

## SPRING MEETING

April 14 and 15, 2004

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SPRING MEETING OF THE  
GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

April 14, 2004, 8:00 a.m.

## PRESENT

Roy Adams, Niels-Erik A Andreasen, Delbert W Baker, John T Banks, Harold W Baptiste, Bert B Beach, Matthew A Bediako, B Lyn Behrens, Jannie Bekker, Guillermo E Biaggi, Rodney G Brady, Jose Luis Campos, Dennis N Carlson, Douglas Clayville, Lowell C Cooper, James A Cress, Sharon M Cress, Rajmund Dabrowski, Luka T Daniel, Marino F de Oliveira, Karnik Doukmetzian, C Garland Dulan, Larry R Evans, Laurie J Evans,

Howard F Faigao, Mumtaz Fargo, Martin W Feldbush, Teofilo V Ferreira, Sergie B Ferrer, Mark A Finley, Ronald M Flowers, Karen M Flowers, Ulrich Frikart, Agustin Galicia, Jonathan Gallagher, Alfredo A Garcia-Marenko, L James Gibson, Raul Gomez, John Graz, Alberto C Gulfan Jr, Joseph E Gurubatham, Patricia J Gustin, Bert Haloviak, Allan R Handysides, Ceazar J Hechanova, Eric Hepburn, Roscoe J Howard III, Eugene King Yi Hsu,

Daniel R Jackson, Michael R Jamieson, Johann E Johannsson, William G Johnsson, Theodore T Jones, Michael F Kaminsky, Gerry D Karst, Dennis C Keith Sr, Donald G King, Linda Mei Lin Koh, William Fagal, Eric A Korff, P Daniel Kunjachan, Jonathan Kuntaraf, Kathleen Kuntaraf, Peter R Kunze, Robert E Kyte, Harold L Lee, Jairyong Lee, Israel Leito, Robert E Lemon, Jean-Luc Lezeau, Jose R Lizardo, Andrea Luxton,

Gabriel Egon Maurer, Benjamin C Maxson, Geoffrey G Mbwana, Carlos Medley, Armando Miranda, R Martin Moores, Kalapala J Moses, Thomas J Mostert Jr, Baraka G Muganda, Pardon Mwansa, Ruy H Nagel, G T Ng, Stanley Ng Wai-Chun, James R Nix, Don Noble, Barry D Oliver, Daisy J Flores, Richard C Osborn, Orville D Parchment, Ruth E Parish, Vernon B Parmenter, Jere D Patzer, Jan Paulsen, Juan O Perla, Larry J Pitcher,

Timothy L Poirier, Juan R Prestol, Peter J Prime, Donald G Pursley, Ted L Ramirez, Leo Ranzolin, Paul S Ratsara, George W Reid, Gordon L Retzer, Donald E Robinson, Calvin B Rock, Angel Manuel Rodriguez, Steven G Rose, Blasious M Ruguri, Michael L Ryan, Roy E Ryan, Claude A Sabot, Nicholas Satelmajer, Byron Scheuneman, Don C Schneider, Marti Schneider, Benjamin D Schoun, Ellas Simms, Michael Porter, Delores E Slikkers,

Heather-Dawn Small, Robert S Smith, Artur A Stele, Richard O Stenbakken, Ardis D Stenbakken, Robert L Swezey, Mack Tennyson, G Ralph Thompson, Halvard B Thomsen, Max A Trevino, John P Trimarchi, Don Upson, Filiberto M Verduzco, Ivan Leigh Warden, D Ronald Watts, Bertil A Wiklander, Jeffery K Wilson, Neal C Wilson, Ted N C Wilson, Edward E Wines, Kenneth H Wood, Walter, L Wright, James W Zackrison, Joel Zukovski.

## DEVOTIONAL

The devotional message entitled “Claudia’s Dream: A Leader’s Dilemma” was presented by Delbert Baker, President of Oakwood College.

In Matthew 27:19 is one of the more significant dreams noted in the Bible—the dream of the wife of Pontius Pilate. Though only thirty-eight words appear about Pilate’s wife and her dream, the importance of this encounter rests on the fact that she was one of the only ones who had the courage and conviction to testify on Jesus behalf during His trial and crucifixion. God tried to help Pilate—to provide him with a Way of Escape—through the witness and intervention of his wife. Unfortunately, her testimony was not followed. In this message, I will share that experience and show its relevance to leaders today.

It is believed that Pilate’s wife was the granddaughter of Caesar Augustus, a former emperor of Rome, and held the highest position for a woman in Palestine. Described as a woman of style and beauty, it is said she had the stature of a queen. She was known to be thoughtful, sensitive, and of a type suited to temper her husband’s sometimes violent nature and political temperament.

Tradition suggests that Pilate’s wife had developed an appreciation of Judaism, became a Jewish proselyte and then an ardent follower of Jesus. Though the Bible makes no reference to her other than Pilate’s wife, Christian tradition indicates her name was Claudia Procula, meaning “follower at the gate”. Some commentators identify Pilate’s wife with the Claudia mentioned by Paul in 2 Timothy 4:21, which reads, “Do thy diligence to come before winter. Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren.” On the strength of the tradition that Pilate’s wife was a follower of Jesus and that her name was Claudia, the Greek Orthodox Church has canonized her and set aside October 27 as the day in her honor. Ethiopian Christians also pay special honor to her.

The historian Josephus provides us with a little insight into Pilate’s life before 26 AD when Tiberius Caesar appointed him procurator or governor of Judea. The sketchy information suggests that Pilate was an Italian-born Roman citizen whose family was wealthy enough for him to qualify for the Roman middle class. Pilate governed the areas of Judea, Samaria, and as far as the Dead Sea to Gaza. As governor or procurator he had absolute power over the non-Roman citizens of the province. He was accountable to the Roman governor who lived in Syria in the North and to the Emperor Tiberius in Rome. He married well when he united with Claudia, and

it is suggested that his marriage proved to be politically advantageous in securing his governmental post in Judea.

When the account begins in Matthew 27:19, Pilate is in a dilemma—a terrible dilemma! Pilate doesn't know what to do with Jesus! It is in this role that Pilate is typical! In a particular sense he represents leaders—all leaders—men and women, regardless of position and distinction—who struggle to know how to relate to the claims of Jesus!

Pilate's life says that no one, no leader is exempt from his or her own spiritual struggle and test. Pilate's example is a warning to every church member, minister and leader. He represents the battle waged with sins, weaknesses, and shortcomings.

The varied nature of this daily battle Christians face was illustrated in the magazine *Discipleship Journal*. The Journal conducted a survey in which readers were asked to rank the areas of greatest spiritual challenges: The results came back in this order: 1. Materialism; 2. Pride; 3. Self-centeredness; 4. Laziness; 5. Anger/Bitterness and Sexual Lust; 6. Envy; 7. Gluttony; 8. Lying.

Respondents also noted that temptations were more potent when they had neglected their time with God (81 percent), and when they were physically tired (57 percent). Resisting temptation was accomplished by prayer (84 percent), avoiding compromising situations (76 percent), Bible study (66 percent), and being accountable to someone else (52 percent).

When Matthew 27 transpires, it is AD 30, Thursday of the Crucifixion week. Christ experienced The Last Supper with the disciples and He struggled in Gethsemane where He was betrayed by Judas. Early Friday morning Christ is tried before Jewish authorities. Then on Friday, around 7:00 am, He is sent to Pontius Pilate for a Roman trial.

It was customary for the governor to be in Jerusalem during the Passover to maintain order. So Pilate and his wife, Claudia, occupied the official residence in Herod's palace. It was Friday morning that Pilate was awakened when Jesus was brought to the gates of the palace.

This is the first time Pilate meets Jesus: "When the Savior was brought into the judgment hall, Pilate looked upon Him with unfriendly eyes. He had been called from his bedchamber early and in haste. Just outside the entrance are the judges of the Sanhedrin, priests, rulers, elders, and the mob—who would not enter the residence of a Gentile, lest they be defiled and unfit to eat the Passover (John 18:28). In *Desire of Ages*, Ellen G. White wrote, "He prepared to deal with the prisoner with magisterial severity."

Pilate looked at the men who had Jesus in their charge; then his gaze rested searchingly on Jesus. He had had to deal with all kinds of criminals; but never before had a man bearing marks of such goodness and nobility been brought before him—he saw no sign of guilt, no expression of fear.

Christ's appearance made a favorable impression upon Pilate. His better nature was aroused. He had heard of Jesus and His works. His wife had told him something of the wonderful deeds performed by the Galilean prophet, who cured the sick and raised the dead.—  
DA pp 723-740

Pilate came out and demanded of the Jewish leaders that they reveal the nature of the charge against Christ. The Jewish leaders attempted to construe Jesus' claims in a political sense, accusing Him of (1) assuming the title of king, (2) perverting the nation, and (3) forbidding to pay tribute to Rome.

Pilate quickly had to deal with two conflicting feelings: first there was the fear of offending the Jews; and second was the gut feeling that Jesus was innocent.

Pilate had a desire to know the truth but his mind was confused. He eagerly grasped the words of the Savior, and his heart was stirred with a great longing to know what it really was, and how he could obtain it. "What is truth?" he inquired. But he did not wait for an answer. The tumult outside recalled him to the interests of the hour. The priests were clamorous for immediate action. Going out to the Jews, Pilate emphatically declared, "I find in Him no fault at all."

The Jewish leaders immediately replied that His teaching had stirred up all the people from Galilee to Jerusalem. When they mentioned Galilee, Pilate had a quick solution in order to escape this dilemma. He would send this case to Herod Antipas, chief magistrate of Galilee and Judea, who was also in Jerusalem for the Passover and after humiliating Jesus, Herod sent Him back to Pilate.

Agitated to have to deal with the case again, Pilate reassembled the chief priests and the Jewish people and announced to them that the accused had done nothing worthy of death. To satisfy the Sanhedrin Pilate offered to scourge Jesus before releasing Him. But he realized Jesus' accusers would not be happy with anything less than His death. Pilate had to think fast. He was getting desperate!

Here Pilate showed his weakness. He had declared that Jesus was innocent, yet he was willing for Him to be scourged to pacify His accusers. He would sacrifice justice and principle in order to compromise with the mob. This placed him at a disadvantage. The crowd presumed upon his indecision, and clamored the more for the life of the prisoner. If Pilate had stood firm, refusing to condemn a man whom he found guiltless, he would have broken the fatal chain that was to bind him in remorse and guilt as long as he lived. Wavering and indecision proved his ruin.

Pontius Pilate ascended the Bema or seat of judgment, a portable tribunal placed on the Gabbatha, a mosaic pavement in front of the palace. At the very time Pilate was hesitating and thought to deliberate, he received a message from his wife.

The Bible says: “When he was set down on the judgment seat (1. Providence); his wife (2. Influence); sent unto him, saying (3. Logic); Have thou nothing to do with that just man (4. Witness); for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him (5. Consequence). CLAUDIA’S DREAM WAS EXPLICIT! —Matthew 27:19

God was working with Pilate—seeking to help him find the way of escape! “Pilate was not left to act blindly. A message from God *warned* him from the deed he was about to commit. *In answer to Christ’s prayer*, the wife of Pilate had been visited by an angel from heaven, and in a dream she had beheld the Savior and conversed with Him.” —DA, p 732 What did she see in the dream? I love the Spirit of Prophecy! No other source is like this . . . !

Pilate’s wife was not a Jew, but she had seen Jesus in her dream. She knew He was just because. . .

She saw His character or mission;

[Past] She knew Him to be the Prince of God;

[Present] She saw Him on trial in the judgment hall;

She saw the hands tightly bound as the hands of a criminal;

She saw Herod and his soldiers doing their dreadful work;

She heard the priests and rulers, filled with envy and malice, madly accusing;

She heard the words, “We have a law, and by our law He ought to die”;

She saw Pilate give Jesus to the scourging, after he had declared, “I find no fault in Him”;

She heard the condemnation pronounced by Pilate, and saw him give Christ up to His murderers;

[Near Future] She saw the cross uplifted on Calvary;

She saw the earth wrapped in darkness, and heard the mysterious cry, “It is finished.”

[Distant Future]. Still another scene met her gaze. She saw *Christ seated upon the great white cloud, while the earth reeled in space, and His murderers fled from the presence of His glory*. [In the multitude fleeing at the Second Coming she could very well have seen her husband, Pilate!]

[Because what she saw was Future, there was still time to act in the Present].

With a cry of horror she awoke, and at once wrote to Pilate words of warning.

Here is the answer, Pilate! Take the way of escape! You do not have to capitulate. But he wavers!

- His conscience pricked, Pilate desperately seeks another way. Each year, in honor of the Passover, it was customary for the Roman governor to grant pardon [amnesty] to one condemned criminal.

- Pilate therefore offered the people their choice between two condemned criminals. First,

the murderer Barabbas. Second, was Jesus the prophet, who the Jewish people had hailed as the Messiah a few days earlier. Still there is time to take the escape route—listen to the dream!

Pilate goes out to the crowd again and they shout, ‘If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar’—John 19:12—TLB The mob then, being urged by the priests, frantically choose Barabbas for pardon and death in the place of Jesus.

“When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just Person: see ye to it.—Matthew 27:24 In fear and self-condemnation Pilate looked upon the Savior. In the vast sea of upturned faces, His alone was peaceful. About His head a soft light seemed to shine.”—DA, p 738

“Pilate said in his heart, He is a God. Turning to the multitude he declared, I am clear of His blood. Take ye Him, and crucify Him. But mark ye, priests and rulers, I pronounce Him a just man. May He whom He claims as His Father judge you and not me for this day’s work. Then to Jesus he said, Forgive me for this act; I cannot save You.”—Ibid

- “Pilate longed to deliver Jesus. But he saw that he could not do this, and yet retain his own position and honor. Rather than lose his worldly power, he chose to sacrifice an innocent life.”—Ibid He could not, would not see beyond the moment, his immediate gratification!

- “How many, to escape loss or suffering, in like manner sacrifice principle. Conscience and duty point one way, and self-interest points another. The current sets strongly in the wrong direction, and he who compromises with evil is swept away into the thick darkness of guilt.”—Ibid

- Claudia’s Dream—Way of Escape—if followed, would have allowed Christ to help him, save him!

Pilate gave in to the crowd and the pressure. He again ascended the tribunal and finally pronounced the crucifixion of Jesus.

- Pilate yielded to the demands of the mob. Rather than risk losing his position, he delivered Jesus to be crucified.

- Yet, in spite of his precautions, the very thing he dreaded afterward came upon him. His honors were stripped from him; he was cast down from his high office, and, stung by remorse and wounded pride, not long after Christ’s crucifixion, he committed suicide.

In a time of unprecedented leadership challenges, may Claudia’s dream and Pilate’s example motivate us to a higher level of leadership!

Jan Paulsen, Chairman, called to order the first session of the 2004 Spring Meeting.

Prayer was offered by B Lyn Behrens, President, Loma Linda University

04SM to MAB

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST  
CHURCH

VOTED, To record that the mission statement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church was read by the Secretary of the business session.

SEC/ADCOM/04SM to LRE

125-04G SPRING MEETING 2004—STANDING COMMITTEES

VOTED, To approve standing committees for the 2004 Spring Meeting, as follows:

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL TO STANDING COMMITTEES

Ted N C Wilson, Chairman  
Vernon B Parmenter, Secretary

Members: James A Cress, Roscoe J Howard III, Dennis C Keith Sr, Orville D Parchment.

NOMINATING

Jan Paulsen, Chairman  
Matthew A Bediako, Secretary

Members: Harold W Baptiste, B Lyn Behrens, Dennis N Carlson, Lowell C Cooper, Luka T Daniel, Larry R Evans, Laurie J Evans, Mumtaz Fargo, Mark A Finley, Ulrich Frikart, Agustin Galicia, Alberto C Gulfan Jr, Patricia J Gustin, Eric Hepburn, Roscoe J Howard III, Eugene Hsu, William G Johnsson, Gerry D Karst, Jairyong Lee, Lorinda Knowlton, Linda Koh,

Israel Leito, Robert E Lemon, Geoffrey G Mbwana, Armando Miranda, Thomas J Mostert Jr, Pardon Mwansa, Ruy H Nagel, John S Nixon, Jere D Patzer, Juan R Prestol, Robert L Rawson, Steven G Rose, Claude Sabot, Charles C Sandefur Jr, Don C Schneider, Benjamin D

04-8  
April 14, 2004, a.m.  
GCC Spring Meeting

Schoun, Dolores Slikkers, Robert S Smith, Artur A Stele, Ardis D Stenbakken, D Ronald Watts, Bertil Wiklander, Ted N C Wilson, James W Zackrison.

STEERING

Jan Paulsen, Chairman  
Larry R Evans, Secretary

Members: Harold W Baptiste, Matthew A Bediako, Douglas Clayville, Sherri Clemmer, Lowell C Cooper, Rajmund Dabrowski, C Garland Dulan, Mark A Finley, Ronald M Flowers, Agustin Galicia, John Graz, Roscoe J Howard III, Eugene Hsu, William G Johnsson, Theodore T Jones, Gerry D Karst, Howard T Karst, Dennis C Keith Sr, Robert E Lemon, Jose R Lizardo,

Armando Miranda, Robert W Nixon, Orville D Parchment, Ruth E Parish, Vernon B Parmenter, Juan R Prestol, Donald E Robinson, Elaine A Robinson, Angel M Rodriguez, Steven G Rose, Michael L Ryan, Roy E Ryan, Claude Sabot, Charles C Sandefur Jr, Don C Schneider, Benjamin D Schoun, Ardis D Stenbakken, Robert L Sweezey, Ted N C Wilson.

SEC/ADCOM/04SM to LRE

124-04G EMPLOYEE REMUNERATION AND ALLOWANCE  
REVIEW COMMITTEE - 2004 SPRING MEETING—  
APPOINTMENT

VOTED, To appoint the Employee Remuneration and Allowance Review Committee for the 2004 Spring Meeting, as follows:

MEMBERS

Presidential

PAULSEN, JAN, Chairman  
Baptiste, Harold W  
Cooper, Lowell C  
Daniel, Luka T  
Evans, Laurie J  
Frikart, Ulrich  
Gulfan, Alberto C Jr  
Hsu, Eugene  
Karst, Gerry D  
Lee, Jairyong  
Leito, Israel  
Mbwana, Geoffrey G

Institutional Administrators

Behrens, B Lyn  
Kyte, Robert E

Laypersons

Fargo, Mumtaz  
Hepburn, Eric  
Knowlton, Lorinda  
McNeilus, Denzil  
Noble, Don  
Ramirez, Ted L  
Slikkers, Dolores E  
Tennyson, Mack

Miranda, Armando  
Mwansa, Pardon  
Nagel, Ruy H  
Ryan, Michael L  
Schneider, Don C  
Stele, Artur A  
Watts, D Ronald  
Wiklander, Bertil  
Wilson, Ted N C

Secretariat

Bediako, Matthew A  
Evans, Larry R  
Howard, Roscoe J III

Treasury

Lemon, Robert E, Secretary  
Prestol, Juan R  
Rose, Steven G  
Ryan, Roy E

Pastor

Nixon, John S

Union Presidents

Carlson, Dennis N  
Jackson, Daniel R  
King Donald G  
Lee, Harold L  
Mostert, Thomas J Jr  
Patzner, Jere D  
Retzer, Gordon L  
Trevino, Max A  
Wright, Walter L

Departments and Services

Muganda, Baraka G  
Wilson, Jeffrey K

## COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITORS' REPORTS

Combined financial statements of the General Conference for the year ending December 31, 2003, were presented by Steven G Rose, Undertreasurer of the General Conference. James E Nyquist, of Maner Costerisan & Ellis, read the auditors' opinion for the Money Fund, the Bond Fund, the Income Fund, the Large Cap U.S. Equity Fund, the Small Cap U.S. Equity Fund, the International Fund, the Emerging Markets Fund, the Micro Cap and Private Equity Fund, the Pooled Life Income Fund. Materials were distributed and it was agreed that formal action accepting these reports will be taken to the April 15 morning session of the Spring Meeting.

04SM to REL

## EMPLOYEE REMUNERATION POLICY—REPORT

The General Conference *Working Policy*, Y 05 10, Variations for Commercial Business Organizations, requires that "The remuneration guidelines and market-referencing plan of each institution/organization of the Church under this category shall be reviewed and, where legally permissible, approved by a major meeting of its respective division executive committee, or in the case of General Conference institutions/organizations, a Spring Meeting or Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee. An annual report confirming compliance shall

04-10

April 14, 2004, a.m.  
GCC Spring Meeting

be given to the division or General Conference Executive Committee or included in the Wage Scale Booklet which is published annually."

As Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center (LLUAHSC) was approved at the 2003 Annual Council to come under Y 05 10 a report was given outlining the remuneration guidelines and market-referencing plan for LLUAHSC.

VOTED, To record reception of the remuneration guidelines and market-referencing plan for the Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center, and to approve inclusion in the General Conference Wage Scale Booklet. (A copy of the plan is attached to the official copy of the minutes.)

TRE/ADCOM/04SM to REL

#### 130-04G PROCEDURE CHANGE - AUDIT MANAGEMENT LETTER

General Conference Bylaws, Article XIII, Sec. 2, paragraph b. reads: "A meeting of the Executive Committee, known as the Spring Meeting, shall be held annually for the purpose of receiving the audited financial reports of the General Conference and for transacting regular Executive Committee business as provided for in the General Conference *Working Policy* relating to Spring Meetings."

The audited financial statements are usually presented at Spring Meeting, but the Auditor's Management Letter and Policy Compliance Letter, along with management's response, are held until Annual Council to allow time for them to be reviewed by the Financial Audit Review Committee prior to Annual Council.

With the new terms of reference for the Financial Audit Review Committee requiring more than one meeting per year, it appears appropriate to have the Audit Management Letter and the Policy Compliance Letter come to Spring Meeting rather than to Annual Council. Waiting until Annual Council to receive these letters means that almost a full year will have passed since the items under discussion were noted.

At the 2002 Annual Council the action accepting the report of the Financial Audit Review Committee included the following wording:

"To distribute the report from the General Conference Financial Audit Review Committee to General Conference Executive Committee members two days before it is presented at future Annual Councils."

Spring Meeting is normally one and one-half days long. It is best for the auditor to be available to meet with the Financial Audit Review Committee the evening before Spring Meeting and then the following morning present the audited financial statements. To stay an

additional day to be present on the last day of Spring Meeting incurs considerable additional expense.

VOTED, To distribute the report of the Financial Audit Review Committee to members of the General Conference Executive Committee as one of the first items of business at the Spring Meeting. At the same time the audited statement will be presented and the auditor will respond to any questions that might arise. The report of the Financial Audit Review Committee will then be held for formal action until the second day of Spring Meeting, allowing any individuals with questions the opportunity to ask them from the floor or to discuss them with the chair of the Financial Audit Review Committee before the vote is taken.

103-99Ga/FinPl&Bud00SM/00SM/103-00Ga/FinPl&Bud01SM/01SM/103-01Ga/  
 FinPl&Bud02SM/02SM/103-02G/FinPl&Bud03SM/03SM/103-03G/FinPl&Bud04SM/  
 04SM to SGR

103-04G OPERATING EXPENSE CAP 2003—REPORT

In fulfillment of the requirement for the General Conference to live within an operating expense cap of 2.0 percent of gross world tithe (see GCC 91-443, GCC 98-21, and GCC 00-23), it was

VOTED, To record the report for the Operating Expense Cap 2003, as follows:

Operating Expense Cap 2003

Total income basis .....	\$1,202,885,290
Expense cap at 3/5 of distance between old and new calculation.....	\$26,922,403
Expense for 2003 .....	\$26,172,840
Expense as a percentage of cap.....	97.22%
Amount under the cap.....	\$749,563

Operating Expense Cap Summary

YEAR	GROSS NAD TITHE	WORLD TITHE %	TOTAL	CAP	ACTUAL OPERATING EXPENSE	EXPENSE UNDER THE CAP	EXPENSE AS % OF CAP
4.85%*							
1992	446,977,202	2,616,378	449,593,580	21,805,289	19,152,695	2,652,594	87.84%

YEAR	GROSS NAD TITHE	GROSS NON-NAD TITHE	GROSS WORLD TITHE	CAP	ACTUAL OPERATING EXPENSE	EXPENSE UNDER THE CAP	EXPENSE AS % OF CAP
1994	480,730,812	2,902,438	483,633,250	23,456,213	21,918,901	1,527,312	93.45%
1995	491,795,455	3,226,237	495,021,692	24,008,552	22,098,370	1,910,182	92.04%
1996	507,406,829	2,912,685	510,319,514	24,750,496	23,073,972	1,676,524	93.23%
4.25%*							
1997	534,169,178	4,233,457	538,402,635	22,882,112	21,422,458	1,459,654	93.62%
1998	569,714,074	9,073,464	578,787,538	24,598,470	21,618,414	2,980,056	87.89%
1999	610,215,571	4,209,332	614,424,903	26,113,058	20,999,068	5,111,990	80.42%
2000	656,938,361	4,235,930	661,174,291	28,099,907	22,877,949	5,221,958	81.42%
2.00%**							
2001	685,051,305	429,500,692	1,114,551,997	27,913,439	23,862,558	4,044,881	85.51%
2002	707,805,149	434,912,910	1,142,718,059	27,342,516	24,879,758	2,462,758	90.99%
2003	727,120,606	475,704,684	1,202,885,290	26,922,403	26,172,840	749,563	97.22%

\*The following six cost centers were removed from the cap, reducing it from 4.85 percent to 4.25 percent (see GCC 98-21):

- 11050 Adventist World Radio
- 41215 Geoscience Research Center
- 41920 Ellen G White Estate
- 41935 Ellen G White Estate Research Centers
- 61175 Auditing Service
- 61794 TRIPS

\*\*Because of North American Division's tithe percentage being phased down from 10.72 percent to 8.0 percent over 5 years, and the non-North American Division divisions' tithe percentage being increased from 1 percent to 2 percent over 5 years, the cap is also being phased in over the same 5-year period and is calculated as 2 percent of Gross World Tithe, as follows (see GCC 00-23):

- 2001 1/5 of distance between old and new calculation
- 2002 2/5 of distance between old and new calculation
- 2003 3/5 of distance between old and new calculation
- 2004 4/5 of distance between old and new calculation

2005 Full implementation of new calculation

TRE/ADCOM/FinPl&Bud04SM/04SM to SGR

120-04G HOSPITAL PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE—  
ADDITIONAL PREMIUM

As of January 1, 2004 the International Excess Hospital Professional Liability (HPL) Insurance premiums for the layers of \$2 million to \$5 million will be the responsibility of the divisions, based on the formula determined in the June 2003 General Conference and Division Treasurers Meetings in Spain. Because of the current tight insurance market, there are limits on the various layers of coverage.

At the time of the 2003 Annual Council, an action was taken that the divisions would assume the responsibility for any additional premiums that would come as a result of exceeding the current limits in the layers of coverage. There is a need to further dialog with Adventist Risk Management and the divisions on the options available for this type of coverage. Therefore, it is

VOTED, To assume responsibility, at the General Conference, for the additional cost in premiums in the event that the limits are exceeded and additional International Hospital Professional Liability excess group insurance coverage is purchased between January 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005.

TRE/ADCOM/TreC04SM/GCDO04SM/04SM to SGR

127-04G GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION 2005—MEAL  
TICKETS

A guarantee for meal tickets must be provided to the America Center as of May 30, 2005, with the understanding that only a limited number of meal tickets will be available for purchase on site in St Louis.

There are limited eating facilities open in the evening in the downtown area surrounding America's Center, and because of our unfortunate experience with food service in Toronto in 2000, it is

VOTED, To provide each delegate with two meal tickets per day in addition to the full per diem with the expense being covered by the respective organization responsible for per diem. The divisions may decide what assistance, if any, may be granted for the spouse of the delegate. (Options that might be considered could include the following: per diem plus meal tickets, meal tickets only, per diem only, a lump sum amount, etc.)

04-14  
 April 14, 2004, a.m.  
 GCC Spring Meeting

For spouses of General Conference Executive Committee members, single per diem for the couple, and two meal tickets per day per person will be provided to the delegate and spouse by the organization responsible for the per diem.

TRE/ADCOM/TreC04SM/GCDO04SM/04SM to SGR

128-04G GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION 2005 TRAVEL  
 EXPENSES—PAYMENT OF EXPENSES FOR GENERAL  
 CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
 AND OTHER DELEGATES

VOTED, To approve the following procedures regarding the payment of authorized expenses for General Conference Executive Committee members and other delegates (and spouses in some cases) who attend the 2005 General Conference Session.

1. Each individual shall submit an expense report to the treasurer of their respective organization.
2. For expenses that are to be covered by the General Conference, the division will accumulate all authorized charges and bill the General Conference in summary form.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	<u>Travel<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Lodging</u>	<u>Per Diem Meal Tickets</u>
GC Officers/Field Secretaries/ Department Directors Spouse of above (where applicable)	Trvl Budget GC	Trvl Budget Trvl Budget of spouse	Trvl Budget Trvl Budget of spouse <sup>3</sup>
GC Institutional Representatives Spouse of above <sup>2</sup> (where applicable)	Institution Institution	Institution Institution	Institution Institution <sup>3</sup>
Division Officers Spouse of above <sup>2</sup> (where applicable)	Division Division	GC GC	GC GC <sup>3</sup>
Laypersons Spouse of above <sup>2</sup> (where applicable)	GC Un/Div	GC GC	GC GC <sup>3</sup>
Union Presidents Spouse of above <sup>2</sup> (where applicable)	Un/Div Un/Div	Un/Div Un/Div	Un/Div Un/Div <sup>3</sup>

Church Pastors	GC	GC	GC
Spouse of above <sup>2</sup> (where applicable)	Un/Div	GC	GC <sup>3</sup>
Selected Members (30) <sup>4</sup>	GC/Inst	GC/Inst	GC/Inst
Spouse of above <sup>2</sup> (where applicable)	(See Note2) <sup>2</sup>	GC/Inst	GC/Inst <sup>3</sup>

DELEGATES OTHER THAN GC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Regular Delegates	Un/Div	Un/Div	Un/Div
Spouse of above <sup>2</sup> (where applicable)	Un/Div	Un/Div	Un/Div
At Large Delegates <sup>5</sup>	GC/Di/Un/Ins	GC/Di/Un/Ins	GC/Di/Un/Ins
Spouse of above (where applicable)	GC/Di/Un/Ins	GC/Di/Un/Ins	GC/Di/Un/Ins

OTHER:

Special Guests from Divisions (15% and the 300 approved by the General Conference Administrative Committee)	Un/Div	Un/Div	Un/Div
Spouses of above <sup>2</sup> (where applicable)	Un/Div	Un/Div	Un/Div

CATEGORIES TO BE COVERED IN OTHER ACTIONS:

- Protocol Guests
- Main Session Devotional Speakers - nondelegates
- Support staff

Account to charge for expenses listed as GC responsibility: 17 61051 86 1000 001

<sup>1</sup>Travel covers cost of fares, per diem en route, travel insurance, and accommodation en route.

<sup>2</sup>This is not intended to imply that spouse travel is provided in all cases. The decision as to whether spouse travel is provided is to be made by the organization responsible for the expenses of the delegate involved and this document only indicates who is responsible for the cost of spouse travel if the organization chooses to provide financial assistance for the spouse of the delegate to attend the session.

<sup>3</sup>Spouses of General Conference Executive Committee members will be provided single per diem for the couple and two meal tickets per day per person by the organization responsible for covering the per diem expense for the delegate.

04-16  
 April 14, 2004, a.m.  
 GCC Spring Meeting

<sup>4</sup>Expenses for selected members (30) employed by a General Conference institution are the responsibility of that institution.

<sup>5</sup>Expenses for at large delegates shall be covered by the organization which has been assigned the delegates. For delegates from the General Conference (associate department directors) within the at large category who have travel budgets will have the travel expenses/lodging/per diem/meal tickets charged to their travel budgets.

TRE/ADCOM/TreC04SM/GCDO04SM/04SM to SGR

129-04G GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION 2005—  
 ALLOWANCES

VOTED, To approve allowances for the 2005 General Conference Session, as follows:

General Conference Session 2005—Allowances

Attendee Category	Per Diem <sup>1</sup>	Air Fare (most economical ticket available)	Limo or Bus (actual, airport to hotel)	Mileage Rate <sup>1</sup>
1. Delegates & Official Staff from GC				
a. GCC members, elected staff, other delegates, and technical staff	US\$31 + 2 meal tickets (US\$20)	X	X	US\$.33
b. Attendees as above accompanied by spouse who is not on official GC business	US\$31 + 4 meal tickets (US\$40)	Covered by spouse travel, if applicable	Covered by spouse travel, if applicable	US\$.33
2. Delegates and Special Guests (as provided under the 15% provision and the 300 approved by the General Conference Administrative Committee) from divisions				

a. Unaccompanied by spouse	US\$31 + 2 meal tickets (US\$20.00)	As arranged and cared for by the division concerned
b. Accompanied by spouse	As determined by Division/Union/ Institution	
Notes No allowances will be granted for children attending the Session. <sup>1</sup> Per diem and mileage rates listed are set by the best estimate of the 2005 NAD rates and will be used for the GC Session even if the NAD finalizes on different rates for 2005.		

TRE/ADCOM/TreC04SM/GCDO04SM/04SM to SGR

123-04G GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION 2005—  
PROTOCOL GUESTS

VOTED, To allow the General Conference and each division to suggest names as protocol guests to the 2005 General Conference Session under the following conditions:

1. The protocol guests shall be individuals who hold high positions in government or other organizations and who are not delegates.
2. Names are to be submitted to the General Conference Session Protocol Committee chairman and, if approved by the committee and with funding verified as per paragraph 3. below, an invitation will be sent by General Conference Secretariat.
3. A limited amount of funding will be budgeted within the General Conference Session budget to assist with the expenses of such guests. The division submitting the request will be responsible for the transportation expenses to the session (airfare, meals in route, accommodations in route, insurance) and the lodging and meals will be covered by the General Conference Session protocol budget. For requests coming from the General Conference, all costs will be cared for through the General Conference Session Protocol Budget. If additional requests are submitted beyond the budget capacities, the division suggesting the name may choose to send the protocol guest and cover 100 percent of the costs after approval of the General Conference Session Protocol Committee has been obtained.

04-18  
April 14, 2004, a.m.  
GCC Spring Meeting

4. The protocol guest will be seated in a designated area near the delegates.
5. The protocol guest will be present without voice or vote.

SEC/ADCOM/TreC04SM/GCDO04SM/04SM to MAB

122-04G GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION 2005—SPECIAL GUESTS

VOTED, To allow each division to invite special guests to the 2005 General Conference Session under the following conditions:

1. The number of special guests is not to exceed 15 percent of the division's delegation, or two individuals per General Conference institution.
2. An additional 300 special guests may be invited at the discretion of the General Conference Administrative Committee.
3. Special Guests are to be selected through the same process used for the selection of delegates, and the divisions and General Conference institutions are requested to submit a "Special Guest" registration form for each person thus chosen.
4. Special Guest expenses will be the responsibility of the sending organization as outlined in General Conference Session 2005—Allowances.
5. Special Guests will not be seated with the division's delegation.
6. Special Guests will be present without voice or vote.

SEC/GCDO04SM/04SM to MAB

136-04G GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION 2005—ALLOCATION  
OF AT-LARGE DELEGATE SEATS

VOTED, To approve the following allocation of at-large delegate seats for 2005 General Conference Session:

1. From the delegate seats available (estimated total of 293) 100 seats shall be allocated among divisions based on the division's membership, as of December 31, 2003, as a proportion of total world membership. At its discretion a division may surrender any of these delegate seats for re-allocation elsewhere.

2. Twenty-nine seats shall be reserved for allocation by the General Conference Administrative Committee.

3. Remaining at-large delegate seats shall be allocated as follows:

East-Central Africa Division	9
Euro-Asia Division	7
Euro-Africa Division	9
Inter-American Division	10
North American Division	51
Northern Asia-Pacific Division	6
South American Division	11
S Africa-Indian Ocean Division	9
South Pacific Division	1
Southern Asia-Pacific Division	1
Southern Asia Division	3
Trans-European Division	7
West-Central Africa Division	6
Adventist Development and Relief Agency	3
Africa Graduate Education Institution	1
Adventist Intl Instte for Advanced Studies	2
Adventist Risk Management	2
Adventist World Radio	2
Andrews University	4
Adventist Television Network	1
Christian Record Services, Inc.	1
Ellen G White Estate	1
General Conference Auditing Service	2
Geoscience Research Institute	1
Griggs University/Home Study International	1
Loma Linda Adv Hlth Sci Center/Med Cntr/Univ	7
Oakwood College	4
Pacific Press Publishing Association	2
Review & Herald Publishing Association	2

TreC04SM/GCDO04SM/04SM to SGR

131-04G GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION 2005 OFFERING—  
HOPE FOR THE BIG CITIES

VOTED, To approve the 2005 General Conference Session Offering—Hope for the Big Cities, as follows:

04-20  
April 14, 2004, a.m.  
GCC Spring Meeting

**Purpose:** The purpose of the 2005 General Conference Session Offering will be to establish new groups of believers in large cities of the world.

**Plans:** Each division will select the recipient city or cities in their territory and develop plans that will establish and disciple new groups of believers.

**Distribution Formula:**

1. One hundred percent of the October 9, 2004 offering is to be kept by the division with a report coming to the General Conference.
2. Fifty percent of the April 9, 2005 offering is to be kept by the division, and fifty percent is to be sent to the General Conference.
3. One hundred percent of the July 2, 2005 offering at the General Conference Session in St. Louis is to be sent to the General Conference. The offering in the rest of the world will be for the designated purpose of the offering as per the Calendar of Offerings for that Sabbath.
4. One hundred percent of the July 9, 2005 offering at the General Conference Session and throughout the world is to be submitted to the General Conference.
5. The amount submitted to the General Conference will be accumulated and distributed to divisions based on a formula to be determined that will endeavor to provide each division with additional resources to pursue big-city mission objective.

Date	Division	General Conference
October 9, 2004	100%	
April 9, 2005	50%	50%
July 2, 2005 – St Louis		100%
July 9, 2005		100%

**Release of Funds:** Funds held by the General Conference shall be disbursed after the Office of Global Mission at the General Conference receives a one-page action plan from the division Global Mission Office.

**Reporting:** Annual Reports shall be submitted to the General Conference Global Mission Office by September 1, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009. These reports shall be compiled by the Global Mission Office at the General Conference and presented each year as indicated above at the General Conference Annual Council and the 2010 General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America.

04-21  
April 14, 2004, a.m.  
GCC Spring Meeting

Jan Paulsen, Chairman  
Vernon B Parmenter, Secretary  
Larry R Evans, Editorial Secretary  
Janet Upson, Recording Secretary

SPRING MEETING  
GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

April 14, 2004, 2:00 p.m.

Jan Paulsen, Chairman, called to order the second session of the 2004 Spring Meeting.

Prayer was offered by Karen M Flowers, Co-Director, General Conference Family Ministries

HOME STUDY INTERNATIONAL/GRIGGS UNIVERSITY  
REPORT

Joseph E Gurubatham presented a special report on Home Study International/ Griggs University.

At 2:15 p.m. the meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee was recessed and a meeting of the Home Study International Corporation legal constituency was called.

At 2:17 p.m. the meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee reconvened.

SAD/ADCOM/04SM to AM-05GCS

138-04G WEST CENTRAL BRAZIL UNION MISSION—NEW  
UNION MISSION

RECOMMENDED, 1. To recognize and record the reorganization of the former Central Brazil Union Conference and the South Brazil Union Conference into three unions known as the Central Brazil Union Conference, the South Brazil Union Conference, and the West Central Brazil Union Mission, effective 2005.

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

OAKWOOD COLLEGE—REPORT

Delbert Baker, President of Oakwood College gave a Power Point presentation report regarding Oakwood College.

04-24  
April 14, 2004, p.m.  
GCC Spring Meeting

## FAMILY LIFE—PRESENTATION

Ronald M and Karen M Flowers, Co-Directors of General Conference Family Ministries presented a report on Family Life Ministries and a new book entitled, “Family Evangelism” to Jan Paulsen, President of the General Conference, and to other contributing members.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING ISSUES—2005 - 2010

Michael L Ryan, Vice President, presented a Power Point presentation report on Strategic Planning issues.

VOTED, To accept the Strategic Planning Report that called the church to invite every person in the world to know Jesus, and invited members to spend every day with Jesus in a nurturing relationship, and to bring one person to Jesus by the year 2010. The purpose of presenting the report was to provide an initial exposure to concepts, encouraging feedback from the world Church.

04SM to JP

## FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS STATEMENT

Angel M Rodriguez, Michael L Ryan and William G Johnsson presented a proposal entitled, “The Fundamental Beliefs and ‘Growing in Christ.’ Proposal for a new Fundamental Belief.”

VOTED, To submit to the world Church for discussion and suggestions the document entitled “The Fundamental Beliefs and ‘Growing in Christ.’ Proposal for a New Fundamental Belief” with the understanding that it will be brought back to the 2004 Annual Council for final discussion before it is presented to the 2005 General Conference Session.

### **Growing in Christ**

By His cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the demonic spirits during His earthly ministry has broken their power and made certain their ultimate doom. Jesus' victory gives us victory over the evil forces that still seek to control us, as we walk with Him in peace, joy, and assurance of His love. Instead of evil forces, the Holy Spirit now dwells within us and empowers us. Committed to Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we are set free from the burden of past deeds and our former life with its darkness, fear of evil powers, ignorance, and meaninglessness. In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His character, as we commune with Him daily in prayer, feeding on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for worship, and participating in the mission of the church. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us sanctifies every moment and every

task. (Ps 1:1-2; 23:4; Col. 1:13-14; 2:6, 14-15; 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18, 2 Cor. 3:17, 18; Phil. 3:7-14; 1 Thess. 5:16-18; Matt. 20:25-28; John 20:21; Gal. 5:22-25; 1 John 4:4; Eph. 5:19, 20; Heb. 10:25).

The following procedure will be followed in processing this document:

1. The General Conference will coordinate and facilitate the process of discussion through Presidential and members of the ad-hoc committee.
2. A preliminary draft approved by the Spring Meeting will be sent to the Divisions for reactions and comments—it should be discussed at the Union and Local Conference/Mission levels and printed in the local church papers.
3. Consult theology/religion departments and seminaries in different parts of the world.
4. Discuss it at Biblical Research Institute Committee and other pertinent committees.
5. Publish a draft in the *Adventist Review*, and *Ministry* and place it on the Internet for comments and reactions from church members.
6. The General Conference ad-hoc committee should receive all the suggestions from the world field and prepare the final draft to be submitted to the Annual Council for further discussion before it is placed on the agenda of the General Conference Session.
7. Only the General Conference in session can approve additions or revisions to the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Jan Paulsen, Chairman  
Theodore T Jones, Secretary  
Larry R Evans, Editorial Secretary  
Rebecca Campos, Recording Secretary

SPRING MEETING  
GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

April 15, 2004, 8:00 a.m.

DEVOTIONAL

The devotional message entitled “The Light Still Shines” was presented by James R Nix, Director of the Ellen G White Estate.

Light—how important it is for us! In the beginning God said, “Let there be light.”—Genesis 1:3 A few days later He created Adam and Eve, “cloth[ing] them with a covering of light and glory.”—PP 45 Many years later in the wilderness He led Israel by the pillar of cloud by day and light by night.—Exodus 14:19, 20 God has employed light in its many forms—real and symbolic—for the benefit of His people.

Ellen White unhesitatingly declared that “Christ loves His church.”—SD 13, Ms 52, 1901 Is it any wonder then that exactly as foretold—at the same time as God called our church into existence—in His love and wisdom He gave us another special gift of light by renewing the gift of prophecy in our midst? As Revelation 19:10 so beautifully describes it, “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

Speaking about that unfathomable love that Jesus has for His church, Ellen White wrote, “The church, enfeebled and defective though it be, is the only object on earth on which Christ bestows His supreme regard. He is constantly watching it with solicitude, and is strengthening it by his Holy Spirit. Will we, as members of His church, allow Him to impress our minds and to work through us to His glory?”—SD 13, Ms 155, 1902

Little wonder then that in His love and concern for us, Jesus would choose to bring light directly to His endtime people. Consequently, since our earliest days, Seventh-day Adventists have believed that Ellen White was the recipient of the gift of prophecy. Our pioneers witnessed for themselves God’s leading in the founding of our movement, experiencing first hand His blessing through the messages He gave Ellen White. They soon learned that when they followed the Spirit of Prophecy counsels, they prospered and were blessed: but when they did not, they faltered and stumbled.

Today, various voices both within and without Adventism are urging that we take another look at Ellen White. Some are now saying that, like the somewhat eccentric Uncle Homer or Aunt Hortense who everyone hopes will not show up at the next family reunion, it is time for the church to consign Ellen White to the denomination’s attic. She was okay in her time, but, they claim, that time has now passed.

Solomon insightfully wrote in Proverbs 29:18, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.”

04-28

April 15, 2004, a.m.

GCC Spring Meeting

As I have listened to the crescendo of calls for us to abandon Ellen White, I have sometimes wondered what Adventism might be like today were it not for God's guidance and counsels through her. Although not exhaustive, let me mention several ways she still impacts our church today:

- The Great Controversy Theme. Her insights not only help define for us the essence of Adventism, including our emphasis on the Three Angels' Messages, but she also impacts almost everything else that we teach and do.
- Her strong emphasis on the centrality of the Bible in the life and witness of our church, as well as her insights regarding inspiration that spare us the challenges faced by those who believe in the inerrancy of prophetic writings.
- Her emphasis on righteousness by faith without her influence it is doubtful that A T Jones and E J Waggoner's views would have gone anywhere.
- Her emphasis on Christ and His eternal pre-existence, as well as her teaching of the full personhood of the Holy Spirit.
- Her emphasis on health, and healthful living, including the establishment of our worldwide health work.
- Her emphasis on education, resulting in the establishment of church schools, academies, colleges, and universities around the world.
- Her call for publications, resulting in our worldwide publishing ministry. Couple with that the impact of her own classics, including *Steps to Christ*, *Christ's Object Lessons*, the Conflict of the Ages series, plus many others.
- Her impact on our church's organization, as well as the unifying effect that her writings have had on Adventism, both theologically and organizationally.
- Her emphasis on religious liberty and human rights, including her strong support for the black work here in the United States of America. Included also were her calls to help the poor, resulting in the worldwide work of Adventist Development and Relief Agency and our Community Services workers.
- Also her call for worldwide evangelism, coupled with her call to witness to our own neighbors who live nearby. Included also is her reminder that God has many outside our Church, plus her appeals for interaction with pastors of other faiths.

At the beginning of my list, I mused regarding how Adventism might look today were it not for Ellen White. Besides all these theological and organizational contributions, one does not

have to look far to find another difference. The Advent Christian Church—Sundaykeeping Adventists who trace their origins back to the Millerite movement—shortly after the Great Disappointment in 1844 had an estimated 30,000 to 50,000 followers. Today, they have about 75,000 members in 9 countries! Back then, Sabbathkeeping Adventists numbered between 50 and 150. The Advent Christians rejected Ellen White’s prophetic ministry, and the results are obvious. Today, instead of our nearly 13.5 million members worldwide in over 203 countries (Statistics from the Office of Archives and Statistics, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, April 14, 2004), we, too, might be 100,000 members, or less, had we rejected God’s loving gift to our Church.

In 1907 Ellen White wrote, “Abundant light has been given to our people in these last days. Whether or not my life is spared, my writings will constantly speak, and their work will go forward as long as time shall last.”—1 SM 55

For most Seventh-day Adventists, that prediction has proved true. However, tragically, especially in recent years, an increasing number have been turning from the special messages God has given us. Some are outright rejecting everything bearing the name “Ellen G White.”

Predicting this, Ellen White warned: “There will be a hatred kindled against the testimonies which is satanic. The workings of Satan will be to unsettle the faith of the churches in them, for this reason: Satan cannot have so clear a track to bring in his deceptions and bind up souls in his delusions if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the Spirit of God are heeded.”—1 SM 48, Lt 40, 1890 (Originally written to Uriah Smith, Dec. 30, 1890)

A second group views Ellen White as a devotional writer, but they are unwilling to give her any real authority. These people also miss the blessing God intended for us. Though they claim to retain her writings devotionally, they disregard the counsels God has given through her.

And there is a third group who also puzzle and trouble me. These individuals thrive on misinterpreting God’s messages found in Ellen White’s writings. They find a quote or two and turn these into their entire religion. In their missionary zeal, they try to force their narrow views upon everyone else. For whatever reason, they have overlooked the fact that God’s plan for His Church, as found in Ellen White’s writings, is balanced; it is not one-sided.

During the next few minutes, I want to share with you ten reasons why the writings of Ellen White are still relevant—and hold authority—for me. These are not deep theological reasons, but rather simple, practical things that speak to my heart. Hopefully some of these will resonate with your heart.

1. Ellen White constantly uplifted Christ, and pointed people to Him. One cannot read far in her writings without coming across references to Jesus and comments that reveal her deep love for Him, and her strong desire for others to come to love Him also. Several of her most beloved books deal directly with Christ: *Steps to Christ*, *The Desire of Ages*, *Christ’s Object Lessons*, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, and *The Great Controversy Between*

04-30  
April 15, 2004, a.m.  
GCC Spring Meeting

*Christ and His Angels and Satan and His Angels.*

To me, Ellen White's constant uplifting of Christ, and pointing people to Him, are very persuasive evidences in favor of her claim. Would Satan continually urge people to go to Christ? The very thought is ludicrous. So, as a sinner, realizing my own deep need of Christ, going to a time-proven source of help in this area is one reason I find Ellen White's writings so valuable in my own life.

2. Ellen White's teaching of the Great Controversy theme makes sense out of our troubled world. Rather than the view of many people that God is angry with us, Ellen White's understanding was that the real struggle is between Christ and Satan, not between Christ and me. That insight permeates all her writings.

When bad things happen to God's people, thanks to our understanding of the Great Controversy that is going on between Christ and Satan, we can keep our perspective. Although not able to explain the whys and wherefores of every specific thing that happens, we realize that there is a larger cosmic battle raging.

This to me is another positive reason for accepting Ellen White's writings. Her understanding of God, His controversy with Satan, including both the origin and the ending of the sin problem, are so persuasive, why would I want to adopt something else, especially since her entire understanding is based upon Scripture?

3. Following the counsels God has given us through Ellen White results in positive lifestyle blessings. Let me share with you some spiritual/devotional examples.

In 1980, the North American Division conducted a church growth survey. One of the survey questions asked about the extent that one reads Ellen White's books. From their answers, 2,848 were classed as "readers," and 5,375 as "nonreaders." In 1982 the data was re-analyzed to see what impact regular reading of Ellen White exhibited in the lives of members.—Roger L. Dudley and Des Cummings, Jr., "Who Reads Ellen White?" *Ministry*, October, 1982, p 10

Let me share some of the findings with you from that survey:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Nonreaders</u>
Strong relationship with Jesus Christ	85%	59%
Assurance of being right with God	82%	59%
Daily personal Bible study	82%	47%
Give regular financial support to local soul winning	76%	46%
Engaged in witnessing during past year	73%	49%
Have daily family worship	70%	42%
Held Bible studies with non-Adventist during past year	45%	26%
Meet regularly with small study fellowship group	40%	20%

There were eleven other categories. In every single one, those who read Ellen White regularly ranked considerably higher than did the nonreaders. So another reason why I find Ellen White's writings valuable in my own life—as was borne out by the survey results—is that my walk with the Lord and my experience as one of His followers will be the richer for having spent time with God's counsels as given through Ellen White. I can not speak for anyone else, but I know I need that!

4. Besides the spiritual benefits that come from reading and adhering to the counsels found in Ellen White's writings, there also are health advantages. During recent years there has been considerable discussion regarding what she said about health. Some critics have claimed she obtained her teachings from other nineteenth century health reformers. She says that her health principles came from God.

In the late 1860s and early 1870s, a number of health reformers in the United States of America were advocating that no salt at all should be used. Ellen White saw things differently. Her reason for doing so is of interest to me.

“I use some salt, and always have, because from the light given me by God, this article, in place of being deleterious, is actually essential for blood. The whys and wherefores of this I know not, but I give you the instruction as it is given me.”—CD 344

I am not here today to rediscuss from where she acquired her health message. Rather, I am sharing with you why I find her counsels still relevant. However, I must say that I do find it very odd that now, when in so many areas of health the world is mirroring what God showed Ellen White 140 years ago, some Adventists are abandoning her counsel.

Why do I say this? Well, *Time* magazine phrased it better than I ever could. In their October 28, 1966, issue, reporting on the initial results of the first Adventist Health Study done in California, the findings were so phenomenal that *Time* captioned the article, “The Adventist Advantage.” Obviously we do not have time to cite that study in great detail, but even a few facts from it, and subsequent health studies, are worth noting.

The first Adventist Health Study was conducted between 1958 and 1965, on California Adventists. The researchers did not differentiate between Adventists who ate meat daily, weekly, monthly, or not at all. Nor did they distinguish between lacto-ovo-vegetarians and total vegans. Even so, Seventh-day Adventists (including the nonvegetarians) had significantly fewer deaths from a number of common killers as compared to the general California population. It was found that California Adventists had only

- 20 percent, lung cancer
- 5 percent, mouth, throat, and larynx cancer
- 32 percent, bronchitis and emphysema
- 28 percent, bladder cancer
- 34 percent, esophageal cancer

04-32

April 15, 2004, a.m.  
GCC Spring Meeting

- 13 percent, cirrhosis of the liver—Statistics are from “Summary of results of Adventist Mortality Study, 1958-1965,” unpublished report, Loma Linda University School of Health, undated, 2 pp

According to a subsequent study started in 1974, Adventist men live 8.9 years longer than the general California population; Adventist women, 7.5 years longer. Vegetarian Adventist men live 3.7 years longer than their nonvegetarian “brothers.” (*Ministry*, Sept. 1998, 24-27)

But, it is not just in California:

In 1982 Denmark’s Cancer Registration Office in Copenhagen reported, after a thirty-five year study, that only one in ten Adventists developed cancer, whereas the rate for the Danish population was one in four.

In 1983 a Dutch study reported an 8.9-year life expectancy advantage for Adventist men, and a 3.7-year advantage for Adventist women compared to their general population.

A Polish study reported in 1985 that Adventist men had an advantage of 9.5 years, and Adventist women a difference of 4.5 years.

And the statistics just go on and on. I do not know about you, but for me, such facts make me sit up and take notice regarding what Ellen White says God told her about health issues. Is she still relevant to me? I should say so! In a world gone crazy over new health diets, programs, and fads, the messages God gave our Church through Ellen White are right on target—they have borne the test of time.

5. Another compelling reason why I personally find Ellen White’s messages authoritative is that she gave us no new Bible. Throughout her long life, she continually pointed people to the Scriptures. In her first 64-page book originally published in 1851, now reprinted in *Early Writings*, the 23-year old author closed by saying, “I recommend to you, dear reader, the Word of God as the rule of your faith and practice.”—EW 78

Toward the close of her long life, the nearly 82-year-old servant of the Lord attended the 1909 General Conference session held in Washington, D.C. As it turned out, it was the last session she ever attended. W A Spicer, Secretary of the General Conference, recalled Ellen White’s last talk to the delegates:

“She came to the platform, on the last day of the session, to speak a . . . few words of good cheer and farewell, and then turned to the pulpit, where lay a Bible. She opened the book, and held it out, with hands that trembled with age. And she said:

“Brethren and sisters, I commend unto you this Book.”

“Without another word, she closed the book, and walked from the platform. It was her last spoken word in the world assembly of the remnant church.”—Spirit of Prophecy in the Advent Movement, p 30

Throughout her long life, Ellen White constantly uplifted the Bible. Nowhere can one find her claiming that her writings supersede the Bible. On the contrary, she always said that her writings are to be tested by the Scriptures. Not once does she say that the Bible is to be tested by her writings. This makes her unique among those who claim to have been given new light.

Ellen White wrote: “Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light.”—CM 125

Thankfully our doctrines are not based on Ellen White’s visions, but rather upon a deep study of the Word of God. Still, history records that during the Sabbath and Sanctuary Conferences of the late 1840s, as well as several other times, God chose to confirm and help our pioneers settle into Bible truth through the visions. Knowing this to be true, I find Ellen White’s doctrinal insights to be more than just devotional; for me they hold authority. I did not say, as some of our critics charge, that she is an infallible commentator. But for me, I invest her doctrinal statements with more authority than those of other writers because of the Source of her insights.

6. Another reason I find Ellen White’s counsels still relevant has to do with her impact on the Church’s institutions, both in establishing them and in administering them.

Not just a preaching ministry, Adventists sponsor both a worldwide education system, and a worldwide publishing work. In addition, our medical program is internationally known, all largely the product of Ellen White’s nurturing.

The fact is that these worldwide programs would never have reached their present achievements without the foresight and principles set forth by Ellen White. But it is not their worldwide scope that makes them special, but rather it is their unique objectives. Adventist schools, publishing houses, and medical facilities are *not* distinctive merely because they are run by religious people, but because of carefully guided principles outlined by God through Ellen White.

Some non-Adventists have conjectured that without Ellen White, Adventists would not have survived as we are known today. Kenneth L Woodward, *Newsweek* magazine’s religion editor, observed: “If it [the Seventh-day Adventist denomination] loses its founding mother, the church may find that it has also lost its distinctive visionary soul.”—*Newsweek*, Jan. 19, 1981

Relevant to me today? I should say so, if even non-Adventists recognize that Ellen White’s vision (could I say “visions?”) drive this Church.

7. I could also mention some of her incredible predictions. Admittedly, Ellen White is not primarily known for her predictions. Contrary to all modern “prophets” or psychics who every December give their “best ten predictions” for the coming year, or who state their predictions so vaguely that they can be reinterpreted and “made to fit” as time passes, Ellen White’s preview of closing events has never been contradicted by events. Today’s economic insecurity, political strife, social unrest, decline in moral values, New Age revival of spiritualism, and the worldwide interest in religious unity—all are an astonishing fulfillment of her predictions.

We are so familiar with some of her predictions that they hardly seem startling to us today. However, when set against the backdrop of her time, they are nothing short of incredible. For instance, her claim that wars would continue until Christ comes sounded very strange in a pre-World War I era where the belief was that everything was getting better and better. Even after the horrors of World War I, Ellen White’s warnings about thousands of ships being hurled into the depths of the sea, and navies going down [1890], (*Signs of the Times*, April 21, 1890) and economic upheavals to come [1909] (9T 13) must have sounded very strange. But now that the world has gone through the worldwide depression of the late 1920s and 1930s, not to mention World War II, plus all the wars in various places since then, what she predicted reads like the daily newspaper.

As terrible as things have become—increase of crime, pollution in the cities, the breakdown of society—knowing that God has warned us ahead of time about all this through Ellen White gives a relevance to other things she has written that might not otherwise be the case.

8. Another thing about Ellen White that gives her authority and relevance for me is the fruit of her life. During her lifetime she held no church offices. Surprising as it may be for students of nineteenth-century religious movements, Ellen White left no monuments to herself. Rather, her life was driven by a sense of destiny wrapped up in her call to be God’s messenger. She focused on making God better understood as she relayed to others His messages to her.

A G Daniells, President of the General Conference from 1901-1922 and long-time fellow worker with Ellen White, wrote in 1935: “I can say that it is my deep conviction that Mrs. White’s life far transcends the life of anyone I have ever known or with whom I am been associated. . . . I never once heard her boast of the gracious gift God had bestowed upon her, or of the marvelous results of her endeavors. She did rejoice in the fruitage, but gave all the glory to Him who wrought through her.”—*The Abiding Gift of Prophecy* 368

9. One reason for giving authority to Ellen White’s writings that some might have expected me to mention early on was the physical phenomena that accompanied her visions. That she did not breathe, her eyes remained open, and that she was totally unconscious of her surroundings while in vision are all in accordance with the physical phenomena experienced by biblical prophets. The fact that this is so adds to the authority I give her writings, but I know that Satan can counterfeit physical phenomena. So for me, as with our pioneers, the physical

phenomena surrounding Ellen White's experience lend support for believing in the divine origin of her visions, but are not of themselves coercive proof.

However, if God went to the supernatural lengths that He did to help me know He was speaking through Ellen White, then I better sit up and take notice. After all, in Bible times God considered rejection of His prophets as rejection of Himself.

10. Let me share one last reason why I find Ellen White's messages personally valuable. Admittedly, it is a very subjective reason, but that does not lessen its validity. When I read her writings, I hear the voice of God speaking to my soul—in other words, her writings are self-authenticating.

When I read *The Desire of Ages*, I do not just read about Jesus, I actually meet Him in the pages of that book. In her chapter "Gethsemane," or her description of Christ's trial and crucifixion, I do not find myself just being a bystander. On the contrary, I am drawn into the story. I am there with the sleeping disciples in the Garden. Christ is asking me to watch and wait with Him. It is not just Peter who is standing by the fire, I am there too. In the judgment hall, I mingle with the shouting mob. And on the terrible mount of crucifixion, I am pounding the nails into the innocent hands of Christ; I am there railing on Him as He hangs broken, bloodied, and bruised on the cross. But as I keep reading, somehow the light dawns in my sin beclouded mind that it was for *me* that He died. And in my mind's ear I can hear Jesus praying, "Father, forgive Jim, for he knows not what he is doing."

Likewise, in reading the *Testimonies*, I am driven to my knees, just as they were the people to whom the messages were originally addressed one hundred or more years ago. Tragically some people get all hung up on what they view as the "don'ts" in Ellen White's writings. Those very same "don'ts" that some people see, Ellen White viewed as opportunities to draw closer to God as in love we do those things that He as our Creator knows will bring us the greatest amount of happiness.

This morning, do you want to be more like Jesus? Do you want a stronger Christian experience, a closer relationship with Christ, a longer, healthier life? If so, I commend to you anew the special gift God has given our Church through the writings of Ellen White. For me, they are as up-to-date as next week's newspaper, and even more relevant than the latest published self-help book.

That is why I have come to the place where I readily acknowledge that the testimonies are *for me*. Not to use on someone else, but to help *me* in my daily Christian walk. The gift of the Spirit of prophecy was given *for me*. Not to use to judge or criticize you. But rather, God gave His church this precious gift to help draw *me* to Jesus. He gave it to draw *me* to a deeper study of the Bible. And, most of all, He gave the gift to help prepare *me* to be ready for Christ's soon return.

04-36  
April 15, 2004, a.m.  
GCC Spring Meeting

If any here today are not utilizing this precious gift right now—the lesser light to lead us to the greater light (CM 125)—maybe you never have, or possibly you used to, but for some reason or other in recent years you have not, I want to invite you to do so once again. After all, King Jehoshaphat’s admonition to ancient Israel, as found in 2 Chronicles 20:20, is as relevant today as when he first uttered it:

“Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.”

Jan Paulsen, Chairman, called to order the third session of the 2004 Spring Meeting.

Prayer was offered by Andrea Luxton, Associate Director, General Conference Education Department

04SM to REL

#### AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2003—REPORT

VOTED, To accept the Combined Financial Statements of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for the period ending December 31, 2003, and (which include the Operating Funds, The Plant Fund, and Other Funds) the auditor’s opinions for the following unitized funds: (See page 9 reference) (The Financial Statements are filed with the official minutes.)

- Money Fund
- Bond Fund
- Income Fund
- Large Cap U.S. Equity Fund
- Small Cap U.S. Equity Fund
- International Fund
- Emerging Markets Fund
- Micro Cap & Private Equity Fund
- Pooled Life Income Fund

At 9:05 a.m. the meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee was recessed and a meeting of the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists was called.

At 9:07 a.m. the meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee was reconvened.

NomCom04SM/04SM to MAB

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

VOTED, To accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee:

Martin Feldbush, Director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, effective July 1, 2004.

04SM to MAB

#### STENBAKKEN, RICHARD E—APPRECIATION

VOTED, To record appreciation for the many years of faithful service in the Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries by Richard E Stenbakken.

#### ISSUES AFFECTING CHURCH UNITY

Michael L Ryan, Vice President of the General Conference, presented the document Unity in Church, as follows:

The unity of our global Seventh-day Adventist community is not something that can be left to take care of itself. Unattended, it inevitably fragments. Listed below for our prayerful consideration are some of the presuppositions and dynamics that impact and define the unity we value and seek.

**Spiritual Foundation**—The unity we seek is centered in the person, character, and will of our Heavenly Father. It is expressed in the life and teaching of His son, Jesus Christ, and is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit in the Bible. Seeking, believing, and living God's righteous will—in faith and obedience, in fellowship and witness—nurtures and consolidates the unity for which Jesus prayed (John 17:20-23).

**Unity Framework**—While truth is the foundation upon which the framework of unity is built, the church also values other principles and structures that enhance its ability to effectively and efficiently pursue its mission. Unity is also served by organizational structure, policy, communication, loyalty, training and a clear Biblical mission.

**Responsibility**—The church's biblical mandate for mission at the end of time presupposes that world church unity is regarded as a sacred trust by all members and particularly by elected church leaders.

**Decision Making**—The Seventh-day Adventist Church has adopted a constitution, by-laws and policies, defining a governance and administrative model that honors the principle of

consultation and consensus. “Kingly power” or autocratic forms of decision-making fall outside God’s counsel for church administration. To realize church unity, leaders must honor not only the principle of consensus, but also accept and abide by the decisions of consensus. By virtue of the high office to which leaders are called and elected, their voices carry significant influence in setting the direction, values, and tone of the church.

Major Concern—The expected future growth and development of our church—a church that will become increasingly diverse—makes the loyalty of leaders paramount. This loyalty relates to biblical doctrines, church policies, and organizational structures. It is inevitable that as the church grows and is further diversified, its organizational structures and policies will need to accommodate a variety of experiences, needs, customs and cultures.

In nurturing loyalty, the church must protect the voice of the minority. As safeguards against disunity, the church needs efficient procedures for selecting people gifted for leadership, a culturally sensitive system of leadership orientation and training, and an understanding of central policy-making that allows for regional and local variations within a basic, unifying framework.

Issues:

1. Doctrinal

Observations

In harmony with Paul’s counsel to Timothy (1 Tim. 6:20; 2 Tim. 1:14), church leaders must guard carefully what has been entrusted to them, and this includes the beliefs of the church. Clearly teaching the Word of God is a matter of faithfulness to the Lord. In the gospel commission, Jesus commanded His followers to teach what they had been taught. The Apostle Paul consistently instructed the church through letters. From its inception, the Adventist Church has used every available medium to proclaim our distinctive message. Current plans call for a renewed emphasis on Bible study, a large distribution of Ellen White’s writings, witnessing and community involvement.

Doctrinal truth is defined by the church as a whole. While truth is progressive, it is also collective in the sense that the church must own its understanding of truth. What is accepted as truth by the church can therefore not be defined by any individual or special-interest group. The church needs to have a process in place by which new light is first evaluated and then appropriately shared with and acted upon by the wider church. The process includes consultation and consensus, and it is not complete unless clear indications exist that the Holy Spirit is leading the church as a community to a growing understanding. Preaching, teaching, and communicating beliefs that are not in harmony with the accepted doctrines of the church undermine unity.

The church must be a community that constantly seeks greater clarity and consistency of expression, and consensus must be arrived at through consultation. This was done in the Sabbath Conferences of 1848. It was done in the discussions of righteousness by faith in 1888. It was done when the church restructured in 1901. More recently, it has been done in the International Faith and Science Conference and in the Global Mission Issues Committee.

## 2. Organizational

### Observations

God has blessed the church with an organizational structure that has facilitated a growing, worldwide family of believers, united in belief and mission. It has been strengthened by the development of a wide range of gifts and ministries, including lay initiatives that have enriched the church. In order to help safeguard and nurture the unity of this growing and diverse church, elected church leaders must pay attention to certain key organizational issues.

### Organizational Issues:

a. Current organizational policies sometimes fail to adequately define the parameters governing how subsidiary organizations should relate to parent organizations and those situations in which subsidiary organizations should be encouraged to set independent directions. Additionally, policy provides little guidance for reviewing the organizational levels at which various ministries and services would best function. Equally important is the need to effectively communicate the priorities identified by the corporate church and the local church.

b. Many supporting/independent ministries implement good programs that enhance the work of the world church. Some of these ministries operate seemingly unaware of the wider mission strategies of the local, regional and world church. This is largely because the dialog between supporting/independent ministries and church leaders has been limited. This needs specific attention.

Amid a growing number of voices speaking for the church, members expect that their elected leaders will be true to the trust placed in them and, through various communication channels, speak with a clear and official voice for the church. As the mission offering becomes smaller each year, and as funds are increasingly diverted to different causes, the church's ability to speak with one voice becomes more difficult.

To speak with authority the church must assess itself. As with any growing organization, the church must constantly address the effectiveness of its use of resources. From time to time this will call for the ceasing of some activities in order to free resources for more important initiatives.

c. The Hanif ministry is taking on larger dimensions. Not only is it spreading from country to country, but it also plays a key role in leadership training and resource

development. Critical questions regarding the collection, remittance and auditing of offerings, Seventh-day Adventist identity, organizational structure and contextualization remain loosely answered. In order to preserve unity church leaders are encouraged to provide answers to these questions.

d. Other groups, driven by a variety of regional issues, could move to adopt independent parallel structures. Such a move, especially if on several fronts, could lead to fragmentation and disunity.

e. Inter-territorial programs that are developed and implemented by individual workers and or unions/conferences often operate independently from church strategy, especially as strategy might be perceived by the recipient missions/conferences. While most inter-territorial programs support the church's mission, few properly incorporate the principles of preparation, sustainability and discipleship.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church began as a movement, not as a denomination. However, when in the 1860s the need arose to own property, our leaders recognized the advantage of organization. When in the early 1900s our organizational structure proved inadequate, we reorganized. Since then we have repeatedly reorganized our territories to better address our mission. Even now the church assesses its need for change by dialogue in such venues as the Cross Cultural Mission Conference, the Global Mission Issues Committee and Mission Conference evaluations.

### 3. Leadership Loyalty

#### Observations

We are a church that makes decisions by consultation and consensus. It is projected that by 2020 only 12.5 percent of our church membership will have been Seventh-day Adventists in the year 2000. Essentially, a new constituency will emerge. It is critical that our identity and our values—taught by the Bible and the writings of Ellen White and contained in our history—be articulated clearly, and that these values instruct the agenda of our world church. The role of leadership in these matters cannot be overstated.

It is estimated that 100,000 new Seventh-day Adventists now live and worship in Vietnam. They are led by 40 pastors who recently came from another denomination. The orientation for these pastors has not included instruction on organization, church authority, leadership, material development and effective communication. If we are serious about the 10/40 Window, Vietnam is just the tip of the iceberg. India and Thailand are beginning to experience similar people-group movements.

This situation demonstrates the responsibility and vulnerability we have in pulpit ministry as well as in much of our global institutional network. In this context, it is imperative that we appropriately emphasize loyalty in the hierarchy of leadership values.

In the past it may have seemed that we could take loyalty for granted. However, as our church grows in numbers and in diversity, we must take deliberate steps to inspire a high level of commitment. In response to this need, the church has initiated an Office of Leadership and a Leadership Profile Symposium to be a centerpiece at the 2005 General Conference Session.

#### 4. Communication

##### Observations

The church needs an effective communication system that quickly and reliably moves information throughout the church—from the General Conference to the church member and from the church member back to the General Conference. If this cannot be achieved, vulnerability will be exposed and our unity jeopardized.

Annual Councils provide a venue for communicating corporate values, policies and programs to union, division and General Conference leadership. The purpose of these gatherings is to carry on church business in the interest of mission—and, as a major side benefit, church unity. However, the corporate values, policies and programs seldom reach conference level, let alone pastors and lay people.

The communication vehicles of the General Conference are having a decreasing impact on the world church, as only a fraction of the members have access to these vehicles. Each communication entity operates with an independent board that has the authority to determine what to publicize—regardless of what the church has decided by consensus. The church's communication entities largely cooperate. But since each is autonomous, rarely is it possible to develop a unified theme.

The bottom line is that communication is erratic, and certain levels may be missed altogether. For example, in many conferences the information about Sow 1 Billion reached the church members. However, when they contacted the conference for more detail, the conference leaders had not heard of the program. Once aware of it, they took appropriate action

#### 5. Leadership Training

##### Observations

The first step in leadership training should be to incorporate a member into the life of the church—that is where leaders are developed. God chooses leaders from the membership of His church.

A leadership culture will be realized only when intentional training becomes a standard feature of leadership orientation. Currently, training is largely optional and voluntary. Training is rarely a need-driven strategy—where philosophy and skills are taught for specific positions. Pastoral training and orientation should be carefully defined and must remain one of the church's

highest priorities. Leadership training must find teaching methods whose success is measured by the actual practice of leadership.

6. Mission

Observations

A clear vision and mission must be placed before the church. If unity is to be served, all members should understand what practical things they can do to serve the mission of the church.

Leaders carry a sacred responsibility not only to communicate the vision and mission of the church, but to provide programs that nurture and train members for mission involvement.

Conclusion

The church must provide a governance structure that is not obsessed by a control-mentality. Failure to do so will be detrimental to trust. Without mutual trust between leaders and institutional employees and field ministers, the unity that we value and seek is unobtainable.

In light of the foregoing, the church must keep high on its agenda: defining and communicating the profile of Adventist leadership, enhancing both trust and accountability, and commissioning research that will inform the church concerning the issues impacting unity.

Momentous times are ahead for the church. To be the spiritual community that effectively accomplishes God's mission, we must preserve purity of doctrine, we must create and adhere to effective policies, we must ensure that our structure helps—not hinders—achievement of our goals, and, as leaders, we must all allow the Holy Spirit to work in us, producing the level of spirituality and loyalty that church members have the right to expect from us.

May God help us to this end, and may His name be glorified as a result.

PRE/PreC04SM/GCDO04SM/04SM to LCC

134-04G EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH—NURTURE OF  
NEW BELIEVERS

Seventh-day Adventists give top priority to evangelism and rejoice whenever new believers join the church. Large-scale evangelism programs often bring a sudden and unprecedented growth in church membership. To a large degree the stability of recently baptized members depends on a carefully planned move from evangelism program events to a sustained and systematic program of nurture. In many situations the new membership overwhelms the capacity of the local organizations to care adequately for nurture and spiritual growth.

The Church must provide its best environment for the continuing spiritual development of new believers. Evangelism and nurture, though characterized by different sets of activities, should not be viewed as distinct and unrelated events. There is need for continuity of care as the evangelism program transitions to the events and experience of membership in a local Seventh-day Adventist Church family.

In order to maximize the church growth potential of public evangelism programs, particularly those conducted for large public audiences, it was

VOTED, To adopt the following as standard operating procedures in public evangelism programs conducted by entities and/or personnel external to the local field. It is assumed that locally arranged evangelism programs will also have follow-up activities appropriate to the nature and size of the evangelism endeavor.

1. Evangelism program budgets shall include provisions for post-evangelism nurture activities for newly baptized members.

2. The minimum amount budgeted for post-evangelism activities shall be not less than one-third the amount budgeted for the evangelism program itself.

3. Prior to the commencement of the evangelism program, the amount budgeted for post-evangelism activities shall be deposited, by the party conducting the evangelism program, with the field unit (local conference/mission or union conference/mission) in whose territory the program is conducted.

4. The field unit receiving the funds for post-evangelism activities shall place the funds in a reserve specifically designated for evangelism follow-up and new member nurture activities.

5. Such funds may be disbursed for evangelism follow-up activities that, over a period of at least 12 months, sustain regular contact with new believers in ways that increase their understanding of biblical teaching and that integrate them into the life of a local congregation. It is not intended that these funds will be quickly exhausted in the purchase of property or the building of a church and thus leave little or no provision for materials or programs that lead to discipleship.

6. In situations where it is expected that new church property and church buildings will be needed to accommodate the influx of new believers, the resource allocation for post-evangelism activities may require a significantly higher level of funding. Organizers and sponsors of evangelism events are urged to assist, to whatever extent possible, in the provision of adequate places of worship for new congregations.

04-44  
April 15, 2004, a.m.  
GCC Spring Meeting

SEC/GCDO04SM/04SM to VBP

135-04G NAME CHANGE—"CHOSEN" TO "HIS HANDS"

VOTED, To change the nomenclature of the Secretariat (Adventist Volunteer Center) "Chosen" initiative to "His Hands."

04SM to JP

ADVENTIST.ORG—REPORT

VOTED, To record the presentation of the report by the Communication Department regarding the newly redesigned General Conference Web site.

TreC04SM/GCDO04SM/04SM to EH-GCC

132-04G TITHE STUDY COMMISSION (GCC-S)—APPOINTMENT

VOTED, To appoint a Tithe Study Commission (TitheStudyComm) (GCC-S), with terms of reference and membership to be determined by the General Conference Executive Committee.

04SM to EH

SABBATH SCHOOL AND PERSONAL MINISTRIES  
DEPARTMENT—REPORT

VOTED, To record the presentation of the following report by Jim Zackrison:

James Zackrison, Director of the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department, presented information on the general activities of the department relating to the *Go 1 Million* initiative, the promotion of the International Sabbath School publications (*Gracelink* curriculum for children, the new *Real-Time Faith* curriculum for early adolescents, *Cornerstone Connections* for youth, *Collegiate Quarterly (CQ)* for young adults, and three levels of *Mission Quarterly*), and the new, weekly Sabbath School University program on the Hope Channel.

Jonathan Kuntaraf, Associate Director, reported on the department's personal ministries activities which include lay training programs through the International Institute of Christian Ministries, production of the *Reaching and Winning* series, coordination of the Bible correspondence schools worldwide, promotion of the Sabbath School action unit, and participation in various lay congresses and Festivals of the Laity around the world.

The department is also supervising [www.HopeTalk.org](http://www.HopeTalk.org), an international clearing house for Bible study programs in cooperation with Voice of Prophecy and the *Sow 1 Billion* initiatives.

Other members of the staff, including editors and the editorial support team, were introduced by Faith Bosley, the department's administrative assistant.

04SM to EH-ADCOM+04AC

139-04G GENERAL CONFERENCE MISSION OFFERING  
COMMITTEE (ADCOM-A)—REPORT

With the steady decline in mission offerings in recent years a small committee was formed to give study to these trends and to determine the reasons for the decline and to propose recommendations in light of its findings. Two basic recommendations were presented to find better ways of communicating the message of an unfinished work and establish an office for mission promotion at the General Conference. It was,

VOTED, To receive the report of the General Conference Mission Offering Committee, to request the General Conference Administrative Committee to develop a plan reflecting the objectives of the proposal, and to bring a report to the 2004 Annual Council.

FinPl&Bud04SM/04SM to JP&SGR

133-04G SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND

VOTED, To authorize the development of a fund at the General Conference, through allocations that would not affect normal operations, for the World Church to have the capacity to respond to major special opportunities that may arise. An initial goal of \$10 million is suggested.

PRE/ADCOM/04SM to LCC/05GCS

126-04G ZAMBIA UNION MISSION—CONFERENCE STATUS

VOTED, To grant the Zambia Union Mission the status of union conference. (A constituency meeting of the new Zambia Union Conference will be arranged in late 2004 in consultation with the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.)

04-46  
 April 15, 2004, a.m.  
 GCC Spring Meeting

SEC/ADCOM/GCDO02SM/02SM/SEC/ADCOM/GCDO02AC/02AC/102-02Gc/SEC/  
 ADCOM/GCDO03SM/03SM/SEC/ADCOM/GCDO03AC/03AC/102-03Gb/SEC/ADCOM/  
 GCDO04SM/04SM to RJH(DIV)

102-04Ga AUTHORIZED MEETINGS 2004

VOTED, To approve the updated list of Authorized Meetings 2004 with the understanding that attendance at these meetings must also be approved by the administration of each entity, as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>April 2004</u>			
14,15(am)	Wed	Spring Meeting	Silver Spring MD
15	Thu	GC PARL World Affairs Com & IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD
19,20	Mon	Biblical Research Institute Committee	Berrien Springs MI
19(eve)	Mon	R&H Board Finance Committee	Hagerstown MD
20(am)	Tue	R&H Board	Hagerstown MD
20(am)-22	Tue	World Editors' Council	Silver Spring MD
23	Fri	Adventist Heritage Ministry Finance Committee	Fair Haven VT
25	Sun	Oakwood College Board	Huntsville AL
25,26	Sun	Adventist Heritage Ministry Board	Fair Haven VT
<u>May 2004</u>			
13(pm)	Thu	Andrews University Executive Committee	Berrien Springs MI
18	Tue	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
19,20(am)	Wed	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
20	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
26,27	Wed	IRLA International Congress	Kiev UKRAINE
29	Sat	Religious Liberty Festival	Kiev UKRAINE
<u>June 2004</u>			
2,3	Wed	Adventist Risk Management Board	VERMONT
8	Tue	R&H Board Executive & Finance Committee	Silver Spring MD
9	Wed	GC Staff Day	Gaithersburg MD
14-17	Mon	PREXAD	
14-July 3	Mon	Institute of World Mission	Berrien Springs MI
21-24	Mon	International Risk Management Conference	THAILAND
<u>July 2004</u>			
13-18	Tue	Institute of World Mission Re-entry Program	Berrien Springs MI
14-16	Wed	World Leadership Conference	Berrien Springs MI
22	Thu	Assoc of Adv Family Life Prof Board	Berrien Springs MI
26-Aug 14	Mon	Institute of World Mission	Collonges FRANCE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>July 2004 contd</u>			
30-Aug 3	Fri	Biblical Research Institute Science Council	NORTH AMERICA
<u>August 2004</u>			
8(eve)	Sun	PPPA Board Finance Committee	Nampa ID
9	Mon	PPPA Board	Nampa ID
16	Mon	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
17	Tue	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
20-26	Fri	International Faith & Science Conference	Denver CO
23	Mon	Christian Record Services Board	Lincoln NE
25	Wed	Adventist Risk Management Board	Silver Spring MD
28	Sat	Festival of Religious Freedom	TAIWAN
30,31	Mon	Congress of Religious Freedom (Regional)	TAIWAN
31(eve)	Tue	R&H Board Finance Committee	Hagerstown MD
<u>September 2004</u>			
1(am)	Wed	R&H Board	Hagerstown MD
12-16	Sun	Adventist Risk Management Conference	Denver CO
14-24	Tue	GC Staff Travel Moratorium	Silver Spring MD
16	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
17	Fri	Adventist Heritage Ministry Finance Committee	Battle Creek MI
19,20	Sun	Adventist Heritage Ministry Board	Battle Creek MI
<u>October 2004</u>			
1(am)	Fri	ADRA Governance Commission	Silver Spring MD
3	Sun	Council on Evangelism & Witness	Silver Spring MD
4	Mon	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
4(am)	Mon	Church Manual Committee	Silver Spring MD
4(am)	Mon	International Board of Education	Silver Spring MD
4(pm)	Mon	10/40 Window Committee	Silver Spring MD
4(pm)	Mon	International Board of Min & Theo Educ	Silver Spring MD
5	Tue	Secretaries Council	Silver Spring MD
5	Tue	Treasurers Council	Silver Spring MD
5	Tue	Presidents Council	Silver Spring MD
5(pm)	Tue	Adventist Television Network Operating Com	Silver Spring MD
5(pm)	Tue	GC PARL World Affairs Com & IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD
6	Wed	GC & Division Officers	Silver Spring MD
6(eve)	Wed	Global Mission Operations Committee	Silver Spring MD
7	Thu	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
7(am)	Thu	ADRA Board	Silver Spring MD
7(pm)	Thu	Adventist World Radio Board	Silver Spring MD
7(pm)	Thu	Accred Assoc of SDA Sch, Col, & Univ	Silver Spring MD

04-48  
 April 15, 2004, a.m.  
 GCC Spring Meeting  
 Revised

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>October 2004</u> contd			
8(am)	Fri	Financial Planning & Budgeting Committee	Silver Spring MD
8(pm)	Fri	AIAS Board	Silver Spring MD
8(pm)	Fri	Africa HIV/AIDS Office Board	Silver Spring MD
8(eve)-14(am)	Fri	Annual Council	Silver Spring MD
10(eve)	Sun	Financial Statement Audit Review Committee	Silver Spring MD
11(pm)	Mon	GCAS Board	Silver Spring MD
11(eve)	Mon	HSI/Griggs University Board	Silver Spring MD
11(eve)	Mon	International HIV/AIDS Study Commission	Silver Spring MD
14(pm)-16	Thu	International Conf on Adventists in the Community	Silver Spring MD
14(pm)-17	Thu	<i>His Hands</i> Conference	Silver Spring MD
15(am)	Fri	Andrews University Board Finance Committee	Berrien Springs MI
17	Sun	Andrews University Subcommittees	Berrien Springs MI
17(pm)	Sun	Andrews University Seminary Executive Com	Berrien Springs MI
18	Mon	Andrews University Board	Berrien Springs MI
18,19	Mon	Biblical Research Institute Committee	Loma Linda CA
18-Nov 6	Mon	Institute of World Mission	Berrien Springs MI
19	Tue	Loma Linda Boards—Executive Committees	Loma Linda CA
24,25	Sun	Oakwood College Board	Huntsville AL
29(eve)-Nov 1	Fri	NAD Yearend Meeting	Battle Creek MI

November 2004

18	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
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December 2004

2	Thu	Adventist Risk Management Board	Silver Spring MD
7(pm), 8	Tue	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
9	Thu	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
13	Mon	ADRA Executive Committee	Silver Spring MD
16	Thu	R&H Executive & Finance Committees	Silver Spring MD

SEC/ADCOM/GCDO03SM/03SM/SEC/ADCOM/GCDO03AC/03AC/102-03Gc/SEC/  
 ADCOM/GCDO04SM/04SM to RJH(DIV)

102-04Gb AUTHORIZED MEETINGS 2005

VOTED, To approve the list of Authorized Meetings 2005 with the understanding that attendance at these meetings must also be approved by the administration of each entity, as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>January 2005</u>			
6-10	Thu	Institute of World Mission Re-entry Program	Avondale AUSTRALIA
7-9	Fri	Ellen G White Estate Consultation	
10-15	Mon	PREXAD	
14-29	Fri	Institute of World Mission	Avondale AUSTRALIA
19,20	Wed	IRLA International Congress	Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD
22	Sat	Religious Liberty Festival	Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD
26	Wed	IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD
<u>February 2005</u>			
14	Mon	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
15	Tue	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
17	Thu	Geoscience Research Institute Board	Loma Linda CA
18-22	Fri	PPPA, R&H, & ABC Marketing Seminar	East Coast
21	Mon	Christian Record Services Board	Lincoln NE
<u>March 2005</u>			
3	Thu	AIIAS Board	Silang PHILIPPINES
3	Thu	Adventist Risk Management Board	Silver Spring MD
3(pm)	Thu	IWM Administrative Council	Berrien Springs MI
4(am)	Fri	Andrews University Board Finance Committee	Berrien Springs MI
6	Sun	Andrews University Board Subcommittees	Berrien Springs MI
6(pm)	Sun	Andrews University Seminary Executive Com	Berrien Springs MI
7	Mon	Andrews University Board	Berrien Springs MI
14-Apr 2	Mon	Institute of World Mission	THAILAND
15	Tue	Loma Linda Boards—Executive Committees	Loma Linda CA
17	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
21-26	Mon	GC Spiritual Emphasis Wk & Travel Moratorium	Silver Spring MD
30	Wed	PPPA Board Finance Committee	Nampa ID
31	Thu	PPPA Board	Nampa ID
<u>April 2005</u>			
4,5	Mon	Global Mission Issues Committee	Silver Spring MD
5(am)	Tue	International Board of Education	Silver Spring MD
5(eve)	Tue	Global Mission Operations Committee	Silver Spring MD
6,7	Wed	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
6(pm)	Wed	Educational Consultation	Silver Spring MD
7(am)	Thu	Accred Assoc of SDA Sch, Col, & Univ	Silver Spring MD
7(pm)	Thu	Adventist Television Network Committee	Silver Spring MD
8	Fri	Presidents Council	Silver Spring MD
8	Fri	Secretaries Council	Silver Spring MD
8	Fri	Treasurers Council	Silver Spring MD

04-50  
 April 15, 2004, a.m.  
 GCC Spring Meeting

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>April 2005 contd</u>			
10(am)	Sun	Financial Planning & Budgeting Committee	Silver Spring MD
10(eve)	Sun	10/40 Window Committee	Silver Spring MD
11(am)	Mon	GC & Division Officers	Silver Spring MD
11(pm)	Mon	Adventist World Radio Board	Silver Spring MD
12	Tue	Council on Evangelism & Witness	Silver Spring MD
12(am)	Tue	ADRA Executive Committee	Silver Spring MD
12(pm)	Tue	ICPA Board	Silver Spring MD
12(eve)	Tue	Adventist Health International Board	Silver Spring MD
13,14(am)	Wed	Spring Meeting	Silver Spring MD
13(eve)	Wed	International HIV/AIDS Study Commission	Silver Spring MD
13(eve)	Wed	HSI/Griggs University Board	Silver Spring MD
14	Thu	GC PARL World Affairs Com & IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD
18	Mon	Adventist Heritage Ministry Finance Committee	Port Gibson NY
18,19	Mon	Adventist Heritage Ministry Executive Committee	Port Gibson NY
18,19	Mon	Biblical Research Institute Committee	Berrien Springs MI
24	Sun	Oakwood College Board	Huntsville AL
26(eve)	Tue	R&H Board Finance Committee	Hagerstown MD
27(am)	Wed	R&H Board	Hagerstown MD
<u>May 2005</u>			
12(pm)	Thu	Andrews University Executive Committee	Berrien Springs MI
17	Tue	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
18	Wed	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
19(am)	Thu	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
19	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
<u>June 2005</u>			
1,2	Wed	Adventist Risk Management Board	VERMONT
1-10	Wed	GC Travel Moratorium	Silver Spring MD
2(am)	Thu	R&H Executive & Finance Committees	Silver Spring MD
6-25	Mon	Institute of World Mission	Berrien Springs MI
8	Wed	GC Staff Day	Gaithersburg MD
9	Thu	R&H Board Executive & Finance Committees	Silver Spring MD
22-27	Wed	HIV/AIDS & SEEDS PLUS Intern'l Conference	Berrien Springs MI
23	Thu	Presidents Council	St Louis MO
23	Thu	Secretaries Council	St Louis MO
23	Thu	Treasurers Council	St Louis MO
24	Fri	GC & Division Officers	St Louis MO
26(eve)-28	Sun	International Risk Management Conference	St Louis MO
27,28	Mon	Division Officer Interviews	St Louis MO
29-July 9	Wed	General Conference Session	St Louis MO

July 2005

4	Mon	Assoc of Adv Family Life Prof Board	Berrien Springs MI
12-17	Tue	Institute of World Mission Re-entry Program	Berrien Springs MI
21	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
29-Aug 2	Fri	Biblical Research Institute Science Council	NORTH AMERICA

August 2005

1-20	Mon	Institute of World Mission	Newbold ENGLAND
11	Thu	PPPA Board	Nampa ID
15	Mon	Christian Record Services Board	Lincoln NE
17	Wed	Adventist Risk Management Board	Silver Spring MD
21	Sun	Adventist Heritage Ministry Finance Committee	Battle Creek MI
22	Mon	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
22,23	Mon	Adventist Heritage Ministry Committee	Battle Creek MI
23	Tue	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA

September 2005

6(eve)	Tue	R&H Board Finance Committee	Hagerstown MD
7(am)	Wed	R&H Board	Hagerstown MD
11-15	Sun	Adventist Risk Management Conference	
13-23	Tue	GC Staff Travel Moratorium	Silver Spring MD
15	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD

October 2005

2	Sun	Council on Evangelism & Witness	Silver Spring MD
3	Mon	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
3(am)	Mon	International Board of Education	Silver Spring MD
3(pm)	Mon	10/40 Window Committee	Silver Spring MD
4	Tue	Presidents Council	Silver Spring MD
4	Tue	Secretaries Council	Silver Spring MD
4	Tue	Treasurers Council	Silver Spring MD
4	Tue	GC PARL World Affairs Com & IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD
4(pm)	Tue	Adventist Television Network Operating Com	Silver Spring MD
5	Wed	GC & Division Officers	Silver Spring MD
5(eve)	Wed	Global Mission Operations Committee	Silver Spring MD
6	Thu	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
6(am)	Thu	ADRA Board	Silver Spring MD
6(pm)	Thu	International Board of Min & Theo Educ	Silver Spring MD
6(pm)	Thu	Accred Assoc of SDA Sch, Col, & Univ	Silver Spring MD
6(pm)	Thu	Church Manual Committee	Silver Spring MD
6(pm)	Thu	Adventist World Radio Board	Silver Spring MD
7(am)	Fri	Financial Planning & Budgeting Committee	Silver Spring MD
7(pm)	Fri	AIAS Board	Silver Spring MD
7(pm)	Fri	International HIV/AIDS Study Commission	Silver Spring MD

04-52  
 April 15, 2004, a.m.  
 GCC Spring Meeting

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>October 2005</u> contd			
7(eve)-13(am)	Fri	Annual Council	Silver Spring MD
9(eve)	Sun	Financial Statement Audit Review Committee	Silver Spring MD
10(pm)	Mon	GCAS Board	Silver Spring MD
10(eve)	Mon	HSI/Griggs University Board	Silver Spring MD
14(am)	Fri	Andrews University Board Finance Committee	Berrien Springs MI
16	Sun	Andrews University Subcommittees	Berrien Springs MI
16(pm)	Sun	Andrews University Seminary Executive Com	Berrien Springs MI
17	Mon	Andrews University Board	Berrien Springs MI
17,18	Mon	Biblical Research Institute Committee	Loma Linda CA
17-Nov5	Mon	Institute of World Mission	Berrien Springs MI
18	Tue	Loma Linda Boards—Executive Committees	Loma Linda CA
30(eve)-2	Sun	NAD Yearend Meeting	Silver Spring MD

<u>November 2005</u>			
17	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
30	Wed	Adventist Risk Management Board	Silver Spring MD

<u>December 2005</u>			
5	Mon	Inst for Prevention of Addictions Board	Berrien Springs MI
6	Tue	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
7	Wed	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
8(am)	Thu	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
12	Mon	ADRA Executive Committee	Silver Spring MD
15	Thu	R&H Executive & Finance Committees	Silver Spring MD

SEC/ADCOM/GCDO04SM/04SM to RJH(DIV)

102-04Gc AUTHORIZED MEETINGS 2006

VOTED, To approve the list of Authorized Meetings 2006 with the understanding that attendance at these meetings must also be approved by the administration of each entity, as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>January 2006</u>			
6-8	Fri	Ellen G White Estate Consultation	Williamsburg VA
7-11	Sat	Institute of World Mission Re-Entry Program	Avondale AUSTRALIA
9-14	Mon	PREXAD	Miami FL
15-30	Sun	Institute of World Mission	Avondale AUSTRALIA

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>January 2006 contd</u>			
25	Wed	IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD
<u>February 2006</u>			
16	Thu	Geoscience Research Institute Board	Loma Linda CA
16	Thu	Institute for the Prevention of Addictions Board	Loma Linda CA
17-21	Fri	PPPA, R&H, ABC Marketing Seminar	East Coast
20	Mon	Christian Record Services Board	Lincoln NE
20	Mon	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
21	Tue	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
<u>March 2006</u>			
2	Thu	Adventist Risk Management Board	Silver Spring MD
2	Thu	AIAS Board	Silang PHILIPPINES
2(pm)	Thu	IWM Administrative Council	Berrien Springs MI
3(am)	Fri	Andrews University Board Finance Committee	Berrien Springs MI
5	Sun	Andrews University Board Subcommittees	Berrien Springs MI
5(pm)	Sun	Andrews University Seminary Executive Com	Berrien Springs MI
6	Mon	Andrews University Board	Berrien Springs MI
13-Apr 1	Mon	Institute of World Mission	
16	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
20-24	Mon	GC Spiritual Emphasis Wk & Travel Moratorium	Silver Spring MD
29	Wed	PPPA Board Finance Committee	Nampa ID
30	Thu	PPPA Board	Nampa ID
<u>April 2006</u>			
3,4	Mon	Global Mission Issues Committee	Loma Linda CA
4(am)	Tue	International Board of Education	Loma Linda CA
5,6	Wed	Division Officer Interviews	Loma Linda CA
5(pm)	Wed	HIV/AIDS Office Board	Loma Linda CA
5(pm)	Wed	Education Consultation	Loma Linda CA
6(am)	Thu	Accrediting Assoc of SDA Sch, Coll, & Univ	Loma Linda CA
6(pm)	Thu	Adventist Television Network Operating Com	Loma Linda CA
7	Fri	Presidents Council	Loma Linda CA
7	Fri	Secretaries Council	Loma Linda CA
7	Fri	Treasurers Council	Loma Linda CA
7,8	Fri	Loma Linda Centenary and Worship Events	Loma Linda CA
9(am)	Sun	Financial Planning & Budgeting Committee	Loma Linda CA
9(pm)	Sun	LLUAHSC Constituency & Loma Linda Bds	Loma Linda CA
9(eve)	Sun	Loma Linda Centennial Celebratory Banquet	Loma Linda CA
10(am)	Mon	GC & Division Officers	Loma Linda CA
10(pm)	Mon	Adventist World Radio Board	Loma Linda CA

04-54  
 April 15, 2004, a.m.  
 GCC Spring Meeting

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>April 2006 contd</u>			
11	Tue	Council on Evangelism & Witness	Loma Linda CA
11(am)	Tue	ADRA Executive Committee	Loma Linda CA
11(pm)	Tue	ICPA Board	Loma Linda CA
11(eve)	Tue	Adventist Health International Board	Loma Linda CA
12,13(am)	Wed	Spring Meeting	Loma Linda CA
12(eve)	Wed	HSI/Griggs University Board	Loma Linda CA
12(eve)	Wed	International HIV/AIDS Study Commission	Loma Linda CA
13	Thu	GC PARL World Affairs Com & IRLA Board	Loma Linda CA
17,18	Mon	Biblical Research Institute Committee	Berrien Springs MI
17(eve)	Mon	R&H Board Finance Committee	Hagerstown MD
18(am)	Tue	R&H Board	Hagerstown MD
18-20	Tue	World Council of Editors	Silver Spring MD
21	Fri	Adventist Heritage Ministry Finance Committee	
21	Fri	Oakwood College Board	Huntsville AL
21,22	Fri	Adventist Heritage Ministry Board	
<u>May 2006</u>			
11(pm)	Thu	Andrews University Executive Committee	Berrien Springs MI
16	Tue	Loma Linda Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
17,18	Wed	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
18	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
24,25	Wed	IRLA International Congress	
27	Sat	Religious Liberty Festival	
31-June 1	Wed	Adventist Risk Management Board	Burlington VT
<u>June 2006</u>			
6	Tue	R&H Board Exec & Finance Committee	Silver Spring MD
12-15	Mon	PREXAD	
12-July 1	Mon	Institute of World Mission	Berrien Springs MI
14	Wed	GC Staff Day	Gaithersburg MD
<u>July 2006</u>			
11-16	Tue	Institute of World Mission Re-entry Program	Berrien Springs MI
13	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
20	Thu	Adventist Assn of Family Life Professionals Bd	
24-Aug 12	Mon	Institute of World Mission	
28-Aug 1	Fri	Biblical Research Institute Science Council	
<u>August 2006</u>			
6(eve)	Sun	PPPA Board Finance Committee	Nampa ID
7	Mon	PPPA Board	Nampa ID

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>August 2006 contd</u>			
14	Mon	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
15	Tue	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
18-24	Fri	International Faith & Science Conference	
21	Mon	Christian Record Services Board	Lincoln NE
23	Wed	Adventist Risk Management Board	Silver Spring MD
23,24	Wed	IRLA International Congress	
26	Sat	Religious Liberty Festival	
29(eve)	Tue	R&H Board Finance Committee	Hagerstown MD
30(am)	Wed	R&H Board	Hagerstown MD
<u>September 2006</u>			
10-13	Sun	Adventist Risk Management Conference	Denver CO
12-22	Tue	GC Staff Travel Moratorium	Silver Spring MD
14	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
15	Fri	Adventist Heritage Ministry Finance Committee	Battle Creek MI
17,18	Sun	Adventist Heritage Ministry Committee	Battle Creek MI
<u>October 2006</u>			
1	Sun	Council on Evangelism & Witness	Silver Spring MD
2	Mon	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
2(pm)	Mon	10/40 Window Committee	Silver Spring MD
3	Tue	Presidents Council	Silver Spring MD
3	Tue	Secretaries Council	Silver Spring MD
3	Tue	Treasurers Council	Silver Spring MD
3(am)	Tue	International Board of Education	Silver Spring MD
3(pm)	Tue	Adventist Television Network Operating Com	Silver Spring MD
3(pm)	Tue	GC PARL World Affairs Com & IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD
4	Wed	GC & Division Officers	Silver Spring MD
4(eve)	Wed	Global Mission Operations Committee	Silver Spring MD
5	Thu	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
5(am)	Thu	ADRA Board	Silver Spring MD
5(am)	Thu	Church Manual Committee	Silver Spring MD
5(pm)	Thu	International Board of Min & Theo Educ	Silver Spring MD
5(pm)	Thu	Adventist World Radio Board	Silver Spring MD
6(am)	Fri	Financial Planning & Budgeting Committee	Silver Spring MD
6(am)	Fri	Accrediting Assoc of SDA Sch, Coll, & Univ	Silver Spring MD
6(pm)	Fri	Africa HIV/AIDS Office Board	Silver Spring MD
6(pm)	Fri	AIAS Board	Silver Spring MD
6(eve)-12	Fri	Annual Council	Silver Spring MD
8(eve)	Sun	Financial Statement Audit Review Committee	Silver Spring MD
9(pm)	Mon	GCAS Board	Silver Spring MD

04-56  
April 15, 2004, a.m.  
GCC Spring Meeting  
Revised

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>October 2006 contd</u>			
9(eve)	Mon	HSI/Griggs University Board	Silver Spring MD
9(eve)	Mon	International HIV/AIDS Study Commission	Silver Spring MD
13(am)	Fri	Andrews University Board Finance Committee	Berrien Springs MI
15	Sun	Andrews University Subcommittees	Berrien Springs MI
15(pm)	Sun	Andrews University Seminary Executive Com	Berrien Springs MI
16	Mon	Andrews University Board	Berrien Springs MI
16,17	Mon	Biblical Research Institute Committee	Loma Linda CA
16-Nov 4	Mon	Institute of World Mission	Berrien Springs MI
17	Tue	Loma Linda Boards—Executive Committees	Loma Linda CA
22,23	Sun	Oakwood College Board of Trustees	Huntsville AL
29-Nov 1	Sun	NAD Yearend Meeting	Silver Spring MD
<u>November 2006</u>			
16	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
29	Wed	Adventist Risk Management Board	Silver Spring MD
<u>December 2006</u>			
5(pm),6	Tue	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
7	Thu	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
11	Mon	ADRA Executive Committee	Silver Spring MD
14	Thu	R&H Executive & Finance Committees	Silver Spring MD

SEC/ADCOM/GCC to LRE

ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST  
SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND UNIVERSITIES (GCC-S)—  
MEMBERSHIP ADJUSTMENT

VOTED, To adjust the membership of the Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities (GCC-S), as follows:

Delete	Beardsley, Lisa
	Devadas, Justus
	Dulan, C Garland, Executive Secretary
	Graham, Karen
	Hevener, Donald
	Peters, Percy
	Rasi, Humberto M, Chairman
	Sahly, Donald R
	Schoun, Benjamin D

Tausere, Nemani

Add  
Christo, Gordon  
Dos Santos, Alberto  
Dulan, C Garland, Chairman  
Hill, Barry  
Hsu, Eugene  
Korniejczuk, Raquel  
Kovalski, Gerald  
Luxton Andrea T, Executive Secretary  
Nkungula, Tom  
Sarli, Joel (for remainder of quinquennium)

SEC/ADCOM/GCC to LRE

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION (GCC-B)—  
MEMBERSHIP ADJUSTMENT

VOTED, To adjust the membership of the International Board of Education  
(GCC-B), as follows:

Delete  
Birkenstock, David  
Bocala, Violetto F  
Chun, Pyung-Duk  
Devine, Lester D  
Dulan, C Garland, Assistant Secretary  
John, M C  
Peters, Percy  
Rasi, Humberto M, Executive Secretary

Add  
Christo, Gordon  
Dulan, C Garland, Executive Secretary  
Hill, Barry (SPD)  
Gulfan, Alberto C Jr (SSD)  
Lee, Jairyong (NSD)  
Luxton, Andrea T, Assistant Secretary  
Melgosa, Julian M  
Nkungula, Tom (SID)

04-58  
April 15, 2004, a.m.  
GCC Spring Meeting

SEC/ADCOM/GCC to LRE

GEOSCIENCE RESEARCH INSTITUTE BOARD (GCC-B)—  
MEMBERSHIP ADJUSTMENT

VOTED, To adjust the membership of the Geoscience Research Institute Board (GCC-B), as follows:

Add           Dulan, C Garland

SEC/ADCOM/GCC to LRE

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF MINISTERIAL AND  
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION (GCC-B)—MEMBERSHIP  
REVISION

VOTED, To revise the membership of the International Board of Ministerial and Theological Education (GCC-B), to read as follows:

KARST, GERRY D, Chairman	Advisor for Education*
Hsu, Eugene, Vice-chairman	Advisor for AIIAS*
Wilson, Ted N C, Vice-chairman	Advisor for Ministerial Association*
Dulan, C Garland, Secretary	Department of Education Director*
Cress, James A, Associate Secretary	Ministerial Association Secretary*
Paulsen, Jan	President*
Bediako, Matthew A	Secretary*
Lemon, Robert E	Treasurer*
Stenbakken, Richard O	Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries Director*
Rodriguez, Angel M	Biblical Research Institute Director*
Daniel, Luka T	Division Presidents
Evans, Laurie J	
Frikart, Ulrich	
Gulfan, Alberto C Jr	
Lee, Jairyong	
Leito, Israel	
Mbwana, Geoffrey	
Mwansa, Pardon	
Nagel, Ruy H	
Schneider, Don C	
Stele, Artur A	
Watts, D Ronald	

Wiklander, Bertil

Becerra, Enrique  
Sarli, Joel

Department of Education Associate Director\*  
Ministerial Association Associate Secretary\*

Endruweit, Wilson  
McVay, John K  
Merklin, Lester  
Nam, Daegeuk

Presidents/Deans of Seminaries and Universities  
offering denominationally recognized  
doctoral programs in ministerial formation

Castrejon, Jaime  
Clouzet, Ron

Two Deans of Graduate Programs in ministerial  
and religious formation

Allen, Gregory

Two Chairmen of Undergraduate Programs in  
ministerial and religious formation

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Davidson, Jo Ann  
Duda, Daniel  
Escobar, Edgar  
Thompson, Steven

Four Faculty from institutions offering programs in  
ministerial and religious formation

Carlson, Richard  
Christo Gordon  
Gustin, Patricia J  
Kwesi, Ifeoma  
Lutz, Jerry  
Schoonard, Duane

Six Persons experienced and active in ministerial  
formation (Pastors, Chaplains, Bible  
instructors, etc)

Beardsley, Lisa  
Muganda, Baraka G  
Neal, Beatrice  
Pfandl, Gerhard

Up to four additional members as selected by the  
Board

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\*Executive Committee

FinPl&Bud04SM/ADCOM/GCC to LRE

FINANCIAL PLANNING AND BUDGETING COMMITTEE  
(GCC-S)—MEMBERSHIP ADJUSTMENT

VOTED, To adjust the membership of the Financial Planning and Budgeting Committee  
(GCC-S), as follows:

04-60  
April 15, 2004, a.m.  
GCC Spring Meeting

Add Harold W Baptiste

04SM to GDK

COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION—PARTIAL REPORT

VOTED, To record the presentation of the partial report of the Commission on Higher Education as follows:

C Garland Dulan, Director of the General Conference Education Department, presented a report on the “Preliminary Recommendations based on the October 14, 2003 Report to the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Executive Committee”, which identified four basic issues/areas for further study. The recommendations are as follows:

1. The growing percentages of non-Seventh-day Adventist students and faculty in Seventh-day Adventist institutions.
2. Financing Seventh-day Adventist higher education costs.
3. Guiding Seventh-day Adventist Students in non Seventh-day Adventist tertiary level schools.
4. Defining, strengthening, and supporting the role and function of the Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities (and of the General Conference International Board of Education/International Board of Ministerial and Theological Education).

(See pages 04-61 through 04-64 for the complete report on the Commission on Higher Education Preliminary Recommendations based on the October 14, 2003 Report to the General Conference Executive Committee.)

Closing prayer was offered by G Ralph Thompson

Adjourned

Jan Paulsen, Chairman  
Roscoe J Howard III, Secretary  
Larry R Evans, Editorial Secretary  
Lissy Park, Recording Secretary

COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
April 2004

Preliminary Recommendations based on the October 14, 2003  
Report to the General Conference Executive Committee

Four basic issues/areas were identified for further study, and assigned to four subcommittees. At its meeting on April 8, 2004, the full Commission on Higher Education reviewed the recommendations of the subcommittees and makes the following preliminary recommendations:

I. Growing Percentages of non-Seventh-day Adventists  
Students and Faculty in Seventh-day Adventist Institutions

Commission on Higher Education Recommendations:

1. a. To endorse the Commission on Higher Education recommendation to strengthen the understanding of the Adventist philosophy of education on each campus, and
  - b. To involve all faculty in integration of faith and learning workshops.
2. To emphasize the need for every institution to go through a self analysis process to determine the correlation between its institutional mission and the mission of the Church, and to analyze itself in relationship to the issue of secularization. Further, each institution should devise a plan for correction of discrepancies between institutional and Church mission, as necessary.
3. To endorse the goals in recruiting students and in hiring faculty at higher education institutions as follows:
  - a. A minimum of 75 percent Seventh-day Adventist students.
  - b. A minimum of 95 percent Seventh-day Adventist faculty. (Ideal being 100 percent)
  - c. Institutions not presently meeting these objectives should implement a plan to bring the ratios into harmony with the denomination's philosophy of education.
  - d. Colleges/universities whose target group consists of a higher percentage of non-Adventists (in accordance with their mission) should consult with their sponsoring organizations and set different percentages but still insure that the Adventist philosophy of education is intentionally incorporated into the practices of the institution.
4. To encourage every division and every higher education institution to establish a

plan to deal with “conflict of faith” challenges by providing:

- a. Seminars, readings, and personal projects which involve every faculty member in thoughtful consideration of the Seventh-day Adventist philosophy of education.
- b. A special interview process for job applicants designed to get a complete understanding of the philosophy of each prior to hiring.
- c. An orientation process for new faculty (both Seventh-day Adventist and non-Seventh-day Adventist) regarding the Seventh-day Adventist philosophy of education.
- d. Procedures to dialogue with faculty on potential problems and their prevention.
- e. A legal due process to replace faculty who are unwilling or unable to abide by the beliefs and practices of the Church.
- f. An aggressive human resources plan to prepare Adventist teachers qualified and willing to teach in our higher education institutions.

II. Financing Seventh-day Adventist Higher Education  
Report pending

III. Guiding Seventh-day Adventist Students in non-Seventh-day  
Adventist Tertiary Level Schools

Commission on Higher Education Recommendations:

1. To raise the awareness of the Church regarding the problems faced by Adventist youth on secular campuses through the print media, interviews, discussions on the issues, etc.
2. To establish campus ministry as a strong component of chaplaincy ministry, with a director responsible for nurturing these students, and the ministry being viewed as part of the evangelistic duty of the Church. Further, to set up an organizational locus for campus ministry at every level of the global organization.
3. To develop a funding mechanism to support both the organizational structure and ministerial provision for such a spiritual and evangelistic venture.
4. To make local congregations more aware of the potential for leadership that such students provide, and to encourage churches to keep in close touch with these students by engaging the services of Adventist professionals to collaborate with local pastors in serving as advisors or mentors to the students.

IV. Defining, Strengthening, and Supporting the Role and Function of the Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities (and of the International Board of Education/International Board of Ministerial and Theological Education)

Commission of Higher Education Recommendations:

1. That the General Conference Administrative Committee appoint a small taskforce to study the future role of the Department of Education and bring a report to the General Conference Executive Committee at its earliest convenience. The taskforce should include in its range of issues:

- a. The role and function of the Education Department (answering whether the department is simply a service offering counsel and guidance, or whether its function is administrative).
- b. Staffing level in light of increasing demands and number of institutions,
- c. What functions are essential and which can be eliminated.
- d. Whether the director should be considered an administrator with a position as either a General Field Secretary or a Vice President.

2. That in order to encourage institutional boards toward following policy, that the Education Department develop a video, CD, or power point presentation that explains the purposes of the entire program proposal process and send it to all tertiary institution presidents and board chairs. The video might include samples of documents that have (in the past) been approved and examples of consequences to institutions for not following policy (including negative consequences to the students such as nontransfer of credit, to the institution such as reputation or financial implications, and to the Seventh-day Adventist Church such as lack of credibility, and so forth).

3. That systematic development for chairs of Boards of Trustees be provided on how to address academic processes. This should include, as a minimum, an orientation of board members that would systematically take place across the entire education system of divisions.

4. That whenever it comes to the attention of the Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities Board or the educational director of the division that policy is being violated, a letter should be sent immediately by the Executive Secretary of Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities to the institution and to the Board Chair with the notation that Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities is aware of policy

04-64

April 15, 2004, a.m.

GCC Spring Meeting

violation and that the institution will be held accountable through a variety of means (to yet be determined).

5. To strengthen the Adventist Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities by instituting an open disclosure policy that provides constituents and church leaders appropriate information about the relationship of an institution to the Church. The elements to be included in such a policy would involve:

- a. Information about an institution's accreditation status.
- b. Announcement of upcoming Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities evaluations, providing opportunity for public comments about an institution's operation.
- c. Information to church leadership about the findings and recommendations resulting from an Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities visit, provided openly through general church publications such as the *Adventist Review*, and union or division papers.

SPRING MEETING  
GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

April 14, 2004, 2:00 p.m.

Jan Paulsen, Chairman, called to order the second session of the 2004 Spring Meeting.

Prayer was offered by Karen M Flowers, Co-Director, General Conference Family Ministries

HOME STUDY INTERNATIONAL/GRIGGS UNIVERSITY  
REPORT

Joseph E Gurubatham presented a special report on Home Study International/ Griggs University.

At 2:15 p.m. the meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee was recessed and a meeting of the Home Study International Corporation legal constituency was called.

At 2:17 p.m. the meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee reconvened.

SAD/ADCOM/04SM to AM-05GCS

138-04G WEST CENTRAL BRAZIL UNION MISSION—NEW  
UNION MISSION

RECOMMENDED, 1. To recognize and record the reorganization of the former Central Brazil Union Conference and the South Brazil Union Conference into three unions known as the Central Brazil Union Conference, the South Brazil Union Conference, and the West Central Brazil Union Mission, effective 2005.

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

OAKWOOD COLLEGE—REPORT

Delbert Baker, President of Oakwood College gave a Power Point presentation report regarding Oakwood College.

04-24

April 14, 2004, p.m.

GCC Spring Meeting

## FAMILY LIFE—PRESENTATION

Ronald M and Karen M Flowers, Co-Directors of General Conference Family Ministries presented a report on Family Life Ministries and a new book entitled, "Family Evangelism" to Jan Paulsen, President of the General Conference, and to other contributing members.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING ISSUES—2005 - 2010

Michael L Ryan, Vice President, presented a Power Point presentation report on Strategic Planning issues.

VOTED, To accept the Strategic Planning Report that called the church to invite every person in the world to know Jesus, and invited members to spend every day with Jesus in a nurturing relationship, and to bring one person to Jesus by the year 2010. The purpose of presenting the report was to provide an initial exposure to concepts, encouraging feedback from the world Church.

04SM to JP

## FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS STATEMENT

Angel M Rodriguez, Michael L Ryan and William G Johnsson presented a proposal entitled, "The Fundamental Beliefs and 'Growing in Christ:' Proposal for a new Fundamental Belief."

VOTED, To submit to the world Church for discussion and suggestions the document entitled "The Fundamental Beliefs and 'Growing in Christ:' Proposal for a New Fundamental Belief" with the understanding that it will be brought back to the 2004 Annual Council for final discussion before it is presented to the 2005 General Conference Session.

### **Growing in Christ**

By His cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the demonic spirits during His earthly ministry has broken their power and made certain their ultimate doom. Jesus' victory gives us victory over the evil forces that still seek to control us, as we walk with Him in peace, joy, and assurance of His love. Instead of evil forces, the Holy Spirit now dwells within us and empowers us. Committed to Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we are set free from the burden of past deeds and our former life with its darkness, fear of evil powers, ignorance, and meaninglessness. In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His character, as we commune with Him daily in prayer, feeding on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for worship, and participating in the mission of the church. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us sanctifies every moment and every

*Robert W. Johnson*  
*Renewed Council*  
*June 27, 2004*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>July 2004 contd</u>			
30-Aug 3	Fri	Biblical Research Institute Science Council	NORTH AMERICA
<u>August 2004</u>			
8(eve)	Sun	PPPA Board Finance Committee	Nampa ID
9	Mon	PPPA Board	Nampa ID
16	Mon	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
17	Tue	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
20-26	Fri	International Faith & Science Conference	Denver CO
23	Mon	Christian Record Services Board	Lincoln NE
25	Wed	Adventist Risk Management Board	Silver Spring MD
28	Sat	Festival of Religious Freedom	TAIWAN
30,31	Mon	Congress of Religious Freedom (Regional)	TAIWAN
31(eve)	Tue	R&H Board Finance Committee	Hagerstown MD
<u>September 2004</u>			
1(am)	Wed	R&H Board	Hagerstown MD
12-16	Sun	Adventist Risk Management Conference	Denver CO
14-24	Tue	GC Staff Travel Moratorium	Silver Spring MD
16	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
17	Fri	Adventist Heritage Ministry Finance Committee	Battle Creek MI
19,20	Sun	Adventist Heritage Ministry Board	Battle Creek MI
<u>October 2004</u>			
1(am)	Fri	ADRA Governance Commission	Silver Spring MD
3	Sun	Council on Evangelism & Witness	Silver Spring MD
4	Mon	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
4(am)	Mon	Church Manual Committee	Silver Spring MD
4(am)	Mon	International Board of Education	Silver Spring MD
4(pm)	Mon	10/40 Window Committee	Silver Spring MD
4(pm)	Mon	International Board of Min & Theo Educ	Silver Spring MD
5	Tue	Secretaries Council	Silver Spring MD
5	Tue	Treasurers Council	Silver Spring MD
5	Tue	Presidents Council	Silver Spring MD
5(pm)	Tue	Adventist Television Network Operating Com	Silver Spring MD
5(pm)	Tue	GC PARL World Affairs Com & IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD
6	Wed	GC & Division Officers	Silver Spring MD
6(eve)	Wed	Global Mission Operations Committee	Silver Spring MD
7	Thu	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
7(am)	Thu	ADRA Board	Silver Spring MD
7(pm)	Thu	Adventist World Radio Board	Silver Spring MD
7(pm)	Thu	Accred Assoc of SDA Sch, Col, & Univ	Silver Spring MD

04-48  
 April 15, 2004, a.m.  
 GCC Spring Meeting  
 Revised

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>October 2004 contd</u>			
8(am)	Fri	Financial Planning & Budgeting Committee	Silver Spring MD
8(pm)	Fri	AIIAS Board	Silver Spring MD
8(pm)	Fri	Africa HIV/AIDS Office Board	Silver Spring MD
8(eve)-14(am)	Fri	Annual Council	Silver Spring MD
10(eve)	Sun	Financial Statement Audit Review Committee	Silver Spring MD
11(pm)	Mon	GCAS Board	Silver Spring MD
11(eve)	Mon	HSI/Griggs University Board	Silver Spring MD
11(eve)	Mon	International HIV/AIDS Study Commission	Silver Spring MD
14(pm)-16	Thu	International Conf on Adventists in the Community	Silver Spring MD
14(pm)-17	Thu	<i>His Hands</i> Conference	Silver Spring MD
15(am)	Fri	Andrews University Board Finance Committee	Berrien Springs MI
17	Sun	Andrews University Subcommittees	Berrien Springs MI
17(pm)	Sun	Andrews University Seminary Executive Com	Berrien Springs MI
18	Mon	Andrews University Board	Berrien Springs MI
18,19	Mon	Biblical Research Institute Committee	Loma Linda CA
18-Nov 6	Mon	Institute of World Mission	Berrien Springs MI
19	Tue	Loma Linda Boards—Executive Committees	Loma Linda CA
24,25	Sun	Oakwood College Board	Huntsville AL
29(eve)-Nov 1	Fri	NAD Yearend Meeting	Battle Creek MI
<u>November 2004</u>			
18	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
<u>December 2004</u>			
2	Thu	Adventist Risk Management Board	Silver Spring MD
7(pm), 8	Tue	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
9	Thu	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
13	Mon	ADRA Executive Committee	Silver Spring MD
16	Thu	R&H Executive & Finance Committees	Silver Spring MD

SEC/ADCOM/GCDO03SM/03SM/SEC/ADCOM/GCDO03AC/03AC/102-03Gc/SEC/  
 ADCOM/GCDO04SM/04SM to RJH(DIV)

102-04Gb AUTHORIZED MEETINGS 2005

VOTED, To approve the list of Authorized Meetings 2005 with the understanding that attendance at these meetings must also be approved by the administration of each entity, as follows:

*Robert W. Nelson*  
*General Counsel*  
*June 22, 2004*

## INTRODUCTION

The Loma Linda Academic Health Sciences complex (LL Complex) consists of 30 different organizations and employs over 12,700 employees. These employees are professionally classified by human resource management personnel into over 1,500 different classifications. These classifications range from specialty physicians (such as neonatologists, cardiac surgeons, pediatric surgeons, and oncologists), specialty dentists (such as oral surgeons, orthodontists, and periodontists), and basic scientists who do research sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Aeronautical and Space Agency (NASA), to accountants, proton technicians, nurse practitioners, risk management specialists, attorneys, pharmacists, nurses and secretaries.

Many of the employees at the LL Complex, although in different corporations, are required, as part of their job, to support more than one organization. In addition, because of national and state laws and accreditation requirements, employee numbers are expected to be at certain minimum levels, and employees are expected to have certain qualifications and certifications. With all employees geographically located in the same area and, in some cases, in the same building, it is difficult not to have all of the LL Complex fall into the same remuneration section of the General Conference Working Policy. The section which has been approved for the Loma Linda Complex is Y05 paragraph 10, *Variations for Commercial Business Organizations*.

Each of the entities which comprise the LL Complex have established board-approved remuneration guidelines, market references, and a compliance plan. Those employees who are on the regular NADCOM-approved remuneration schedule receive NADCOM benefits, including tuition assistance for dependents. This benefit is not available for individuals whose salaries are based upon market references. These guidelines and references have been in place and used by the LL Complex for many years and approved by the governing boards as far back as 1967. The following sections to this document contain information about these groups of employees and their remuneration.

## NON-PHYSICIAN EMPLOYEES WHICH SERVE THE HEALTH CARE ENTITIES

These employees are employed in corporations such as Loma Linda University Medical Center, Loma Linda University Health Care, and Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center. There are approximately 8,000 employees in this category.

### Remuneration Guidelines:

The maximum salary/wage which can be paid to these individuals is the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of the market references. Because of the national shortage of certain skilled professionals such as nurses, proton technicians, and pharmacists, a group of employment positions are identified as difficult-to-recruit positions. The maximum for this group is the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the market reference.

### Market Reference:

- Healthcare Association of Southern California
- Management Science Associates, Inc.
- Watson Wyatt
- Employers Group
- Professional & Scientific Personnel
- American Association of Physicists in Medicine
- Health Physics Society
- Union Guild for Professional Pharmacists
- Fermi Lab
- CUPA Administrative/Professional

### Control System:

The classifications which fall into the hard-to-recruit category and the market reference are approved by the relevant governing boards, and a report on compliance with the 50<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile requirements is annually presented to the relevant boards.

## NON-FACULTY EMPLOYEES WHICH SERVE ONLY THE ACADEMIC ENTITIES

These employees are employed in Loma Linda University and fall into four categories: salaried employees, hourly employees, students, and salaried research assistants. There are approximately 3,500 individuals in this category.

### Remuneration Guidelines:

Salaried employees, hourly employees, and students will not exceed the regular NADCOM-approved remuneration factor. Salaried research assistants will not exceed the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of the market reference.

### Market Reference:

For salaried employees, the market reference is the regular NADCOM-approved remuneration factor.

For hourly employees, students, and salaried researchers, the market reference is community rates as published by:

- College & University Personnel Association (CUPA)
- Association of Independent California Colleges & Universities (AICCU)

### Control System:

All exceptions to the remuneration guidelines and/or market reference must be approved by the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees.

## ADMINISTRATORS WHO SERVE IN BOTH THE HEALTHCARE AND ACADEMIC ENTITIES

These employees are employed in Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center. There are 24 individuals in this category.

### Remuneration Guidelines:

The maximum salary which can be paid to these individuals is the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of the market reference.

### Market Reference:

The market reference is other academic health sciences centers of similar size as published by the Association of Academic Health Centers and validated by an outside consultant.

### Control Systems:

The market reference and the report by the consultant are reviewed by the Remuneration Committee of the Board of Trustees. Salaries and benefits are then established by the Board Remuneration Committee and reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees.

## FACULTY EMPLOYEES

These employees are employed by one of the 12 physician groups of the LL Complex or Loma Linda University. There are approximately 1,200 employees in this category.

### Remuneration Guidelines:

The maximum salary of a non-physician or a non-dentist employee is the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of the market reference for their discipline. For dentists and physicians, based upon their clinical income, their salary is limited to a maximum of the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile.

### Market Reference:

The market reference for this category of employee varies depending upon the discipline.

<u>Discipline</u>	<u>Market Reference</u>
For Faculty of the School of Medicine	Association of American Medical Colleges Report on Medical School Faculty Salaries and/or the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA)
For Faculty of the School of Dentistry	American Association of Dental Schools Non-DDS and DDS
For Faculty of the Graduate School	American Psychology Association and Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology
For Faculty of the School of Nursing	American Association of Nursing National Norms for Schools of Nursing with an Academic Health Center
For Faculty of the School of Public Health	Associated Schools of Public Health
For Faculty of the School of Pharmacy	American Association Colleges of Pharmacy
For Faculty of the School of Allied Health Professions	Annual reported national norms and the base pay practices for 200-300 bed hospitals in Southern California
For Faculty of Religion	NADCOM-approved remuneration factor
For Library Faculty	NADCOM-approved remuneration factor

### Control System:

All exceptions must be approved by the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees or by the Governing Board.



Lamonte T. Lator  
Bruce J. Dunn  
Jeffrey C. Stevens  
Linda I. Schirmer  
Steven W. Scott  
David M. Raeck  
Robert E. Miller, Jr.  
Steven B. Robbins  
James E. Nyquist  
James R. Dedyne

Timothy H. Adams  
David B. Caldwell  
Edward L. Williams, III  
Timothy J. Orians  
Dennis D. Theis

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Walter P. Maner, Jr. (1921-2004)  
Floyd L. Costerisan  
Leon A. Ellis (1933-1988)

Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance With Working Policy

To the Executive Committee  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

We have audited the combined financial statements of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as of and for the year ended December 31, 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated March 26, 2004. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the combined financial statements are free of material misstatement.

Compliance with General Conference Policy is the responsibility of the management of the General Conference. As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the combined financial statements are free of material misstatement we performed tests of the General Conference's compliance with relevant working policies.

In connection with our audit one instance of noncompliance which is described in a separate schedule of findings came to our attention that we believe to be in violation of relevant Working Policies insofar as they relate to accounting matters. However, the objective of our audit of the combined financial statements was not to provide an opinion on compliance with Working Policy and our tests were not directed primarily toward obtaining knowledge of noncompliance.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and should not be used for any other purpose.

*Maner, Costerisan & Ellis P.C.*

March 26, 2004

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON  
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS  
COMPLIANCE WITH WORKING POLICY  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003**

North American Division Working Policy (NADWP) C 15 05 and General Conference Working Policy (GCWP) BA 60 05 require all inter-division travel to be coordinated through a designated officer of the General Conference (GC). Of the 13 inter-division trips we tested, 4 had been coordinated with the designated GC officer.

April 7, 2004

To: General Conference Audit Committee and  
General Conference Executive Committee

From: Robert E Lemon, GC Treasurer

Subject: Management's Response to 2003 Auditors' Management Letter

We would like to express our appreciation to the auditors for the work they have done on the 2003 audit of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists' accounts. It was a privilege working with them. In connection with the items they included in the Management Letter of March 26, 2004 and the Report on Compliance With Working Policy of the same date, we have prepared the following responses:

#### CASH DISBURSEMENTS

**"The review and approval process for cash disbursements is a critical aspect of any system of internal control. In times past, approval could be accomplished through a signature on a check and an initial on an invoice. The advent of electronic data transfer has complicated this process. Requests for disbursements are now often generated through e-mail and via facsimile. Many payments are made via ACH or wire transfer. These developments create a whole new set of internal control problems.**

**As part of our audit we selected a sample of transactions to specifically address the risks surrounding these disbursements. Our findings are as follows:**

**It is common within the organization for a disbursement to be made based on an e-mail message received. These messages contain no signature and cannot be verified as legitimate without appropriate knowledge about the sender. It is our understanding that approval at the appropriate level is required for a disbursement of this nature. This approval should be obtained from an individual knowledgeable about the transaction. We noted instances in our audit where no formal approval was indicated on the documentation supporting the transaction.**

**A second issue that came to our attention involved disbursements made via ACH or wire transfer. Again, it is our understanding that approval at the appropriate level is required for these types of disbursements. This review is essential to assure that the recipient bank account is legitimate and that the disbursement is appropriate. We noted instances in our audit where no formal approval was indicated on the documentation supporting the transaction.**

**We recommend the organization review its system of internal control over disbursements and implement appropriate steps to assure that unauthorized transactions do not take place.**

**We will review the status of these comments during our next audit engagement. We have already discussed these comments and suggestions with various General Conference personnel and we will be pleased to discuss them in further detail at your convenience.**

**This report is intended solely for the information and use of General Conference, management, and others within the organization, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.”**

#### RESPONSE

We concur with the auditor’s recommendation and have already begun the review process.

In the area of disbursements, the General Conference operates in two very different arenas. The first involves disbursements related to regular operating expenditures and transactions which any organization would have and which are supported by invoices or other documentation and are authorized for payment by appropriate signatures of departmental directors, General Conference officers or other authorized individuals. The second area is similar to that of a bank or investment firm where the General Conference is asked to transfer funds between bank accounts or make payments on behalf of divisions, unions or institutions where these entities are the ones making the decisions and authorizing the transactions.

In the increasingly electronic world of accounting, we need to continually review our disbursement authorization process and internal controls. We have already initiated this process in connection with the implementation of the new Sun Accounting software at the General Conference in 2004 and are giving special emphasis to strengthening internal controls in the areas of disbursements and electronic transfers.

In the second area (the one highlighted in the auditor’s management letter) we are taking immediate steps to set up a verification process with divisions, unions and institutions relative to requests for transfers of funds between their accounts, as well as for disbursements and transfers to third parties. In addition, we will follow up on the suggestion from the auditor that we engage the services of an outside consultant with expertise in advising banks and investment firms on validation and verification of electronically transmitted requests for transfers of funds.

#### POLICY COMPLIANCE

**“North American Division Working Policy (NADWP) C 15 05 and General Conference Working Policy (GCWP) BA 60 05 require all inter-division travel to be coordinated through a designated officer of the General Conference (GC). Of the 13 inter-division trips we tested, 4 had been coordinated with the designated GC officer.”**

General Conference Audit Committee and  
General Conference Executive Committee  
April 7, 2003  
Page 3

RESPONSE

The General Conference Administrative Committee (ADCOM) has been reviewing a proposal for revision of this policy. The committee is looking at a recommendation which would eliminate the requirement for all inter-division travel to be coordinated by a designated General Conference officer. The matter has been delayed because of the need to find an alternate way of providing information to Adventist Risk Management for insurance underwriting purposes. As soon as this is resolved, it is anticipated that a recommendation for a change in the policy will be processed through to Annual Council. In the meantime, we will review our internal procedures as it relates to processing inter-division travel for General Conference employees.