

FIRST BUSINESS MEETING  
Fifty-seventh General Conference Session  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
June 29, 2000, 3:00 p.m.

00GCS to GRT

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION - 2000—DAILY PROGRAM

VOTED, To approve the daily program for the 2000 General Conference Session as it appears in the Session program booklet.

00GCS to GRT

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION - 2000—ADOPTION OF  
AGENDA

VOTED, To adopt the agenda for the 2000 General Conference Session as it appears in the Session agenda notebook, with the understanding that the order of business will be decided by the Session Steering Committee and the chairmen of the business meetings.

SecSer00GCS/ADCOM/00GCS to GRT

211-00G GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION - 2000—STANDING  
COMMITTEES

VOTED, To approve standing committees for the 2000 General Conference Session, as follows:

CHURCH MANUAL

Lowell C Cooper, Chairman  
Gerry D Karst, Vice-chairman  
Mario Veloso, Secretary

Members: Rosa T Banks, Maurice T Battle, Bert B Beach, Bekele Biri, Norma J Collins, James A Cress, A David C Currie, Teofilo Ferreira, Ronald M Flowers, Ulrich Frikart, Ann Gibson, Bert B Haloviak, Raili Kallioskowski, Dennis C Keith Sr, Richard P Lehmann, Israel Leito, Robert E Lemon, Rowena J Moore, K J Moses, Ruy H Nagel, Joseph Ola, Jere D Patzer,

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Robert L Rawson, George W Reid, Angel M Rodriguez, Donald R Sahly, Jacob Stelian, Gary B Swanson, G Ralph Thompson, Athal H Tolhurst, Amy Willsey, Gerald Winslow, Linda Wysong.

### CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Calvin B Rock, Chairman  
Athal H Tolhurst, Secretary

Members: Erich Amelung, Niels-Erik Andreasen, Delbert W Baker, Harold W Baptiste, Bert B Beach, Adrian Bocaneanu, Reinder Bruinsma, Brian Bull, Joseph Carlson, Pyung Duk Chun, Larry R Colburn, Alipio B da Rosa, Mart De Groot, Louise Fomuso, Agustin Galicia, Roberto Gullon, Michael F Kaminsky, Robert E Kyte, Harold L Lee, Richard Liu, Lily Mandalas, Peter O Mensah, Charles F Montille, Robert W Nixon, Barry D Oliver, Ruth E Parish, Juan R Prestol, Donald G Pursley, Carlos Puyol, Humberto M Rasi, Donald E Robinson, Steven G Rose, G Ralph Thompson, Max A Trevino, Velile S Wakaba, Bertil Wiklander, F Donald Yost.

### PLANS

Robert J Kloosterhuis, Chairman  
Donald R Sahly, Secretary

Members: Martin L Anthony, Sergio E Balboa, Harold W Baptiste, Alejandro Bullon, Jean Carter, Sylvanus N Chioma, Birgid Faber, Howard F Faigao, Noel S Fraser, Patrick Guenin, Stephen R Guptill, C Lee Huff, Choudampalli John, Michael F Kaminsky, Gerry D Karst, Robert E Lemon, Benjamin C Maxson, Moses Mwenya, Kermit L Netteburg, Samuel Ravonjariavelo, Osmar Reis, Michael L Ryan, Kei Hoon Shin, Takashi Shiraishi, Virginia L Smith, Shanmug Sundaram, G Ralph Thompson, Nina Usachev, Andre Van Rensberg, Yafesi Walugembe, Ted N C Wilson.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

As provided for by the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws

### SEATING OF ADDITIONAL DELEGATES AND ADDITIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Philip S Follett, Chairman  
Maurice T Battle, Secretary

Members: Harold W Baptiste, Alex Rantung, Claude A Sabot, G Ralph Thompson.

00GCS to GRT

AMENDMENTS—REFER TO STANDING COMMITTEES

It was noted that all recommendations for amendments or substantive changes to the Constitution and Bylaws or to the *Church Manual* will be referred to the respective Standing Committees.

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*GENERAL CONFERENCE RULES OF ORDER*

By common consent it was agreed to approve the *General Conference Rules of Order* to govern the business meetings of the 2000 General Conference Session.

ADCOM/00GCS to GRT

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION - 2000—CARSON, WALTER E -  
PARLIAMENTARIAN

Walter E Carson, Associate Director of the General Conference Office of General Counsel, will serve as parliamentarian at the business meetings of the 2000 General Conference Session.

96AC/ADCOM/00GCS to LRC

239-00G NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION AND SOUTHERN  
ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION - NEW DIVISIONS

VOTED, To recognize and record the reorganization of the former Asia-Pacific Division into two new divisions known as the Northern Asia-Pacific Division and the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, effective October 6, 1996.

00-1004  
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AID/ADCOM/GCC/179-99G/00GCS to DRS

104-00G GHANA UNION CONFERENCE - NEW UNION  
CONFERENCE

VOTED, 1. To recognize and record the reorganization of the former West African Union Mission into two unions known as the Ghana Union Conference and the West African Union Mission, effective January 1, 2000.

2. To accept the Ghana Union Conference (AID) into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

EAD/ADCOM/97AC/196-97G/122-98G/109-99G/00GCS to MTB

105-00G ZIMBABWE UNION CONFERENCE - NEW UNION  
CONFERENCE

VOTED, 1. To recognize and record the conference status of the former Zambesi Union Mission, effective January 1, 1998.

2. To record the name change for the former Zambesi Union Mission to the Zimbabwe Union Conference.

3. To accept the Zimbabwe Union Conference (EAD) into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

NSD/ADCOM/GCC/99AC/177-99G/00GCS to LRC

106-00G CHINESE UNION MISSION - NEW UNION MISSION

VOTED, 1. To recognize and record the merging of the South China Island Union Mission with the East Asia Association (China) to form the Chinese Union Mission, effective June 13, 1999.

2. To accept the Chinese Union Mission (NSD) into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

SAD/ADCOM/GCDO95AC/95AC/95AC/307-95Gb/117-96G/107-97G/107-98G/107-99G/  
00GCS to MV

107-00G NORTHEAST BRAZIL UNION MISSION - NEW  
UNION MISSION

VOTED, 1. To recognize and record the reorganization of the former East Brazil Union Conference and North Brazil Union Mission into three new unions known as the East Brazil Union Conference, the North Brazil Union Mission, and the Northeast Brazil Union Mission, effective January 1, 1996.

2. To accept the Northeast Brazil Union Mission (SAD) into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

SSD/ADCOM/95AC/280-95G/114-96G/104-97G/104-98G/104-99G/00GCS to LRC

108-00G CENTRAL PHILIPPINE UNION CONFERENCE - NEW  
UNION CONFERENCE

VOTED, 1. To recognize and record conference status for the Central Philippine Union Mission, effective May 19, 1996.

2. To accept the Central Philippine Union Conference (SSD) into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

SSD/ADCOM/95AC/281-95G/115-96G/105-97G/105-98G/105-99G/00GCS to LRC

109-00G SOUTH PHILIPPINE UNION CONFERENCE - NEW  
UNION CONFERENCE

VOTED, 1. To recognize and record conference status for the South Philippine Union Mission, effective November 20, 1995.

2. To accept the South Philippine Union Conference (SSD) into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

00-1006

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SSD/ADCOM/95AC/282-95G/116-96G/106-97G/106-98G/106-99G/00GCS to LRC

110-00G EAST INDONESIA UNION CONFERENCE - NEW  
UNION CONFERENCE

VOTED, 1. To recognize and record conference status for the East Indonesia Union Mission, effective December 1, 1997.

2. To accept the East Indonesia Union Conference (SSD) into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

TED/ADCOM/98AC/273-98G/111-99G/00GCS to MTB

111-00G ADRIATIC UNION CONFERENCE - NEW UNION  
CONFERENCE

VOTED, 1. To recognize and record the organization of the Adriatic Union Conference, effective January 1, 1999.

2. To accept the Adriatic Union Conference (TED) into the world sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

DELEGATES FROM NEW UNIONS WELCOMED

G Ralph Thompson welcomed the delegates from the new unions to the fifty-seventh General Conference Session.

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Following a recess, the first business meeting was reconvened at 6:45 p.m.

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UNVEILING OF CANADIAN STAMP COMMEMORATING THE  
2000 GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION OF THE  
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

John Lee, General Manager of Canada Post, with the assistance of Jan Paulsen, unveiled the new Canadian stamp commemorating the 2000 General Conference Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The face of the stamp is a magnificent depiction of the sun breaking over the Canadian Rockies with the Church logo superimposed over it.

UNVEILING OF SCULPTURE DEPICTING PEOPLE OBSERVING  
CHRIST'S COMING

G Ralph Thompson and Victor Issa, the sculptor, unveiled the bronze sculpture commissioned by the General Conference. It depicts a group of people representing various nations of the world as they look up into the sky at the Second Coming of Christ. The sculpture is on display in the Exhibit Hall during the General Conference Session and will then be sent to the General Conference headquarters in Maryland where it will be on permanent display.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jan Paulsen, President of the General Conference, gave his quinquennial report to the delegates and visitors to the 2000 General Conference Session.

Adjourned.

Leo Ranzolin, Chairman  
G Ralph Thompson, Secretary  
Athol H Tolhurst, Actions Editor  
Carol E Rasmussen, Rowena J Moore, Recording Secretaries

SECOND BUSINESS MEETING  
Fifty-seventh General Conference Session  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
June 30, 2000, 9:15 a.m.

DivNomCaucus/00GCS to GRT

240-00G GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION - 2000—NOMINATING  
COMMITTEE - APPOINTMENT

VOTED, To appoint the following as members of the standing Nominating Committee  
for the 2000 General Conference Session:

Abayon, Harlin  
Agoha, Elizabeth  
Agoki, George  
Aliddeki, Christian S M  
Allen, Dave  
Andreasen, Niels-Erik  
Anthony, Garth  
Anthony, Wijetunge Don  
Antic, Radisa  
Baker, Delbert W  
Banks, John  
Barbosa, Jose Clodoaldo  
Behrens, B Lyn  
Bignall, Derek A  
Bisanda, Elifas T  
Bishop, Joseph  
Bocaneanu, Adrian  
Boma, Emmanuel  
Bustamante Villabona, Eliseo  
Campian, Ioan  
Camps, Sandra  
Cardosa, Izeas dos Santos  
Carter, Jean  
Castillo, Ismael  
Castillo Santander, Eleodoro  
Christian, Graeme  
Christopher, K  
Connelly, Bonnie

Coston, Cynthia  
Crysostem, Arattukulam John  
Cubenda, Vasco  
Davila, Gregorio  
Dee, Sandy  
Diaz, Paterno M  
Doom, Darryl  
Eldridge, Gloria  
Elias, Teodoro  
Ewoo, Andrews L  
Faber, Birgid  
Fontaine, Daniel  
Gaikwad, Samuel  
Garcia Lopez, Hipolito  
Gomez, Julian  
Gomez, Raul  
Gordon, Malcolm D  
Gorski, Nevil  
Gorski, Rodolpho  
Gulfan, Alberto C Jr  
Gungadoo, Stenio  
Gustin, Patricia  
Habingabwa, Uzziel  
Handia-Ben, Priscilla H  
Hendriks, Alex  
Hengen, Alfredo  
Henry, Elie  
Honore, Elie Simon



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Hsu, Eugene K Y  
Jensen, Sven Hagen  
Jeremiah, Gladys  
John, Choudampalli  
Jones, Theodore T  
Kasaji, David  
Katele, Bryson  
Kawona, Samuel  
Kesaulya, Reinhold  
Khiminets, Ivan F  
Kim, Eun Bae  
Kinjo, Kenyu  
Konig, G Henk  
Krupsky, Vladimir  
Kwakfut, Jael  
Kyte, Robert E  
Lee, Harold L  
Lehmann, Richard  
Levterov, Ntkola  
Lewis, Willie J  
Liske, Bruno  
Lukumbi, Monga Espoir  
Luxton, Andrea  
Lyakhu, Iliya  
Lyngdoh, Lionel F  
Macalintal, Efinite  
Machamire, Paminus  
Madridondo, Leonilo  
Mahapure, Sadanand G  
Malopa, Benford E  
Mamarimbing, Ronnie  
Marapaka, Joseph  
Martinez, Rene  
Mason, Owen  
Matak, Dragutin  
Mayer, Carlos R  
Mayr, Siegfried G  
Mbwana, Geoffrey  
Mensah, Peter O  
Miranda, Armando

Monnier, Eric P  
Mostert, Thomas J Jr  
Mtike, Geoffrey G  
Mugiraneza, J N  
Musema, Kasereka  
Muyunda, Mavis  
Nam, Daegeuk  
Ndlezanie, Patrick  
Nelson, Dwight  
Ng, Wai Chun (Stanley)  
Ngalamulume, August Mwanba  
Niconde, Victor  
Nixon, Robert W  
Noltze, Ronald K  
Nowak, Karel  
Ola, Joseph A  
Oliveira, Carlos A Rosa de  
Oliveira, Wandyr Mendes de  
Omana, Ivan H G  
Ongombe, Job G  
Ostrovsky, Ivan N  
Othoo, Johnson  
Parchment, Orville D  
Patzner, Jere D  
Perez, David Javier  
Perla, Juan O  
Perla, Pablo  
Perry, Cecil R  
Pheirim, Chinaongai  
Pierre, Saint-Louis  
Pohjola, Pekka T  
Polok, Wladyslaw  
Punch, Nord  
Ramos, Orlando  
Ramos-Suau, Miguel  
Rathinaraj, John  
Ravonjariavelo, Samuel  
Reichel, Benjamin  
Riches, Robin D  
Roberts, T J

Robertsen, Roger  
Rodriguez, Bernardo T  
Roger, Guy  
Rosat, Denis  
Rupp, Reinhard  
Saggia, Hezron  
Sandefur, Charles C  
Sarli, Tercio  
Sarli, Wilson  
Sazhin, Vladimir  
Scheuneman, Byron  
Schneider, Don C  
Shin, Kei Hoon  
Shiraishi, Takashi  
Shvarts, Alexander  
Silva, Helder Roger C  
Sonii, Adoley  
Stele, Artur  
Stephen, Wilson W

Stolyar, Vasily  
Toledanes, Jemuel M  
Tombokan, Jay Marx  
Torkelsen, Max C II  
Torres, Jairo Emerick  
Trevino, Max A  
Trotman, Jansen  
Trujillo, Arnold  
Tshimanga, Mulumba  
Villoso, Daniel B  
Wakaba, Velile S  
Watts, Neil  
Wellington, Leon B  
Wolde-Endreas, Solomon  
Wollan, Harald  
Wondim, Agegnehu  
Yamashiro, Naomi A  
Ytreberg, F Martin  
Zoogones, Iris

00GCS to GRT

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

VOTED, To accept the report of the General Conference Secretary, G Ralph Thompson.

NomCom00GCS/00GCS to GRT

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT #1

VOTED, To approve the following partial report of the Nominating Committee:

#### General Conference

President: Jan Paulsen

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AST/00GCS to GRT

STATISTICAL REPORT

VOTED, To accept the statistical report from the Director of Archives and Statistics,  
Bert B Haloviak.

Adjourned.

Calvin B Rock, Robert J Kloosterhuis, Chairmen  
Mario Veloso, Secretary  
Athol H Tolhurst, Actions Editor  
Carol E Rasmussen, Recording Secretary

THIRD BUSINESS MEETING  
Fifty-seventh General Conference Session  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
June 30, 2000, 2:00 p.m.

NomCom00GCS/00GCS to GRT

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT #2

VOTED, To approve the following partial report of the Nominating Committee:

General Conference

Secretary: Matthew A Bediako

Treasurer: Robert L Rawson

00GCS to GRT

TREASURER'S REPORT

VOTED, To accept the report of the General Conference Treasurer, Robert L Rawson.

00GCS to GRT

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

VOTED, To approve the audited financial statement for the General Conference for the years 1995 to 1999, as presented by General Conference Treasurer, Robert L Rawson, and Undertreasurer, Robert E Lemon, and as approved by independent auditor Jack E Powers of Maner, Costerisan & Ellis, Certified Public Accountants.

Adjourned.

Robert J Kloosterhuis, Chairman  
Maurice T Battle, Secretary  
Athol H Tolhurst, Actions Editor  
Rowena J Moore, Recording Secretary

FOURTH BUSINESS MEETING  
Fifty-seventh General Conference Session  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
July 2, 2000, 9:30 a.m.

H&T/ADCOM/GCDO98AC/98AC/200-98Ga/110-99G/00GCS to AHT(DIV)

112-00G HEALTH AND TEMPERANCE DEPARTMENT—NAME  
CHANGE

VOTED, To change the name of the Health and Temperance Department to the Health Ministries Department.

WHT/ADCOM/00GCS to AHT(DIV)

235-00G RESOLUTION ON THE GIFT OF PROPHECY THROUGH  
THE MINISTRY OF ELLEN G WHITE

VOTED, To adopt the Resolution on the Gift of Prophecy Through the Ministry of Ellen G White, as follows:

Resolution on the Gift of Prophecy Through the Ministry of Ellen G White

For more than six thousand years the cosmic conflict between Christ and Satan has raged throughout the universe. By both human and supernatural means Satan has continued the conflict that began in heaven millenniums ago. Consumed by hatred toward Christ, he has confused the vast majority of earth's population concerning the nature of God. Instead of showing Him to be a God of love whose law is a transcript of His character, Satan has caricatured Him in a variety of ways, including as a tyrant who demands an impossible level of obedience and as an indulgent Deity who cares little whether His law is obeyed.

Throughout past centuries God has endeavored to set forth the truth about Himself. Through patriarchs and prophets, through nature and written revelation, through human experience and divine providences He has countered Satan's deceptions and distortions. Ultimately, He sent His only begotten Son into the world that through His life, ministry, and death the world could see that God is love and would be drawn to Him.

Almost two millenniums have passed since Jesus returned to heaven. All the great time prophecies of the Bible have been fulfilled. The final conflict in the controversy between

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righteousness and sin is rapidly approaching. "Intensity is taking possession of every earthly element" (*The Desire of Ages*, p 257).

In light of these considerations,

1. We express thanks to God for the instruction, counsel, warnings, and reproofs that, in His mercy, He has given us through the writings of Ellen G White, and we desire to show our appreciation for these messages by humbling our hearts before Him and letting these messages bear full fruit in our lives.

2. We urge that efforts be intensified to inform all church members, especially the youth and those new to our faith, concerning the role and value of this gift in the experience of Seventh-day Adventists. We also encourage increased circulation of the Ellen G White books as well as concerted study programs throughout the world utilizing those Ellen G White books available to our members.

3. We urge church administrators, pastors, educators, and lay leaders, by precept and example, to encourage all our people to study and follow the practical instruction and principles for daily living contained in these inspired counsels.

4. We urge all church administrators, including those of educational and health care institutions, to give careful heed to the inspired counsels given to Seventh-day Adventists through the writings of Ellen G White.

5. We encourage every church to conduct an annual Spirit of Prophecy Day, and we urge schools to conduct a yearly Adventist Heritage Week.

In order to make Ellen G White's published writings more available to the Church,

1. We recommend the continuation and promotion of special purchase incentives for denominational employees to acquire Ellen G White's published writings, as well as the continuation of offering to members the lowest possible prices for these "message-filled" books at camp meetings and other special times.

2. We encourage the church's publishing houses and Adventist Book Centers to feature Ellen G White's books prominently in their advertisements and displays.

3. We express appreciation to the world divisions and their publishing houses for the 237 translations of Ellen G White books authorized during the past quinquennium, and call upon the world divisions to continue availing themselves of the subsidies available from the General

Conference for translating the Ellen G White books into local languages. Further, we encourage making use of approved, innovative, and inexpensive methods, including electronic format, to reach that objective.

4. We encourage our publishing houses, where feasible, to translate the landmark volume, *Messenger of the Lord*, and we urge church members and employees to read the volume and take particular note “of the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history” (*Life Sketches*, p 196).

In recognition of recent activities of the Ellen G White Estate,

We express appreciation to the Ellen G White Estate for its CD-ROM products, including the recently released interactive CD-ROM, *Legacy of Light*. We also express appreciation for its efforts to provide Ellen G White’s published writings, plus pertinent and accurate information regarding those writings and her ministry, through its official web site. We urge that the web site’s information be provided in languages in addition to English, and that it be kept current regarding issues of interest and concern to church members.

00GCS to RJK-Plans00GCS

#### RESOLUTION ON THE BIBLE

VOTED, To refer to the Plans Committee the request that a resolution be prepared supporting the Bible which is similar to the Resolution on the Gift of Prophecy Through the Ministry of Ellen G White.

PRE/GCDO99AC/ADCOM/99AC/267-99G/00GCS to RJK-Con&By00GCS+00GCS

#### 114-00G GENERAL CONFERENCE AUDITING SERVICE— STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

VOTED, To refer to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee the proposed action concerning the General Conference Auditing Service—Structure and Organization, with the request that it reconsider the chairman and membership of the General Conference Auditing Service Board.

00-1018

July 2, 2000, a.m.

General Conference Session

ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/184-99G/00GCS to MV

130-00G FIELD/MISSION/CONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE/  
MISSION/FIELD - *CHURCH MANUAL* DIRECTIVES

VOTED, To approve directives to amend, where applicable, the *Church Manual* in all references to the term "field" (where the obvious reference is to the collective organization of local churches) to now read "field/mission/conference;" and in all references to "conference" to read "conference/mission/field."

SS&PM/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/195-99G/00GCS to MV

131-00G PERSONAL MINISTRIES - *CHURCH MANUAL* DIRECTIVE

VOTED, To approve a directive to amend the *Church Manual* in all references to "Lay Activities" to now read "Personal Ministries."

ChMan/152-97G/ChMan/ADCOM/ChMan/ADCOM/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO98AC/98AC/  
120-98Ga/131-99Ga/00GCS to LCC-ChMan00GCS+00GCS

134-00Ga *CHURCH MANUAL* AUTHORITY - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
ADDITION

VOTED, To refer back to the Church Manual Committee the proposed addition to Chapter 1, *Church Manual* Authority, with the request to add the biblical principles that are referred to and to reconsider the matter of Church authority.

ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/182-99G/00GCS to MV

135-00G FOUR CONSTITUENT LEVELS IN THE SEVENTH-DAY  
ADVENTIST ORGANIZATION - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 4, The Form of Organization in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, page 24, Four Constituent Levels in the Seventh-day Adventist Organization, to read as follows:



Four Constituent Levels in the Seventh-day  
Adventist Organization

Among Seventh-day Adventists there are four constituent levels leading from the individual believer to the worldwide organization of the work of the church:

1. The local church, a united organized body of individual believers.
2. The local conference or local field/mission, a united organized body of churches in a state, province, or territory. (See p. xx.)
3. The union conference or union field/mission, a united body of conferences or fields within a larger territory.
4. The General Conference, the largest unit of organization, embraces all unions in all parts of the world. Divisions are sections of the General Conference, with administrative responsibility assigned to them in designated geographical areas.

“Every member of the church has a voice in choosing officers of the church. The church chooses the officers of the state conferences. Delegates chosen by the state conferences choose the officers of the union conferences, and delegates chosen by the union conferences choose the officers of the General Conference. By this arrangement every conference, every institution, every church, and every individual, either directly or through representatives, has a voice in the election of the men who bear the chief responsibilities in the General Conference.”—  
*Testimonies*, vol. 8, pp. 236, 237.

ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO98AC/98AC/120-98Gc/131-99Gc/00GCS to MV

136-00G GENERAL CONFERENCE THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY,  
*CHURCH MANUAL* AUTHORITY - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
ADDITION

VOTED, To add a new section, *Church Manual* Authority, to the *Church Manual*, Chapter 4, The Form of Organization in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, General Conference the Highest Authority, at the bottom of page 26, to read as follows:

00-1020

July 2, 2000, a.m.

General Conference Session

### General Conference the Highest Authority

The General Conference in session, and the Executive Committee between sessions, is the highest organization in the administration of the church's worldwide work, and is authorized by its constitution to create subordinate organizations to promote specific interests in various sections of the world. It is therefore understood that all subordinate organizations and institutions throughout the world will recognize the General Conference as the highest authority, under God, among Seventh-day Adventists. When differences arise in or between organizations and institutions, appeal to the next higher organization is proper until it reaches the General Conference in session, or the Executive Committee at the Annual Council. During the interim between these sessions the Executive Committee shall constitute the body of final authority on all questions where a difference of viewpoint may develop. The committee's decision may be reviewed at a session of the General Conference or at an Annual Council of the Executive Committee.

"I have often been instructed by the Lord that no man's judgment should be surrendered to the judgment of any other one man. Never should the mind of one man or the minds of a few men be regarded as sufficient in wisdom and power to control the work and to say what plans shall be followed. But when, in a General Conference, the judgment of the brethren assembled from all parts of the field is exercised, private independence and private judgment must not be stubbornly maintained, but surrendered. Never should a laborer regard as a virtue the persistent maintenance of his position of independence, contrary to the decision of the general body.

"At times, when a small group of men entrusted with the general management of the work have, in the name of the General Conference, sought to carry out unwise plans and to restrict God's work, I have said that I could no longer regard the voice of the General Conference, represented by these few men, as the voice of God. But this is not saying that the decisions of a General Conference composed of an assembly of duly appointed, representative men from all parts of the field should not be respected. God has ordained that the representatives of His church from all parts of the earth, when assembled in a General Conference, shall have authority. The error that some are in danger of committing is in giving to the mind and judgment of one man, or of a small group of men, the full measure of authority and influence that God has vested in His church in the judgment and voice of the General Conference assembled to plan for the prosperity and advancement of His work.

"When this power, which God has placed in the church, is accredited wholly to one man, and he is invested with the authority to be judgment for other minds, then the true Bible order is changed. Satan's efforts upon such a man's mind would be most subtle and sometimes well-nigh overpowering, for the enemy would hope that through his mind he could affect many others. Let

us give to the highest organized authority in the church that which we are prone to give to one man or a small group of men.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, pp. 260, 261.

Authority of the Church and the *Church Manual*—(See Chapter 1.)

CHM/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO98AC/130-98G/CHM/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/  
99AC/134-99G/00GCS to MV

137-00G MEMBERSHIP ON A SPIRITUAL BASIS - *CHURCH*  
*MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 5, Church Membership, page 27,  
Membership on a Spiritual Basis, to read as follows:

Membership on a Spiritual Basis

The serious, solemn obligations of church membership should be impressed on everyone who applies for admittance to the church. All should be faithfully taught what it means to become a member of the body of Christ. Only those giving evidence of having experienced the new birth, and who are enjoying a spiritual experience in the Lord Jesus, are prepared for acceptance into church membership. Thorough instruction in the fundamental teachings and related practices of the church should be given to every candidate for church membership before being baptized and received into church fellowship. Each person seeking admittance to the church should be informed of the principles for which the church stands.

This is a spiritual relationship. It can be entered into only by those who are converted. Only in this way can the purity and spiritual caliber of the church be maintained. It is the duty of every minister to instruct those who accept the principles of the truth, that they may enter the church on a sound, spiritual basis. While there is no stated age for baptism, it is recommended that very young children who express a desire to be baptized should be encouraged and entered into an instruction program that may lead to baptism.

“The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to ‘the principalities and powers in heavenly places,’ the final and full display of the love of God.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 9.

00-1022

July 2, 2000, a.m.

General Conference Session

Adjourned.

Philip S Follett, Chairman

Harold W Baptiste, Secretary

Athal H Tolhurst, Actions Editor

Carol E Rasmussen, Recording Secretary

FIFTH BUSINESS MEETING  
Fifty-seventh General Conference Session  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
July 2, 2000, 3:00 p.m.

EUD/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/192-99G/00GCS to MV

139-00G OUTLINE OF DOCTRINAL BELIEFS - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 5, Church Membership, page 30, and the Appendix, page 189, changing the word "outline" referring to the doctrinal beliefs of the Church to read "summary" as this is more descriptive of the content referred to on those pages.

EUD/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/191-99G/00GCS to MV

140-00G TRANSFERRING MEMBERS, CLERK TO MAKE OUT  
LETTER - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 5, Church Membership, page 33, Transferring Members, Clerk to Make Out Letter, to read as follows:

Clerk to ~~Make Out~~ Prepare Letter—When the church has granted the letter of transfer, the church clerk fills out the regular form used for this ~~purpose~~; purpose and forwards it to the clerk of the church which the member proposes to join. The clerk of this church passes the letter to the pastor or church elder, who presents it first to the church board for recommendation, after which the request is presented to the church at its next regular service. It is then held over for one week, when final action is taken by vote accepting the person into membership. The clerk of the receiving church then ~~writes~~ adds the member's name and date of admittance to the church membership record. ~~in the church roll, with the date of admittance.~~ The clerk also fills out the return portion of the church letter, certifying that the member has been accepted, and sends it back to the clerk of the church from which the member was transferred. (See p. 56.)

ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/185-99G/00GCS to MV

141-00G ORGANIZED COMPANIES - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 5, Church Membership, pages 36 and 37, Organized Companies, to read as follows:

00-1024

July 2, 2000, p.m.

General Conference Session

### Organized Companies

Where a number of isolated believers reside in proximity to one another, a company of believers may be organized for fellowship and worship with the objective of growing into an organized church.

Such a group of believers may be organized as a company by approval of the ~~conference or mission~~ conference/mission/field committee, and may subsequently be dissolved by action of the ~~conference or mission~~ conference/mission/field committee. When a ~~conference or mission~~ conference/mission/field committee approves the organization of a company, such organization may be effected by the district pastor or by some other minister appointed by the ~~conference or mission~~ conference/mission/field committee, who, in counsel with the local members, shall appoint from the baptized membership of the company a leader and a treasurer.

All other appointments such as Sabbath School officers, ~~Lay Activities~~ Personal Ministries officers, and Adventist Youth Society officers should be made by vote of the baptized members of the company at a meeting presided over by the district leader or by such person as may be authorized by the ~~conference or mission~~ conference/mission/field committee.

The leader of such a company shall not be ordained to that office and shall not have the authority to perform those functions that are vested in an elder of the church. However, where exceptional circumstances warrant, the ~~conference~~ conference/mission/field committee may appoint a person of church experience and leadership ability to serve as elder of that company.

The treasurer of the company shall keep careful record of all moneys received and disbursed. He/She shall send ~~promptly each month~~ promptly, at the time established by the conference/mission/field, all tithes and offerings, other than funds collected for local purposes, to the ~~conference or field~~ conference/mission/field treasurer, who is also the treasurer of the ~~conference or field~~ conference/mission/field church.

Since all baptized members of an organized company are members of the ~~conference or field~~ conference/mission/field church, the company does not possess the right to administer church discipline. All such matters must be referred to the ~~conference or field~~ conference/mission/field committee, which constitutes the board of the ~~conference, or field~~ conference/mission/field church, the president being the elder of that church.

Such a company of believers should grow and eventually develop to the point that would call for a regular church organization. The company leadership should therefore promote and foster all the church campaigns and activities that are usually carried forward by regular

churches, thus preparing the members for the wider responsibilities that are associated with full church organization.

SPD/ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/213-99G/00GCS to MV

142-00G QUERIES CONCERNING RECEIVING AND DROPPING  
MEMBERS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 5, Church Membership, pages 37 and 38, Queries Concerning Receiving and Dropping Members, to read as follows:

Queries Concerning Receiving and ~~Dropping~~ Removing Members

Receiving Members on Profession of Faith—There are four circumstances in which individuals who have accepted the Seventh-day Adventist message may be accepted into the local church by profession of faith:

1. A committed Christian coming from another Christian communion who has already been baptized by immersion as practiced by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. (See p. 28.)
2. A member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who, because of world conditions, is unable to secure a letter of transfer from his/her home church. (See p. 34.)
3. A member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church whose request for membership transfer has received no response of any kind from the church where he/she is a member. In this case the assistance of the ~~conference/mission~~ conference/mission/field shall be sought. In case the requesting church is located in another ~~conference/mission~~ conference/mission/field the assistance of both ~~conferences/missions~~ conferences/missions/fields should be sought.
4. An individual who has been a member, but whose membership has been misplaced or has been withdrawn because he/she was a missing member, yet who in reality has remained faithful to his/her Christian commitment.

Great care should be exercised in receiving members if they have formerly been members of some other church in the denomination. Instances are not lacking of persons ~~disfellowshipped from removed from membership in~~ one church, later presenting themselves to other churches for membership on profession of faith. When a person applies for membership on profession of faith, earnest inquiries should be made concerning the applicant's former experience. The church

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officers should seek the advice and help of the ~~conference/mission~~ conference/mission/field president. Sufficient time should be taken to extend the investigation as far as needed to reveal all the facts.

When persons apply for membership on profession of faith, and it is found that they are still members of another church in the denomination, no steps should be taken to receive them into membership until the church holding the membership grants their letters of transfer. If after following the process of transfer (see p. 32), a church refuses to grant a letter of transfer, the member may appeal to the local ~~conference/mission~~ conference/mission/field committee if it is considered that the letter has been unjustly denied. The church where membership is held, or the local ~~conference/mission~~ conference/mission/field committee, is the proper organization to decide whether the past conduct has been such that the applicant is entitled to a church letter of transfer. Following such a course will result in a higher appreciation of the sacredness of church membership and in wrongs being made right where this is called for. No church has the right to withhold transfer unless the person is under discipline.

When a ~~disfellowshipped~~ an individual whose membership has been removed seeks membership; readmission to church membership, such readmission to ~~church membership~~ is normally preceded by rebaptism. (See p. 173.)

~~Dropping~~ Removing Names—Names should be ~~dropped~~ removed from the list only on a vote of the church, by granting letters of transfer, or by ~~disfellowshipping; removing from church membership~~, except in the case of deceased members. (See pp. 55, 56.)

No Retired Membership List—Each church should have but one membership list. Under no circumstances should the practice of keeping a retired list be followed. The church ~~roll~~ record should contain the names of all members. Names should be added to this list only on the vote of the church after the individual concerned has requested membership by profession of faith or baptism or letter.

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GCDO98AC/98AC/118-98G/ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/  
GCDO99AC/99AC/129-99Ga/00GCS to LCC-ChMan00GCS+00GCS

143-00G CHURCH OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES, MEMBERSHIP  
REQUIRED FOR ELECTION - *CHURCH MANUAL* ADDITION

VOTED, To refer to the Church Manual Committee for further discussion the new section, Membership Required for Election, to be added to the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Officers and Their Duties, page 45 before the section, Term of Office.



00-1027  
July 2, 2000, p.m.  
General Conference Session

Adjourned.

Alfred C McClure, Philip S Follett, Chairmen  
Donald R Sahly, Secretary  
Athol H Tolhurst, Actions Editor  
Rowena J Moore, Recording Secretary

SIXTH BUSINESS MEETING  
Fifty-seventh General Conference Session  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
July 3, 2000, 9:30 a.m.

NomCom00GCS/00GCS to MAB

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT #3

VOTED, To approve the following partial report of the Nominating Committee:

General Conference

General Vice Presidents:

Lowell C Cooper  
Gerry D Karst  
Armando Miranda  
Leo Ranzolin  
Calvin B Rock  
Ted N C Wilson

Vice Presidents Assigned to Divisions:

Violeto F Bocala, Southern Asia-Pacific Division  
Luka T Daniel, Africa-Indian Ocean Division  
Laurie J Evans, South Pacific Division  
Ulrich Frikart, Euro-Africa Division  
Israel Leito, Inter-American Division  
Pardon Mwansa, Eastern Africa Division  
Ruy H Nagel, South American Division  
D Ronald Watts, Southern Asia Division  
Bertil Wiklander, Trans-European Division

STW/ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO98AC/98AC/205-98G/154-99G/00GCS to MV

138-00G BAPTISMAL VOW AND BAPTISM - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 5, Church Membership, page 30,  
Baptismal Vow and Baptism, to read as follows:

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Baptismal Vow—Candidates for baptism or those being received into fellowship by profession of faith shall affirm their acceptance of the doctrinal beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the presence of the church or other properly appointed body. (See p. 29.) The minister or elder should address the following questions to the candidate(s), whose reply may be by verbal assent or by raising the hand.

#### Commitment Vow

1. Do you believe there is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons?
2. Do you accept the death of Jesus Christ on Calvary as the atoning sacrifice for your sins and believe that by God's grace through faith in His shed blood you are saved from sin and its penalty?
3. Do you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Saviour believing that God, in Christ, has forgiven your sins and given you a new heart, and do you renounce the sinful ways of the world?
4. Do you accept by faith the righteousness of Christ, your Intercessor in the heavenly sanctuary, and accept His promise of transforming grace and power to live a loving, Christ-centered life in your home and before the world?
5. Do you believe that the Bible is God's inspired Word, the only rule of faith and practice for the Christian? Do you covenant to spend time regularly in prayer and Bible study?
6. Do you accept the Ten Commandments as a transcript of the character of God and a revelation of His will? Is it your purpose by the power of the indwelling Christ to keep this law, including the fourth commandment, which requires the observance of the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath of the Lord and the memorial of Creation?
7. Do you look forward to the soon coming of Jesus and the blessed hope when "this mortal shall . . . put on immortality"? As you prepare to meet the Lord, will you witness to His loving salvation by using your talents in personal soul-winning endeavor to help others to be ready for His glorious appearing?
8. Do you accept the biblical teaching of spiritual gifts and believe that the gift of prophecy is one of the identifying marks of the remnant church?

9. Do you believe in church organization? Is it your purpose to worship God and to support the church by through your tithes and offerings and by your personal effort and influence?

10. Do you believe that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit; and will you honor God by caring for it, avoiding the use of that which is harmful; abstaining from all unclean foods; from the use, manufacture, or sale of alcoholic beverages; the use, manufacture, or sale of tobacco in any of its forms for human consumption; and from the misuse of or trafficking in narcotics or other drugs?

11. Do you know and understand the fundamental Bible principles as taught by the Seventh-day Adventist Church? Do you purpose, by the grace of God, to fulfill His will by ordering your life in harmony with these principles?

12. Do you accept the New Testament teaching of baptism by immersion and desire to be so baptized as a public expression of faith in Christ and His forgiveness of your sins?

13. Do you accept and believe that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the remnant church of Bible prophecy and that people of every nation, race, and language are invited and accepted into its fellowship? Do you desire to be a member of this local congregation of the world church?

~~Certificate of Baptism—Each of the above questions will be stated on the Certificate of Baptism as a personal affirmation to provide for the candidate a covenant document. Certificate of Baptism and Commitment—A space will be provided for the new member to sign the certificate as an affirmation of this commitment. Following the baptism, a Certificate of Baptism and Commitment will be presented to the candidate as a covenant document. The commitment will read as follows:~~

Commitment

1. I believe there is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons.

2. I accept the death of Jesus Christ on Calvary as the atoning sacrifice for my sins. I believe that by God's grace through faith in His shed blood that I am saved from sin and its penalty.

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3. I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and personal Saviour and believe that God, in Christ, has forgiven my sins and given me a new heart, and I renounce the sinful ways of the world.

4. I accept by faith the righteousness of Christ, my Intercessor in the heavenly sanctuary, and accept His promise of transforming grace and power to live a loving, Christ-centered life in my home and before the world.

5. I believe the Bible is God's inspired Word, the only rule of faith and practice for the Christian. I covenant to spend time regularly in prayer and Bible study.

6. I accept the Ten Commandments as a transcript of the character of God and a revelation of His will. It is my purpose by the power of the indwelling Christ to keep this law, including the fourth commandment, which requires the observance of the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath of the Lord and the memorial of Creation.

7. I look forward to the soon coming of Jesus and the blessed hope when "this mortal shall . . . put on immortality." As I prepare to meet the Lord, I will witness to His loving salvation by using my talents in personal soul-winning endeavor to help others to be ready for His glorious appearing.

8. I accept the biblical teaching of spiritual gifts and believe that the gift of prophecy is one of the identifying marks of the remnant church.

9. I believe in church organization. It is my purpose to worship God and to support the church through my tithes and offerings and by my personal efforts and influence.

10. I believe that my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit; and I will honor God by caring for it, avoiding the use of that which is harmful; abstaining from all unclean foods, from the use, manufacture, or sale of alcoholic beverages; the use, manufacture, or sale of tobacco in any of its forms for human consumption; and from the misuse of or trafficking in narcotics or other drugs.

11. I know and understand the fundamental Bible principles as taught by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I purpose, by the grace of God, to fulfill His will by ordering my life in harmony with these principles.

12. I accept the New Testament teaching of baptism by immersion and desire to be so baptized as a public expression of faith in Christ and His forgiveness of my sins.

13. I accept and believe that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the remnant church of Bible prophecy and that people of every nation, race, and language are invited and accepted into its fellowship. I desire to be a member of this local congregation of the world church.

Welcoming Candidates—After the candidates ~~have satisfactorily answered the foregoing questions; have, in the presence of the church membership or other properly appointed body, answered the questions of the vow in the affirmative,~~ or assurance has been given to the church that such answers have already been given, the church body should be asked to vote on their acceptance into the church, subject to baptism, which ordinance should not be unduly delayed.

Receiving Members Who Are Not Known—In preparing for the baptism of his converts, an evangelist should invite the pastor or elder to visit his baptismal classes and become acquainted with his converts. Such contacts will enable the church to be better prepared to receive the new members into church fellowship. This general procedure should not apply in the case of isolated believers who wish to unite with the ~~conference~~ conference/mission/field church.

Baptismal Ceremony—At this ceremony the deacons should make the necessary preparation and assist the male candidates into and out of the water. (See p. 53.) The deaconesses should assist all female candidates. (See p. 54.) Care should be exercised to see that proper attire is provided for the candidates. Robes of suitable heavy material are preferable. If such are not available, the candidates should dress in such a manner that they will be modestly attired. The baptismal ceremony should be followed by extending the right hand of fellowship and the giving of a few words of welcome by the pastor or elder in behalf of the entire church.

ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/155-99Ga/00GCS to MV

144-00Ga THE CHURCH ELDER, TO COOPERATE WITH THE  
CONFERENCE - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Officers and Their Duties, page 49, The Church Elder, To Cooperate With the Conference, to read as follows:

To Cooperate With the Conference—~~The Conference/Mission/Field—~~The pastor, elder(s), and all church officers should cooperate with the ~~conference~~ conference/mission/field officers and departmental directors in carrying out local, union, division, and General Conference plans. They should inform the church of all regular and special offerings, and should promote all the programs and activities of the church.

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The elder should work very closely with the church treasurer and see that all ~~conference~~ conference/mission/field funds are remitted promptly to the ~~conference~~ conference/mission/field treasurer at the ~~close of each month~~ time established by the conference/mission/field. The elder should give personal attention to seeing that the church clerk's report is sent promptly to the ~~conference~~ conference/mission/field secretary at the close of each quarter.

The elder should regard all correspondence from the ~~conference~~ conference/mission/field office as important. Letters calling for announcements to the church should be presented at the proper time.

The first elder, in the absence of and in cooperation with the pastor, should see that delegates to ~~conference~~ conference/mission/field sessions are elected and that the names of such delegates are sent to the ~~conference~~ conference/mission/field office by the clerk.

The elder should give counsel and help to officers in the church to measure up to their responsibilities in cooperating with the ~~conference~~ conference/mission/field in carrying out plans and policies, and in seeing that reports are accurately and promptly forwarded.

STW/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO98AC/206-98G/99AC/155-99Gb/00GCS to MV

144-00Gb THE CHURCH ELDER, TO FOSTER TITHING - *CHURCH*  
*MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Officers and Their Duties, page 49, The Church Elder, To Foster Tithing, to read as follows:

To Foster Tithing—As one who faithfully returns tithe, the elder can do much to encourage the church members to return a faithful tithe. (See pp. 136-138, 191.) Anyone who fails to set an example in this important matter should not be elected to the position of elder or to any other church office. Tithing can be fostered by public presentation of the scriptural obligations privilege and responsibility of stewardship and by personal labor with the members. Such labor should be carried on in a tactful and helpful manner. The elder should regard all financial matters pertaining to church members as confidential and should not place such information in the hands of unauthorized persons.

SS&PM/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/196-99G/00GCS to MV

145-00G THE CHURCH ELDER, TO DISTRIBUTE  
RESPONSIBILITY - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Officers and Their Duties, page 50, The Church Elder, To Distribute Responsibility, to read as follows:

To Distribute Responsibility—In the distribution of duties pertaining to church activities, care should be taken not to lay too much responsibility upon willing workers, while others with perhaps lesser talents are passed by. The election of one individual to several offices is to be discouraged unless circumstances make it necessary. The elder especially should be left free from other burdens to perform effectually the many duties of this sacred office. It may be advisable in some cases to ask the elder to lead the missionary outreach (missionary) work of the church, but even this should be avoided if other talent is available.

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ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/ChMan/99AC/ChMan/99AC/125-99G/00GCS to MV

146-00G THE DEACON - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Officers and Their Duties, pages 51-54, The Deacon, to read as follows:

The Deacon

The office of deacon is described in the New Testament (1 Tim. 3:8-13) where the Greek word *diakonos* is used from which the English “deacon” is derived. The Greek word is variously interpreted as “servant, minister, writer, attendant” and in Christian circles acquired the specialized meaning now attached to “deacon.” Scripture clearly endorses the office in the New Testament church: “They that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 3:13). On this authority, the church elects some of its members to serve in eminently practical ways, caring for several aspects of church services, as well as for church property.

The deacon is elected to office, serving for a term of one or two years as determined by the local church. (See p. 45.)

Importance of the Office - No change



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Board of Deacons - No change

Deacons Must Be Ordained - No change

Deacons Not Authorized to Preside—The deacon is not authorized to preside at any of the ordinances of the church, nor can he perform the marriage ceremony. He may not preside at any of the business meetings of the church, neither may he officiate at the reception or transfer of members. Where a church has no one authorized to perform such duties, the church shall contact the conference/mission/field for assistance.

~~The Duties of Deacons—The deacons have responsibility for the care of the church property. It is their duty to see that the building is kept clean and in repair, and that the grounds upon which the church stands are kept clean and made attractive. This also includes ensuring that the janitor work is cared for. In large churches it is often necessary to employ a janitor. The deacons should recommend a suitable person to the church board, which takes action by vote to employ such help, or the church board may authorize the deacons to employ a janitor. Church board authorization should be obtained for all major repair expenses. All bills for repairs, as well as for water, light, fuel, et cetera, are referred to the church treasurer for payment.~~

The Duties of Deacons—The work of the deacons involves a wide range of practical services for the church including:

1. Assistance at Services and Meetings—~~At~~ At church services, the deacons are usually responsible for welcoming members and visitors as they enter the church, and for assisting them, where necessary, to find seats. They also stand ready to cooperate with pastor and elders for the smooth functioning of the meetings conducted in the church.

2. Visitation of Members—~~An~~ Another important duty belonging to deacons is that of visiting church members in their homes. (See p. 55.) In many churches this is arranged by a distribution of membership by districts, assigning a deacon to each district, with the expectation that he will visit each home at least once a quarter. (See p. 55.)

3. To Assist in Church Ordinances—~~The deacons assist in the celebration of the ordinances of the church. They~~ Preparation for Baptismal Services—~~The deacons~~ should assist at baptismal services, ensuring that the baptistry is prepared and water heated, and that male candidates are cared for both before and after the ceremony. They should do their part in making the necessary preparations for this service; there should be no confusion or delay. (See p. 32.)

4. Assistance at the Communion Service—~~At~~ At the celebration of the ordinance of foot-washing, the deacons or deaconesses provide everything that is needed for the service, such

as: towels, basins, water ~~(hot or cold~~ (at a comfortable temperature as the occasion may require), buckets, et cetera. After the service they should see that the vessels and linen used are washed and returned to their proper place.

~~At the ordinance of the Lord's Supper the deacons should place the communion table in position after it has been arranged by the deaconesses. They should then be seated on the front row of seats, facing the communion table. After the minister or elder has asked the blessing on the bread and has broken it, he will pass the plates to the deacons. The deacons in turn will pass the emblem to the congregation. After serving the people, the deacons return the plates to the elder or the minister, who then serves the deacons. If two ordained persons are officiating, they serve each other; otherwise a deacon serves the minister or elder who then returns the plate to the table. All should then be seated. The same procedure is to be followed in serving the wine. (See pp. 69-74.)~~

Great ~~Following the Lord's Supper,~~ great care should be exercised in disposing of any bread or wine left over after all have partaken of these emblems. Any wine remaining that was blessed, is to be poured out. Any of the bread remaining ~~of that~~ which was blessed should be burned.

~~The deacon is not authorized to preside at any of the ordinances of the church, nor can he perform the marriage ceremony. He may not preside at any of the business meetings of the church, neither may he officiate at the reception or transfer of members. Where a church has no elder or no one who has been elected as church leader, such duties may be performed only by a visiting minister authorized by the conference.~~

5. The Care of the Sick and the Poor—Another important responsibility of deacons is the care of the sick, relieving the poor, and aiding the unfortunate. Money should be provided for this work from the church fund for the needy. The treasurer, on recommendation from the church board, will pass over to the deacons or deaconesses whatever may be needed for use in needy cases. This work is the particular charge of the deacons and the deaconesses, but the church is to be kept fully acquainted with the needs, in order to enlist the membership's support.

6. Care and Maintenance of Church Property—In some churches, where the responsibility for the care and maintenance of the church property is not assigned to a building committee, the deacons have this responsibility. It is their duty to see that the building is kept clean and in repair, and that the grounds upon which the church stands are kept clean and made attractive. This also includes ensuring that the janitorial work is done. In large churches it is often necessary to employ a janitor. The deacons should recommend a suitable person to the church board, which takes action by vote to employ such help, or the church board may authorize the deacons to employ a janitor. Church board authorization should be obtained for all major

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repair expenses. All bills for repairs, as well as for water, light, fuel, et cetera, are referred to the church treasurer for payment.

ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/186-99Gj/00GCS to MV

147-00G THE DEACONESS, THE DUTIES OF DEACONESES -  
*CHURCH MANUAL REVISION*

VOTED, To revise the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Officers and Their Duties, page 54, The Deaconess, The Duties of Deaconesses, to read as follows:

The Duties of Deaconesses—Deaconesses serve the church in a wide variety of important activities including:

1. Assistance at Baptisms—Deaconesses assist at the baptismal services, ensuring that female candidates are cared for both before and after the ceremony. They also give such counsel and help as may be necessary regarding suitable garments for baptism. Robes of suitable material should be provided. Where robes are used, the deaconesses should see that they are laundered and carefully set aside for future use. (See p. 32.)

2. Arrangements for the Communion Service—The deaconesses assist in the ordinance of foot-washing, giving special aid to women visitors or those who have newly joined the church. It is the duty of the deaconesses to arrange everything needed for this service, such as seeing that the table linen, towels, et cetera, used in the celebration of ordinances, are laundered and carefully stored. (See p. 70.)

The deaconesses make arrangements for the communion table including: preparing the bread and wine, arranging the ordinance table, pouring the wine, placing the plates of unleavened bread, and covering the table with the linen provided for that purpose. All these matters should be cared for before the service begins.

3. The Care of the Sick and the Poor—Deaconesses are to do their part in caring for the sick, the needy, and the unfortunate, cooperating with the deacons in this work. (See p. 54 above.)

ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/187-99Ga/00GCS to MV

148-00Ga THE CHURCH CLERK, AN IMPORTANT OFFICE -  
*CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Officers and Their Duties, page 55, The Church Clerk, An Important Office, to read as follows:

The Church Clerk

An Important Office—The clerk of the church has one of the important church offices, upon the proper administration of which much of the efficient functioning of the church depends. Like all other church officers, the church clerk is elected for a one or two year term as determined by the local church (see p. 45); but because of the important and specialized functions of this office, it is wise to choose one who can be reelected to repeated terms ~~of one-year service~~ to provide continuity in record keeping and reporting. In large churches ~~an assistant clerk~~ clerks may be ~~elected~~ elected as needed. The clerk serves as the secretary of all the business meetings of the ~~church~~, church and should keep a correct record of all such meetings. If for any reason the clerk must be absent from any meeting, arrangements should be made for the assistant to be present to take the minutes of the proceedings. These minutes should be recorded in the Church Record book, or in another appropriate record system adopted by the church, giving the time and date of meeting, number attending, and a report of all actions taken. The clerk should also make a list of any committees appointed at such meetings, giving to the chairperson a list of the members of each committee, together with its terms of reference and an outline of work it is asked to do. The Church Record book may be secured from the Adventist Book ~~Center~~, or Center or, in some countries, from the publishing house.

This Church Record book contains a place for recording the church membership, giving the columns necessary to show how and when members are received or removed. This record must be kept chronologically, and supporting data for each entry should also be recorded in the section where minutes of membership actions are kept. The church membership record must be accurately and currently maintained in order to show the official standing of the membership.

ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/187-99Gb/00GCS to MV

148-00Gb THE CHURCH CLERK, CORRESPONDING WITH  
MEMBERS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Officers and Their Duties, page 56, The Church Clerk, Corresponding With Members, to read as follows:

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Corresponding With Members—The clerk should endeavor to keep in touch with absent members by correspondence and should pass on to them interesting items of church progress, encouraging them, in turn, to report their own Christian activities each quarter. It is desirable for the clerk to write to them frequently.

~~The Church Record should contain a brief statement of special services, visits of ministers, et cetera. For example: "Elder Blank, the president of our conference, spoke at the morning service, Sabbath, June 23, on 'Our Glorious Reward.'"~~<sup>22</sup>

ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/187-99Gc/00GCS to MV

148-00Gc THE CHURCH CLERK, REPORTS TO BE FURNISHED  
PROMPTLY - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Officers and Their Duties, pages 56 and 57, The Church Clerk, Reports to be Furnished Promptly, to read as follows:

Reports to be Furnished Promptly—It is the duty of the church clerk to furnish promptly certain reports. Some of these are annual, while others are quarterly. It is essential that they be sent to the ~~conference~~ conference/mission/field secretary within the time ~~specified~~ specified as these reports are important for the accuracy of reports prepared by other organizations of the world church. The information required for these reports is to be secured from the treasurer, the ~~Lay Activities~~ Personal Ministries secretary, the deacon, the Sabbath School secretary, the Adventist Youth Society secretary, the church school teacher, and from the clerk's own records.

Every item of information called for in the blanks should be supplied. Special attention should be given to the transfer of members, and members received ~~and dropped or removed~~ for various causes, as indicated by the blank. The ~~conference~~ conference/mission/field secretary must report quarterly to the union ~~conference~~ conference/mission secretary, and the union ~~conference~~ conference/mission secretary must report to the division, and the division secretary to the General Conference office, relative to these important items; any omission or delay in the report seriously affects the work all along the way. Faithful attention to the details specified in the report blanks greatly assists in keeping accurate records of ~~our the worldwide work~~ work of the church.

ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/137-99Ga/00GCS to MV

149-00Ga THE CHURCH TREASURER, A SACRED WORK - *CHURCH*  
*MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Officers and Their Duties, page 57, The Church Treasurer, A Sacred Work, to read as follows:

The Church Treasurer

A Sacred Work—The treasurer is called to an important task and is elected as are other officers for a one or two year term as determined by the local church. (See p. 45.) In large churches it may be deemed advisable to elect ~~also an assistant treasurer.~~ treasurers as needed.

The treasurer can greatly encourage faithfulness in the returning of tithe and deepen the spirit of liberality on the part of the church members. A word of counsel given in the spirit of the Master will help the brother or sister to render faithfully to God His own in tithes and offerings, even in a time of financial stringency.

ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/137-99Gb/00GCS to MV

149-00Gb THE CHURCH TREASURER, CHURCH TREASURER  
THE CUSTODIAN OF ALL CHURCH FUNDS - *CHURCH*  
*MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Officers and Their Duties, page 57, The Church Treasurer, Church Treasurer the Custodian of All Church Funds, to read as follows:

Church Treasurer the Custodian of All Church Funds—The church treasurer is the custodian of all church funds. These funds are (1) ~~conference~~ conference/mission/field funds, (2) local church funds, and (3) funds belonging to the auxiliary organizations of the local church.

All funds ~~(conference;~~ (conference/mission/field, local church, and local church auxiliary) are deposited by the treasurer in ~~one a bank or financial institution checking~~ a bank or financial institution checking account in the name of the ~~church.~~ church, unless the local conference/mission/field authorizes another system. This is a separate bank account which is not to be combined with any personal account. ~~In some countries a postal account is more convenient.~~ Surplus church funds may be deposited in savings accounts upon authorization of the church board. Where large balances are carried for building

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or special projects, the church board may authorize separate bank accounts. Such accounts, however, shall be operated by the treasurer.

ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/137-99Gc/00GCS to MV

149-00Gc THE CHURCH TREASURER, CONFERENCE FUNDS -  
*CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT*

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Officers and Their Duties, page 57, The Church Treasurer, Conference Funds, to read as follows:

~~Conference Funds—Conference~~ Conference/Mission/Field Funds—Conference/Mission/Field funds, which include tithe, all regular mission funds, and all funds for special ~~conference~~ conference/mission/field projects and institutions, are trust funds. At the close of each month, or more often if requested by the ~~conference~~, conference/mission/field, the church treasurer shall send to the ~~conference~~ conference/mission/field treasurer the entire amount of ~~conference~~ conference/mission/field funds received during that ~~month~~ period of time. The church may not borrow, use, or withhold such ~~conference~~ conference/mission/field funds for any purpose.

YOU/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO98AC/133-98G/99AC/137-99Gd/00GCS to MV

149-00Gd THE CHURCH TREASURER, ADVENTIST YOUTH  
SOCIETY FUNDS - *CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT*

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Officers and Their Duties, page 58, The Church Treasurer, Adventist Youth Society Funds, to read as follows:

Adventist Youth Society Funds—Adventist Youth Society (AYS) funds have to do with both the Adventist Youth (AY) and the Adventist Junior Youth (AJY) ~~Society~~, Societies, and the funds of each society shall be kept separately on the church treasurer's books. Society offerings to missions and general church work or to ~~conference~~ conference/mission/field enterprises shall be handed to the church treasurer as soon as possible after they are received, to be forwarded to the ~~conference~~ conference/mission/field treasurer. All funds contributed to society expense shall be given promptly to the church treasurer, to be held in trust for the society.

The expense funds of the AY ~~Society~~, Society shall be disbursed by the church treasurer on the order of the ~~society executive committee~~, sometimes called the AYS Council: Adventist

Youth Society Committee. (See p. 99.) Expense funds of the AJY Society shall be disbursed on the order of the AJY Society ~~superintendent~~ leader.

H&T/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO98AC/202-98G/99AC/137-99Ge/00GCS to MV

149-00Ge THE CHURCH TREASURER, FUNDS OF AUXILIARY  
ORGANIZATIONS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Officers and Their Duties, page 58, The Church Treasurer, Funds of Auxiliary Organizations, to read as follows:

Funds of Auxiliary Organizations—Auxiliary organization funds include such funds as church outreach programs, welfare, family life, Adventist Youth Society, Dorcas Society, Sabbath School expense, and that portion of the ~~health and temperance~~ health ministries funds belonging to the church, and may include church school funds. All money received by and for these organizations is turned over promptly to the church treasurer by the secretary of the organization, or by the deacons. These funds belong to the auxiliary organizations of the church. They may be disbursed only by order of the auxiliary organization to which they belong.

The treasurer shall give receipts for all funds received including those deposited by any of the subsidiary organizations of the church. On receiving money from the church treasurer, the secretary of such organization shall give a proper receipt to the treasurer.

ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/137-99G/00GCS to MV

149-00Gf THE CHURCH TREASURER, MONEY FOR PERSONAL  
LITERATURE ORDERS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Officers and Their Duties, page 59, The Church Treasurer, Money for Personal Literature Orders, to read as follows:

Money for Personal Literature ~~Orders—Moneys Orders—In areas where a local Adventist Book Center does not exist, church members may place their money~~ for personal orders of literature, books, pamphlets, magazines, and subscriptions for periodicals ~~should be placed~~ in an envelope, with the order form properly filled out, and ~~handed hand it~~ to the ~~Lay Activities~~ Personal Ministries secretary. The treasurer then remits both order and payment for all such literature to the conference/mission/field Adventist Book Center or, where there is no Adventist Book Center, Center, or to the publishing house: house according to the system adopted by the



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conference/mission/field. At the close of each quarter the ~~Lay Activities~~ Personal Ministries secretary will make a report to the ~~church~~ church, at its quarterly business meeting, of the standing of its account with the Adventist Book ~~Center~~, Center and/or publishing house and shall provide a copy for the church treasurer. (See pp. 88, 89.)

ChMan/ADCOM/ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/137-99Gf/00GCS to MV

149-00Gg THE CHURCH TREASURER, PRESERVING VOUCHERS -  
*CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT*

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Officers and Their Duties, page 60, The Church Treasurer, Preserving Vouchers, to read as follows:

~~Preserving Vouchers—Vouchers~~ Preservation of Financial Documents—Financial documents, vouchers, or receipted bills should be secured for all moneys disbursed: funds received and disbursed in accordance with the system authorized by the local conference/mission/field. A serviceable way of preserving such vouchers is to paste them on the back of the original sheet in the treasurer's book, opposite the page on which the entry is made. For example, if the entry is made on page 16, paste the voucher on the back of page 15. There will usually be ample space for these vouchers if they are lapped one over the other. This method is safer and more convenient for the auditor than keeping them on a spike file, in a pigeonhole, in a desk, or in an envelope, even though properly marked.

SS&PM/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/197-99/00GCS to MV

150-00G INTEREST COORDINATOR - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
*AMENDMENT*

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Officers and Their Duties, page 61, Interest Coordinator, to read as follows:

Interest Coordinator

It is important that the many interests developed through the ~~church~~ missionary church's (missionary) outreach be cared for promptly. To this end, an ~~Interest coordinator~~ interest coordinator, who may be an elder, should be elected at the time of the election of church officers. (See p. 45.) This person is a member of the church board and the ~~Lay Activities~~ Personal Ministries Council and works directly with the pastor and chairperson of that council. ~~To avoid~~

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~~multiplicity of officers it is recommended that wherever feasible this Interest coordinator be an elder assigned to this responsibility.~~ The duties involved in this office include:

1. To keep an organized list of all interests received by the church from every source such as Community Services, Ingathering, public evangelism, Bible studies, lay preaching and ~~Witnessing for Christ~~ witnessing contacts, ~~missionary outreach (missionary)~~ magazines, Sabbath School evangelism, literature evangelism, temperance and health evangelism, radio-TV, and church ~~missionary outreach (missionary)~~ literature. ~~Interest record file cards provide space for the origin of contact, the name of the interested, the date visited, and a brief evaluation and action taken concerning the interest.~~

2. To assist the pastor and chairperson of the ~~Lay Activities~~ Personal Ministries Council in the enlistment and recruitment of qualified laity for follow-up service.

3. To render to the church board a monthly report on the number of interests received and the number followed up. When an interest is sufficiently developed, it should be shared with the pastor.

SPD/ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/214-99G/00GCS to MV

151-00G A DISFELLOWSHIPED CHURCH OFFICER - *CHURCH*  
*MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Officers and Their Duties, page 62, A Disfellowshipped Church Officer, to read as follows:

~~A Disfellowshipped Church Officer~~  
A Church Officer Removed from Church Membership

When a church officer is ~~disfellowshipped from~~ removed from membership in the church and is subsequently readmitted to church membership, this action does not reinstate the individual to the former office.

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ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/190-99G/00GCS to MV

152-00G THE SERVICES AND MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH, THE  
PURPOSE OF THE SERVICES AND MEETINGS OF THE  
CHURCH - *CHURCH MANUAL* ADDITION

VOTED, To add a new section to the *Church Manual*, The Purpose of the Services and Meetings of the Church, to Chapter 7, The Services and Meetings of the Church, following *Spiritual Worship*, on page 63, to read as follows:

The Purpose of the Services and Meetings of the Church—The experience of a Christian is one of spiritual rebirth, joyful reconciliation, faithful mission, and humble obedience to God (2 Cor. 5:17; Phil. 2:5-8). Whatever a Christian does, or participates in, including the services and meetings of the church, is a testimony of this new life in Christ and a sharing of its fruits in the Spirit. The purpose of the services and meetings of the church is to worship God for His creative work and for all the benefits of His salvation; to understand His Word, His teachings, and His purposes; to fellowship with one another in faith and love; to witness about one's personal faith in Christ's atoning sacrifice at the cross; and to learn how to fulfill the gospel commission of making disciples in all the world (Matt. 28:19, 20).

SS&PM/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/198-99G/00GCS to MV

153-00G THE SERVICES AND MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH,  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHURCH MEETINGS - *CHURCH  
MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 7, The Services and Meetings of the Church, pages 64 and 65, Arrangements for Church Meetings, to read as follows:

Arrangements for Church Meetings—Each church should arrange its services and meetings as seems necessary. Those most essential to the worship, study, and activity of the church are the Sabbath worship service, the communion service, the prayer meeting, the Sabbath School, the young people's meeting, and the church missionary outreach (missionary) meeting. Sessions for proper attention to the business affairs of the church are also essential.

Adjourned.

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General Conference Session

Matthew A Bediako, Calvin B Rock, Chairmen

Vernon B Parmenter, Secretary

Athal H Tolhurst, Actions Editor

Carol E Rasmussen, Recording Secretary

SEVENTH BUSINESS MEETING  
Fifty-seventh General Conference Session  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
July 3, 2000, 3:00 p.m.

NomCom00GCS/00GCS to MAB

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT #4

VOTED, To approve the following partial report of the Nominating Committee:

General Conference

Vice Presidents Assigned to Divisions:

Don C Schneider, North American Division

Artur A Stele, Euro-Asia Division

Undersecretary:

Athal H Tolhurst

Associate Secretaries:

Agustin Galicia

Theodore T Jones

Vernon B Parmenter

Donald R Sahly

Undertreasurer:

Robert E Lemon

Associate Treasurers:

Gary B DeBoer

Dennis C Keith Sr

Donald E Robinson

Steven G Rose

ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/135-99Ga/00GCS to MV

154-00Ga MUSIC - *CHURCH MANUAL* DELETION

VOTED, To delete a section from the *Church Manual*, Chapter 7, the Services and Meetings of the Church, pages 84 and 85, Music, which reads as follows:

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## Music

Place of Music in Divine Service—"Music can be a great power for good, yet we do not make the most of this branch of worship. The singing is generally done from impulse or to meet special cases, and at other times those who sing are left to blunder along, and the music loses its proper effect upon the minds of those present. Music should have beauty, pathos, and power. Let the voices be lifted in songs of praise and devotion. Call to your aid, if practicable, instrumental music, and let the glorious harmony ascend to God, an acceptable offering."—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 71.

Sing With the Spirit and the Understanding—"In their efforts to reach the people, the Lord's messengers are not to follow the ways of the world. In the meetings that are held, they are not to depend on worldly singers and theatrical display to awaken an interest. How can those who have no interest in the word of God, who have never read His word with a sincere desire to understand its truths, be expected to sing with the spirit and the understanding? How can their hearts be in harmony with the words of sacred song? How can the heavenly choir join in music that is only a form? . . .

"In the meetings held let a number be chosen to take part in the song service. And let the singing be accompanied with musical instruments skillfully handled. We are not to oppose the use of instrumental music in our work. This part of the service is to be carefully conducted, for it is the praise of God in song.

"The singing is not always to be done by a few. As often as possible, let the entire congregation join."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, pp. 143, 144.

Selecting Choir Leaders—Great care should be used in selecting the choir leaders or those who have charge of the music in the services of the church. Only those who are known to be thoroughly consecrated should be chosen for this part of the church work. Untold harm may be done by selecting unconsecrated leaders. Those lacking in judgment as to the selection of proper and appropriate music for divine worship should not be chosen. Secular music or that of a doubtful or questionable nature should never be introduced into our services.

Choir leaders should work in close collaboration with the minister or church elder in order that the special musical selections harmonize with the theme of the sermon. The choir leader is under the direction of the pastor or elders of the church, and does not work independently of them. The choir leader should counsel with them, not only as to the music to be rendered, but also concerning the selection of singers and musicians. The choir leader is not an ex officio member of the church board.

Membership of Church Choirs—Sacred music is an important part of public worship. The church needs to exercise care in the selecting of choir members who will rightly represent the principles of the church. Choir members occupy a conspicuous place in the services of the church. Their ability as singers is only one of the qualifications they should have. They should be members of the church, of the Sabbath School, or of the Adventist Youth Society who, in their personal appearance and manner of dress, conform to the standards of the church, setting an example in modesty and decorum. People of uncertain consecration or questionable character, or those not appropriately dressed, should not be permitted to participate in the musical features of the services. Any plan concerning the wearing of the choir robes is optional on the part of the church.

ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/135-99Gb/00GCS to MV

154-00Gb PLACE OF MUSIC IN WORSHIP - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
ADDITION

VOTED, To add a new section, Place of Music In Worship, to the *Church Manual*, Chapter 7, The Services and Meetings of the Church, on page 65 after Unauthorized Speakers in Our Churches, to read as follows:

Place of Music in Worship

Place of Music in Worship—“Music can be a great power for good, yet we do not make the most of this branch of worship. The singing is generally done from impulse or to meet special cases, and at other times those who sing are left to blunder along, and the music loses its proper effect upon the minds of those present. Music should have beauty, pathos, and power. Let the voices be lifted in songs of praise and devotion. Call to your aid, if practicable, instrumental music, and let the glorious harmony ascend to God, an acceptable offering.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 71.

Sing With the Spirit and the Understanding—“In their efforts to reach the people, the Lord’s messengers are not to follow the ways of the world. In the meetings that are held, they are not to depend on worldly singers and theatrical display to awaken an interest. How can those who have no interest in the word of God, who have never read His word with a sincere desire to understand its truths, be expected to sing with the spirit and the understanding? How can their hearts be in harmony with the words of sacred song? How can the heavenly choir join in music that is only a form? . . .

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“In the meetings held let a number be chosen to take part in the song service. And let the singing be accompanied with musical instruments skillfully handled. We are not to oppose the use of instrumental music in our work. This part of the service is to be carefully conducted, for it is the praise of God in song.

“The singing is not always to be done by a few. As often as possible, let the entire congregation join.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, pp. 143, 144.

**Selecting Choir Leaders**—Great care should be used in selecting the choir leaders or those who have charge of the music in the services of the church. Only those who are known to be thoroughly consecrated should be chosen for this part of the church work. Untold harm may be done by selecting unconsecrated leaders. Those lacking in judgment as to the selection of proper and appropriate music for divine worship should not be chosen. Secular music or that of a doubtful or questionable nature should never be introduced into our services.

Choir leaders should work in close collaboration with the minister or church elder in order that the special musical selections harmonize with the theme of the sermon. The choir leader is under the direction of the pastor or elders of the church and does not work independently of them. The choir leader should counsel with them, not only as to the music to be rendered, but also concerning the selection of singers and musicians. The choir leader is not an ex officio member of the church board.

**Membership of Church Choirs**—Sacred music is an important part of public worship. The church needs to exercise care in the selecting of choir members who will rightly represent the principles of the church. Choir members occupy a conspicuous place in the services of the church. Their singing ability is only one of the qualifications they should have. They should be members of the church, or the Sabbath School, or the Adventist Youth Society who, in their personal appearance and manner of dress, conform to the standards of the church, setting an example in modesty and decorum. People of uncertain consecration or questionable character, or those not appropriately dressed, should not be permitted to participate in the musical features of the services. Any plan concerning the wearing of choir robes is optional on the part of the church.

The organization of children's choirs is to be encouraged as an effective means of spiritual nurture, bonding to the church family, and outreach.



ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/ChMan/99AC/207-99G/00GCS to MV

155-00G THE COMMUNION SERVICE - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 7, The Services and Meetings of the Church, pages 69-74, The Communion Service, to read as follows:

The Communion Service

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church the communion service customarily is celebrated once per quarter. The service includes the ordinance of foot-washing and the Lord's Supper. It should be a most sacred and joyous occasion to the congregation, as well as to the minister or elder. Conducting the communion service is undoubtedly one of the most sacred duties that a minister or elder is called upon to perform. Jesus, the great Redeemer of this world, is holy. The angels declare: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come." Therefore, since Jesus is holy, the symbols that represent His body and His blood are also holy. Since the Lord Himself selected the deeply meaningful symbols of the unleavened bread and unfermented fruit of the vine and used the simplest of means for washing the disciples' feet, there should be great reluctance to introduce alternative symbols and means (except under truly emergency conditions) lest the original significance of the service be lost. Likewise in the order of service and the traditional roles played by the ministers, elders, deacons, and deaconesses in the communion service, there should be caution lest substitution and innovation contribute to a tendency to make common that which is sacred. Individualism and independence of action and practice could become an expression of unconcern for church unity and fellowship on this most blessed and sacred occasion. Desire for change could neutralize the element of remembrance in this service instituted by our Lord Himself as He entered upon His passion.

The service of the Lord's Supper is just as holy today as it was when instituted by Jesus Christ. Jesus is still present when this sacred ordinance is celebrated. We read, "It is at these, His own appointments, that Christ meets His people, and energizes them by His presence."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 656.

Ordinance of Foot-Washing—"Now, having washed the disciples' feet, He said, 'I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.' In these words Christ was not merely enjoining the practice of hospitality. More was meant than the washing of the feet of guests to remove the dust of travel. Christ was here instituting a religious service. By the act of our Lord this . . . ceremony was made a consecrated ordinance. It was to be observed by the disciples, that they might ever keep in mind His lessons of humility and service."

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"This ordinance is Christ's appointed preparation for the sacramental service. While pride, variance, and strife for supremacy are cherished, the heart cannot enter into fellowship with Christ. We are not prepared to receive the communion of His body and His blood. Therefore it was that Jesus appointed the memorial of His humiliation to be first observed."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 650.

In the act of washing the disciples' feet, Christ performed a deeper cleansing, that of washing from the heart the stain of sin. The communicant senses an unworthiness to accept the sacred emblems before experiencing the cleansing that makes one "clean every whit" (John 13:10). Jesus desired to wash away "alienation, jealousy, and pride from their hearts. . . . Pride and self-seeking create dissension and hatred, but all this Jesus washed away. . . . Looking upon them, Jesus could say, 'Ye are clean.'"—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 646.

The spiritual experience that lies at the heart of foot-washing lifts it from being a common custom to being a sacred ordinance. It conveys a message of forgiveness, acceptance, assurance, and solidarity, primarily from Christ to the believer, but also between the believers themselves. This message is expressed in an atmosphere of humility.

Unleavened Bread and Unfermented Wine—"Christ is still at the table on which the paschal supper has been spread. The unleavened cakes used at the Passover season are before Him. The Passover wine, untouched by fermentation, is on the table. These emblems Christ employs to represent His own unblemished sacrifice. Nothing corrupted by fermentation, the symbol of sin and death, could represent the 'Lamb without blemish and without spot.' 1 Peter 1:19."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 653.

Neither the wine nor the bread contained elements of fermentation, as on the evening of the first day of the Hebrew Passover all leaven, or fermentation, had been removed from their dwellings (Ex. 12:15, 19; 13:7). Therefore, only unfermented grape juice and unleavened bread are appropriate for use in the communion service; so great care must be exercised in providing these elements. In those more isolated areas of the world where grape or raisin juice or concentrate is not available, the conference/mission/field office will provide advice or assistance.

A Memorial of the Crucifixion—"By partaking of the Lord's Supper, the broken bread and the fruit of the vine, we show forth the Lord's death until He comes. The scenes of His sufferings and death are thus brought fresh to our minds."—*Early Writings*, p. 217.

"As we receive the bread and wine symbolizing Christ's broken body and spilled blood, we in imagination join in the scene of Communion in the upper chamber. We seem to be passing through the garden consecrated by the agony of Him who bore the sins of the world. We witness

the struggle by which our reconciliation with God was obtained. Christ is set forth crucified among us.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 661.

A Proclamation of the Second Coming—“The Communion service points to Christ’s second coming. It was designed to keep this hope vivid in the minds of the disciples. Whenever they met together to commemorate His death, they recounted how ‘He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.’ In their tribulation they found comfort in the hope of their Lord’s return. Unspeakably precious to them was the thought, ‘As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord’s death till He come.’ 1 Cor. 11:26.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 659.

Announcing the Communion Service—The communion service may appropriately be included as part of any Christian worship service. However, to give proper emphasis and make communion available to the greatest possible number of members, usually it is part of the Sabbath worship service, preferably on the next to the last Sabbath of each quarter.

On the preceding Sabbath an announcement should be made of the service calling attention to the importance of the forthcoming communion, so that all members may prepare their hearts and make sure that unresolved differences are put right with one another. When they come to the table of the Lord the following week, the service then can bring the blessing intended. Those who were not present for the announcement should be notified and invited to attend.

Conducting the Communion Service—Length of Service—Time is not the most significant factor in planning the communion service. However, attendance can be improved and the spiritual impact increased by:

1. Eliminating all extraneous items from the worship service on this high day.
2. Avoiding delays before and after the foot-washing.
3. Having the deaconesses arrange the emblems on the communion table well beforehand.

Preliminaries—The introductory portion of the service should include only very brief announcements, hymn, prayer, offering, and a short sermon before separating for the washing of feet: feet and then returning for the Lord’s Supper which follows. More worshipers will be encouraged to stay for the entire service if the early part of the service has been brief.

00-1056

July 3, 2000, p.m.

General Conference Session

Foot-washing—Men and women should be provided separate areas for the foot-washing. Where stairs or distance is a problem, special arrangements should be made for the ~~handicapped~~ disabled. In places where it is socially acceptable and where clothing is such that there would be no immodesty, separate arrangements may be made for husband and wife or parents and baptized children to share with each other in the foot-washing ceremony. To encourage shy or sensitive people who may view the selecting of a foot-washing partner as an embarrassing experience, church leaders should be designated whose responsibility during the foot-washing is to help such persons find partners.

~~Before the service, deacons and deaconesses should prepare basins, towels, and water at a comfortable temperature for the foot-washing. Soap and an extra basin should be available for washing the hands afterward.~~

Bread and Wine—A hymn may be sung during the reassembly of the congregation as the officiating ministers or elders take their places at the table on which the bread and wine have been placed, and the deacons and deaconesses take their places on the front row of the church places. The covering over the bread is removed. A suitable passage of Scripture may be read such as 1 Corinthians 11:23, 24; Matthew 26:26; Mark 14:22; or Luke 22:19, or a brief sermon may be given at this point in the service rather than earlier. This can be especially effective if the sermon emphasizes the meaning of the bread and wine so its message is still fresh in the minds of participants as the emblems are being distributed. Those officiating normally kneel while the blessing is asked on the bread. The congregation may kneel or remain seated. Most of the bread to be served is usually broken ahead of time, with a small portion left on each plate for the elders or pastors to break. The minister and elders hand the plates containing the bread to the deacons, then the deacons serve the congregation. During this time there may be a choice of special music, testimonies, a summary of the sermon, selected readings, congregational singing, or meditative organ or piano music.

Each person should retain his/her portion of the bread until the officiating minister or elder has been served. When everyone has been seated, the leader invites all to partake of the bread together. Silent prayers are offered as the bread is eaten.

The minister then reads a suitable passage such as 1 Corinthians 11:25, 26; Matthew 26:27-29; Mark 14:23-25; or Luke 22:20. Leaders kneel as the prayer is given over the wine. Again, deacons serve the congregation. Activities such as those suggested during the passing of the bread may be continued at this time. After the officiating ministers or elders have been served, all worshipers partake of the wine together.

An optional method is for the bread to be blessed and broken; then the bread and wine are placed on the same tray and passed to the congregation. The worshiper takes both from the tray

at the same time. The bread is eaten, followed by silent prayer. Then after prayer over the wine, it is taken, followed by silent prayer. Where pews or seats are equipped with racks to hold the wine glasses, the collection of glasses is unnecessary until after the service.

**Celebration**—The service may close with a musical feature or congregational singing followed by dismissal. However it closes, it should end on a high note. Communion should always be a solemn experience but never a somber one. Wrongs have been righted, sins have been forgiven, and faith has been reaffirmed; it is a time for celebration. Let the music be bright and joyous.

An offering for the poor is often taken as the congregation leaves. After the service the deacons and deaconesses clear the table, collect glasses, and dispose of any bread or wine left over by burning or burying the bread and pouring the wine on the ground.

**Who May Participate**—The Seventh-day Adventist Church practices open communion. All who have committed their lives to the Saviour may participate. Children learn the significance of the service by observing others participate. After receiving formal instruction in baptismal classes and making their commitment to Jesus in baptism, they are thereby prepared to partake in the service themselves.

“Christ’s example forbids exclusiveness at the Lord’s Supper. It is true that open sin excludes the guilty. This the Holy Spirit plainly teaches. 1 Cor. 5:11. But beyond this none are to pass judgment. God has not left it with men to say who shall present themselves on these occasions. For who can read the heart? Who can distinguish the tares from the wheat? ‘Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.’ For ‘whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.’ ‘He that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.’ 1 Cor. 11:28, 27, 29.

“When believers assemble to celebrate the ordinances, there are present messengers unseen by human eyes. There may be a Judas in the company, and if so, messengers from the prince of darkness are there, for they attend all who refuse to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. Heavenly angels also are present. These unseen visitants are present on every such occasion. There may come into the company persons who are not in heart servants of truth and holiness, but who may wish to take part in the service. They should not be forbidden. There are witnesses present who were present when Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and of Judas. More than human eyes beheld the scene.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 656.

**Every Member Should Attend**—“None should exclude themselves from the Communion because some who are unworthy may be present. Every disciple is called upon to participate

publicly, and thus bear witness that he accepts Christ as a personal Saviour. It is at these, His own appointments, that Christ meets His people, and energizes them by His presence. Hearts and hands that are unworthy may even administer the ordinance, yet Christ is there to minister to His children. All who come with their faith fixed upon Him will be greatly blessed. All who neglect these seasons of divine privilege will suffer loss. Of them it may appropriately be said, 'Ye are not all clean.'"—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 656

~~Unleavened Bread and Unfermented Wine—"Christ is still at the table on which the paschal supper has been spread. The unleavened cakes used at the Passover season are before Him. The Passover wine, untouched by fermentation, is on the table. These emblems Christ employs to represent His own unblemished sacrifice. Nothing corrupted by fermentation, the symbol of sin and death, could represent the 'Lamb without blemish and without spot.'~~  
~~† Peter 1:19."~~—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 653.

Neither the "cup" nor the bread contained elements of fermentation as on the evening of the first day of the Hebrew Passover all leaven, or fermentation, had been removed from their dwellings (Ex. 12:15, 19; 13:7). Therefore, only unfermented grape juice and unleavened bread are appropriate for use in the communion service; so great care must be exercised in providing these elements. In those more isolated areas of the world where grape or raisin juice or concentrate is not readily available, the conference office will provide advice or assistance in obtaining it for the churches.

~~A Memorial of the Crucifixion—"By partaking of the Lord's Supper, the broken bread and the fruit of the vine, we show forth the Lord's death until He comes. The scenes of His sufferings and death are thus brought fresh to our minds."~~—*Early Writings*, p. 217.

~~"As we receive the bread and wine symbolizing Christ's broken body and spilled blood, we in imagination join in the scene of Communion in the upper chamber. We seem to be passing through the garden consecrated by the agony of Him who bore the sins of the world. We witness the struggle by which our reconciliation with God was obtained. Christ is set forth crucified among us."~~—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 661.

~~Ordinance of Foot-Washing—"Now, having washed the disciples' feet, He said, 'I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.'~~  
~~In these words Christ was not merely enjoining the practice of hospitality. More was meant than the washing of the feet of guests to remove the dust of travel. Christ was here instituting a religious service. By the act of our Lord this . . . [expression of humility] ceremony was made a consecrated ordinance. It was to be observed by the disciples, that they might ever keep in mind His lessons of humility and service.~~

~~“This ordinance is Christ’s appointed preparation for the sacramental service. While pride, variance, and strife for supremacy are cherished, the heart cannot enter into fellowship with Christ. We are not prepared to receive the communion of His body and His blood. Therefore it was that Jesus appointed the memorial of His humiliation to be first observed.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 650.~~

~~In the act of washing the disciples’ feet, Christ performed a deeper cleansing, that of washing from the heart the stain of sin. The communicant senses an unworthiness to accept the sacred emblems before experiencing the cleansing that makes one “clean every whit” (John 13:10). Jesus desired to wash away “alienation, jealousy, and pride from their hearts. . . . Pride and self-seeking create dissension and hatred, but all this Jesus washed away. . . . Looking upon them, Jesus could say, “Ye are clean.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 646.~~

~~The spiritual experience that lies at the heart of foot-washing lifts it from being a common custom to being a sacred ordinance. It conveys a message of forgiveness, acceptance, assurance, and solidarity, primarily from Christ to the believer, but also between the believers themselves. This message is expressed in an atmosphere of humility.~~

~~Who May Conduct Communion Service—The communion service is to be conducted by an ordained minister or a church elder. Deacons, although ordained, cannot conduct the service, but they can assist by passing the bread and wine to the members.~~

~~Communion for the Sick—If any members are ill or cannot for any other reason leave the home to attend the communion service in the house of worship, a special service in the home may be held for them. This service can be conducted only by an ordained minister or a church elder, who may be accompanied and assisted by deacons or deaconesses who assist in the regular service.~~

EUD/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/188-99Ga/00GCS to MV

156-00Ga THE SABBATH SCHOOL - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
DELETION

VOTED, To delete a section from the *Church Manual*, Chapter 7, The Services and Meetings of the Church, page 75, The Sabbath School, which reads as follows:

00-1060

July 3, 2000, p.m.

General Conference Session

### The Sabbath School

The Sabbath School has rightly been called “the church at study.” It is one of the most important services held in connection with our church work. Sabbath by Sabbath the greater part of our membership and thousands of interested friends meet in Sabbath School to study God’s Word systematically. The Sabbath School should be attended by every member of the church, young and old, ministers, church officers, and laity. The usual length of time for holding this service is one hour and ten minutes. This, however, does not prevent any local field from adopting a longer or shorter period if it is so desired. In arranging the program, care should be taken to provide at least thirty minutes for the study of the lesson.

The Sabbath School Teachers’ Meeting—Every Sabbath School should have a weekly teachers’ meeting. The superintendent should have charge, although someone else may be appointed to conduct the survey of the next Sabbath’s lesson. The best results are obtained when the teachers’ meeting is held prior to the Sabbath, as this provides opportunity for private study both before and after the meeting; it is also likely to be less hurried than if held on Sabbath morning. A minimum of forty-five minutes should be allowed for teachers’ meeting, and at least three things should be accomplished: a profitable survey of the next Sabbath’s lesson, a brief consideration of one or more Sabbath School goals, and discussion of any general problem requiring attention.

EUD/ChMan/ChMan/ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/  
99AC/188-99Gb/00GCS to MV

### 156-00Gb THE SABBATH WORSHIP SERVICE - *CHURCH* MANUAL AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 7, The Services and Meetings of the Church, pages 65-68, The Sabbath Worship Service, to read as follows:

#### ~~The Sabbath Worship Service~~ Sabbath Services

The Sabbath School—The Sabbath School has rightly been called the church at study. It is one of the most important services held in connection with our church work. Sabbath by Sabbath the greater part of our membership and thousands of interested friends meet in Sabbath School to study God’s Word systematically. All members of the church should be encouraged to attend Sabbath School and also to bring visitors. Each Sabbath School should endeavor to provide appropriate age-level programs for everyone. Materials and resources have been



developed to assist in this important task and are available from the field/mission/conference/union/division. The usual length of time for holding this service is one hour and ten minutes. This, however, does not prevent any local field from adopting a longer or shorter period if it is so desired. In arranging the program, care should be taken to provide at least thirty minutes for the study of the lesson.

The Worship Service—The Sabbath worship service is the most important of all the meetings of the church. Here the members gather week by week to unite in worshipping God in a spirit of praise and thanksgiving, to hear the Word of God, to gather strength and grace to fight the battles of life, and to learn God's will for them in soul-winning service. Reverence, simplicity, and promptness should characterize the whole service.

Sacredness of the Sabbath Worship Service—The worship of God is the highest, holiest experience possible to humans, and the greatest care should be exercised in planning for this service.

“Is it not your duty to put some skill and study and planning into the matter of conducting religious meetings—how they shall be conducted so as to do the greatest amount of good, and leave the very best impression upon all who attend?”—E. G. White in *Review and Herald*, April 14, 1885, p. 225.

“Our God is a tender, merciful Father. His service should not be looked upon as a heart-saddening, distressing exercise. It should be a pleasure to worship the Lord and to take part in His work. . . . Christ and Him crucified should be the theme of contemplation, of conversation, and of our most joyful emotion. . . . as we express our gratitude we are approximating to the worship of the heavenly hosts. ‘Whoso offereth praise glorifieth’ God. Psalm 50:23. Let us with reverent joy come before our Creator, with ‘thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.’ Isaiah 51:3.”—*Steps to Christ*, pp. 103, 104.

The Form of Service—We do not prescribe a set form or order for public worship. A short order of service is usually better suited to the real spirit of worship. Long preliminaries should be avoided. The opening exercises should not, under any circumstances, consume time required for worship and for the preaching of the Word of God.

Following are two suggested forms of service:

#### *Longer Order of Worship*

Organ Prelude  
Announcements

00-1062

July 3, 2000, p.m.

General Conference Session

Choir and Ministers Enter  
Doxology  
Invocation  
Scripture Reading  
Hymn of Praise  
Prayer  
Anthem or Special Music  
Offering  
Hymn of Consecration  
Sermon  
Hymn  
Benediction  
Congregation Standing or Seated for a Few Moments of Silent Prayer  
Organ Postlude

*Shorter Order of Worship*

Announcements  
Hymn  
Prayer  
Offering  
Hymn or Special Music  
Sermon  
Hymn  
Benediction  
Congregation Standing or Seated for Silent Prayer

The Sabbath Worship Service—As the ministers come to the rostrum and kneel, the congregation should, with bowed heads, implore the presence and blessing of God. A worshipful hush prepares the way for the opening hymn and the exercises which follow.

There are two main divisions of the worship service:

1. The congregational response in praise and adoration, expressed in song, prayer, and gifts.

2. The message from the Word of God. The one who brings the message and breaks the bread of life should fully sense the sacredness of this work and should be thoroughly prepared. Then, too, the one leading the worshipers into the presence of God through the medium of the pastoral prayer is performing perhaps the holiest exercise of the whole service

and, with a sense of awe, should humbly realize its importance. It is customary to kneel, facing the congregation, and the congregation in turn should face the rostrum and, as far as practicable, kneel. The prayer should be brief but should include adoration, thanks, and mention of the personal needs of the worshipers, as well as of the great world field.

Special music or a devotional hymn is appropriate immediately before the sermon. Then comes what should be one of the most important parts of the worship service—the spiritual feeding of the flock of God. Blessed results to the glory of God always follow when a congregation is truly fed and feels that “God has visited His people.”

The offering is a vital part of the worship service. While we are counseled to “worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,” we are also exhorted to “bring an offering, and come into his courts” (Ps. 96:9, 8). So the presentation of our gifts to God quite naturally finds its place as a part of the worship service.

The elder, particularly if he is a licensed minister, collaborates with the regular pastor in planning the order of the service. If the church has no regular pastor, the elder is in charge of the service and should either conduct it or arrange for someone to do so. From time to time a meeting for testimony and praise may be conducted, or the time may be given to certain members to relate their experiences in outreach (missionary) work.

Announcements—Thoughtful consideration should be given to the length and character of the announcements during the Sabbath service. If they deal with matters not specifically related to Sabbath worship or the work of the church, ministers and church officers should be careful to exclude them, maintaining even in this respect a proper spirit of worship and Sabbath observance. Many of our larger churches issue printed bulletins giving the order of service and also the announcements for the week. Where this is done, there is little or no need for oral announcements. Where no such printed provision is made, many churches find it desirable to make the announcements before the actual service begins, as is indicated in the preceding orders of service.

Proper consideration must also be given to the various departments of the church for the promotion of the interests for which they are responsible, but great care should be exercised when making appointments for their presentations, to safeguard the time needed for preaching the message from the Word of God.

~~Sacredness of the Sabbath Worship Hour—The worship of God is the highest, holiest experience possible to humans, and the greatest care should be exercised in planning for this service.~~

00-1064

July 3, 2000, p.m.

General Conference Session

~~“Is it not your duty to put some skill and study and planning into the matter of conducting religious meetings—how they shall be conducted so as to do the greatest amount of good, and leave the very best impression upon all who attend?”—E. G. White in *Review and Herald*, April 14, 1885, p. 225.~~

~~“Our God is a tender, merciful Father. His service should not be looked upon as a heart-saddening, distressing exercise. It should be a pleasure to worship the Lord and to take part in His work. . . .”~~

~~“Christ and Him crucified should be the theme of contemplation, of conversation, and of our most joyful emotion. . . .”~~

~~“... as we express our gratitude we are approximating to the worship of the heavenly hosts. ‘Whoso offereth praise glorifieth’ God. Psalm 50:23. Let us with reverent joy come before our Creator, with ‘thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.’ Isaiah 51:3.”—*Steps to Christ*, pp. 103, 104.~~

~~The Sabbath Morning Service—As the ministers come to the rostrum and kneel, the congregation also should, with bowed heads, implore the presence and blessing of God. A worshipful hush prepares the way for the opening hymn and the exercises which follow.~~

~~There are two main divisions of the worship service:~~

~~1. The congregational response in praise and adoration, expressed in song, prayer, and gifts.~~

~~2. The message from the Word of God. The one who brings the message and breaks the bread of life should fully sense the sacredness of this work and should be thoroughly prepared. Then, too, the one leading the worshipers into the presence of God through the medium of the pastoral prayer is performing perhaps the holiest exercise of the whole service and with a sense of awe, should humbly realize its importance. It is customary to kneel, facing the congregation, and the congregation in turn should face the rostrum and, as far as practicable, kneel. The prayer should be brief but should include adoration, thanks, and mention of the personal needs of the worshipers, as well as of the great world field.~~

~~Special music or a devotional hymn is appropriate immediately before the sermon. Then comes what should be one of the most important parts of the worship hour—the spiritual feeding of the flock of God. Blessed results to the glory of God always follow when a congregation is truly fed and feels that “God has visited His people.”~~

~~The offering is a vital part of the worship hour. While we are counseled to “worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,” we are also exhorted to “bring an offering, and come into his courts” (Ps. 96:9, 8). So the presentation of our gifts to God quite naturally finds its place as a part of the worship service.~~

~~The elder, particularly if he is a licensed minister, collaborates with the regular pastor in planning the order of the service. If the church has no regular pastor, the elder is in charge of the service and should either conduct it or arrange for someone to do so. If an ordained minister is present, the elder naturally will defer to him and invite him to take the service. From time to time a meeting for testimony and praise may be conducted, or the time given to certain members to relate their experiences in missionary work.~~

Public Prayer—“Christ impressed upon His disciples the idea that their prayers should be short, expressing just what they wanted, and no more. . . . One or two minutes is long enough for any ordinary prayer.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 581.

“When you pray, be brief, come right to the point. Do not preach the Lord a sermon in your long prayers.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 201.

“Let those who pray and those who speak pronounce their words properly and speak in clear, distinct, even tones. Prayer, if properly offered, is a power for good. It is one of the means used by the Lord to communicate to the people the precious treasures of truth. But prayer is not what it should be, because of the defective voices of those who utter it. Satan rejoices when the prayers offered to God are almost inaudible. Let God’s people learn how to speak and pray in a way that will properly represent the great truths they possess. Let the testimonies borne and the prayers offered be clear and distinct. Thus God will be glorified.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 382.

Adjourned.

Matthew A Bediako, Chairman  
Donald R Sahly, Secretary  
Athol H Tolhurst, Actions Editor  
Rowena J Moore, Recording Secretary

EIGHTH BUSINESS MEETING  
Fifty-seventh General Conference Session  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
July 4, 2000, 9:30 a.m.

NomCom00GCS/00GCS to MAB

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT #5

VOTED, To approve the following partial report of the Nominating Committee:

General Conference

General Vice President:  
Eugene King Yi Hsu

Eastern Africa Division

Secretary: Blasious M Ruguri  
Treasurer: Jose R Lizardo

Inter-American Division

Secretary: Juan O Perla  
Treasurer: Pedro Leon Arguelles

North American Division

Secretary: Harold W Baptiste  
Treasurer: Juan R Prestol

South American Division

Secretary: Raul Gomez  
Treasurer: Marino F de Oliveira

Southern Asia Division

Secretary: K J Moses  
Treasurer: P Daniel Kunjachan

00-1068  
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South Pacific Division

Secretary: Barry D Oliver  
Treasurer: Rodney G Brady

Southern Asia-Pacific Division

Secretary: G T Ng  
Treasurer: Duane C Rollins

Trans-European Division

Secretary: Reinder Bruinsma  
Treasurer: William M Olson

Africa-Indian Ocean Division

Secretary: Paul Saotra Ratsara  
Treasurer: Ceazar Hechanova

Euro-Africa Division

Secretary: Carlos Puyol  
Treasurer: Peter R Kunze

NomCom00GCS/00GCS to AHT-00AC

GENERAL FIELD SECRETARIES—DEFER ELECTION TO 2000  
ANNUAL COUNCIL

VOTED, To defer to the 2000 Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee the election of the four General Field Secretaries.

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN DISCUSSION OF CHURCH  
MANUAL CHAPTER CONCERNING DIVORCE AND  
REMARRIAGE

Following introductory comments by Jan Paulsen and Lowell C Cooper, the chairman of the Church Manual Committee suggested the following procedure which was then used to

introduce and discuss the proposed revision to the *Church Manual* chapter concerning divorce and remarriage:

1. The proposed revision to the *Church Manual* chapter concerning divorce and remarriage was read in its entirety by the Secretary of the meeting.
2. Opportunity was given for delegates to discuss the chapter while refraining from making any motions for changes.

Following numerous comments on the *Church Manual* chapter by delegates, the meeting was adjourned with the understanding that the afternoon meeting would continue the discussion and would be opened up for motions.

Adjourned.

Robert J Kloosterhuis, Chairman  
Harold W Baptiste, Secretary  
Athal H Tolhurst, Actions Editor  
Carol E Rasmussen, Recording Secretary



NINTH BUSINESS MEETING  
Fifty-seventh General Conference Session  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
July 4, 2000, 3:00 p.m.

GENERAL CONFERENCE CORPORATION OF SEVENTH-DAY  
ADVENTISTS—LEGAL MEETING

A legal meeting of the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists was held beginning at 3:00 p.m.

At 3:20 p.m. the ninth business meeting of the General Conference Session was convened.

00GCS to MAB

TIME LIMIT FOR SPEECHES

VOTED, To limit each speaker to two minutes during discussion of the *Church Manual* item dealing with Divorce and Remarriage in order to allow more delegates the opportunity to address the issues.

SPD/ChMan/ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/ChMan/ADCOM/99AC/219-99G to LCC-00GCS

202-00G DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
AMENDMENT

Discussion continued on the recommendation to amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 15, Divorce and Remarriage, pages 181-184.

NomCom00GCS/00GCS to MAB

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT #6

VOTED, To approve the following partial report of the Nominating Committee:

00-1072

July 4, 2000, p.m.

General Conference Session

General Conference

Vice Presidents Assigned to Divisions:

Pyung Duk Chun, Northern Asia-Pacific Division

Adjourned.

Robert J Kloosterhuis, Calvin B Rock, Chairmen

Vernon B Parmenter, Secretary

Athal H Tolhurst, Actions Editor

Rowena J Moore, Recording Secretary

TENTH BUSINESS MEETING  
Fifty-seventh General Conference Session  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
July 5, 2000, 9:30 a.m.

NomCom00GCS/00GCS to MAB

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT #7

VOTED, To approve the following partial report of the Nominating Committee:

Northern Asia Pacific Division

Treasurer: R Martin Moores

Euro-Asia Division

Secretary: Michael F Kaminsky

Treasurer: Guillermo Biaggi

General Conference

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries  
Director: Richard O Stenbakken

Children's Ministries Department  
Director: Virginia L Smith

Communication Department  
Director: Rajmund Dabrowski

Education Department  
Director: Humberto M Rasi

Health Ministries Department  
Director: Allan R Handysides

Ministerial Association  
Secretary: James A Cress, Secretary (rescinded by action which follows)

00-1074  
July 5, 2000, a.m.  
General Conference Session

Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department  
Director: John Graz

NomCom00GCS/00GCS to MAB-NomCom00GCS

CRESS, JAMES A, MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION SECRETARY—  
PREMATURE REPORT REFERRED BACK TO NOMINATING  
COMMITTEE

The Chairman and Secretary of the Nominating Committee returned to the platform and apologized for having brought a name to the Session for voting that had not yet been approved by the Nominating Committee. Therefore, it was

VOTED, To refer back to the Nominating Committee the election of James A Cress as Ministerial Association Secretary.

SPD/ChMan/ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/ChMan/ADCOM/99AC/219-99G to  
LCC-00GCS

202-00G DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
AMENDMENT

Discussion continued on the recommendation to amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 15, Divorce and Remarriage, pages 181-184.

Adjourned.

Alfred C McClure, Chairman  
Vernon B Parmenter, Secretary  
Athol H Tolhurst, Actions Editor  
Carol E Rasmussen, Recording Secretary

ELEVENTH BUSINESS MEETING  
Fifty-seventh General Conference Session  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
July 5, 2000, 2:00 p.m.

SPD/ChMan/ChMan/ChMan/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/ChMan/ADCOM/99AC/219-99G/  
00GCS to LCC-ChMan

202-00G DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To refer back to the Church Manual Committee, the recommendations for amendment to Chapter 15 of the *Church Manual*, Divorce and Remarriage, pages 181-184, for further study with the understanding that recommendations from that committee will be shared with the divisions for study and input.

00GCS to LCC-ADCOM

CHURCH MANUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP—APPOINTMENT  
OF WOMEN - RECOMMENDATION

VOTED, To recommend to the General Conference administration that more women be appointed to the Church Manual Committee.

00GCS to LCC-ADCOM

CHURCH MANUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP—APPOINTMENT  
OF LAYPERSONS AND PASTORS - RECOMMENDATION

VOTED, To recommend to the General Conference administration that a substantial representation of laypersons and pastors be appointed to the Church Manual Committee.

NomCom00GCS/00GCS to MAB

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT #8

VOTED, To approve the following partial report of the Nominating Committee:

00-1076

July 5, 2000, p.m.

General Conference Session

Northern Asia-Pacific Division

Secretary: Stanley Ng Wai-Chun

General Conference

Associate Secretary:

Claude A Sabot

Auditing Service

Director: Eric A Korff

Family Ministries Department

Director: Ronald M Flowers

Ministerial Association

Secretary: James A Cress

Stewardship Department

Director: Benjamin C Maxson

Trust Services Department

Director: Jeffrey K Wilson

Women's Ministries Department

Director: Ardis D Stenbakken

Youth Department

Director: Baraka G Muganda

Adjourned.

Calvin B Rock, Chairman

Donald R Sahly, Secretary

Athal H Tolhurst, Actions Editor

Rowena J Moore, Recording Secretary

TWELFTH BUSINESS MEETING  
Fifty-seventh General Conference Session  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
July 6, 2000, 9:30 a.m.

NomCom00GCS/00GCS to MAB

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT #9

VOTED, To approve the following partial report of the Nominating Committee:

General Conference

Publishing Department  
Director: Jose L Campos

*STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS—*  
DISTRIBUTION TO DELEGATES

The Communication Department provided a book to delegates entitled *Statements, Guidelines and Other Documents* which contains material approved by various General Conference committees.

PRE/Con&By/ADCOM/GCDO98AC/98AC/258-98G/112-99G/00GCS to AHT

115-00G DIVISIONS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE - GENERAL  
CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS—NEW  
ARTICLE

VOTED, To adopt a new Article III—Divisions of the General Conference, in the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution, to read as follows:

ARTICLE III—DIVISIONS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

The General Conference conducts much of its work through its divisions, which in turn are comprised of union conferences and union missions in specific areas of the world. Each division is an administrative unit of the General Conference with commensurate authority to carry out responsibilities in the territory assigned to it. It is not a separate constituent level of

00-1078

July 6, 2000, a.m.

General Conference Session

organization. It shall act in full harmony with the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, the General Conference *Working Policy*, and actions of the Executive Committee.

In order to carry the authority of the General Conference, the actions of division committees shall, of necessity, be in harmony with and complementary to the decisions of the General Conference in session, and the actions of the Executive Committee between sessions.

SEC/Con&By/ADCOM/GCDO98AC/98AC/266-98G/118-99G/00GCS to AHT

116-00G RENUMBERING OF GENERAL CONFERENCE  
CONSTITUTION ARTICLES

VOTED, To renumber the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution Articles III to XII, as follows:

~~ARTICLE III~~ ARTICLE IV—MEMBERSHIP

~~ARTICLE IV~~ ARTICLE V—GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

~~ARTICLE V~~ ARTICLE VI—ELECTION

~~ARTICLE VI~~ ARTICLE VII—APPOINTMENT

~~ARTICLE VII~~ ARTICLE VIII—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~~ARTICLE VIII~~ ARTICLE IX—OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

~~ARTICLE IX~~ ARTICLE X—TERM OF OFFICE

~~ARTICLE X~~ ARTICLE XI—CORPORATIONS AND AGENTS

~~ARTICLE XI~~ ARTICLE XII—BYLAWS

~~ARTICLE XII~~ ARTICLE XIII—AMENDMENTS



NomCom00GCS/00GCS to MAB

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT #10

VOTED, To approve the following partial report of the Nominating Committee:

General Conference

Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department  
Director: James W Zackrison

SEC/Con&By/ADCOM/GCDO98AC/98AC/PRE/Con&By/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/  
113-99G/00GCS to AHT

118-00G GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS - GENERAL  
CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution,  
Article IV—General Conference Sessions, to read as follows:

~~ARTICLE IV—GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS~~  
ARTICLE V—GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Sec. 1. The General Conference shall hold - No change

Sec. 2. The Executive Committee may call - No change

Sec. 3. The election of officers - No change

Sec. 4. The delegates to a General Conference Session shall be designated as follows:

a. Regular ~~delegates:~~ delegates, not to exceed 1,240.

b. Delegates at ~~large:~~ large, not to exceed 760.

c. ~~The total number of delegates under these two designations shall not exceed 2,000.~~ In case of financial exigency or other major international crisis, crisis within the Church or in the international arena, the Executive Committee may take an action to reduce this

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General Conference Session

~~cap. the maximum number of delegates to a particular General Conference Session. Such reduction shall then be proportionally distributed in harmony with the categories under Sec. 6., Sec. 7-c., and Sec. 7-d. applied, in the proportions indicated above, to both regular delegates and delegates at large.~~

Sec. 5. Regular delegates shall represent the General Conference's member union conferences, union missions, member conferences, missions, and unions of churches as defined in ~~Article III~~, Article IV, as follows:

a. Delegates representing union conferences having division affiliation shall be appointed by the respective ~~unions~~: union conference executive committee.

b. Delegates representing union missions and unions of churches having division affiliation shall be appointed by the respective division executive committees in consultation with the organizations concerned.

c. Delegates representing conferences and missions having union conference affiliation shall be appointed by the respective union conference executive committees in consultation with the organizations concerned.

d. Delegates representing conferences and missions having union mission affiliation shall be appointed by the respective division executive committees in consultation with the organizations concerned.

e. Delegates representing conferences and missions directly attached to divisions, shall be appointed by the respective division executive committees in consultation with the organizations concerned.

f. Delegates representing division institutions, the number of whom shall correspond to the number of division institutions within each division, shall be appointed by the respective division executive committees in consultation with the organizations concerned.

g. Delegates representing union conferences directly attached to the General Conference shall be appointed by the executive committees of the respective attached union conferences.

h. Delegates representing union missions, conferences, missions, and unions of churches directly attached to the General Conference shall be appointed by the Executive ~~committee~~ Committee in consultation with the organizations concerned.

Sec. 6. Regular delegates shall be allotted on the following basis:

- a. ~~Twenty-two~~ Twelve initial delegates for each division without regard to membership.
- b. Each division shall be entitled to additional delegates corresponding to the number of division institutions within its territory.
- c. Each union conference and union mission having division affiliation, shall be entitled to one delegate other than its president (who is a delegate at large) without regard to membership.
- d. Each union conference and union mission directly attached to the General Conference shall be entitled to one delegate other than its president (who is a delegate at large) without regard to membership.
- e. Each conference and ~~mission~~ mission\* having union affiliation shall be entitled to one delegate without regard to membership.
- f. Each union of churches, conference, and ~~mission~~ mission\* directly attached to the division shall be entitled to one delegate without regard to membership.
- g. Each union of churches, conference, and ~~mission~~ mission\* directly attached to the General Conference shall be entitled to one delegate without regard to membership.
- h. Each division shall be entitled to additional delegates based upon its membership as a proportion of the world Church membership. The total number of delegates from all divisions under this provision shall not exceed the difference between 2,000 1,240 and the total number of delegates provided for under Sec. 6-a. to Sec. 6-g. ~~and under Sec. 7-a. to 7-d.~~
- i. ~~The number of delegates~~ Delegates from each division, provided for under Sec. 6-a. and Sec. 6-h., shall be allotted to the union conferences and union missions that are affiliated with that division, based on each union's proportion of the division membership. Any

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\*In several areas of the world, local field units not holding conference status may be classified with terminology other than "mission." For the purposes of Article V, Sec. 6., such field units may be considered equivalent to a mission provided they have two or more officers and an executive committee and observe a schedule of regular constituency meetings.

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General Conference Session

unallocated delegate entitlements under this process shall be allocated at the discretion of the division executive committee.

i. Unused quotas of regular delegates allocated to unions may be reallocated by the divisions.

Sec. 7. Delegates at large shall represent the General Conference, its divisions, and its organizations, and shall be appointed on the following basis:

a. All members of the Executive Committee.

b. Associate directors/secretaries of General Conference departments and associations.

c. ~~Thirty-four~~ Twenty delegates ~~selected from General Conference appointed staff. Such delegates shall be selected by the Executive Committee upon recommendation from the General Conference Administrative Committee.~~

d. Ten delegates for each division.

d: e. Those representatives of the General Conference and division institutions and other entities, and those employees, field secretaries, laypersons, and pastors who are selected by the Executive Committees of the General Conference and its divisions. The number of these delegates shall be determined as the difference between the sum of all the other categories of delegates at large, and ~~640~~: 760.

Sec. 8. Division administrations shall consult with unions to ensure that the entire division delegation shall be comprised of ~~In the selection of regular delegates and delegates at large, organizations shall choose~~ Seventh-day Adventists in regular standing, at least 50 percent of whom shall be laypersons, pastors, teachers, and nonadministrative employees, of both genders, and representing a range of age groups and nationalities. The majority of the above 50 percent shall be laypersons. Delegate selections from General Conference and division institutions shall not be required to satisfy the quota for laity.

Sec. 9. Credentials to sessions shall be issued by the General Conference to those appointed in harmony with the provisions of this article.

Sec. 10. Calculations for all delegate allotments, as provided for in this article, shall be based ~~upon the membership as of December 31 of the second year preceding the General Conference Session:~~ upon:

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a. The membership as of December 31 of the second year preceding the General Conference Session.

b. The number of denominational entities eligible for inclusion in determining quotas and which are in existence as of December 31 of the second year preceding the General Conference Session.

Adjourned.

Robert J Kloosterhuis, Chairman  
Maurice T Battle, Secretary  
Athal H Tolhurst, Actions Editor  
Carol E Rasmussen, Recording Secretary

THIRTEENTH BUSINESS MEETING  
Fifty-seventh General Conference Session  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
July 6, 2000, 2:10 p.m.

PRE/GCDO99AC/ADCOM/99AC/267-99G/00GCS/Con&By00GCS/00GCS to RJK-00AC

114-00G GENERAL CONFERENCE AUDITING SERVICE—  
STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

VOTED, 1. To revise the action of the 1995 General Conference Session, to read as follows:

A General Conference Auditing Service Board shall be elected at future General Conference Sessions. It will be composed of seventeen members, approximately two-thirds of whom must be nondenominationally employed Seventh-day Adventists, one from each division, chosen from qualified auditors and/or knowledgeable professionals in related fields. The chairperson of the Board shall be a layperson selected by the Board from among its members. One of the responsibilities of the Board will be to recommend to each regular General Conference Session Nominating Committee the name of an individual to serve as director of the General Conference Auditing Service and, after consultation with the respective divisions, names of individuals to serve as associate directors of the General Conference Auditing Service. A quorum of the General Conference Auditing Service Board shall be 50 percent plus one, the majority of whom shall be nondenominationally employed members.

2. To approve a General Conference Auditing Service (GCAS) Board, with its terms of reference and membership, as follows:

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Adhere to the auditing policies of the General Conference and be responsible for all auditing and related functions for the world Church, in harmony with *Working Policy* SA 05 25.
2. Recommend a director for GCAS.

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

1. Power to act.
2. Recommend to General Conference Session Nominating Committee.

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General Conference Session

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|--|---|
| 3. Recommend to each regular General Conference Session Nominating Committee, after consultation with the respective divisions, associate directors of GCAS. | 3. Power to act.  |
| 4. Be responsible for the appointment of assistant directors of GCAS after consultation with the respective divisions.                                       | 4. Power to act.  |
| 5. Appoint officers and members of the GCAS Administrative Committee.  | 5. Power to act.  |
| 6. Approve terms of reference for the GCAS Administrative Committee.   | 6. Power to act.  |
| 7. Consider amendments to auditing policy.   | 7. Recommend to GC Policy Review and Development Committee. |
| 8. Approve the annual GCAS operating budget as provided by GC Treasury and as recommended by the GCAS Administrative Committee.                              | 8. Power to act.  |
| 9. Hold at least one meeting per year.   | 9. Power to act.  |
| 10. Present a report to Annual Council each year of auditing issues requiring attention of the General Conference Executive Committee.                       | 10. Power to act.   |
| 11. Appoint a recording secretary for GCAS Board meetings.   | 11. Power to act.   |

#### MEMBERS

Layperson, Chairperson  
General Conference Vice President, Vice-chairman  
Director of GCAS, Secretary

General Conference President

General Conference Secretary

General Conference Treasurer

Qualified Seventh-day Adventist auditors and/or other knowledgeable professionals in related fields not in denominational employment, one from each of the world divisions (inclusive of the chairperson).

3. To authorize the 2000 Annual Council to elect members of the General Conference Auditing Service Board other than the ex officio members elected by the 2000 General Conference Session.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO RESCIND ACTION TO REFER *CHURCH*  
*MANUAL* CHAPTER 15 BACK TO CHURCH MANUAL  
COMMITTEE

Notice was given by one of the delegates of his intention to move, at the next business meeting, to rescind the action of the eleventh business meeting to refer the recommendation for amendments to Chapter 15 of the *Church Manual* to the General Conference Church Manual Committee for further study.

GCDO99AC/99AC/121-99Gb/Con&By00GCS/00GCS to AHT

125-00G AUDITING SERVICE AND AUDITS - GENERAL  
CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article VIII—Auditing Service and Audits, to read as follows:

ARTICLE VIII—AUDITING SERVICE  
AND AUDITS

Sec. 1. At each regular General Conference ~~session~~, Session, the General Conference shall elect a director of the General Conference Auditing Service, whose duties shall be to administer the conduct of audits of the organizations of the Church throughout the world. Associate directors ~~to serve from the General Conference~~ shall also be elected at each regular General Conference ~~session~~. Session. The director and associate directors ~~to serve in each division~~ shall be recommended by a the General Conference ~~auditing service operating board~~



00-1088

July 6, 2000, p.m.

General Conference Session

Auditing Service Board to the Executive Committee Session Nominating Committee after consultation with the administrations of the respective divisions.

References to service directors and associate service directors elsewhere in these Bylaws shall not apply to the director and associate directors of the General Conference Auditing Service, except as provided for in ~~that the director comes under the provisions of Article XIII, Sec. 1-a: 1.-c.~~

Sec. 2. a. At each regular General Conference Session, the General Conference shall elect a General Conference Auditing Service Board which shall be constituted as follows: General Conference president, a General Conference vice president as subsequently assigned by the president, General Conference secretary, General Conference treasurer, director of the General Conference Auditing Service, and one member from each division who is not employed denominationally, chosen from among qualified Seventh-day Adventist auditors and/or other knowledgeable professionals in related fields. The chairperson of the Board shall be a layperson selected by the Board from among its members. The vice chairperson shall be the vice president of the General Conference who serves as a member of the Board. The secretary of the Board shall be the director of the General Conference Auditing Service.

b. A quorum of the General Conference Auditing Service Board shall be 50 percent plus one, the majority of whom shall be nondenominationally employed members.

~~Sec. 2:~~ Sec. 3. The General Conference Auditing Service, ever sensitive to the country-specific regulations governing the audits of denominational entities in a particular country, shall be responsible for all audits of world divisions; union conferences; union missions; conferences; missions; unions of churches; affiliated services, organizations, and institutions of the General Conference and every other administrative level; Adventist Development and Relief Agency country and regional administrations and projects; projects (not audited by external auditors); and special funds. Exceptions to the above requirements shall be by specific action of the Executive Committee.

GCDO98AC/98AC/ADCOM/Con&By/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/114-99G/00GCS to AHT

117-00G ELECTION - GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION  
AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution, Article V—Election, to read as follows:

~~ARTICLE V—ELECTION~~  
ARTICLE VI—ELECTION

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

a. A president, vice presidents, a secretary, an undersecretary, associate secretaries, division secretaries, a treasurer, an undertreasurer, associate treasurers, division treasurers, general field secretaries, a director and associate directors of the General Conference Auditing Service, ~~Service to serve from the General Conference~~, and a director/secretary and associate director/secretary (directors/secretaries) of each duly organized General Conference department and association as specified in Article X, Sec. 1. of the General Conference Bylaws.

b. A General Conference Auditing Service Board as provided for in the General Conference Bylaws, Article VIII, Sec. 2.-a.

Sec. 2. The following shall be approved by vote of the Executive Committee at a subsequent meeting, following recommendations from the division:

Other persons to serve as members of the Executive Committee as provided for in ~~Article VII, Article VIII, Sec. 1-b. 1.-b.~~

ADCOM/Con&By/ADCOM/GCDO98AC/98AC/263-98G/115-99G/00GCS to AHT

119-00G APPOINTMENT - GENERAL CONFERENCE  
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution, Article VI—Appointment, to read as follows:

~~ARTICLE VI—APPOINTMENT~~  
ARTICLE VII—APPOINTMENT

The following shall be appointed at the first Annual Council of the Executive Committee following a regular session: Session: a director of Archives and Statistics, associate directors of the General Conference Auditing Service to serve in the divisions, a director and associate directors of the Biblical Research Institute, and editors and associate editors for the principal denominational journals prepared at the General Conference.

00-1090

July 6, 2000, p.m.

General Conference Session

00GCS to CBR-Con&By

PRESIDENTS OF UNIONS OF CHURCHES—EX OFFICIO MEMBERS  
OF GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -  
RECOMMENDATION

VOTED, To refer to the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws Committee the recommendation that presidents of unions of churches be ex officio members of the General Conference Executive Committee.

SEC/144-96G/112-97G/Con&By/ADCOM/GCDO98AC/98AC/111-98G/ADCOM/99AC/  
116-99G/00GCS to AHT

120-00G EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - GENERAL CONFERENCE  
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution, Article VII—Executive Committee, to read as follows:

~~ARTICLE VII—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE~~  
~~ARTICLE VIII—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE~~

Sec. 1. The Executive Committee of the General Conference shall consist of:

a. Ex officio members—1) Those elected as provided for in ~~Article V,~~  
Article VI, Sec. 1. except the director and associate directors of the General Conference Auditing Service and the associate directors/secretaries of General Conference departments and associations.

2) Presidents of union conferences, presidents of union missions, presidents of attached unions, past presidents of the General Conference holding credentials from the General Conference, the president-executive director of Adventist Development and Relief Agency International, ~~the president of Adventist Media Center Incorporated,~~ the president of Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, the editor of *Adventist Review*, the editor of *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*, the president of Adventist Risk Management Incorporated, the president-executive director of Adventist World Radio, the president of Andrews University, the director of Archives and Statistics, the director of Biblical Research Institute, the president of Christian Record Services Incorporated, the president and the director of Ellen G White Estate, the director of Geoscience Research Institute, the president of Home

Study International, the director of International Health Food Association, the president of Loma Linda University, the president of Loma Linda University Medical Center, the editor of Ministry, the president of Oakwood College, the president of Pacific Press Publishing Association, and the president of Review and Herald Publishing Association.

b. Elected Members - No change

SEC/Con&By/ADCOM/GCDO98AC/98AC/264-98G/117-99G/00GCS to AHT

121-00G TERM OF OFFICE - GENERAL CONFERENCE  
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution, Article IX—Term of Office, to read as follows:

~~ARTICLE IX—TERM OF OFFICE~~  
ARTICLE X—TERM OF OFFICE

Sec. 1. All officers of the General Conference and those whose election is provided for in ~~Article V~~, Article VI, Sec. 1. shall hold office from the time they take up their duties until the next regular session or until their successors are elected and take up their duties. Their term of office, unless government requirements dictate otherwise, is not subject to division retirement policies, which may determine specific ages for mandatory retirements.

Sec. 2. Members of the Executive Committee provided for in ~~Article VII~~ Article VIII shall serve from the time of their election until the next regular session.

Sec. 3. All those who are appointed to serve the General Conference as provided for in ~~Article VI~~, Article VII shall serve from the time they take up their appointment until their successors are appointed and take up their duties, or until the position is terminated. The appointments provided for in ~~Article VI~~ Article VII shall be reviewed at the first Annual Council of the Executive Committee following the General Conference session.

Sec. 4. Service as outlined in Sec. 1. to Sec. 3. above may be terminated for cause as provided for in General Conference Bylaws, Article XIII, Sec. 1.

00-1092  
July 6, 2000, p.m.  
General Conference Session

00GCS to CBR-Con&By

#### TERM LIMITS FOR PRESIDENTS - REQUEST

VOTED, To request the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws Committee to consider an amendment to Article X of the Constitution limiting service by General Conference presidents to two consecutive terms of service.

TRE/ADCOM/Con&By/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/193-99G/00GCS to AHT

#### 122-00G CORPORATIONS AND AGENTS - GENERAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution, Article X—Corporations and Agents, to read as follows:

#### ~~ARTICLE X—CORPORATIONS AND AGENTS~~ ARTICLE XI—CORPORATIONS

Sec. 1. ~~Corporations may be authorized by the General Conference in session or by the Executive Committee. The establishment of corporations to serve the General Conference shall be authorized by either a General Conference Session or by an Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee.~~

Sec. 2. ~~The General Conference Corporation is a legal entity formed to hold title to General Conference assets, to serve the General Conference in carrying out its purposes, and to receive gifts and legacies for the General Conference unincorporated. The General Conference Corporation is a legal entity formed to serve the General Conference in carrying out its purposes.~~

Sec. 3. ~~At each regular session of the General Conference, the delegates shall elect the trustees of corporate bodies connected with this organization that may be required by the statutory laws governing each corporate body. At each regular General Conference Session, the delegates shall elect the trustees of the General Conference Corporation.~~

Sec. 4. ~~The Executive Committee shall appoint or employ agents and other persons as necessary to execute its work effectively.~~

SEC/170-97G/Con&By/ADCOM/GCDO98AC/98AC/121-98G/119-99G/00GCS to AHT

123-00G TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION - GENERAL  
CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws,  
Article I—Territorial Administration, to read as follows:

ARTICLE I—TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 1. The General Conference - No change

Sec. 2. a. The duly organized divisions are: Africa-Indian Ocean Division, ~~Asia-Pacific Division~~, Eastern Africa Division, Euro-Africa Division, Euro-Asia Division, Inter-American Division, North American Division, Northern Asia-Pacific Division, South American Division, ~~Southern Asia Division~~, South Pacific Division, Southern Asia Division, Southern Asia-Pacific Division, and Trans-European Division. The boundaries of these divisions shall be subject to adjustment only at ~~sessions~~ Sessions of the General Conference or at ~~annual councils~~ Annual Councils of the Executive Committee.

b. The duly organized attached union is: Southern Africa Union Conference.

c. ~~Additional territories are: China and Mongolia.~~

Sec. 3. If a territorial adjustment - No change

Sec. 4. Union conferences - No change

Con&By/PRE/Con&By/ADCOM/GCDO99AC/99AC/99AC/120-99G/00GCS to AHT

124-00G STANDING COMMITTEES - GENERAL CONFERENCE  
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws,  
Article II—Standing Committees, to read as follows:

00-1094

July 6, 2000, p.m.

General Conference Session

## ARTICLE II—STANDING COMMITTEES

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

- a. Church Manual Committee
- ~~a.~~ b. Constitution and Bylaws Committee
- c. Nominating Committee
- ~~b.~~ d. Plans Committee
- ~~c.~~ Nominating Committee

Sec. 2. Church Manual Committee: The chairperson of the Church Manual Committee shall be an officer of the General Conference.

~~Sec. 2.~~ Sec. 3. Constitution and Bylaws Committee: The chairperson of the Constitution and Bylaws committee shall be an officer of the General Conference.

~~Sec. 3.~~ Sec. 4. Nominating Committee: a. The membership of the Nominating Committee shall consist of the following:

1) Each division and each attached union shall be entitled to select for membership on the Nominating Committee ten percent of its ~~remaining~~ delegation to the session, after excluding the number of the additional delegates at large allocated by the General Conference and any delegates at large employed by the General Conference and or its institutions.

2) Delegates at large who are excluded under 1) above shall be entitled to representation on the Nominating Committee equal to ~~ten~~ eight percent of the total number of Nominating Committee members appointed by each division and each attached union. These additional members shall be chosen from the delegates at large who are not participating in the caucus meetings of each division and each attached union: their total number.

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

1) Each division delegation and each attached union delegation shall act as a unit in selecting members to which it is entitled. Excluded from this process shall be ~~the additional delegates at large allocated by the General Conference, and any delegates at large employed by the General Conference and~~ or its institutions.

2) ~~The additional delegates at large allocated by the General Conference shall, with any~~ The delegates at large employed by the General Conference and or its institutions, institutions shall act as a unit in selecting members to which they are entitled.

3) The election of - No change

c. Each division delegation and attached union delegation - No change

d. Those chosen as members - No change

e. Delegates elected under the provisions of ~~Article V, Sec. 1.,~~ Article VI, Sec. 1. of the Constitution shall not be members of the Nominating Committee.

f. No delegate shall nominate - No change

g. The Nominating Committee shall elect - No change

h. The Nominating Committee shall limit - No change

i. In order to expedite the work - No change

NomCom00GCS/00GCS to MAB

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT #11

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

General Conference

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries  
Associate Director:  
Martin W Feldbush



00-1096

July 6, 2000, p.m.

General Conference Session

Communication Department

Associate Directors:

John T J Banks

Charlotte Pedersen McClure

Education Department

Associate Directors:

Enrique Becerra

C Garland Dulan

John M Fowler

Family Ministries Department

Associate Director:

Karen M Flowers

Health Ministries Department

Associate Directors:

James M Crawford (LLU)

Richard H Hart (LLU)

Joyce W Hopp (LLU)

Patricia L Jones (LLU)

Kathleen Kuntaraf

P N Landless

Stoy E Proctor

Thomas J Zirkle (LLU)

Ministerial Association

Associate Secretaries:

Sharon M Cress

Willmore D Eva

Peter J Prime

Joel Sarli

Nikolaus Satelmajer

Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department

Associate Directors:

D Douglas Devnich

Jonathan Gallagher

00-1097  
July 6, 2000, p.m.  
General Conference Session

Publishing Department

Associate Director:

Howard F Faigao

Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department

Associate Director:

Jonathan Kuntaraf

Stewardship Department

Associate Director:

Stenio Gungadoo

Trust Services Department

Associate Directors:

Mary Atenio Ang'awa

David E Johnston

Women's Ministries Department

Associate Director:

Lynnetta Siagian Hamstra

Youth Department

Associate Directors:

Alfredo A Garcia-Marenko

Robert W Holbrook

GENERAL CONFERENCE CORPORATION OF SEVENTH-DAY  
ADVENTISTS—LEGAL MEETING

A meeting of the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists was convened to approve the members of the Corporation Board which had been recommended by the Session Nominating Committee, as follows:

General Conference Corporation Board

Harold W Baptiste  
Matthew A Bediako  
Lowell C Cooper  
Gary B DeBoer

David E Johnston  
Dennis C Keith Sr  
Robert E Lemon  
Jan Paulsen

00-1098  
July 6, 2000, p.m.  
General Conference Session

Juan R Prestol  
Robert L Rawson  
Donald E Robinson  
Donald R Sahly  
Don C Schneider

Robert L Sweezey  
Athol H Tolhurst  
Jeffrey K Wilson  
Ted N C Wilson

Adjourned.

Matthew A Bediako, Robert J Kloosterhuis, Chairmen  
Harold W Baptiste, Secretary  
Athol H Tolhurst, Actions Editor  
Rowena J Moore, Recording Secretary