

## GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Atlanta, Georgia

June 23, 2010, 8:30 a.m.

## PRESENT

Roy Adams, Onaolapo Ajibade, Harrington S Akomwa, Wim Altink, Saul K Alvarez-Dominguez, Niels-Erik A Andreassen, Jonas Arrais, Raquel C Arrais, Lisa M Beardsley, John R Beckett, Matthew A Bediako, Guillermo E Biaggi, Gordon Bietz, Branko Bistrovic, Rodney G Brady, Paul S Brantley, Gina S Brown, Herbert Brugger, G Alexander Bryant, Eliseo Bustamante, Mario A Calderon, Jesus Calvo Manso, Carolyn Catton,

Lorna M E Cedras, Shirley Chang, Carl Chin, Bookwon Chun, Chester V Clark III, Lowell C Cooper, Sharon M Cress, Rajmund Dabrowski, Eugene F Daniel, Thomas Davai, Abner De los Santos, Orlando S Deocades, Marino F de Oliveira, A Ganoune Diop, Karnik Doukmetzian, C Garland Dulan, G Thomas Evans, Larry R Evans, Laurie J Evans, Howard F Faigao, Jimmy L Ferguson, Ruthita J Fike, Mark A Finley, Karen M Flowers, John M Fowler,

David K Gairo, Agustin Galicia, Dale Galusha, L James Gibson, Carlos U Gill Krug, Clifford R Goldstein, Ricardo B Graham, John Graz, Alberto C Gulfan Jr, Roberto O Gullon, Erkki O Haapasalo, Bert B Haloviak, Allan R Handysides, Richard H Hart, Keith R Heinrich, Atte M Helminen, Dan Houghton, Eugene Hsu, Teodor Hutanu, Jobir I Iskhakov, Clyde M Iverson Jr, Daniel R Jackson, Michael R Jamieson, David Javier Perez, David Jennah,

Johann E Johannsson, William G Johnsson, Ignacio L Kalbermatter, Mikhail F Kaminskiy, Gerry D Karst, Anthony R Kent, Dae Sung Kim, Donald G King, Gerald Klingbeil, Linda Mei Lin Koh, Erton C Kohler, Allah-Ridy Kone, Shurman Kook, Gary D Krause, Vladimir A Krupskiy, Jonathan Kuntaraf, Kathleen H L Kuntaraf, Robert E Kyte, Peter N Landless, Samuel A Larmie, Pawel Lazar, Jairyong Lee, Israel Leito, Robert E Lemon,

Pavel I Liberanskiy, Eber Liessi, Charles C Ligan, Don Livesay, Mauricio Pinto Lima, Jose R Lizardo, Marlinton S Lopes, Francois Louw, Johnny Lubis, Paminus Machamire, Guenther Machel, Emmanuel S D Manu, Norman Maphosa, Solomon Maphosa, Alemu H Maruta, Jeannette Kahambu Matita, Jerome P Matthews, Geoffrey G Mbwana, Donna McNeilus, Saustin S Mfunne, Armando Miranda, Bareng Moahi, Joshua W Mok, Eric P Monnier,

10-46

June 23, 2010, a.m.

GCC - General Conference Session

Baraka G Muganda, Patrick M Mulindwa, Evans Muvuti, Emmanuel Mwale, Pardon K Mwansa, Nina K H Myrdal, Catharina S Nangoy, G T Ng, Ivan M Nikolov, James R Nix, Don Noble, Jean-Claude Nocandy, Emmanuel K Noudoda, Goodwell Nthani, Richard A Ntriakwah, Gideon Nwaogwugwu, Etzer Obas, Tamas Ocsai, Lorna G Okotto, Joseph A Ola, Barry D Oliver, Daisy J Orion, Moisei Ostrovski, Rubin R Ott, Bjorn Ottesen, Brempong Owusu-Antwi,

Ruth E Parish, Jan Paulsen, Magdiel Perez Schulz, Juan O Perla, Philip Philipsen, Peter J Prime, Stoy E Proctor, Erika F Puni, Orlando E Ramos Giles, John Rathinaraj, Paul S Ratsara, Gordon L Retzer, Angel M Rodriguez, Jose Alberto Rodriguez, Guy F Roger, Abner S Roque, Vasile Rotaru, Wilfredo Ruiz, Michael L Ryan, Roy E Ryan, Claude Sabot, Donald R Sahly, Noldy Sakul, Charles C Sandefur Jr, Samuel Sandoval Ruiz, Nikolaus Satelmajer,

Lawrence E Schalk, Byron Scheuneman, Don C Schneider, Benjamin D Schoun, Carmen Schulz, Luis A Schulz, Alexander F Schwarz, Mesake Senibulu, Masaki Shoji, Helder R C Silva Ella S Simmons, Ian H Sleeman, Heather-Dawn Small, Robert Sjolander, Domingos Jose de Sousa, James Standish, Artur Stele, Wilfredo L Sumagaysay, Akeri Suzuki, Gary B Swanson, Joel Swanson, Lawrence P Tanabose, J Eduardo Teixeira, Halvard B Thomsen, Alberto R Timm,

Tor Tjeransen, Caroline V Katemba Tobing, Tomas Torres, Ronald W Townend, Djordje Trajkovski, Homer W Trecartin, Max A Trevino, Klaus-Juergen van Treeck, Filiberto M Verduzco-Avila, Bruno R Vertallier, Waisea V Vuniwa, Gilbert Wari, Dave Weigley, Bertil Wiklander, Jeffrey K Wilson, Ted N C Wilson, Harald Wollan, Joseph Hin-Chung Wong, James Sze Fai Wu, Masao Yanaga, Jael A Yohanna, Lori T Yingling, Gilmar Zahn, Joel Zukovski

#### ATTENDEES

Antonio Anobile, Seth Bardu, Gasore Bazungu, Jeffrey O Brown, Ken Corkum, Evangelisti Franco, Van Hurst, Mark A Kellner, Ventsislav Peneyotou, Gerald D Penick Jr, Calvin B Rock, Fredrick Russell, Mark B Thomas, Manzoua Noanpea N Veronique

The devotional message taken from Ephesians 4:1-16 was presented by Jan Paulsen, President of the General Conference.

Prayer was offered by Jan Paulsen, President of the General Conference.

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

PASTORS - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend references to pastors by replacing strictly masculine designations with “the pastor” throughout the *Church Manual*.

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

AUTHORITY AND FUNCTION OF THE *CHURCH MANUAL* -  
EDITORIAL *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 1, *Why a Church Manual?*, Authority and Function of the *Church Manual*, page 2, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

Since then, the content of the *Church Manual* is divided into two types of material.

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

PURPOSE OF THE *CHURCH MANUAL* (AUTHORITY AND  
FUNCTION OF THE *CHURCH MANUAL*) - *CHURCH  
MANUAL* REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 1, *Why a Church Manual?*, Authority and Function of the *Church Manual*, page 3, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

The standards and practices of the Church are based upon the principles of the Holy Scriptures. ~~These principles are principles,~~ underscored by the Spirit of Prophecy and are set forth in this *Church Manual*. They are to be followed in all matters pertaining to the administration and operation of local churches. The *Church Manual* also defines the relationship that exists between the local congregation and the conference or other entities of Seventh-day Adventist denominational organization. ~~the Church both within the local congregation and its relationship to all other levels of Church organization.~~ No attempt should be made to set up standards of membership or to make, or attempt to enforce, rules or regulations for ~~the Church~~ local church operations which are contrary to these decisions adopted by the General Conference in session and

10-48

June 23, 2010, a.m.

GCC - General Conference Session

~~which are set forth in this *Church Manual*, have not been adopted by the general body of believers and which are not set forth in this *Church Manual*.~~

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

#### MAKING CHANGES - EDITORIAL *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 1, Why a *Church Manual?*, Making Changes, page 4, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

~~A revision~~ Revision of a Note follows the same ~~procedural route.~~ procedure.

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

#### RECENT EDITIONS OF THE *CHURCH MANUAL* (MAKING CHANGES) - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 1, Why a *Church Manual?*, Making Changes, page 4, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

A new edition of the *Church Manual* is published after every General Conference Session. ~~Leaders should always work with the most recent edition.~~ The most recent edition should always be used. This edition incorporates amendments made at the 2010 General Conference Session.

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

#### WHERE TO GET ADVICE - EDITORIAL *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 1, Why a *Church Manual?*, Where to Get Advice, page 4, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

Church officers and leaders, pastors, and members should ~~look to~~ consult with their conference for advice pertaining to the operating of their congregation or on questions arising from the *Church Manual*.

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

CHURCH ORGANIZATION TODAY - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 3, Organization and Authority, Church Organization Today, page 12, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

There are several organizational levels within the Church leading from the individual believer to the worldwide organization of the work. Membership units in each of these levels periodically convene formal business sessions known as constituency meetings or sessions. (The constituency meeting or session of a local church is generally referred to as a business meeting.) ~~No level of the Church grants its own status.~~ In Seventh-day Adventist Church structure, no organization determines its own status nor does it function as if it had no obligations to the Church family beyond its boundaries.

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

ORGANIZING A COMPANY - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraphs in Chapter 5, Organizing, Uniting, and Dissolving Churches and Companies, Organizing a Company, page 21, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

~~Members of the conference church, remote small groups, and house churches~~ Church members who are part of small groups or house groups may form the nucleus of a new company, and the company. Membership of all those who want to be part of a company should be held in either the conference church or a local church (mother church). If membership for those who want to be part of a company is to be held in the conference church, the conference committee will vote their membership transfers to the conference church and indicate that they are part of

10-50

June 23, 2010, a.m.

GCC - General Conference Session

~~the new company. Potential members from other congregations should initiate transfers to the new company.~~

When the conference committee approves establishment of a company, ~~the district pastor or other pastor appointed by the conference committee, in counsel with local members, shall appoint from the membership of the company a leadership team:~~ a leadership team should be appointed, including a leader, a clerk, and a treasurer. The appointments should be carried out by the district pastor, or other pastor appointed by the conference committee, in counsel with the group being established as a company.

All other company appointments should be made by vote of ~~the members of the company at a meeting presided over by the district leader or other person authorized by the conference committee:~~ those who are part of the group that is forming the company. The district pastor or other person authorized by the conference committee shall preside at such a meeting. Only members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing shall be appointed.

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

#### REASONS FOR DISCIPLINE - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 7, Discipline, Reasons for Discipline, page 44, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

~~Such violations as~~ Sexual abuse of children, youth, and vulnerable adults, fornication, promiscuity, incest, homosexual practice, sexual abuse of children, youth, and vulnerable adults, the production, use, or distribution of pornography, and other sexual perversions.

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

#### REINSTATING THOSE PREVIOUSLY REMOVED FROM MEMBERSHIP - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION ADDITION

RECOMMENDED, To add the following paragraph to Chapter 7, Discipline, Process of Discipline, Reinstating Those Previously Removed From Membership, page 49, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

With respect to perpetrators of sexual abuse, restoration to membership does not remove all consequences of such a serious violation. For their own protection and the safety of vulnerable individuals, while attendance at church activities may be possible with properly established guidelines, a person convicted or disciplined for sexual abuse shall not be placed in a role which may put them in contact with children, youth, and other vulnerable individuals or in a position which would encourage vulnerable individuals to trust them implicitly.

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

READMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP (REINSTATING THOSE  
PREVIOUSLY REMOVED FROM MEMBERSHIP) -  
*CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 7, Discipline, Process of Discipline, Reinstating Those Previously Removed From Membership, pages 49-50, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

Because removal from membership is the most serious form of discipline, the period of time, determined by the church business meeting, before members may be reinstated should be sufficient to demonstrate that the issues which led to removal from membership have been resolved beyond reasonable doubt. ~~Readmission to membership is expected to be preceded by rebaptism.~~ It is expected that readmission to membership will be done in connection with rebaptism.

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

SET TITHING EXAMPLE - EDITORIAL *CHURCH MANUAL*  
REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, General Qualifications, Set Tithing Example, page 53, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

Setting Tithing Example—All officers shall set an example in the matter of returning a faithful tithe ~~through~~ to the Church. Anyone who fails to set such an example ~~should~~ shall not be elected to church office.

10-52

June 23, 2010, a.m.

GCC - General Conference Session

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

#### RELATIONSHIP TO THE PASTOR - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, Elders, Relationship to the Pastor, page 55, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

Relationship to the Pastor—If the conference committee assigns a pastor or pastors to the congregation, the ~~pastor~~ pastor, or senior pastor if more than one, should be considered the ranking officer and the local elders ~~his~~ as assistants. Since their work is closely related, they should work together harmoniously. The pastor should not assume all lines of responsibility but should share these with the elders and other officers. The pastor serving the church regularly acts as the chairperson of the board. (See p. XX.) There may be circumstances, however, when it would be advisable for an elder to act as chairperson. The pastoral work of the church should be shared by the pastor and the elders. In counsel with the pastor, the elders should visit members, minister to the sick, foster prayer ministries, arrange or lead out in anointing services and child dedications, encourage the disheartened, and assist in other pastoral responsibilities. As undershepherds, elders should exercise constant vigilance over the flock.

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

#### CONDUCTING CHURCH SERVICES - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, Elders, Conducting Church Services, page 56, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

Conducting Church Services—Under the pastor, or in the absence of the pastor, an elder is responsible for the services of the church and must either conduct them or arrange for someone to do so. Communion services must always be conducted by an ~~ordained~~ ordained/commissioned pastor or local elder. The pastor usually chairs the business meeting. In the absence of the pastor, and with approval of the pastor or the conference president, an elder should serve as chairperson.



08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

MARRIAGE CEREMONY - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, Elders, Marriage Ceremony, page 56, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

Marriage Ceremony—In a marriage ceremony, the charge, vows, and declaration of marriage are given only by an ordained pastor except in those areas where division committees have approved that selected licensed or commissioned pastors who have been ordained as local elders may perform the ceremony. (See p. XX.) Local laws may require that persons conducting marriage ceremonies also hold state licensure/permit to do so. An ~~Either an~~ ordained pastor, a licensed or commissioned pastor, or an elder may deliver the sermonette, offer the prayer, and give the blessing. (See Notes, #X, p. XX.)

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

TO FOSTER PRAYER LIFE - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, Elders, To Foster Prayer Life, page 56, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

~~To Foster Prayer Life—As Bible Study, Prayer, and a Relationship With Jesus—As~~ spiritual leaders, elders are responsible for ~~assisting with the development and encouragement of personal prayer life and~~ encouraging members to develop a personal relationship with Jesus by strengthening their habits of personal Bible study and prayer. Elders should model a commitment to Bible study and prayer. An effective personal prayer life of every member, supporting all ministries and programs of the local church, will enhance the church's mission. Elders may ask the board to appoint a council to assist in this role of development and encouragement.

10-54

June 23, 2010, a.m.

GCC - General Conference Session

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

FIRST ELDER - EDITORIAL *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, Elders, First Elder, pages 57-58, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

~~First Elder—In churches with a large membership, it may be advisable~~ Elder—It may be advisable, due to church size, to choose more than one elder because the burdens of the office are too great for one person. If the church elects more than one elder, one should be designated “first elder.” The work should be divided among the elders in harmony with their experience and ability.

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

INDUCTION SERVICE FOR DEACONESSSES - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
REVISION ADDITION

RECOMMENDED, To add the following paragraph to Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, Deaconesses, Induction Service for Deaconesses, page 61, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

If they retain church membership, deaconesses, if ordained, do not have to be ordained again if they move their membership to other churches. When the term for which they were elected expires, they must be reelected if they are to continue to serve as deaconesses.

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES COORDINATOR AND COMMITTEE -  
EDITORIAL *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, Children’s Ministries, Children’s Ministries Coordinator and Committee, page 69 (also included on pages 80, 87, 88, and 89), of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

Everyone involved in work with children must meet all Church and legal standards and requirements, such as background checks or certification. Local church leaders should consult with the conference which will ascertain and advise as to what background checks and certifications are available and/or required. (See Notes, #X, p. XX.)”

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

#### PUBLISHING MINISTRIES - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, Publishing Ministries, page 77, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

The mission of Publishing Ministries is the evangelism and nurture of church members. ~~For evangelism, the prophet said that church members were~~ Ellen G. White encouraged members to “sell or give away our literature.”—Ms 126, 1902.

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

#### RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BUSINESS MEETING AND LOCAL CHURCH BOARD (BUSINESS MEETINGS) - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, Business Meetings, page 106, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

~~The business meeting is the governing body of the church.~~ The local church operates within defined roles in Seventh-day Adventist Church structure. Within the context of those roles, the business meeting is the governing body of the local church. Members in regular standing are encouraged to attend and are entitled to vote. A member under censure has no right to participate by voice or vote.

10-56

June 23, 2010, a.m.

GCC - General Conference Session

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

DEFINITION AND FUNCTION (BOARD AND ITS MEETINGS) -  
*CHURCH MANUAL REVISION*

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, Board and Its Meetings, Definition and Function, page 107, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

Definition and Function—Every church must have ~~an elected board~~; a functioning board whose members have been elected during a church business meeting. Its chief concern is the spiritual nurture of the church and the work of planning and fostering evangelism in all of its phases.

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

MEMBERSHIP (BOARD AND ITS MEETINGS) - EDITORIAL  
*CHURCH MANUAL REVISION*

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, Board and Its Meetings, Membership, pages 108-109, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

Membership—In addition to conference-appointed pastors, the church should ~~appoint~~ elect a representative board which includes the following officers:

- Elders
- Head deacon
- Head deaconess
- Treasurer
- Clerk
- Interest coordinator
- Adventist Men's coordinator
- Adventist Youth Society leader
- Adventurer Club director
- Ambassador Club director
- Bible School coordinator
- Children's ministries leader

Church music coordinator  
Communication Committee chairperson or communication secretary  
Community services and/or Dorcas Society leader  
Education secretary  
Family ministries leader  
Health ministries leader  
Home and School Association leader  
Pathfinder Club leader  
Personal ministries leader and secretary  
Publishing ministries coordinator  
Religious liberty leader  
Sabbath School superintendent  
Stewardship ministries leader  
Women's ministries leader

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

OFFERINGS - EDITORIAL *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To amend the following paragraph in Chapter 11, Finance, Offerings, page 115, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

In addition to the traditional Calendar of ~~Offering~~ Offerings program where each offering taken is for a specific purpose, the General Conference has approved the Combined Offering system and the Personal Giving Plan. The division committee is authorized to determine which plan will be used in its territory.

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

WE ARE REFORMERS (DRESS) - EDITORIAL *CHURCH MANUAL*  
REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To approve moving the sentence "We are reformers." within Chapter 12, Standards of Christian Living from Dress, page 124, to High Calling of God in Christ Jesus, page 119.

10-58

June 23, 2010, a.m.

GCC - General Conference Session

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta) to AM-10GCS

REARRANGEMENT OF PARAGRAPHS - EDITORIAL *CHURCH MANUAL*  
REVISION

RECOMMENDED, To approve the rearrangement of several additional paragraphs within the Church Manual revision as recommended by Annual Council. No content was changed so they have not been listed here.

Adhoc/POSCOM/ADCOM/PreC/GCC(Atlanta) to LCC-10GCS

142-10GS RESOLUTION ON THE HOLY BIBLE

RECOMMENDED, To approve the Resolution on the Holy Bible, which reads as follows:

RESOLUTION ON THE HOLY BIBLE

As delegates to the 2010 General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia, we reaffirm confidence in the divine revelation and inspiration of the Bible, its authority in the life of the Church and of each believer, and its foundational role for faith, doctrine, and conduct. The Bible conveys to us a message of salvation in the context of a cosmic conflict that reveals God's loving, merciful, and righteous character.

The Bible presents Christ as the most sublime revelation of God's love, as the Incarnate God, as the One who offered Himself as an atoning sacrifice, bearing our sins in order to reconcile us to God; He is presented to us as our only Mediator before the Father in the heavenly sanctuary. The Bible presents Jesus as the only reliable source of hope for the human race; a hope grounded in the pattern of His life, in the redemptive work of His ministry, in His death on the cross, in His resurrection from the grave, and in His soon return in glory.

The hope and message found in the Bible transcends times and cultures and satisfies the deepest needs of the human heart. In it the Church, as God's end-time people, finds the good news that is to be proclaimed to all peoples and cultures in the fulfillment of God's mission. The Bible's message came to us through the work of the Holy Spirit whose guidance and illumination are necessary to understand it properly.

Since through the power and person of the Holy Spirit the Bible can transform us and develop Christ-like character, we, the delegates of the General Conference in Session, call Seventh-day Adventist believers and fellow Christians everywhere to make the Bible their daily source for personal study. Let Bible study be accompanied by prayer and praise; let it be an

open book in our homes to which we listen daily and an open book in our worship places where we collectively seek God's Word. Let the power of the Bible shape personal life and relationships and empower a witness that points the whole world to the glorious return of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ!

Adhoc/POSCOM/ADCOM/PreC/GCC(Atlanta) to LCC-10GCS

143-10GS RESOLUTION ON THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY AS  
MANIFESTED IN THE MINISTRY AND WRITINGS OF  
ELLEN G WHITE

RECOMMENDED, To approve the Resolution on the Spirit of Prophecy as Manifested in the Ministry and Writings of Ellen G White, which reads as follows:

RESOLUTION ON THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY AS MANIFESTED  
IN THE MINISTRY AND WRITINGS OF ELLEN G WHITE

We, the delegates to the 2010 General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia, acknowledge with gratitude the continuing contribution to the Seventh-day Adventist Church found in the writings and ministry of Ellen G White. We are witnesses to how the Church has been blessed and guided by God through the inspired counsel of His messenger. Her counsels exalt the Bible as the Word of God, lift up Jesus as Creator and Redeemer of the world, and encourage a life of service and sacrifice. Her ministry has directly aided in the preservation of unity in the Church and its expanding global outreach.

The gift of prophecy, like the other spiritual gifts, is to bring about unity, equip God's people for the work of ministry, build up the body of Christ, protect it from being deceived by false doctrine, and foster individual and collective spiritual growth (Ephesians 4:11-15). We recognize in Ellen G White the gift of prophecy, and affirm that as this gift is valued and its instruction heeded, the Church prospers.

Consequently, we express our gratitude to God for His gracious gift in the prophetic ministry of Ellen G White. We call upon Seventh-day Adventists everywhere to prayerfully study her messages and benefit from the inspiration and instruction found there. We encourage the teachers and administrators of our educational institutions and the leaders of our health-care facilities and publishing houses to review her counsels for their areas of service. We urge pastors to make use of these writings in their sermon preparation and in their planning with the members for the mission of their churches. We appeal to Church administrators at every level to exert their influence in affirming the importance of these writings for the Church and to continue efforts to make these writings available to church members at affordable cost. And we affirm

10-60

June 23, 2010, a.m.

GCC - General Conference Session

our commitment to “believe His prophets” (2 Chronicles 20:20), that we may prosper in fulfilling our mission to the world and thus hasten the coming of Jesus.

FM/POSCom/ADCOM/PreC/GCC(Atlanta) to LCC

#### 144-10G STATEMENT ON THE NURTURE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Seventh-day Adventists place a high value on children. In the light of the Bible they are seen as precious gifts from God entrusted to the care of parents, family, community of faith and society-at-large. Children possess enormous potential for making positive contributions to the Church and to society. Attention to their care, protection and development is extremely important.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church reaffirms and extends its longstanding efforts to nurture and safeguard children and youth from persons—known and unknown—whose actions perpetrate any form of abuse and violence against them and/or sexually exploit them. Jesus modeled the kind of respect, nurture, and protection children should be able to expect from adults entrusted with their care. Some of His strongest words of reproof were directed toward those who would harm them. Because of the trusting nature and dependence of children upon older and wiser adults and the life-changing consequences when this trust is breached, children require vigilant protection.

#### Redemptive Correction

The Seventh-day Adventist Church places a priority on church-based parent education that helps parents develop the skills necessary for a redemptive approach to correction. Many children experience harsh punishment in the name of a biblical approach to discipline. Correction characterized by severe, punitive, dictatorial control often leads to resentment and rebellion. Such harsh discipline is also associated with heightened risk for physical and psychological harm to children as well as increased likelihood the youth will resort to coercion and violence in resolving their differences with others. By contrast, examples from Scripture as well as a large body of research confirm the effectiveness of more gentle forms of discipline that allow children to learn through reasoning and experiencing the consequences of their choices. Such milder measures have been demonstrated to increase the likelihood children will make life-affirming choices and espouse parental values as they mature.



## Making Church a Safe Place for Children

The Church also takes seriously its responsibility to minimize the risk for child sexual abuse and violence against children in the congregational setting. First and foremost, church leaders and members must themselves live by a strict code of ethics that precludes even the appearance of evil as regards the exploitation of minors for the gratification of adult desires. Other practical measures toward making church a safe place for children include attention to the safety of the church facility and its surroundings and the careful supervision and monitoring of children and their environment during all church-related activities. Education regarding what constitutes appropriate and inappropriate interaction between adults and children, the warning signs of abuse and violence, and the specific steps to be followed should inappropriate behavior be reported or suspected are vitally important. Pastors and church leaders who are visible and approachable play an important role in prevention as well as in responding well to the needs of children whose safety may have been jeopardized. Regular updates are needed regarding their moral and legal responsibility to report child abuse to appropriate civil authorities. The designation of trained personnel and specific protocols at wider levels of Church organization will help to ensure appropriate action and follow-through when abuse is reported within the church setting.

Because of the complex nature of the problem of child sexual abuse and violence against children, intervention and treatment of perpetrators requires resources beyond the scope of ministry provided by the local church. However, the presence of a known perpetrator in a congregation calls for the highest levels of vigilance. While perpetrators should be held fully responsible for their own behavior, the supervision of persons with a history of inappropriate behavior is necessary to ensure that such persons maintain appropriate distance and refrain from all contact with children during church-related activities. Provision for alternative opportunities for perpetrators to grow spiritually in settings where children are not present greatly enhances child protection.

## Fostering Emotional and Spiritual Healing

Children who have been personally victimized or who have witnessed disturbing events need the care of adults who treat them with sensitivity and understanding. Practical support that helps children and families maintain stability in the midst of turmoil empowers victims and their families and promotes healing. The Church's commitment to breaking the silence frequently associated with child sexual abuse and violence, its efforts toward advocacy and justice for all victims, and deliberate action to safeguard children from all forms of abuse and violence will contribute much toward the emotional and spiritual recovery of all concerned. The Church regards the nurture and protection of children as a sacred trust.

10-62

June 23, 2010, a.m.

GCC - General Conference Session

(This statement has been informed by the principles expressed in the following biblical passages: Lev. 18:6; 2 Sam. 13:1-11; 1 Kings 17:17-23; Ps. 9: 9, 12, 16-18; 11:5-7; 22:24; 34:18; 127:3-5; 128:3-4; Prov. 31:8-9; Is. 1:16-17; Jer. 22:3; Matt. 18:1-6; 21:9, 15-16; Mark 9:37; 10:13-16; Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21; 1Tim. 5:8; Heb. 13:3.)

(See also “Seventh-day Adventists Speak Up For Ending Violence Against Women and Girls”.)

POSCOM/ADCOM/PreC/GCC(Atlanta) to LCC

#### 145-10G CREATION: THE BIBLE’S WORLDVIEW

The Seventh-day Adventist Church affirms its belief in the biblical account of creation in contrast to an evolutionary explanation for the origin of living organisms and the relationship of humans to other life forms. Seventh-day Adventists note with great interest the increasing discussion of intelligent design in nature and the evidence that supports this view. In the light of considerable public interest in this topic the Church takes this opportunity to express its confidence in the biblical record.

Seventh-day Adventists believe that God is the Creator of all life and that the Bible reveals a reliable account of His creative activity. Further, we believe that the biblical events recorded in Genesis 1-11, including the special creation of human beings, are historical and recent, that the seven days of creation were literal 24-hour days forming a literal week, and that the Flood was global in nature.

Belief in creation is foundational for Seventh-day Adventist understanding concerning much more than the question of origins. The purposes and mission of God described in the Bible, human responsibility for stewardship of the environment, the institution of marriage and the sacred meaning of the Sabbath all find their meaning in the doctrine of creation.

Seventh-day Adventists recognize that the biblical record of creation does not answer all questions that can be asked concerning origins. Our comprehension of such mysteries is limited. We anticipate that continued study of both the Bible and nature will deepen our understanding of God’s power and strengthen our faith in His Word and the creation account it contains.

(This statement is supported by numerous Bible passages including: Psalm 19:1; Colossians 1:16-17; Genesis 1-11; Psalm 139:14; Exodus 20:8-11; Mark 2:27; Romans 8:20, 21.)

POSCOM/ADCOM/PreC to LCC-GCC(Atlanta)

146-10G SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS SPEAK UP FOR ENDING  
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

We, the members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, speak up and join with others to bring an end to violence against women and children. Global statistics indicate that in all societies women and girl children are more frequently the victims of violence. Actions or threats likely to result in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering are incompatible with biblical ethics and Christian morality. Such actions include, but are not limited to, family violence, rape, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), honor killings, and dowry murders. Manipulation, denial of personal liberty, and coercion are also acts of abuse and violence. To such behaviors the Seventh-day Adventist Church says, "Let's end it now!"

Seventh-day Adventists recognize that creation in God's image bestows dignity and worth on every individual. The measure of that worth is seen in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ to provide eternal life for everyone. The love and compassion that characterized the earthly life of Jesus sets an example for all His followers in their relationship with others. Christ-like behavior leaves no room for violence against family members or persons outside the family.

The Bible counsels Christians to view the body as the temple of God. Bringing intentional harm to another person desecrates that which God honors and is therefore sinful behavior. Seventh-day Adventists commit themselves to being leaders in breaking the cycle of violence perpetrated against women and girl children. We will speak out in defense of victims and survivors through teaching, preaching, Bible study, and advocacy programs.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church seeks and welcomes partnerships and collaboration with others in addressing this global issue. The collective voice of many can save tens of thousands of women and girl children from the harm and suffering that result from abuse and violence.

(This statement is supported by the following Bible references: John 3:16; Genesis 1:26; Isaiah 61:1-3; Ephesians 5:2-3; 1 John 3:10, 15-18, 4:11; 3 John 1:2; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19; Romans 12:1-2.)

10-64

June 23, 2010, a.m.

GCC - General Conference Session

POSCOM/ADCOM/PreC/GCC(Atlanta) to LCC

## 147-10G SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND “DEFAMATION” OF RELIGION

A distinguishing feature of humans is our God-given ability to communicate in the abstract through speech, symbols, and the written word. Nowhere is this capacity more uniquely expressed than in the domain of faith. Communication concerning religious beliefs is central to our ability to explore meaning and purpose in life, discuss the values that guide our actions, and to share experiences as we search for a closer knowledge of God.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church strongly supports freedom of speech in general, and freedom of religious speech in particular. Although freedom of speech is guaranteed in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, efforts continue to limit speech at both the national level and at the United Nations. In both settings, significant focus has been placed on limiting speech that offends the religious beliefs of the hearer. Seventh-day Adventists affirm sensitivity and respect in all communication. We are thus concerned about speech designed to offend religious sensibilities. However, we believe that ceding the right to the state to control religious speech creates a far greater threat to the autonomy of people of faith than that posed by offensive speech. Indeed, there are numerous examples today of states citing a desire to protect religious feelings to justify the forceful silencing of peaceful religious speech.

Our opposition to the restriction of speech is not without exceptions. The Church recognizes that in limited circumstances, speech can result in significant, tangible harm to the right to physical safety, the enjoyment of one's property and other similarly compelling rights. In such very limited instances, we recognize the responsibility of the state to act to protect its population. When such limits are necessary, the Church expects governments to target restrictions narrowly to address only the dangerous speech in question.

The Church recognizes a special responsibility of those in power to communicate a message that supports fundamental human rights, including all the facets of religious freedom. This responsibility is particularly pertinent to governments, as they are generally in a unique position to encourage robust respect for the rights of their people, and particularly minorities.

While recognizing the right to freely express religious beliefs, Seventh-day Adventists accept the responsibility to self-regulate their speech to ensure it is consistent with biblical teachings. This includes the obligation to be both honest and loving. This is particularly important when discussing another faith as religious passions can prompt a one-dimensional view of others. Honesty does not mean merely stating facts accurately, but also placing information in an accurate context. Seventh-day Adventists will be constrained by Christ's law of love in all they say and do. When the God-given gift of speech is used to communicate in

love, we will bless not only our fellow human beings; we will honor the God who made us all with the gift to express ourselves.

POSCOM/ADCOM/PreC/GCC(Atlanta) to LCC

#### 148-10G SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST STATEMENT ON GLOBAL POVERTY

Poverty is present in every society. Poverty robs human beings of their most basic rights. It keeps people hungry; it deprives them of medical care, clean water, an education, the opportunity to work, and often results in a sense of powerlessness, hopelessness, and inequality. Every day, more than 24,000 children die due to preventable conditions created by poverty.

Seventh-day Adventists believe that actions to reduce poverty and its attendant injustices are an important part of Christian social responsibility. The Bible clearly reveals God's special interest in the poor and His expectations as to how His followers should respond to those who are unable to care for themselves. All human beings bear the image of God and are the recipients of God's blessing (Luke 6:20). In working with the poor we follow the example and teaching of Jesus (Matthew 25:35, 36). As a spiritual community Seventh-day Adventists advocate justice for the poor and "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves" (Proverbs 31:8 NIV) and against those who "deprive the poor of their rights" (Isaiah 10:2 NIV). We participate with God who "secures justice for the poor" (Psalm 140:12 NIV).

Working to reduce poverty and hunger means more than showing sympathy for the poor. It means advocating for public policy that offers justice and fairness to the poor, for their empowerment and human rights. It means sponsoring and participating in programs that address the causes of poverty and hunger, helping people to build sustainable lives. This commitment to justice is an act of love (Micah 6:8). Seventh-day Adventists believe it is also a call to live lives of simplicity and modesty that witness against materialism and a culture of affluence.

Seventh-day Adventists join the global community in supporting the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals for reducing poverty by at least 50 percent by 2015. In furtherance of this, Seventh-day Adventists partner with civil society, governments and others, working together locally and globally to participate in God's work of establishing enduring justice in a broken world.

As followers of Christ we engage this task with determined hope, energized by God's visionary promise of a new heaven and a new earth where there is no poverty or injustice. Seventh-day Adventists are called to live imaginatively and faithfully inside that vision of God's Kingdom by acting to end poverty now.

10-66  
June 23, 2010, a.m.  
GCC - General Conference Session

SEC/ADCOM/10SM/ADCOM/GCC(Atlanta) to LRE-10GCS

131-10GS STEERING COMMITTEE—GENERAL CONFERENCE  
SESSION - 2010

RECOMMENDED, To approve the 2010 General Conference Session Steering Committee, as follows:

STEERING

Jan Paulsen, Chair  
Larry R Evans, Secretary

Members: Rosa T Banks, Matthew A Bediako, G Alexander Bryant, Sheri Clemmer, Lowell C Cooper, Karnik Doukmetzian, George O Egwakhe, G Thomas Evans, Mark A Finley, Agustin Galicia, Alberto C Gulfan Jr, Eugene Hsu, Gerry D Karst, Erton C Kohler, Jairyong Lee, Israel Leito, Robert E Lemon, Jose R Lizardo, Geoffrey G Mbwana, Armando Miranda, Todd R McFarland, Pardon K Mwansa, G T Ng, Barry D Oliver, Daisy J Orion, Orville D Parchment, Juan R Prestol, John Rathinaraj, Paul S Ratsara, Michael L Ryan, Roy E Ryan, Claude Sabot, Don C Schneider, Ella S Simmons, Artur Stele, Homer W Trecartin, Bruno Vertallier, Gilbert Wari, Bertil Wiklander, Ted N C Wilson.

Invitees: Rajmund Dabrowski, William M Knott, Dian Lawrence, Halvard B Thomsen

SEC/ADCOM/ADCOM/GCC(Atlanta) to MAB

123-10Ge ALLOCATION OF AT LARGE DELEGATE SEATS  
DESIGNATED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE  
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE—GENERAL  
CONFERENCE SESSION - 2010

VOTED, 1. To delete the names of the following individuals from the allocation of delegates at large by the General Conference Administrative Committee voted by the General Conference Executive Committee at Spring Meeting on April 7, 2010 as they are not able to attend the General Conference Session:

- a. Behrens, B Lyn Former President, Loma Linda University
- b. Reed, Monica CEO, Celebration Hospital, Florida

2. To approve the following delegate at large reserved for allocation by the General Conference Administrative Committee for the 2010 General Conference Session, under the provision of General Conference Constitution, Article V, Section 8.-f.-(2):

- a. Doss, Cheryl Director, Institute of World Mission

SEC/ADCOM/GCC(Atlanta) to MAB

125-10Gc ALLOCATION OF SPECIAL GUESTS DESIGNATED FOR  
INSTITUTIONS/SERVICES/ORGANIZATIONS

VOTED, 1. To delete the following names of Special Guests designated for Institutions/Services/Organizations voted by the General Conference Executive Committee at Spring Meeting on April 7, 2010:

- a. General Conference Auditing Service  
Pannekoek, Mark
- b. Review and Herald Publishing Association (RHPA)  
Martinelli, Mario  
Tooley, Richard

2. To edit the name of the following Special Guest designated for Institutions/Services/Organizations voted by the General Conference Executive Committee at Spring Meeting on April 7, 2010:

- a. General Conference Auditing Service  
Pagidipalli, Michael P ~~Rao, Michael P~~

Prayer was offered by Gilbert Wari, President of the West-Central Africa Division.

Jan Paulsen, Chair  
G T Ng, Secretary  
Larry R Evans, Editorial Secretary  
Tamara K Boward, Recording Secretary