
 Length: 4 pages

Description: This document contains the Department of Education's revisions to the *Church Manual*.

**D41**

Document Name: X-1535 Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists *Church Manual* Revision  
 Authors: X-1535 (sent from Monica Norman)  
 Date: March 12, 1980  
 Length: 11 pages

Description: A revision of the FB by X-1535.

**D42**

Document Name: X-1535 *Church Manual* Revision-Fundamental Beliefs  
 Author: B.E. Seton  
 Date: March 4, 1979  
 Length: 1 page

Description: A copy of "Suggestion for Statement of Belief on Creation" drafted by B.E. Seton.

Record Group 2  
 Box Number 1860-1877  
 Folder 1877

*D43 is found in this folder.*

**D43**

Document Name: 1877  
 Author: NA  
 Date: NA

Description: A draft of the FB.

Record Group 11  
 Box Number B293  
 Accordion File Name RG 25 W. Duncan Eva materials-Committee on  
 Fundamental Beliefs-1980-1981 W. Duncan Eva materials-  
 ADHOC Committees-1980-1981

Discrete transparent folders are contained in the accordion folder.

*D44-D56 are found in this file.*

Transparent Folder Title: "Fundamental Beliefs New Statement"

**D44**

Document Name: Fundamental Beliefs  
 Author: N/A  
 Date: N/A  
 Length: 26 pages

Description: A draft of 27 FB.

Transparent Folder Title: "Fundamental Beliefs"

**D45**

Document Name: "Fundamental Beliefs" (In pencil in right hand corner: "Original (2<sup>nd</sup> lat) from Andrews University")  
 Author: N/A  
 Date: N/A  
 Length: 16 pages

Description: This is the reworked draft that the AU group sent to W.D. Eva on September 24, 1979. This version is incomplete, however, with only Beliefs 1, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 22, 23, 24 and 26 (these are the numerals before the Beliefs; the originals proceed the Beliefs in parenthesis). The word "literal" is missing from Belief 6, the first draft to have such an omission.

**D46**

Document Name: "W Duncan Eva"  
 Author: W.D. Eva  
 Date: 8-9-81  
 Length: 1 page

## NOTES

Description: A title page indicating “Background Material (1978-1980) on the development of the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs adopted at the General Conference Session Dallas, Tx April 1980.”

**D47**

Document Name: “Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists”

Source: *Church Manual*

Date: April 9-10, 1976

Length: 6 pages

Description: This document is excerpted from the 1976 *Church Manual* FB section. Revisions, both typed and handwritten, are made on the document.

**D48**

Document Name: “Suggested Revisions: Fundamental Beliefs of SDAs, *Church Manual*, pp. 32-39 (1976 Edition)”

Author: B.E. Seton

Date: March 9, 1978

Length: 8 pages

Description: A printout of the 1976 *Church Manual* FB with Seton’s corrections and typed and handwritten revisions.

**D49**

Document Name: “Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists”

Source: *Church Manual*

Date: N/A

Length: 6 pages

Description: A typed copy of the 1976 *Church Manual* FB section.

**D50**

Document Name: “Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists”

Author: N/A

Date: June 13, 1979

Length: 7 pages

Description: A revised version of the 1976 *Church Manual* FB section.

**D51**

Document Name: “Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists”

Author: N/A

Date: June 18, 1979

Length: 11 pages

Description: A revised version of the 1976 *Church Manual* FB section.

**D52**

Document Name: “Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists” with “X-1535” handwritten in top right corner

Source: 1978 *Yearbook*

Date: N/A

Length: 2 pages

Copies: 3

Description: Three copies of the 1978 *Yearbook's* 22 FB for X-1535's consideration.

### D53

Document Name: "Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists"

Source: *Church Manual*

Date: N/A

Length: 13 small pages

Description: The 1976 *Church Manual* FB with notations at the bottom of several pages.

### D54

Document Name: "Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists"

Author: N/A

Date: N/A

Length: 9 pages

Description: A draft of the FB probably issued by the X-1535 with handwritten notations and highlighting.

### D55

Document Name: "Revision of *Church Manual*, Chapter 2 Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists"

Author: N/A

Date: N/A

Length: 14

Description: A revised draft of the 1976 *Church Manual* FB, which includes, among others, Belief 6 "Creation," most likely reflecting the revisions made by the Andrews University group.

### D56

Document Name: N/A

Author: N/A

Date: N/A

Length: 15 wide pages, three columns, folded on the right quarter end

Distinguishing mark: Blue stapled sheet that reads: "AT THIS STAGE THIS DOCUMENT IS CONFIDENTIAL AND INTENDED ONLY FOR THOSE TO WHOM IT IS SENT. IT MAY NOT BE COPIED OR DUPLICATED IN ANY WAY."

Description: Each page contains three columns, reading "Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists." The first is from the *Church Manual*, the second apparently from an early draft of the CMC or X-1535, and the third from an unknown draft. This is most likely the document that W.D. Eva sent to N.C. Wilson, C.O. Franz, K.H. Emmer-son, W.J. Hackett, R. Hammill, C.D. Henri, A. Lohne, M.S. Nigri, G. Ralph Thompson, F.W. Wernick, A.E. Gibb, M.E. Kemmerer, Division Presidents, NAD Union Presidents, R.H. Pierson, W.J. Blacker, Cree Sandefur, and K.H. Wood on October 10, 1979, and to the Andrews University group.



### III. Correspondence (C)

Record Group            11  
Box Number            F82  
Folder                    Fundamental Beliefs (Letters)

NOTES

*C1-C7 are found in this folder.*

#### **C1**

Letter: G.M. Hyde to W.D. Eva  
Date: October 9, 1979  
Length: 5 pages

Description: Hyde, Director of the Biblical Research Institute, writes to Eva concerning "brief suggestions for modification of the statements of our fundamental beliefs which I think may care for some long-range theological nuances which could be read into or ruled out of these statements as they now stand." (1) Suggests changes to FB 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 26 and 27.

#### **C2**

Letter: Leo R. Van Dolson to W.D. Eva  
Date: October 24, 1979  
Length: 2 pages

Description: Dolson suggests corrections to FB 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 16, 17, 24, 25, 27.

#### **C3**

Letter: W.D. Eva to L.R. Van Dolson  
Date: October 26, 1979  
Length: 1 page

Description: Eva thanks Van Dolson for his letter.

#### **C4**

Letter: B.E. Seton to W.D. Eva  
Date: October 17, 1979  
Length: 4 pages

Description: Seton offers handwritten suggestions on FB 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27.

#### **C5**

Letter: Kenneth G. Vaz to W.D. Eva  
Date: January 9, 1980  
Length: 2 pages

Description: Vaz suggests corrections to FB 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 22, 25 and 27.

#### **C6**

Letter: Monica Norman to K.G. Vaz  
Date: January 18, 1980  
Length: 1 page

## NOTES

Description: Norman writes that Vaz's letter was received with appreciation.

**C7**

Letter: Merle Mills to W.D. Eva

Date: January 16, 1980

Length: 1 page, 6 pages of attachments

Description: Mills encloses corrections that Trans-Africa Division employees sent to him. Changes are suggested to FB 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 18, 20 and 21.

Record Group	11
Box Number	F82
Folder	Fundamental Beliefs (Letters) #2

*C8-C17 are found in this folder.*

**C8**

Letter: Morvel L. Klaus to W.D. Eva

Date: March 6, 1980

Length: 1 page

Description: Klaus sends Eva a second letter revisiting the content of the first: creation. He admits that a statement in Eva's response to his letter "has haunted me almost daily since I read it and I feel that it would be remiss of me not to respond to it." Klaus proceeds to quote Eva concerning the age of the earth: "Perhaps this is one of those points where we ought [sic] to make room for both beliefs while we hold firmly to the words which the Bible begins, 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.'"

Klaus rejects Eva's position, asserting that "if the earth were more than 6,000 years old it could not have been created during creation week. In that event the Lord has led us astray by intimating that is (sic) was indeed created during the same week that man was created." Klaus declares he has no doubts about his position and is disappointed with church leaders if they do.

Klaus also takes issue with FB 18.

**C9**

Letter: W.D. Eva to M.L. Klaus

Date: March 12, 1980

Length: 1 page

Description: Eva restates the point he made in the earlier letter: Two SDA trains of thought—both "equally creationists"—interpret Genesis 1 differently. One school holds that the whole earth and everything on it was all created in six literal days. The other maintains that the heavens and the earth of Genesis 1:1 were created by God at some earlier date, and then verses 3-31 describe the creation process that occurred in six literal days. Eva, respectfully acknowledging both sides, states that "we [the committee] wish to make room for both of these creationist positions." Anticipating an objection bolstered with SOP quotes, Eva writes that those in the latter school are familiar with those quotations and feel they do not contradict their position.

Eva addresses Klaus's issue with FB 18, then concludes the letter with a word of appreciation and promise of consideration.

**C10**

Letter: Walter R.L. Scragg to W.D. Eva  
Date: March 6, 1980  
Length: 1 page, 3 pages attached

Description: Scragg attaches comments from two workers from the Northern Europe-West Africa Division, who remark on FB 2, 4, 6, 12 and 18.

**C11**

Letter: W.D. Eva to W.R.L. Scragg  
Date: March 12, 1980  
Length: 1 page

Description: Eva briefly thanks Scragg and assures consideration of his suggestions.

**C12**

Letter: Jens Madsen to W.D. Eva  
Date: March 4, 1980  
Length: 3 pages

Description: Madsen critiques FB 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22 and 24.

**C13**

Letter: W.D. Eva to Jens Madsen  
Date: March 13, 1980  
Length: 1 page

Description: After expressing appreciation, Eva informs Maddens that the drafters couldn't make too great changes "because of other considerations."

**C14**

Letter: C.A. Paden to W.D. Eva  
Date: March 5, 1980  
Length: 4 pages

Description: Paden shares thoughts on FB 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25.

**C15**

Letter: W.D. Eva to Cecil A. Paden  
Date: March 13, 1980  
Length: 1 page

Description: Eva promises to bring Paden's points to CMC tomorrow.

**C16**

Letter: A.E. Roth to W.D. Eva  
Date: February 25, 1980  
Length: 1 page, 13 page attachment

Description: Roth is solely concerned with FB 6 in this letter, maintaining that the word "literal" should be inserted between "six" and "days." He attaches a 13-page position paper called "Alternate Interpretations of the Fossil Record."

## NOTES

**C17**

Letter: W.D. Eva to A.E. Roth  
 Date: March 31, 1980  
 Length: 1 page

Description: Eva states: "We had quite a struggle in regard to the word 'literal' that you would like to see included. A number wanted it but others felt that it unnecessarily aroused opposition and that we should try to state our belief in a different way. It was for this reason that the sentence is worded, 'in six days the Lord made 'the heavens and the earth' and all living things upon the earth, and rested on the seventh day of that first week' we had taken care of the matter. The days would have to literal (sic)." He assures Roth that "I will bring your feelings to the attention of the committee again."

Record Group	11
Box Number	F85
Folder	Creation & Revelation Statements Editorial Committee

*C18-C46 are found in this folder.*

**C18**

Document Name: Notification of Committee Appointment  
 Author: Creation and Revelation Statements Editing (ad hoc)  
 Date: June 26, 1978  
 Length: 1 page

Description: E.E. Zinke was notified that he was appointed to serve on A-2499.

**C19**

Letter: Jack Provonsha to W.D. Eva  
 Date: October 5, 1978  
 Length: 1 page

Description: Provonsha declines the appointment to serve on the Creation and Revelation Statements Committee.

**C20**

Letter: W.D. Eva to Jack Provonsha  
 Date: October 27, 1978  
 Length: 1 page

Description: Eva notes that he respects Provonsha's decision but nevertheless asks him to look through the statements.

**C21**

Letter: W.D. Eva to Committee Members of the Creation & Revelation Statements—  
 Editorial Committee who are not resident in Washington  
 Date: September 28, 1978  
 Length: 1 page

Description: The Creation and Revelation-Inspiration statements will be presented to certain church officials from September 28 to October 1 and Eva would like to have a representative draft before then.

**C22**

Letter: Raoul Dederen to W.D. Eva  
Date: September 25, 1978  
Length: 1 page

Description: Dederen thanks Eva for a letter he received on August 12 about his responsibilities on the editorial committee.

**C23**

Letter: W.D. Eva to Raoul Dederen  
Date: September 28, 1978  
Length: 1 page

Description: Eva thanks Dederen and advises him on committee business.

**C24**

Letter: Enoch de Oliveira to Richard Hammill  
Date: August 31, 1978  
Length: 2 pages

Description: De Oliveira thanks Hammill and encloses a copy of a letter from Dr. Rui Vieira, president of the Creationist Society, of his revisions to the "Creation and Revelation Statement."

**C25**

Document Name: Notes of the meeting of NEWAD Biblical Research Committee at the Division Office, St Albans, September 19, 1978, 10 am  
Author: NEWAD Biblical Research Committee  
Date: September 19, 1978  
Length: 7 pages

Description: This document contains the alterations recommended by the CRI.

**C26**

Letter: Milo V. Anderson to W.D. Eva and A.A. Roth  
Date: July 13, 1978  
Length: 2 pages

Description: Before agreeing to participate on CRESC, Anderson states that he needs seven questions answered.

**C27**

Letter: Monica Norman to M.V. Anderson  
Date: July 21, 1978  
Length: 1 page

Description: Norman thanks Anderson for his letter.

**C28**

Letter: W.D. Eva to Milo Anderson  
Date: August 7, 1978  
Length: 2 pages

Description: Eva answers Anderson's seven inquiries.

## NOTES

**C29**

Letter: Raoul Dederen to W.D. Eva  
Date: August 2, 1978  
Length: 2 pages

Description: Before he does any editorial work on the documents, Dederen asks Eva five questions.

**C30**

Letter: W.D. Eva to Raoul Dederen  
Date: August 7, 1978  
Length: 2 pages

Description: Eva answers Dederen's five questions.

**C31**

Letter: Warren H. Johns to W.D. Eva  
Date: July 12, 1978  
Length: 1 page

Description: Johns accepts the invitation to serve on the ad hoc committee.

**C32**

Letter: W.D. Eva to Warren H. Johns  
Date: July 31, 1978  
Length: 1 page

Description: Eva thanks Johns for his acceptance and makes personal remarks.

**C33**

Letter: Maxine Bell to Richard Hammill  
Date: July 25, 1978  
Length: 1 page

Description: Bell replies to Hammill's request for feedback on the "Revelation and Inspiration of the Bible Statement" and Bell informs him that the ministers are in agreement with the document.

**C34**

Letter: Monica Norman to Richard Hammill  
Date: Undated  
Length: 1 page

Description: Norman sends Hammill a notice for a CRESC meeting on July 28, 1978, for Washington area members.

**C35**

Letter: Alf Lohne to W.D. Eva  
Date: July 24, 1978  
Length: 2 pages

Description: Lohne sends his corrections to the "Creation and Revelation" and "Revelation and Inspiration" statements.

**C36**

Letter: Roger Coon to W.D. Eva  
Date: July 12, 1978  
Length: 1 page

Description: Coon agrees to serve on CRESC.

**C37**

Letter: Gordon M. Hyde to Richard Hammill  
Date: June 29, 1978  
Length: 1 page

Description: Hyde expresses concern that an older draft of the "Revelation-Inspiration Statement" was being circulated instead of the NPR revision.

**C38**

Letter: Arthur H. Roth to W.D. Eva  
Date: June 8, 1978  
Length: 1 page, 1 attachment  
2 copies

Description: Roth informs Eva that the GCC has appointed him to serve as chair of CRESC.

**C39**

Letter: W.D. Eva to G.M. Hyde  
Date: June 13, 1978  
Length: 1 page

Description: Eva informs Hyde that he is sending him the "Revelation/Inspiration Statement" corrections by the Euro-Africa Division and the Australasian Division.

**C40**

Letter: Walter R.L. Scragg to C.O. Franz  
Date: May 22, 1978  
Length: 3 pages

Description: Scragg, president of the Northern Europe-West Africa Division, shares his criticisms of the "Creation and Re-creation" and "Revelation and Inspiration" statements.

**C41**

Letter: W.D. Eva to Brethren  
Date: July 6, 1978  
Length: 1 page, 2 pages attachment

Description: Eva attaches copies of revisions made by CRESC.

**C42**

Document: Minutes (summarized)  
Participants: J.J. Blanco, A.V. Wallenkampf, R.H. Brown, F.W. Wernick, K.H. Wood, R.H. Pierson, N.R. Dower  
Date: February 20, 1978 (date on page 13 is incorrect; page 14 date is accurate)

## NOTES

Length: 2 pages (document consists of pages 13 and 14 with a staple and an orange highlighter marking the "Editing of the creation statement" section.

Description: This appears to be a frank meeting of General Conference leaders of the same mind, including then president R.H. Pierson, that is summarized, not quoted verbatim. There is an illuminating discussion on what veteran church leaders saw as the real issues underpinning the Creation and Inspiration statement.

**C43**

Document Name: Tentative Statement on Creation & Recreation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists

Author: Revisions suggested by R.H. Brown

Date: January 3, 1978

Length: 4 pages

Description: Brown handwrites his corrections onto the Tentative Statement on Creation & Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists.

**C44**

Letter: R.H. Brown to W.D. Eva

Date: July 19, 1977

Length: 2 pages

Description: Brown discusses the wording in the Creation and Re-Creation Statement involving chronological data, genealogies and other issues.

**C45**

Letter: Monica Norman to R.H. Brown

Date: July 20, 1977

Length: 1 page

Description: Norman provides receipt to Brown of his letter.

**C46**

Letter: R.H. Brown to W.J. Hackett

Date: May 3, 1977

Length: 1 page, 1 page attachment

Description: Brown sends a letter to Hackett that he believes should have been sent to Hackett in the first place.

Record Group	11
Box Number	D558
Box Description	Miscellaneous Files
Folder	Eva, W. Duncan to Grady Smoot

*C47-C48 are found in this folder.*

**C47**

Letter: W.D. Eva to Dr. G. Smoot and Dr. T. Blincoe

Date: July 26, 1979

Length: 2 pages

Description: Eva writes the Seminary leaders concerning the progress of the FB drafting process, informing them that during September N.C. Wilson, Hackett, Hammill and he would be visiting AU as a step in this process. The General Conference group would like to meet with certain professors there and obtain feedback, so Eva would send the latest draft of the "Creation and Revelation/Inspiration" statements for the professors to review beforehand.

**C48**

Letter: Joseph G. Smoot to Drs. T.H. Blincoe, I.T. Blazen, Raoul Dederen, L.T. Geraty, R.E. Graham, Fritz Guy, W.G. Johnsson, H.K. LaRondelle, Gottfried Oosterwall, W.H. Shea, R.W. Schwarz, K.A. Strand.

Date: September 24, 1979

Length: 1 page, 26 attached

Description: Smoot advises his colleagues that the 26 page attachment is the draft of the FB that they had worked on that was sent to the General Conference. This is the first draft in which "literal" is absent.

Record Group	11
Box Number	14567 (Presidential Correspondence)
Folder	Gordon Hyde

*C49 and C50 are found in this folder.*

**C49**

Letter: G.M. Hyde to R.H. Pierson

Date: May 3, 1978

Length: 1 page

Description: Hyde writes Pierson about his concern that the progress at the 1978 NPR meetings made on the "Revelation-Inspiration Statement" not be "neutralized" with changes from later groups (specifically mentions AU faculty).

**C50**

Letter: R.H. Pierson to G.M. Hyde

Date: May 4, 1978

Length: 1 page

Description: Pierson advises Hyde to share his concerns with Hammill.

Record Group	11
Box Number	14571 (Presidential Correspondence)
Folder	Eva, W.D.

*C51 and C52 are found in this folder.*

**C51**

Letter: W.D. Eva to R.H. Pierson

Date: July 5, 1978

Length: 1 page

Description: Eva writes to Pierson concerning the Creation and Revelation-Inspiration

## NOTES

statements in relation to the WWC situation. He offers possibilities on how to proceed.

**C52**

Letter: Robert H. Pierson to W.D. Eva  
Date: July 10, 1978  
Length: 1 page

Description: Pierson replies to three Eva letters. He agrees to meet with Eva, Hackett, and Hammill in order to draft a reply to WWC.

Record Group	11
Box Number	14572 (Presidential Correspondence)
Folder	Geoscience

*C53 and C54 are found in this folder.*

**C53**

Letter: R.H. Brown to R.H. Pierson  
Date: February 27, 1978  
Length: 1 page

Description: Fresh from NPR, Brown informs Pierson of another denomination—Assemblies of God—who “have encountered circumstances in both their internal operations and their external witness that called for a clear statement concerning the meaning of the first chapters of Genesis.” He offers to reproduce his findings for Pierson on the Assemblies’ handling of the matter.

**C54**

Letter: R.H. Pierson to R.H. Brown  
Date: April 2, 1978  
Length: 1 page

Description: Late in his reply, Pierson replies to Brown with gratitude.

Record Group	11
Box Number	B293
Accordion File Name	RG 25 W. Duncan Eva materials-Committee on Fundamental Beliefs 1980-1981 W. Duncan Eva materials-ADHOC Committees-1980-1981

Discrete transparent folders are contained in the accordion folder.

*C55-C76 are found in this folder.*

Transparent Folder Title: Fundamental Beliefs Correspondence

**C55**

Letter: W.D. Eva to C.O. Franz  
Date: January 26, 1978  
Length: 1 page

Description: Eva informs Franz that he has been appointed chair of X-1535. B.E. Seton will not be able to serve as secretary of the committee. The purpose of the letter is to ask Franz's opinion as to Seton's replacement.

**C56**

Letter: W.D. Eva to A.H. Roth

Date: February 2, 1978

Length: 1 page

Description: Eva asks Roth to arrange for C.E. Bradford to replace B.E. Seton as chair of X-1535.

**C57**

Letter: B.E. Seton to Monica Norman

Date: March 9, 1978

Length: 1 page

Description: Seton gives Eva's secretary directions for the typing out of a draft that only he and Eva were to initially review.

**C58**

Letter: W.D. Eva to Members of X-1535

Date: July 7, 1978

Length: 1 page

Description: This is a cover letter sent to X-1535 members for a draft of the FB for their review.

**C59**

Letter: W.D. Eva to B.E. Seton

Date: September 13, 1978

Length: 1 page

Description: Eva writes to Seton about the X-1535, specifically of their recent decision to not "enlarge the statement" until after getting it through the 1980 General Conference Session. He expresses that certain FB need attention, including creation.

**C60**

Letter: W.D. Eva to C.E. Bradford

Date: February 2, 1979

Length: 1 page

Description: Eva informs Bradford that he has been appointed secretary of the X-1535. He asks him to advise him whether he wishes to accept or would like someone else to be secretary of the committee.

**C61**

Letter: A.L. White to W.D. Eva

Date: February 4, 1979

Length: 1 page

Description: White writes to Eva on the issue of their authority in drafting the FB, and recommends his document on the history of such endeavors in the SDA church.

## NOTES

**C62**

Letter: B.E. Seton to W.D. Eva  
 Date: February 16, 1979  
 Length: 1 page

Description: This handwritten page is a cover letter to the minutes of the CMC, which Seton asks Eva to “vet” before passing on to C.O. Franz.

**C63**

Letter: B.E. Seton to W.D. Eva  
 Date: March 19, 1979  
 Length: 1 page

Description: Seton writes to Eva primarily about creation in this letter, expressing his concern that the belief not reflect “the background against which its source was produced” but reflect the Bible.

**C64**

Letter: W.D. Eva to B.E. Seton  
 Date: April 12, 1979  
 Length: 1 page

Description: Eva covers miscellaneous points of committee work with Seton.

**C65**

Letter: B.E. Seton to W.D. Eva  
 Date: N/A  
 Length: Fragment

Description: Seton informs Eva of wording problems in FB 6.

**C66**

Letter: B.E. Seton to W.D. Eva  
 Date: May 8, 1979  
 Length: 2 pages

Description: Seton touches on several points pertinent to *Church Manual* matters.

**C67**

Letter: B.E. Seton to W.D. Eva  
 Date: May 13, 1979  
 Length: 2 pages

Description: Seton raises several issues with the FB.

**C68**

Letter: W.D. Eva to X-1535  
 Date: May 31, 1979  
 Length: 1 page

Description: Eva informs the committee of a change of date to accommodate N.C. Wilson and PREXAD.

**C69**

Letter: W.D. Eva to X-1535

Date: June 8, 1979

Length: 1 page letter; 13 page attachment

Description: Eva encloses X-1535's April 9 and 10 minutes; the latest FB draft; Dederen's statement on the church; Hyde's statements on angels; and Seton's Marriage and the Lord's Supper draft.

**C70**

Letter: W.D. Eva to B.E. Seton

Date: June 18, 1979

Length: 2 pages

Description: Eva encloses the latest draft of the FB which he edited.

**C71**

Letter: W.D. Eva to X-1535

Date: June 25, 1979

Length: 2 pages

Description: Eva attaches the latest copy of the FB for the committee's consideration.

**C72**

Letter: W.D. Eva to B.E. Seton

Date: July 26, 1979

Length: 2 pages

Description: Eva writes a cover letter for the latest draft of FB in preparation for circulating them to church administrators and to AU Seminary faculty. Eva notes several items.

**C73**

Letter: W.D. Eva to Dr. G. Smoot and Dr. T. Blincoe

Date: July 26, 1979

Length: 2 pages; 1 fragment attachment

Description: Eva notifies Smoot and Blincoe of his proposed trip to AU in September with Wilson, Hackett and Hammill, and lists names for the consultative group of Seminary faculty, welcoming suggestions as to who should be added or dropped.

**C74**

Letter: W.J. Blacker to W.D. Eva

Date: August 20, 1979

Length: 2 pages

Description: Blacker, LLU vice president for financial administration, proposes corrections to FB 6, 19, 20, 23 and 26.

**C75**

Letter: W.D. Eva to Division Presidents and Union Presidents

Date: September 25, 1979

Length: 2 pages

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Description: Eva attaches the AU FB rewrite, admitting that their draft was “superior in many ways” to the CMC’s and its adherence to orthodoxy. The draft is for the church administrators’ consideration, prior to the 1979 AC.

**C76**

Letter: W.D. Eva to X-1535

Date: August 10, 1979

Length: 2 pages

Description: Eva asks addressees to comment on an attached three-column document: the first column with FB statements as they appear presently in *CM*; the second, proposed deletions and additions; the third, the statements as they will stand if adopted.

Record Group	11
Box Number	F85
Folder	Material on Creation & Revel/Insp. Statements

*C77-C79 are found in this folder.*

**C77**

Letter: Richard Hammill to W.D. Eva, W.J. Hackett, C.D. Henri, G.M. Hyde, K.H. Wood

Date: July 19, 1977

Length: 1 page

Description: The addressees are asked to serve as a special ad hoc committee “to give study as to how to present the statements on creation and revelation and inspiration to the church without their being official pronouncements.” The committee is to meet on September 8, 1977.

**C78**

Letter: Richard Hammill to W.D. Eva

Date: April 21, 1978

Length: 1 page, 1 attachment

Description: Hammill informs Eva that he was voted to chair the committee to make the final editing of the statements on “Creation” and “Inspiration and Revelation.” PREXAD accepted the recommendations. Hammill attaches a copy of the action.

**C79**

Letter: Monica Norman to Richard Hammill

Date: May 9, 1978

Length: 1 page

Description: Eva’s secretary thanks Hammill on his behalf but says he will not be able to respond until after May 20.

Record Group	11
Box Number	F85
Folder	<i>CM</i> Fundamental Beliefs—Notes, etc. X-1535

*C80 and C81 are found in this folder.*

**C80**

Letter: W.D. Eva to Members of ad hoc committee, X-1535 *Church Manual* Revision—  
“Fundamental Beliefs”

cc. Elders N.C. Wilson, C.O. Franz, K.H. Emmerson, W.J. Hackett, Richard Hammill,  
C.D. Henri, A. Lohne, M.S. Nigri, G. Ralph Thompson, F.W. Wernick, A.E. Gibb, M.E.  
Kemmerer, Division Presidents, NAD Union Presidents, R.H. Pierson, W.J. Blacker,  
Cree Sandefur, and K.H. Wood

Date: August 10, 1979

Length: 2 pages

Description: Eva asks the addressees to respond with edits and suggestions to an attached document on FB featuring three columns: the first with statements as they appear presently in the *Church Manual*; the second, deletions and additions; and the third, the statements as they will stand if adopted.

**C81**

Letter: Monica Norman to ad hoc committee X-1535 *Church Manual* Revision—  
“Fundamental Beliefs”

Date: August 16, 1979

Length: 1 page

Description: Eva’s secretary advises committee members that Eva has now received a response from the Temperance Department regarding paragraph 20 of the FB and asks for the committee’s feedback.

Record Group	11
Box Number	14572 (Presidential Correspondence)
Folder	W.J. Hackett

*C82-C87 are found in this folder.*

**C82**

Letter: W.J. Hackett to R.H. Pierson

Date: January 1978

Length: Snippet

Description: Hackett emphasizes the need to have the chair of the board of AU on the AU group formulating the FB.

**C83**

Letter: W.J. Hackett to Brethren (copy)

Date: April 7, 1978

Length: 1 page

Description: Hackett informs select GC administrators involved in the drafting of the FB of the date of the meeting with the Andrews University group and requests their attendance.

**C84**

Letter: R.H. Pierson to W.J. Hackett

Date: April 11, 1978

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Length: 1 page

Description: Pierson thanks Hackett for his letter of invitation and advises him that he is planning to attend.

**C85**

Letter: R.H. Pierson to W.J. Hackett

Date: June 7, 1978

Length: 1 page

Description: Pierson asks Hackett to follow up on a plan, agreed during the meeting with AU faculty, for two or three faculty members to draft working guidelines for the GC-AU working relationship and then review them with each other.

**C86**

Letter: F.C. Webster to W.J. Hackett

Date: July 12, 1978

Length: 2 pages

Description: Webster, Assistant to the President, relays Pierson's request that Hackett speak at AC on the topic "Creation and the Sabbath."

**C87**

Letter: W.J. Hackett to R.H. Pierson

Date: September 15, 1978

Length: 1 page

Description: Hackett suggests that E.E. Zinke share a presentation on "our philosophical approach to knowledge, to Scripture, to the world of reality" first with GC officers then the AU Seminary faculty.

Record Group	11
Box Number	14572 (Presidential Correspondence)
Folder	R. Hammill

*C88-C90 are found in this folder.*

**C88**

Letter: Richard Hammill to Mr. John R. Martin

Date: September 13, 1978

Length: 2 pages

Description: Hammill responds to Martin in the stead of R.H. Pierson, to whom Martin originally addressed a letter. Hammill provides a summative history of Fundamental Beliefs in Seventh-day Adventism.

**C89**

Letter: R.H. Pierson to Richard Hammill and Clyde O. Franz

Date: April 2, 1978

Length: 1 page

Description: Pierson expresses his wish that Hammill and Franz will appoint a committee to ready the statements from the NPR for study by HOOUP at the 1978 AC to be

ultimately sent to denominational workers.

**C90**

Letter: Richard Hammil to R.H. Pierson and C.O. Franz

Date: April 5, 1978

Length: 1 page, 2 attached

Description: In response to Pierson's April 2 letter, Hammill informs the two that his committee met on September 14, 1977, and he enclosed the minutes thereof. Yet PREXAD took another action, so as per the wish of Pierson, this committee was meeting again on April 7.

Hammill had dispersed copies of the Creation and Revelation & Inspiration statements to Division presidents to in turn solicit feedback from the theologians in their fields. After hearing from the Division presidents, Hammill intended to get feedback from overseas fields.

Hammill planned to form a new committee and review the statements again if it seemed good to Pierson. He ends the letter by asking Pierson a litany of questions, including even if Pierson was referring to the Creation and Revelation & Inspiration statements only in his April 2 letter.

NOTES



## IV. Online Resources (O)

The Internet sources below can all be accessed from this page:

<http://documents.adventistarchives.org>

NOTES

### O1

*Church Manuals*

Address:

<http://documents.adventistarchives.org/Resources/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fResources%2fChurchManuals&FolderCTID=0x01200095DE8DF0FA49904B9D652113284DE0C8000B5857BEC3C5DB4F96C32A1C24765988>

Description: The development of the FB can be traced here. The 1981 *Church Manual* is the first edition featuring FB 6.

### O2

General Conference Committee Minutes

Address:

<http://documents.adventistarchives.org/Minutes/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fMinutes%2fGCC&FolderCTID=0x012000F14CCE0E47CC244BB8EA93FE785ED8BE00941CF68C17217C4CA49DE1E876677255>

Description: These are the minutes of the most important committee of the Adventist church. Spring and Annual Council minutes, as well as minutes of some General Conference Sessions can be accessed here.

(Note: GCC minutes listed above as material in the Archives can be viewed here.)

### O3

*Adventist Review*

Address:

<http://documents.adventistarchives.org/Periodicals/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fPeriodicals%2fRH&FolderCTID=0x012000DDAC5B94CFBD234AB142FC5C311C732700042C85EA7C1C1A4DB8D75C62A7517A6E>

Description: The *AR* is the Seventh-day Adventist church's official periodical. Below are the most salient issues on the FB 6 process (Note: Some sources cited as the *AR* are the *General Conference Session Bulletin*, which is the magazine's reports of GC Sessions).

### O4

Periodical: *Adventist Review*

Date: February 21, 1980

Pages: 1, 8-10

Address: <http://documents.adventistarchives.org/Periodicals/RH/RH19800221-V157-08.pdf>

Description: The *AR* invites church members "to examine carefully and to respond to a restatement of Seventh-day Adventists' FB, which will all be presented to the General Conference session in April." The FB appear on pages 8-10.

### O5

Periodical: *Adventist Review*

Date: April 17, 1980

## NOTES

Page: 6

Address: <http://documents.adventistarchives.org/Periodicals/RH/RH19800417-V157-16.pdf>

Description: The Central Exhibit at the 1980 Dallas General Conference Session features pictures of creation, the Sabbath, the flood, and the Ten Commandments painted by Harry Anderson accompanied with words by Marjorie Lewis Lloyd. Point 1 of the exhibit, dealing with the Sabbath, reads: "He [God] has saved a full twenty-four hours to spend with the man and woman He has made!" Point 2 reads: "Those twenty four hours are a day of worship and wonder."

**O6**

Periodical: *Adventist Review*

Date: April 24, 1980

Pages: 20-24

Address: <http://documents.adventistarchives.org/Periodicals/RH/RH19800424-V157-21.pdf>

Description: Recorded in the Ninth Business Session Minutes on pages 20-21 is an exchange between E.J. Humphrey, N.C. Wilson, A.A. Roth, John V. Stevens, Humberto R. Treiyer and Lawrence Gerraty concerning the wording of FB 6 and on using the term "literal." Page 24 features the "Proposed Statement of Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists Studied at the Ninth and Tenth Business Sessions."

**O7**

Periodical: *Adventist Review*

Date: May 1, 1980

Pages: 23-27

Address: <http://documents.adventistarchives.org/Periodicals/RH/RH19800501-V157-24.pdf>

Description: Publication of the text of the voted and approved FB.

# Appendixes

## Appendix 1 Timeline

- 1932-1976 First edition of *CM* is issued in 1932 with no statement on creation in FB section. This continues in each *CM* up to 1981 edition.
- Jan. 30, 1976 Geoscience Committee (ad hoc) requests PREXAD to “develop a statement on the question of creation week and the age of the world to be presented at AC as determined by the GC President in counsel with PREXAD.”
- Mar. 9, 1976 PREXAD agrees to ask W.J. Hackett, W.D. Eva, and G.M. Hyde “to prepare a statement on the question of creation week and the age of the world, and present it to PREXAD.”
- Mar. 24, 1976 PRADCO reports that “The standing CMC has recommended the appointment of an ad hoc committee to study the coordination between ‘Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists,’ ‘Doctrinal Instruction for Baptismal Candidates,’ and ‘Baptismal Vow’ plus the preparation of an additional ‘Fundamental Belief’ statement to deal with the Doctrine of Creation.” This is the creation of X-1535.
- May 15, 1977 The religion faculties of the three West Coast SDA colleges meet at PUC for their annual conference. Eva, Hackett, and Hammill present their proposed statements on Inspiration and Revelation and Creation.
- Spring 1977 Eva, Hackett and Hammill present proposals to the religion and science faculties of select SDA colleges nationally and internationally on centrist theological statements on creation and inspiration of Bible.
- Oct. 1977 At AC, a “Tentative Statement on Creation & Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists” is presented. It includes reference to “the six literal consecutive days of the creation week.”
- June 28, 1977 PREXAD sets up an ad hoc committee (including Eva, Hammill and Hackett) to study how to present statements on CRI to church without their being official pronouncements; suggest a committee of about 15 comprised of administrators, theologians and pastors to edit and prepare statements for study by HOOUP 1978 at AC.
- Sept. 14, 1977 The ad hoc committee recommends to PREXAD the following suggestions regarding statements on CRI: That statements be presented to HOOUP at 1977 AC; suggestions made be incorporated into editing committee statements; statements then be reviewed by PREXAD again and published in *AR* for suggestions from members. Editing committee is appointed.
- Sep. 20, 1977 PREXAD agrees that study be given to Creation and Revelation statement and to obtain names from overseas division presidents of theologians from their territory to contribute to development of statements. It asks Hackett, Eva, Hammill, C.D. Henri, G.M. Hyde, R.H. Pierson and K.H. Wood to oversee the former tasks; to revise the document, to be presented to PREXAD; to introduce documents to world field through union papers or by letters and put it in *AR*; and to have documents ready to present to HOOUP in AC 78.

- Oct. 1977 Draft of “Tentative Statement on Creation & Re-Creation as Understood by Seventh-day Adventists” appears. Phrase “the six literal consecutive days of the creation week” is included.
- April 1978 CRI statements sent to presidents of overseas divisions for feedback.
- June 1978 PREXAD/ADCOM/PRADCO vote to appoint an ad hoc CRESC.
- Jan. 3, 1979 Neal C. Wilson replaces Robert H. Pierson as president of GC.
- Feb. 14-15, 1979 CMRFBC meets and votes to ask W.J. Hackett, R. Hammill and B.E. Seton to form a subcommittee for formulation of statement on doctrine of creation.
- Mar. 20, 1979 CRI statements reviewed by PREXAD, which makes recommendations for minor revisions. Consensus reached that the statements should be shared with AU Seminary faculty and division presidents for feedback.
- April 3, 1979 B.E. Seton presents “Suggestion for Statement of Fundamental Belief on Creation” to X-1535. First extant condensed version of “Tentative Statement on Creation” for CM/FB.
- July 23, 1979 CMRFBC meets and discusses creation. Agreed that Eva should approach AU with view to arrange meeting with “solicited members” of Seminary for input; and that Eva, Hackett and Hammill should visit AU to meet with those Seminarians.
- July 26, 1979 W.D. Eva sends letter to J.G. Smoot and T. Blincoe asking AU to assist with FB and informing them that he, Wilson, Hackett and Hammill would arrive at AU on September 19 to meet with a committee of twelve members of the Seminary.
- Aug. 10, 1979 W.D. Eva writes to GC leaders, division presidents, and NAD union presidents, setting out the existing Fundamental Beliefs statement and how it would change, according to latest proposals.
- Aug. 20, 1979 CMC meets, voting to approve first “Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists” in numbered belief format. FB 7 (“Creation and the Fall”) reads: “In six literal days the Lord made heaven and the earth and all living things upon it with their supporting environment.”
- Sept 19, 1979 Eva, Hammill and Hackett arrive at AU to meet with the committee of twelve.
- Sept 20s, ‘79 CMC meets several times to revise FB.
- Oct. 8, 1979 At AC CMC/HOOUP recommends “to revise Chapter 2, Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists, *CM* 32-39,” along the lines proposed by the Seminary group. This is the first appearance of the short version that was eventually adopted, and the first version lacking the phrase “six literal consecutive days”.
- Feb. 21, 1980 FB published in *AR* for consideration; readers are encouraged to write in with comments. Over the next several weeks, many administrators, scholars and church-members write to Eva, in particular, with criticisms, concerns and suggestions for improving the FB.

Apr. 8, 1980      PREXAD convenes and agrees “A number of suggestions have been received for the further revision of the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs.” Agreed that these suggestions be considered by Home and Overseas Officers meeting in Dallas, April 15-17.

Apr. 17-26, 1980 GC Session held in Dallas, Texas

Apr. 24, 1980      “Proposed Statement of Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists studied at the Ninth and Tenth Business Sessions” printed in the *AR GCSB*. FB 6 reads “In six days.”

Apr. 25, 1980      At GC Session in Dallas, Texas, FB are voted at the Fifteenth Business Meeting.

1981                In *CM*, the new FB 6 appears



## Appendix 2

### Significant Participants

Name	Life Dates	Position (1976-1980)
Maurice T. Battle	1928-2010	GC Vice President
Jack J. Blanco	1929-	Southern College faculty member
Charles E. Bradford	1925-	GC Associate Secretary, then NAD President
Robert H. Brown	1913-1996	Director, GRI
Walton J. Brown	1913-2001	Director, GC Department of Education
Roger W. Coon	1927-2011	PUC faculty member
W. Duncan Eva	1914-1993	GC Vice President
Norman R. Dower	1911-1999	Secretary, Ministerial Association
Lawrence Geraty	1940-	AU Seminary faculty member
Fritz Guy	1930-	AU Seminary faculty member
Willis J. Hackett	1915-1993	GC Vice President
Richard L. Hammill	1913-1997	GC Vice President
Gerhard Hasel	1935-1994	AU Seminary faculty member
Coleridge D. Henri	1913-2002	GC Vice President
Edwin J. Humphrey	1922-2010	Pastor
Gordon M. Hyde	1919-	Director, BRI
Warren H. Johns	1945-	Associate Editor, <i>Ministry</i>
Alf Lohne	1915-1993	GC Vice President
Monica Norman	1926-	W.D. Eva's secretary
Robert W. Olson	1920-2013	Director, White Estate
Robert H. Pierson	1911-1989	GC President
Jack W. Provonsha	1920-2004	LLU faculty member
Cree Sandefur	1914-1994	Pacific Union Conference President
Bernard E. Seton	1913-2003	GC Associate Secretary
G. Ralph Thompson	1929-	GC Vice President
Arnold V. Wallenkampf	1913-1998	Associate Director, BRI
Francis W. Wernick	1920-	GC Vice President
Arthur L. White	1907-1991	Director, White Estate
Neal C. Wilson	1920-2010	NAD President, then GC President
Kenneth H. Wood	1917-2008	Editor, <i>AR</i> , then Chair, White Estate Board
Edward E. Zinke	1945-	Assistant Director, BRI



## Appendix 3

### Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists<sup>1</sup>

Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed and hold certain fundamental beliefs to be the teaching of the Holy Scriptures. These beliefs, as set forth here, constitute the church's understanding and expression of the teaching of Scripture. Revision of these statements may be expected at a General Conference session 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.

#### **1. Holy Scriptures:**

The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by divine inspiration through holy men of God who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. In this Word, God has committed to man the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are the infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the authoritative revealer of doctrines, and the trustworthy record of God's acts in history. (2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Ps. 119:105; Prov. 30:5, 6; Isa. 8:20; John 17:17; 1 Thess. 2:13; Heb. 4:12.)

#### **2. Trinity:**

There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. He is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Tim. 1:17; Rev. 14:7.)

#### **3. Father:**

God the eternal Father is the Creator, Source, Sustainer, and Sovereign of all creation. He is just and holy, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. The qualities and powers exhibited in the Son and the Holy Spirit are also revelations of the Father. (Gen. 1:1; Rev. 4:11; 1 Cor. 15:28; John 3:16; 1 John 4:8; 1 Tim. 1:17; Ex. 34:6, 7; John 14:9.)

#### **4. Son:**

God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Through Him all things were created, the character of God is revealed, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and the world is judged. Forever truly God, He became also truly man, Jesus the Christ. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived and experienced temptation as a human being, but perfectly exemplified the righteousness and love of God. By His miracles He manifested God's power and was attested as God's promised Messiah. He suffered and died voluntarily on the cross for our sins and in our place, was raised from the dead, and ascended to minister in the heavenly sanctuary in our behalf. He will come again in glory for the final deliverance of His people and the restoration of all things. (John 1:1-3, 14; Col. 1:15-19; John 10:30; 14:9; Rom. 6:23; 2 Cor. 5:17-19; John 5:22; Luke 1:35; Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 2:9-18; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4; Heb. 8:1, 2; John 14:1-3.)

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/fundamental/index.html>. This is the present text, including what is currently numbered Fundamental Belief no. 11, which was added by the General Conference Session of 2005, resulting in the re-enumeration of nos. 11-27.

**5. Holy Spirit:**

God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and redemption. He inspired the writers of Scripture. He filled Christ's life with power. He draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God. Sent by the Father and the Son to be always with His children, He extends spiritual gifts to the church, empowers it to bear witness to Christ, and in harmony with the Scriptures leads it into all truth. (Gen. 1:1, 2; Luke 1:35; 4:18; Acts 10:38; 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:11, 12; Acts 1:8; John 14:16-18, 26; 15:26, 27; 16:7-13.)

**6. Creation:**

God is Creator of all things, and has revealed in Scripture the authentic account of His creative activity. In six days the Lord made "the heaven and the earth" and all living things upon the earth, and rested on the seventh day of that first week. Thus He established the Sabbath as a perpetual memorial of His completed creative work. The first man and woman were made in the image of God as the crowning work of Creation, given dominion over the world, and charged with responsibility to care for it. When the world was finished it was "very good," declaring the glory of God. (Gen. 1; 2; Ex. 20:8-11; Ps. 19:1-6; 33:6, 9; 104; Heb. 11:3.)<sup>2</sup>

**7. 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. When our first parents disobeyed God, they denied their dependence upon Him and fell from their high position under God. The image of God in them was marred and they became subject to death. Their descendants share this fallen nature and its consequences. They are born with weaknesses and tendencies to evil. But God in Christ reconciled the world to Himself and by His Spirit restores in penitent mortals the image of their Maker. Created for the glory of God, they are called to love Him and one another, and to care for their environment. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7; Ps. 8:4-8; Acts 17:24-28; Gen. 3; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12-17; 2 Cor. 5:19, 20; Ps. 51:10; 1 John 4:7, 8, 11, 20; Gen. 2:15.)

**8. Great Controversy:**

All humanity is now involved in a great controversy between Christ and Satan regarding the character of God, His law, and His sovereignty over the universe. This conflict originated in heaven when a created being, endowed with freedom of choice, in self-exaltation became Satan, God's adversary, and led into rebellion a portion of the angels. He introduced the spirit of rebellion into this world when he led Adam and Eve into sin. This human sin resulted in the distortion of the image of God in humanity, the disordering of the created world, and its eventual devastation at the time of the worldwide flood. Observed by the whole creation, this world became the arena of the universal conflict, out of which the God of love will ultimately be vindicated. To assist His people in this controversy, Christ sends the Holy Spirit and the loyal angels to guide, protect, and sustain them in the way of salvation. (Rev. 12:4-9; Isa. 14:12-14; Eze. 28:12-18; Gen. 3; Rom. 1:19-32; 5:12-21; 8:19-22; Gen. 6-8; 2 Peter 3:6; 1 Cor. 4:9; Heb. 1:14.)

**9. Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ:**

In Christ's life of perfect obedience to God's will, His suffering, death, and resurrection, God provided the only means of atonement for human sin, so that those who by faith accept this atonement may have eternal life, and the whole creation may better understand the infinite and holy love of the Creator. This perfect atonement vindicates the righteousness of God's law and the graciousness of His character; for it both

<sup>2</sup> The text of Fundamental Belief no. 6 has not been amended since 1980.

condemns our sin and provides for our forgiveness. The death of Christ is substitutionary and expiatory, reconciling and transforming. The resurrection of Christ proclaims God's triumph over the forces of evil, and for those who accept the atonement assures their final victory over sin and death. It declares the Lordship of Jesus Christ, before whom every knee in heaven and on earth will bow. (John 3:16; Isa. 53; 1 Peter 2:21, 22; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4, 20-22; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15, 19-21; Rom. 1:4; 3:25; 4:25; 8:3, 4; 1 John 2:2; 4:10; Col. 2:15; Phil. 2:6-11.)

#### **10. Experience of Salvation:**

In infinite love and mercy God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might be made the righteousness of God. Led by the Holy Spirit we sense our need, acknowledge our sinfulness, repent of our transgressions, and exercise faith in Jesus as Lord and Christ, as Substitute and Example. This faith which receives salvation comes through the divine power of the Word and is the gift of God's grace. Through Christ we are justified, adopted as God's sons and daughters, and delivered from the lordship of sin. Through the Spirit we are born again and sanctified; the Spirit renews our minds, writes God's law of love in our hearts, and we are given the power to live a holy life. Abiding in Him we become partakers of the divine nature and have the assurance of salvation now and in the judgment. (2 Cor. 5:17-21; John 3:16; Gal. 1:4; 4:4-7; Titus 3:3-7; John 16:8; Gal. 3:13, 14; 1 Peter 2:21, 22; Rom. 10:17; Luke 17:5; Mark 9:23, 24; Eph. 2:5-10; Rom. 3:21-26; Col. 1:13, 14; Rom. 8:14-17; Gal. 3:26; John 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:23; Rom. 12:2; Heb. 8:7-12; Eze. 36:25-27; 2 Peter 1:3, 4; Rom. 8:1-4; 5:6-10.)

#### **11. Growing in Christ:**

By His death on the cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the demonic spirits during His earthly ministry has broken their power and made certain their ultimate doom. Jesus' victory gives us victory over the evil forces that still seek to control us, as we walk with Him in peace, joy, and assurance of His love. Now the Holy Spirit dwells within us and empowers us. Continually committed to Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we are set free from the burden of our past deeds. No longer do we live in the darkness, fear of evil powers, ignorance, and meaninglessness of our former way of life. In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His character, communing with Him daily in prayer, feeding on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for worship, and participating in the mission of the Church. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience. (Ps 1:1, 2; 23:4; 77:11, 12; Col 1:13, 14; 2:6, 14, 15; Luke 10:17-20; Eph 5:19, 20; 6:12-18; 1 Thess 5:23; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18; 2 Cor. 3:17, 18; Phil 3:7-14; 1 Thess 5:16-18; Matt 20:25-28; John 20:21; Gal 5:22-25; Rom 8:38, 39; 1 John 4:4; Heb 10:25.)

#### **12. Church:**

The church is the community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In continuity with the people of God in Old Testament times, we are called out from the world; and we join together for worship, for fellowship, for instruction in the Word, for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, for service to all mankind, and for the worldwide proclamation of the gospel. The church derives its authority from Christ, who is the incarnate Word, and from the Scriptures, which are the written Word. The church is God's family; adopted by Him as children, its members live on the basis of the new covenant. The church is the body of Christ, a community of faith of which Christ Himself is the Head. The church is the bride for whom Christ died that He might sanctify and cleanse her. At His return in triumph, He will present her to Himself a glorious church, the faithful of all the ages, the purchase of His blood, not having spot or wrinkle, but holy and without blemish. (Gen. 12:3; Acts 7:38; Eph. 4:11-15; 3:8-11; Matt. 28:19, 20; 16:13-20; 18:18; Eph. 2:19-22; 1:22, 23; 5:23-27; Col. 1:17, 18.)

**13. Remnant and Its Mission:**

The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. This proclamation is symbolized by the three angels of Revelation 14; it coincides with the work of judgment in heaven and results in a work of repentance and reform on earth. Every believer is called to have a personal part in this worldwide witness. (Rev. 12:17; 14:6-12; 18:1-4; 2 Cor. 5:10; Jude 3, 14; 1 Peter 1:16-19; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Rev. 21:1-14.)

**14. Unity in the Body of Christ:**

The church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures we share the same faith and hope, and reach out in one witness to all. This unity has its source in the oneness of the triune God, who has adopted us as His children. (Rom. 12:4, 5; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; Matt. 28:19, 20; Ps. 133:1; 2 Cor. 5:16, 17; Acts 17:26, 27; Gal. 3:27, 29; Col. 3:10-15; Eph. 4:14-16; 4:1-6; John 17:20-23.)

**15. Baptism:**

By baptism we confess our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and testify of our death to sin and of our purpose to walk in newness of life. Thus we acknowledge Christ as Lord and Saviour, become His people, and are received as members by His church. Baptism is a symbol of our union with Christ, the forgiveness of our sins, and our reception of the Holy Spirit. It is by immersion in water and is contingent on an affirmation of faith in Jesus and evidence of repentance of sin. It follows instruction in the Holy Scriptures and acceptance of their teachings. (Rom. 6:1-6; Col. 2:12, 13; Acts 16:30-33; 22:16; 2:38; Matt. 28:19, 20.)

**16. Lord's Supper:**

The Lord's Supper is a participation in the emblems of the body and blood of Jesus as an expression of faith in Him, our Lord and Saviour. In this experience of communion Christ is present to meet and strengthen His people. As we partake, we joyfully proclaim the Lord's death until He comes again. Preparation for the Supper includes self-examination, repentance, and confession. The Master ordained the service of foot washing to signify renewed cleansing, to express a willingness to serve one another in Christlike humility, and to unite our hearts in love. The communion service is open to all believing Christians. (1 Cor. 10:16, 17; 11:23-30; Matt. 26:17-30; Rev. 3:20; John 6:48-63; 13:1-17.)

**17. Spiritual Gifts and Ministries:**

God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts which each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity. Given by the agency of the Holy Spirit, who apportions to each member as He wills, the gifts provide all abilities and ministries needed by the church to fulfill its divinely ordained functions. According to the Scriptures, these gifts include such ministries as faith, healing, prophecy, proclamation, teaching, administration, reconciliation, compassion, and self-sacrificing service and charity for the help and encouragement of people. Some members are called of God and endowed by the Spirit for functions recognized by the church in pastoral, evangelistic, apostolic, and teaching ministries particularly needed to equip the members for service, to build up the church to

spiritual maturity, and to foster unity of the faith and knowledge of God. When members employ these spiritual gifts as faithful stewards of God's varied grace, the church is protected from the destructive influence of false doctrine, grows with a growth that is from God, and is built up in faith and love. (Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:9-11, 27, 28; Eph. 4:8, 11-16; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 1 Peter 4:10, 11.)

### **18. The Gift of Prophecy:**

One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and was manifested in the ministry of Ellen. G. White. As the Lord's messenger, her writings are a continuing and authoritative source of truth which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested. (Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:14-21; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 12:17; 19:10.)

### **19. Law of God:**

The great principles of God's law are embodied in the Ten Commandments and exemplified in the life of Christ. They express God's love, will, and purposes concerning human conduct and relationships and are binding upon all people in every age. These precepts are the basis of God's covenant with His people and the standard in God's judgment. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit they point out sin and awaken a sense of need for a Saviour. Salvation is all of grace and not of works, but its fruitage is obedience to the Commandments. This obedience develops Christian character and results in a sense of well-being. It is an evidence of our love for the Lord and our concern for our fellow men. The obedience of faith demonstrates the power of Christ to transform lives, and therefore strengthens Christian witness. (Ex. 20:1-17; Ps. 40:7, 8; Matt. 22:36-40; Deut. 28:1-14; Matt. 5:17-20; Heb. 8:8-10; John 15:7-10; Eph. 2:8-10; 1 John 5:3; Rom. 8:3, 4; Ps. 19:7-14.)

### **20. Sabbath:**

The beneficent Creator, after the six days of Creation, rested on the seventh day and instituted the Sabbath for all people as a memorial of Creation. The fourth commandment of God's unchangeable law requires the observance of this seventh-day Sabbath as the day of rest, worship, and ministry in harmony with the teaching and practice of Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath. The Sabbath is a day of delightful communion with God and one another. It is a symbol of our redemption in Christ, a sign of our sanctification, a token of our allegiance, and a foretaste of our eternal future in God's kingdom. The Sabbath is God's perpetual sign of His eternal covenant between Him and His people. Joyful observance of this holy time from evening to evening, sunset to sunset, is a celebration of God's creative and redemptive acts. (Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 20:8-11; Luke 4:16; Isa. 56:5, 6; 58:13, 14; Matt. 12:1-12; Ex. 31:13-17; Eze. 20:12, 20; Deut. 5:12-15; Heb. 4:1-11; Lev. 23:32; Mark 1:32.)

### **21. Stewardship:**

We are God's stewards, entrusted by Him with time and opportunities, abilities and possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We are responsible to Him for their proper use. We acknowledge God's ownership by faithful service to Him and our fellow men, and by returning tithes and giving offerings for the proclamation of His gospel and the support and growth of His church. Stewardship is a privilege given to us by God for nurture in love and the victory over selfishness and covetousness. The steward rejoices in the blessings that come to others as a result of his faithfulness. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15; 1 Chron. 29:14; Haggai 1:3-11; Mal. 3:8-12; 1 Cor. 9:9-14; Matt. 23:23; 2 Cor. 8:1-15; Rom. 15:26, 27.)

### **22. Christian Behavior:**

We are called to be a godly people who think, feel, and act in harmony with the principles of heaven. For

the Spirit to recreate in us the character of our Lord we involve ourselves only in those things which will produce Christlike purity, health, and joy in our lives. This means that our amusement and entertainment should meet the highest standards of Christian taste and beauty. While recognizing cultural differences, our dress is to be simple, modest, and neat, befitting those whose true beauty does not consist of outward adornment but in the imperishable ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit. It also means that because our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, we are to care for them intelligently. Along with adequate exercise and rest, we are to adopt the most healthful diet possible and abstain from the unclean foods identified in the Scriptures. Since alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs and narcotics are harmful to our bodies, we are to abstain from them as well. Instead, we are to engage in whatever brings our thoughts and bodies into the discipline of Christ, who desires our wholesomeness, joy, and goodness. (Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 John 2:6; Eph. 5:1-21; Phil. 4:8; 2 Cor. 10:5; 6:14-7:1; 1 Peter 3:1-4; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; 10:31; Lev. 11:1-47; 3 John 2.)

### **23. Marriage and the Family:**

Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship. For the Christian a marriage commitment is to God as well as to the spouse, and should be entered into only between partners who share a common faith. Mutual love, honor, respect, and responsibility are the fabric of this relationship, which is to reflect the love, sanctity, closeness, and permanence of the relationship between Christ and His church. Regarding divorce, Jesus taught that the person who divorces a spouse, except for fornication, and marries another, commits adultery. Although some family relationships may fall short of the ideal, marriage partners who fully commit themselves to each other in Christ may achieve loving unity through the guidance of the Spirit and the nurture of the church. God blesses the family and intends that its members shall assist each other toward complete maturity. Parents are to bring up their children to love and obey the Lord. By their example and their words they are to teach them that Christ is a loving disciplinarian, ever tender and caring, who wants them to become members of His body, the family of God. Increasing family closeness is one of the earmarks of the final gospel message. (Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:3-9; John 2:1-11; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:21-33; Matt. 5:31, 32; Mark 10:11, 12; Luke 16:18; 1 Cor. 7:10, 11; Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:1-4; Deut. 6:5-9; Prov. 22:6; Mal. 4:5, 6.)

### **24. Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary:**

There is a sanctuary in heaven, the true tabernacle which the Lord set up and not man. In it Christ ministers on our behalf, making available to believers the benefits of His atoning sacrifice offered once for all on the cross. He was inaugurated as our great High Priest and began His intercessory ministry at the time of His ascension. In 1844, at the end of the prophetic period of 2300 days, He entered the second and last phase of His atoning ministry. It is a work of investigative judgment which is part of the ultimate disposition of all sin, typified by the cleansing of the ancient Hebrew sanctuary on the Day of Atonement. In that typical service the sanctuary was cleansed with the blood of animal sacrifices, but the heavenly things are purified with the perfect sacrifice of the blood of Jesus. The investigative judgment reveals to heavenly intelligences who among the dead are asleep in Christ and therefore, in Him, are deemed worthy to have part in the first resurrection. It also makes manifest who among the living are abiding in Christ, keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and in Him, therefore, are ready for translation into His everlasting kingdom. This judgment vindicates the justice of God in saving those who believe in Jesus. It declares that those who have remained loyal to God shall receive the kingdom. The completion of this ministry of Christ will mark the close of human probation before the Second Advent. (Heb. 8:1-5; 4:14-16; 9:11-28; 10:19-22; 1:3; 2:16, 17; Dan. 7:9-27; 8:13, 14; 9:24-27; Num. 14:34; Eze. 4:6; Lev. 16; Rev. 14:6, 7; 20:12; 14:12; 22:12.)

### **25. Second Coming of Christ:**

The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the church, the grand climax of the gospel. The Saviour's coming will be literal, personal, visible, and worldwide. When He returns, the righteous dead will be resurrected, and together with the righteous living will be glorified and taken to heaven, but the unrighteous will die. The almost complete fulfillment of most lines of prophecy, together with the present condition of the world, indicates that Christ's coming is imminent. The time of that event has not been revealed, and we are therefore exhorted to be ready at all times. (Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; Matt. 24:14; Rev. 1:7; Matt. 24:43, 44; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2:8; Rev. 14:14-20; 19:11-21; Matt. 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 Thess. 5:1-6.)

### **26. Death and Resurrection:**

The wages of sin is death. But God, who alone is immortal, will grant eternal life to His redeemed. Until that day death is an unconscious state for all people. When Christ, who is our life, appears, the resurrected righteous and the living righteous will be glorified and caught up to meet their Lord. The second resurrection, the resurrection of the unrighteous, will take place a thousand years later. (Rom. 6:23; 1 Tim. 6:15, 16; Eccl. 9:5, 6; Ps. 146:3, 4; John 11:11-14; Col. 3:4; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:13-17; John 5:28, 29; Rev. 20:1-10.)

### **27. Millennium and the End of Sin:**

The millennium is the thousand-year reign of Christ with His saints in heaven between the first and second resurrections. During this time the wicked dead will be judged; the earth will be utterly desolate, without living human inhabitants, but occupied by Satan and his angels. At its close Christ with His saints and the Holy City will descend from heaven to earth. The unrighteous dead will then be resurrected, and with Satan and his angels will surround the city; but fire from God will consume them and cleanse the earth. The universe will thus be freed of sin and sinners forever. (Rev. 20; 1 Cor. 6:2, 3; Jer. 4:23-26; Rev. 21:1-5; Mal. 4:1; Eze. 28:18, 19.)

### **28. New Earth:**

On the new earth, in which righteousness dwells, God will provide an eternal home for the redeemed and a perfect environment for everlasting life, love, joy, and learning in His presence. For here God Himself will dwell with His people, and suffering and death will have passed away. The great controversy will be ended, and sin will be no more. All things, animate and inanimate, will declare that God is love; and He shall reign forever. Amen. (2 Peter 3:13; Isa. 35; 65:17-25; Matt. 5:5; Rev. 21:1-7; 22:1-5; 11:15.) Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed and hold certain fundamental beliefs to be the teaching of the Holy Scriptures. These beliefs, as set forth here, constitute the church's understanding and expression of the teaching of Scripture. Revision of these statements may be expected at a General Conference session 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.



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