

ANNUAL COUNCIL

October 9 to 15, 2014

ANNUAL COUNCIL OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 9, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Cesario Acevedo del Villar, Gabriel E Acevedo Hidalgo, Adedeji Adeleke, Onaolapo Ajibade, Timothy H Aka, Harrington S Akombwa, Emile S Akono, Wim Altink, Viktor Alyeksyeyenko, John R Amirthavasagam, Audrey E Andersson, Niels-Erik A Andreasen, Tony Anobile, Yasuki Aoki, Stanley E Arco, J Kalervo Aromaki, Jonas Arrais, Raquel C Arrais, Frank Artavia Donas, Adwoa S Asamoah-Addo, Leonardo R Asoy, Valere G Assembe Minyono,

Salomon G Assienin, Delbert W Baker, Aho N Baliki, Abel Anak J Bana, Austin W Banda, Rosa T Banks, Leonino Barbosa Santiago, Seth T Bardu, D Edward Barnett, Lisa M Beardsley-Hardy, John R Beckett, Matthew A Bediako, Ted R Benson, Fengling Bi, Guillermo E Biaggi, Stephen H Bindas, Dedrick L Blue, Larry Boggess, Rodney G Brady, Elias Brasil de Souza, Everett E Brown, G Alexander Bryant, Brent B Burdick, Eliseo Bustamante,

Hesron R Byilingiro, Lael O Caesar, Garrett Caldwell, Gilbert R Cangy, Ron Carlson, Robert G Carmen, Agapito J Catane Jr, Michael F Cauley, M Gabriel Cesano, Shirley Chang, Carl P Chin, Micah Choga, Dowell Chow, Gordon E Christo, Daniel Chuunga, Chester V Clark III, Donovan Cleary, G S Robert Clive, Lowell C Cooper, Dean Coridan, Ken L Corkum, Jose H Cortes, Robert Costa, Williams S Costa Jr, Gary R Councill, D Wayne Culmore,

Richard Daly, Gladys Rosette C Daniel, James R Davidson, Ruben De Abreu, Jose C de Lima, Rogerio A de Paula, Domingos J de Sousa, Marlon de Souza Lopes, Vara P Deepati, A Ganoune Diop, Michael A Ditta, Gary W Dodge, Kwabena Donkor, Cheryl Doss, Paul H Douglas, Karnik Doukmetzian, Jonathan M Duffy, Jaroslaw Dziegielewski, Michael G Edge, George O Egwakhe, Melvin Eisele, Tomas I Espinoza, G Thomas Evans, Larry R Evans,

William A Fagal, Sergie B Ferrer, Mark A Finley, Shirley Fleming, Cesar A Flores, Robert S Folkenberg Jr, Henry J Fordham III, Maria M Fraser, John Freedman, Ambroise Fumakwa Mfumu, Agustin Galicia, Jay Gallimore, Dale E Galusha, Elisha R Ganta, Ever G

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Garcia Arroyo, Somer A George, L James Gibson, Carlos U Gill Krug, Stefan Giuliani, James M Golay, Clifford R Goldstein, Doris M Gothard, Ricardo B Graham, Christian M Grassl,

John Graz, Abel J Guaiaguaia, Abraham I Guerrero Romero, Alberto C Gulfan Jr, Stephen R Guptill, Alexander Gusakov, Jerome Habimana, Passmore Hachalinga, Ron Halvorsen Jr, Goran Hansen, Fred G Hardinge, Richard H Hart, Mark T Haynal, Edward Heidinger Zevallos, Kerry L Heinrich, Elie Henry, Jasmin Herinirina, Daniel L Honore, Paul Hoover, Eugene Hsu, Willie E Hucks II, Julian Huesca Murillo, Jannus O Hutapea,

Chibuike I Ikegwuonu, Myron A Iseminger, Craig R Jackson, Daniel R Jackson, Ramesh Y Jadhav, Peter Januska, Frandy Jeanty, David Jennah, Nenad Jepuranovic, Delbert L Johnson, Leonard A Johnson, Mark A Johnson, Patricia S Jones, Ephraim Kabaija, Tarak Kadachi, Richard D Kajiura, John B Kakembo, Ignacio L Kalbermatter, Raafat A Kamal, Svetlana Kara, Gerry D Karst, M Brian Kemoabe, Bradley R Kemp, Kenaope Kenaope, Anthony R Kent,

Ed Keyes, Hudson E Kibuuka, Dae Sung Kim, Donald G King, Luis A King, Joshua K Kirui, Olive Kisile Mikuo, Chantal Klingbeil, Gerald A Klingbeil, Gladstone E Knight, William M Knott, Linda Mei Lin Koh, Erton C Kohler, Derris Krause, Gary D Krause, Michael Kruger, Vladimir Krupskyi, Ronald Kuhn, Jonathan Kuntaraf, Kathleen K Kuntaraf, Chelladurai Kurumurthy, Frackson L Kuyama, Reidar J Kvinge, Kwame B Kwanin, Robert E Kyte,

Ezras Lakra, Nancy A Lamoreaux, Peter N Landless, Samuel A Larmie, Max-Rene Laurent, Jairyong Lee, Myun Ju Lee, Young Ja Lee-Nam, Israel J Leito, Mike M Lekic, Godwin K Lekundayo, Robert E Lemon, Thomas L Lemon, Dwayne O Leslie, Tankiso L Letseli, Aira Licite, Eber Liessi, Mauricio P Lima, Andrey Litvinov, John R Loor Jr, Marlinton S Lopes, Leslie D Louis, Leonel Lozano, Justin Lyons, Imad Madanat, Kenneth O Maena,

Nepthali J Manez, Emmanuel S D Manu, Solomon Maphosa, G R Marak, Alemu H Maruta, Alban Matohiti, Gabriel E Maurer, Emile Maxi, Geoffrey G Mbwana, Richard E McEdward, John K McVay, Tesfalem H Meles, Saustin S Mfune, Armando Miranda, Hiskia I Missah, Moises Moacir da Silva, Joshua W Mok, Andrei M Moldovanu, Syril Monthero, Perpetua Moodley, Jiwan S Moon, Larry R Moore, Marcella J Morales, Hubert J Morel Jr,

Derek J Morris, Jiri Moskala, Girimoio P Muchanga, Ekkehardt F Mueller, Robert S Muhune, Thomas Muller, Marlene J Muller Bulich, C Marius Munteanu, Noah K Musema, Zlatko Musija, Magulilo J Mwakalonge, Pardon K Mwansa, Johannes Naether, Ignacio Navarro Perez, Ron Nelson, Bradford C Newton, G T Ng, Steven B Ngussa, Mario Nino, James R Nix, David Nommik, Jethron Nsabiyaemye, Goodwell Nthani, Jerome Nziguheba,

Hortense Nzungu Pungu, Abimael Obando, Tamas Z Ocsai, Barry D Oliver, Elaine Oliver, Ronald W Oliver, Willie Oliver, Stephen Orian, Daisy J Orion, Kenneth W Osborn,

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Moisei I Ostrovski, Melanie A Osuri, Rubin R Ott, Alex C Otti, Brempong Owusu-Antwi, Owolabi A Oyeleke, Janet R Page, Jerry N Page, Julio A Palacio, Edgar C Palacios Silva, Frenslly R Panneflek, Orville D Parchment, Stefano Paris, Ruth E Parish, Sungwook Park,

Jan Paulsen, Mikulas Pavlik, Delbert B Pearman, James E Pedersen, Tricia Y Penniecook, Joseph S Peranginangin, Magdiel E Perez Schulz, Larry J Pitcher, Violeta Piturlea, Timothy L Poirier, Leslie N Pollard, Karen J Porter, Juan R Prestol-Puesan, Stoy E Proctor Jr, Roman Prodanyuk, Antonio Quiba, Leonardo D Rahming, Adan H Ramos Lagos, John Rathinaraj, Paul S Ratsara, Edgar J Redondo Ramirez, Rick Remmers, Leigh R Rice,

Claude J Richli, Antonio Rodrigues, Josney D Rodriguez, Jose A Rodriguez Muniz, Gersom Roesler, Guy F Roger, Vladimir P Romanov, Blasious M Ruguri, Michael L Ryan, Owen C Ryan, Roy E Ryan, Noldy Sakul, Fawaz S Saleem, Saw Samuel, J Carlos Sanchez Ruiz, Elias Sarmiento, Lawrence E Schalk, Benjamin D Schoun, Luis A Schulz, Alexander F Schwarz, Yovan Selvamony, Yuliya Shayunussova, Masumi Shimada, Frank M Sikazwe, Helder R Silva,

Ella S Simmons, Dennis R Slusher, Heather-Dawn K Small, Lionel H Smith, Geovani Souto de Queiroz, M Theart St Pierre, Chester G Stanley, Artur A Stele, Daniel Stojanovic, Akeri Suzuki, Gary B Swanson, Joel Swanson, Ian W Sweeney, Tibor Szilvasi, Nelson L Tapia, Jonatan Tejel, John H Thomas, Brad Thorp, Kandus Thorp, Gary F Thurber, Ariel J Tielves Perez, Kern P Tobias, Chi Yuen J Tong, Louis R Torres, Tomas Torres de Dios,

Antonio O Tostes, Glenn Townend, Djordje Trajkovski, Homer W Trecartin, David Trim, S Memory Tun, Robert T Vandeman, Filiberto M Verduzco-Avila, Bruno R Vertallier, Clinton L Wahlen, J Raymond Wahlen II, Nathaniel M Walemba, Rainer Wanitschek, Gilbert Wari, Dave Weigley, Bertil A Wiklander, Evelyn J Will, Measapogu Wilson, Ted N C Wilson, William L Winston, Zofia Wlodarczyk, Harald Wollan, Ed Wright, Lori T Yingling,

Elias Zabala Sr, Gilmar Zahn, Norbert G Zens, E Edward Zinke

OPENING

Geoffrey G Mbwana, General Vice President of the General Conference, welcomed the attendees to the 2014 Annual Council.

Opening prayer was offered by Kathleen K Kuntaraf, Associate Director of Health Ministries.

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CALL TO ORDER

G T Ng, Secretary of the General Conference, read Bylaws, Article XIII, Section 2. a., which states the constitutional provisions for convening the Annual Council.

“Sec. 2. a. A meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee, known as the Annual Council, shall be held annually for the purpose of considering budget requests and making appropriations, for the transaction of other business, and the adoption of policies that may be necessary in the operation of the worldwide work.”

To apply this policy, we sent a letter of invitation, dated July 3, 2014, to all General Conference Executive Committee members and invitees to attend the 2014 Annual Council held at the General Conference world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Altogether, approximately 491 individuals have been notified. They are made up of 338 General Conference Executive Committee members and 153 invitees. Of these, approximately 210 have registered to attend. The names are listed on pages K-N in your agenda.

The Bylaws, Article XIII, Sec. 4., states: “Any fifteen members of the General Conference Executive Committee, including an officer of the General Conference, shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee for the disposition of routine items, and shall be empowered to transact business that is in harmony with the general plans outlined by the Executive Committee. A quorum of forty members is required for the disposition of non-routine items such as major financial decisions, the dismissal of elected and appointed employees, and the election of presidents of divisions and of general vice presidents.”

G T Ng then indicated to the Chair that because there are more than 40 attendees present, the delegates eagerly await his call to order of the first business meeting of the 2014 Annual Council.

Having met all the requirements to hold an Annual Council of the General Conference, Geoffrey G Mbwana then declared the 2014 Annual Council open for transacting the business of the Church as outlined in the agenda.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

G T Ng read the Mission Statement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

VOTED, To reaffirm the Mission Statement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which reads as follows:

A 05 Mission Statement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

A 05 05 Our Mission—The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to make disciples of all people, communicating the everlasting gospel in the context of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12, leading them to accept Jesus as personal Savior and unite with His remnant Church, discipling them to serve Him as Lord, and preparing them for His soon return.

A 05 10 Our Method—We pursue this mission under the guidance and through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit through:

1. Preaching—Accepting Christ's commission (Matt 28:18-20), we proclaim to all the world in these last days the everlasting gospel of God's love, most fully revealed in His Son's life, ministry, atoning death, resurrection, and high priestly ministry. Recognizing the Bible to be God's infallible revelation of His will, we present its full message, including the second advent of Christ and the continuing authority of His Ten Commandment law with its reminder of the seventh-day Sabbath.

2. Teaching—Acknowledging that development of mind and character is essential to God's redemptive plan, we promote the growth of a mature understanding of and relationship to God, His Word, and the created universe.

3. Healing—Affirming the biblical principles of the well-being of the whole person, we make the preservation of health and the healing of the sick a priority and through our ministry to the poor and oppressed, cooperate with the Creator in His compassionate work of restoration.

4. Discipling—Affirming the continued spiritual growth and development of all members, we nurture the newly converted, instruct them in righteous living, train them for effective witness, and encourage their responsive obedience to God's will.

A 05 15 Our Vision—In harmony with the great prophecies of the Scriptures, we see as the climax of God's plan the restoration of all His creation to full harmony with His perfect will and righteousness.

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DAILY PROGRAM

VOTED, To adopt the daily program of the 2014 Annual Council, as follows:

THURSDAY PROGRAM
October 9, 2014

4:00-6:00 pm	Registration
6:00 pm	Annual Council Opening
6:15-8:30 pm	LEAD Conference

FRIDAY PROGRAM
October 10, 2014

7:30-8:00 am	Registration
8:00-9:00 am	Devotional
9:00-12:00 pm	LEAD Conference
6:00-8:00 pm	Council on Evangelism and Witness

SABBATH PROGRAM
October 11, 2014

8:15-8:45 am	Prayer Time
9:15 am	Sabbath School
10:50 am	Divine Service, Ted N C Wilson
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:20-4:00 pm	Council on Evangelism and Witness

DAILY PROGRAM

October 12-15, 2014

7:00-7:45 am	Steering Committee (Executive Dining Room)
7:15-7:45 am	Prayer Time
8:00-9:00 am	Devotional
9:00-12:00 pm	Business Meeting

LUNCH

2:00-5:30 pm	Business Meeting
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SEC/ADCOM/14AC to MAI

146-14G ANNUAL COUNCIL 2014—STANDING COMMITTEES

VOTED, To approve standing committees for the 2014 Annual Council, as follows:

NOMINATING

Ted N C Wilson, Chair
G T Ng, Secretary

Members: Delbert W Baker, Guillermo E Biaggi, Stephen H Bindas, Rodney G Brady, Everett E Brown, G Alexander Bryant, Brent B Burdick, Lowell C Cooper, Jonathan M Duffy, George O Egwakhe, Stefan Giuliani, Doris M Gothard, Alberto C Gulfan Jr, Stephen R Guptill, Richard H Hart, Myron A Iseminger, Daniel R Jackson, Raafat A Kamal, Dae Sung Kim, Erton C Kohler, Gary D Krause, Reidar J Kvinge, Robert E Kyte, Jairyong Lee, Israel J Leito,

Robert E Lemon, Tankiso L Letseli, Aira Licite, Kenneth O Maena, Alban Matohiti, Geoffrey G Mbwana, Tesfalem H Meles, Armando Miranda, Cyril Monthero, Pardon K Mwansa, Johannes Naether, James R Nix, Barry D Oliver, Willie Oliver, C Alex Otti, Magdiel Perez Schulz, Karen J Porter, Juan R Prestol-Puesan, John Rathinaraj, Paul S Ratsara, Blasious M Ruguri, Michael L Ryan, Noldy Sakul, Benjamin D Schoun, Frank M Sikazwe,

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Ella S Simmons, Heather-Dawn K Small, Artur A Stele, Antonio O Tostes, Bruno R Vertallier, J Raymond Wahlen II, Gilbert Wari

STEERING

Ted N C Wilson, Chair
Myron A Iseminger, Secretary

Members: Delbert W Baker, Rosa T Banks, G Alexander Bryant, Sheri Clemmer, Lowell C Cooper, Karnik Doukmetzian, George O Egwakhe, G Thomas Evans, Agustin Galicia, Daniel R Jackson, Gary D Krause, Robert E Lemon, Geoffrey G Mbwana, Armando Miranda, Pardon K Mwansa, G T Ng, Daisy J F Orion, Orville D Parchment, Karen J Porter, Juan R Prestol-Puesan, Michael L Ryan, Roy E Ryan, Benjamin D Schoun, Ella S Simmons, Artur A Stele, John H Thomas, J Raymond Wahlen II, Harald Wollan.

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ADOPTION OF AGENDA

VOTED, To adopt the agenda as listed in the agenda notebook.

Following the business session, the LEAD Conference commenced with this year's theme of "Let God be God".

Geoffrey G Mbwana, Chair
G T Ng, Secretary
Myron A Iseminger, Editorial Secretary
Tamara K Boward, Recording Secretary

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Prayer was offered by Solomon Maphosa, Secretary of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

Pardon K Mwansa, chair, called to order the second session of the 2014 Annual Council.

DEVOTIONAL

The devotional message entitled “The Nominating Committee Decided to Make a Change” was presented by Pardon K Mwansa, General Vice-President of the General Conference.

Following the devotional, the LEAD Conference continued on the theme “Let God be God”.

Pardon K Mwansa, Chair
G T Ng, Secretary
Myron A Iseminger, Editorial Secretary
Karen J Porter, Recording Secretary

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October 10, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

Armando Miranda, chair, called to order the third session of the 2014 Annual Council.

COUNCIL ON EVANGELISM AND WITNESS

A report was given by Jonathan M Duffy, President of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), of activities of ADRA. Last year ADRA ministered to 21.7 million people around the world.

Derek J Morris shared a message from the *Revived by His Word* scripture for the day, Zephaniah 1, followed by testimonies of individuals from around the world who have been impacted by this Bible-reading plan.

The *Believe His Prophets* initiative was introduced by Derek J Morris and Mark A Finley which will begin at the 2015 General Conference Session as a follow-up on the *Revived by His Word* initiative which will conclude at that same time.

Alberto C Gulfan, Jr shared his testimony of his journey over the last six months with health challenges, and then introduced a video report of *Mission to the Cities* in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division.

Prayer was offered for the Southern Asia-Pacific Division and for Alberto C Gulfan, Jr.

Gilbert R Cangy, Director of Youth Ministries, introduced Liz Motta from the South American Division and Daryl Joshua from the Southern Asia Division, two of the young adults who were part of the *One Year in Mission* training in New York City. Each gave a short report about their evangelistic activities since returning to their home divisions, encouraging young adults to participate in the *One Year in Mission* program.

A trailer of the *United Prayer Works* video was shown, introducing a series of programs highlighting the power of united prayer and encouraging people to unite in prayer. The videos are currently in 15 languages and there will be 50 episodes when completed.

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Jerry N Page, Secretary of the Ministerial Association, introduced the *100 Days of Prayer* initiative leading up to the General Conference Session, inviting the presence of the Holy Spirit during the Session.

Mark A Finley, Special Assistant to the President, and Donald G King, President of Atlantic Union Conference, gave a report on the results of NY13, the initiative to reach New York City with the message of Jesus last year. Laymembers were galvanized into action and as a result 64 new church companies were raised up in New York City in 2013 with 5,292 individuals baptized. Plans are underway for an evangelistic meeting in Boston in 2015 called *Compassion Boston*.

Daniel R Jackson, President of the North American Division, introduced a video highlighting evangelistic programs in three cities across the Division and how these projects are impacting the communities. The projects are the Bridges to Health medical and dental free clinics in the Oakland/San Francisco area, the Oshkosh Pathfinder Camporee, and the Women's Ministries department program of "God in Shoes."

Prayer was offered for the North American Division.

Mark A Finley introduced Impact San Antonio, a series of comprehensive evangelism outreaches in the city of San Antonio leading up to the 2015 General Conference Session, climaxing with an evangelistic series in June 2015.

Paul S Ratsara, President of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division, shared a brief video report of what the Division is doing for Mission to the Cities. Last year, evangelism meetings were held at 11,682 sites. Of these, 500 evangelistic meetings were conducted by children. As a result 686 new churches have been planted throughout the division territory.

Prayer was offered for the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

Jairyong Lee, President of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division shared the evangelistic activities in Japan, China, and Mongolia.

Prayer was offered for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

Mark A Finley concluded with a spiritual appeal for evangelism, sharing a story of Jose Parada and his wife who were martyred for their faith. Seventy years later, Parada's son and the assassin's son were baptized and are determined to share Jesus with all of their family members.

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Prayer was offered by Mark A Finley, Special Assistant to the President.

Armando Miranda, Chair
Karen J Porter, Secretary
Myron A Iseminger, Editorial Secretary

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Delbert W Baker, chair, called to order the fourth session of the 2014 Annual Council.

COUNCIL ON EVANGELISM AND WITNESS

Armando Miranda, General Vice President, led in the *Revived by His Word* reading for the day of Zephaniah 2, and offered a prayer following the reading.

Richard E McEdward, Director of Global Mission Centers, introduced James Park, Professor of Applied Theology at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS). Park described the resources that have been prepared through the Big 4 Program at AIIAS to educate and empower local “fishermen” with evangelistic tools to reach the main religions of the world. A few of the tools that have been created include Vacation Bible School programs; Bible study guides for senior citizens; folk-hero Bible studies; and puppet health ministry programs.

McEdward reviewed some of the resource materials that have been created for the use of those opening or operating Centers of Influence. Materials include topics of health and wellness, technology, life skills, income generation, and other resources and tools.

Prayer was offered by Ted N C Wilson, President of the General Conference, for Richard E McEdward and James Park and for all of the Centers of Influence and Study Centers.

Guillermo E Biaggi, President of the Euro-Asia Division, gave a report on Mission to the Cities across that territory. Each union has identified one city in their territory in which to focus their evangelistic efforts, calling them Cities of Hope. Several stories were shared about people who have found a new life through the Centers of Influence.

Prayer was offered for the work of the Euro-Asia Division and the great cities across that vast territory.

Delbert W Baker, General Vice President, introduced Gary D Krause, Associate Secretary, who spoke about creative ways to connect to the communities around us, including Centers of Influence. Krause encouraged members to look for the needs of the community and then plan programs to address these specific needs. Program ideas included operating thrift

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stores, music stores, book stores, health food stores, and providing social activity programs for children.

Other methods of reaching communities were shared by Erton C Kohler, President of the South American Division, where literature evangelists have created a program called Rescue Mission Literature Evangelists. This program encourages local church members to work as short-term literature evangelists in their own community. Training, tools, and affordable books are provided to the literature evangelists, and hundreds of Bible studies have been given, resulting in baptisms and the creation of new churches. Students participate in this program during their holidays as well.

Geoffrey G Mbwana introduced Jiwan S Moon, General Conference Associate Director of Youth Ministries and Director of Public Campus Ministries. This ministry is established to facilitate working with Adventist students on secular campuses to transform them into missionaries on their campuses.

Oscar Osindo, Associate Director of the Institute of World Mission shared his personal experience of being assigned to a church in a Muslim area and did not know how to work with this people group. Creative ways must be found to work in these communities. In one location in Africa young people have created an Adventist-Muslim choir where young people sing together.

Special prayer was offered for Muslim ministries.

Erton C Kohler, President of the South American Division, introduced a video report on Mission to the Cities in this division. The division's goals include opening Centers of Influence in the heart of major cities, and planting one church in every neighborhood in cities of more than 500,000 inhabitants, 77 cities in total.

Special prayer was offered for the work in the South American Division.

A report was presented from Norel Jakob, Editor of the Romanian *Signs of the Times*, sharing how the magazine has been retooled in order to reach the public. The goal of the new format is to educate readers, uphold the faith, open the way for a more ample presentation of the truth.

Blasious M Ruguri, President of the East-Central Africa Division, introduced a video report from the Division on Mission to the Cities. Evangelistic meetings were held across the division at 56 sites with 104 new churches being established and 125 new congregations formed.

Special prayer was offered for the East-Central Africa Division.

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Homer W Trecartin, President of the Middle East and North Africa Union Mission, presented a report of what is happening in this region, and ways the world church can help reach the people of this territory. Ideas and suggestions for promoting the work in the Middle East were presented.

Prayer was offered for the Middle East and North Africa Union Mission.

Mark A Finley, Special Assistant to the President, introduced a pastor from Ireland who shared stories of a recent evangelistic series held in Dublin, Ireland, as part of the British Union Conference's Mission to the Cities focus.

Ted N C Wilson, President of the General Conference, introduced Raafat A Kamal, newly elected president of the Trans-European Division. Kamal shared a story of a church plant north of London where crime rates have been reduced since the Adventists have moved in and are meeting the needs of the community. Church membership has grown from 8 to 80.

A special prayer was offered for the Trans-European Division.

Prayer was offered by Mark A Finley, Special Assistant to the President.

Delbert W Baker, Chair
Karen J Porter, Secretary
Myron A Iseminger, Editorial Secretary

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DEVOTIONAL

The devotional message entitled “Seventh-day Adventist Endtime Commission: Contributions to What Matters Most to Our World” was presented by A Ganoune Diop, Associate Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty.

Ted N C Wilson, chair, called to order the fifth session of the 2014 Annual Council.

Prayer was offered by Larry R Moore, President of the Southwestern Union Conference in the North American Division.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Division presidents introduced new General Conference Executive Committee members from their territories.

ELECTRONIC VOTING OVERVIEW

An overview was given of the new electronic voting system, along with practice questions.

“IT’S TIME”—SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION

John Rathinaraj, President of the Southern Asia Division, shared a video report outlining the challenges of working in the cities of the Southern Asia Division.

Prayer was offered by Hortense Nzungu Pungu, Frontline Worker from the East Congo Union Mission in the East-Central Africa Division.

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AGENDA OVERVIEW

Myron A Iseminger, Undersecretary, gave an overview of how the agenda items relating to General Conference *Working Policy*, the Constitution and Bylaws, and the *Church Manual* will be voted in block at a later time, unless the members of the General Conference Executive Committee indicate that they would like to discuss an item.

PUBLIC CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Jiwan S Moon, Associate Director of Youth Ministries and Director of Public Campus Ministries shared information regarding the “Follow Me Adventist Movement: Transforming Adventist Students Into Campus Ministers.” This initiative focuses on turning young people into missionaries on public college and university campuses.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

In 2013, the Seventh-day Adventist membership reached 18 million. As of December 2013, there were 18,143,745 people who called themselves Seventh-day Adventists. That year 1,057,645 people were baptized. For the last 10 years, over one million people a year have been baptized.

Accessions include baptisms plus professions of faith. In 2013, 33,577 people joined the church through profession of faith. Adding the number of people baptized and the number of people who joined the church through profession of faith, the total accessions that year were 1,091,222. This is 2,990 people joining the church each day.

The average growth rate in 2013 was 1.47 percent worldwide. In 2006, the growth rate was almost 5 percent per annum, making 2006 one of our best years in terms of membership. At the growth rate of 1.47 percent per annum, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is one of the fastest growing churches in the world. Lest we become conceited like David, we need to compare our growth rate with the population growth rate.

What is the church growth rate compared with the population growth rate? World population is around 7 billion, and the population is currently growing at a rate of around 1.14 percent per year. Since our growth rate is about 1.47 percent per year, we are barely ahead of the population growth rate. The average population change is currently estimated at around 80 million per year, meaning there are 80 million new people to evangelize on top of the 7 billion we already have. So the mission challenge is enormous.

In the last 40 years leading up to 2013, 31,835,032 joined the church. Total losses not including death amounted to 11,383,483. So the net loss rate was 35.75 percent. The Church must do a better job in nurturing and retaining newly baptized members. It's a tragic loss of human and financial resources that out of 100 people who join the church, 36 of them are likely to leave sometime in the future.

In the 40 years leading up to 2013, 31,835,032 joined the church. Total losses, not including those who passed away, amounted to 11,383,483. With a net loss of 35.75 percent, the church is taking up the challenge of nurturing and retaining newly baptized members through training and by involving them in its mission to reach the unreached.

VOTED, To record receipt of the Secretary's Report.

COUNCELL, GARY R—APPRECIATION

Appreciation was expressed to Gary R Councill, Director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, who will be retiring on January 31, 2015.

Prayer was offered for Gary R Councill, as he looks forward to retirement, by Geoffrey G Mbwana, General Vice President of the General Conference.

ELLEN G WHITE ESTATE REPORT

James R Nix, Director of the Ellen G White Estate, presented the Ellen G White Estate report which included a historical review of the life of Ellen G White interspersed with updates into the recent projects of the department including a new devotional book, a tent at the international Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, the Pitcairn online game, the upcoming Gift of Prophecy Symposium, the publication of Ellen G White manuscripts, and the publication of a new compilation *Ministry to the Cities*.

SPECIAL GUEST INTRODUCTIONS

Special guests to the Annual Council from mainland China were introduced.

Prayer was offered by Larry Boggess, President of the Mountain View Conference in the North American Division.

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Ted N C Wilson, Chair
Agustin Galicia, Secretary
Myron A Iseminger, Editorial Secretary
Tamara K Boward, Recording Secretary

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TREASURY

Associate Treasurer, Investments Timothy H Aka

GLOBAL YOUTH DAY

Gilbert R Cangy, Director of Youth Ministries, presented a report about Global Youth Day. On one day during the year, young people go into the community to “be the sermon”. Their pictures, videos and stories are shared on social media. Armando Miranda announced that the next Global Youth Day would be March 21, 2015.

VOTED, To accept the report from Youth Ministries.

INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ASSOCIATION LEGAL MEETING

At 5:09 pm, the International Religious Liberty Association legal meeting was convened, after which the business session of the General Conference Executive Committee was reconvened.

Closing remarks were offered by Ted N C Wilson, President of the General Conference, who urged division leaders to ensure that churches in their territories are participating in the Combined Offering Plan. He also announced that Adventist Heritage Ministries is joining more closely with the Ellen G White Estate.

Prayer was offered by Cheryl Doss, Director of the Institute of World Mission.

Prayer was requested for Pat Habada.

Ella S Simmons, Chair
Gary D Krause, Secretary
Myron A Iseminger, Editorial Secretary
Wendy Trim, Recording Secretary

ANNUAL COUNCIL OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 13, 2014, 8:00 a.m.

DEVOTIONAL

The devotional message entitled “Hope’s Grace-filled Endtime Message” was presented by Mark A Finley, Special Assistant to the President.

Lowell C Cooper, chair, called to order the seventh session of the 2014 Annual Council.

Prayer was offered by Doris M Gothard, Laymember from the North American Division.

INTRODUCTION OF TREASURY STAFF

Some of the General Conference Treasury staff was introduced, including the new Associate Treasurer for Investments, Timothy H Aka, and Nancy A Lamoreaux, Chief Information Officer/Field Secretary.

TREASURER’S REPORT

NOTHING TO FEAR EXCEPT . . .

“In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”—LS 196.2

As this is the last Annual Council before the 2015 General Conference Session, we would like to spend most of the time in our report looking at some of the major trends in the church’s finances and the way the Lord has led over the past twenty years. We will review in more detail

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the 2014 finances at the 2015 Spring Meeting when we have closed the books for the year and have the final report for the quinquennium.

While we look at God's leading in the finances of His church we must also remind ourselves that there are a number of major areas that need to receive additional attention, be monitored, and be addressed. They include:

1. Strengthening the engaging of the next generation in systematic support for the church through tithes and offerings.
2. Borrowing and debt levels of some entities, particularly institutions.
3. Retirement plan issues, including the underfunded status of many.
4. Attracting and retaining highly skilled and dedicated workers.

TITHE AND OFFERINGS

Before looking at some of the trends, it would be good to review the tithe and offering numbers through September. This is the second year of the phase-in of the new tithe sharing percentages from the North American Division. The decrease in tithe percentage from 8 percent to 7 percent over these first two years (2013 and 2014) has the effect of decreasing the annual tithe from the NAD by approximately \$9.1 million dollars for 2013 as compared to what it would have been without the change. With the strengthening of the U.S. dollar against a number of currencies and fairly sluggish economies in many parts of the world, we have not experienced the major increases from the other divisions that we had previously to help offset adjustments in tithe percentage. Total tithe coming to the General Conference through September 2014 was \$69.5 million as compared to \$71.4 in 2013. The total mission offerings through September of this year have been \$65.5 million as compared to \$63.2 million for the same period last year. The Lord is good. In 2012 we set aside funds for the transition but didn't have to use them in 2013, and we believe that we will still end this year strong, but may need to dip slightly into those allocated funds.

"In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God!"—YRP 229.4

What a faith building experience that must have been for Ellen G White as she reviewed God's leading of His church over the period of her lifetime.

Sometimes it is good for us to also review God's leading of His church during our own lifetimes.

MAJOR TRENDS AND CHANGES

1. Accounting for and handling of multi-year commitments
 - a. Major shift starting in 1995
 - b. Major release of Blocked Currency in 1997
 - 1) Funded all outstanding multi-year commitments
2. Church Membership Growth
 - a) 1995 8.8 million
 - b) 2013 18.1 million
 - c) 1995-2013—106 percent growth
3. Total Tithe and Mission Offerings and Tithe Percentages to the General Conference
 - a. World Wide Mission Offerings 1995-2013
 - 1) Major increase in mission offerings from outside the North American Division
 - a) Major impact of Combined Offering program after the 2000 Stewardship Summit
 - 2) Tithe and Mission Offerings to the General Conference 1995-2013
 - a) Far greater percentage of the General Conference budget now from currencies other than the US dollar
 - 1) In 2014, now over 50 percent from outside the North American Division
4. Shifts in Tithe Percentages to the General Conference
 - a. Change in Tithe Percentage to General Conference

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- 1) 2001-2005
 - a) North American Division percentage decreased from 10.72 percent to 8 percent
 - b) Other divisions increased from 1 percent to 2 percent
- 2) 2013–2020
 - a) North American Division decreasing from 8 percent to 6 percent
- b. What tithe would have been if left at 10.72 percent
 - 1) Difference in Tithe percentages 2001-2013
 - a) North American Division decrease of US\$266 million
 - b) Other divisions increase of US\$101 million
 - 2) Annual difference for the North American Division between 10.72 percent and 6 percent based on 2013 tithe would be US\$45 million per year

5. Investment Earnings

- a. Changing expectations for investment returns
 - 1) Need to get used to the new norm of lower returns
 - 2) Equities have potential of higher average earnings but great volatility

6. Extraordinary Tithe

- a. Has been a great benefit in many areas but especially in media outreach
- b. Portion held to assist with transition of these projects to other ongoing funding—especially in the media area

7. Major Funding Shifts

- a. Interdivision Employees Program (Interdivision Employees-Missionaries)
 - 1) Shift of major portion of funding from divisions to General Conference in 1995
 - 2) Set maximum for interdivision employee portion of budget at 16.5 percent of unrestricted tithe and offerings
 - 3) Currently studying a major change in the interdivision employee remuneration policies
 - b. General Conference Auditing Service
 - 1) Major shift from funding from division to the General Conference in 2000
 - a) Adjustment in appropriations from divisions
 - b) Major additional funding from the General Conference budget
 - c) Set limit at 6.5 percent plus US\$500,000 or approximately 6.78 percent of the General Conference budget
 - 2) New funding formula with shared costs started in 2014
 - a) In 2013, the General Conference set aside US\$7 million from Supplemental Budget to assist with phase-in of new funding arrangement
 - c. *Adventist World Magazine*—Started in 2005 and has a budget of US\$5.5 million
 - d. Hope Channel—Set up as a separate entity in 2011
 - e. Adventist World Radio—Set up as a separate entity in 1998
8. Recommended Working Capital and Supplemental Budgets
- a. Recommended Working Capital calculations

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1) Increased volatility in the economic world and increased exposure to exchange rates led to a review of the working capital needs of the General Conference

2) Have gradually increased percentage from 20 percent of a year's unrestricted operating income to a target of 50 percent. It is currently at 45 percent in 2014.

b. Supplemental Budgets

1) Voted each spring based on funds available above 100 percent of recommended working capital

2) Source of funds for Supplemental Budgets

a) Income above budget

b) Expenses below budget

i. Most expenses are appropriations and so equal the budgeted amount

ii. Biggest area where the General Conference operates under budget is in General Conference operations under the operating cap

9. World Budget Objectives

a. To support the work in the most needed areas which have the least capacity.

1) Needs in the 10/40 Window area

b. Need for discretionary funds to provide flexibility

1) To take advantage of opportunities

2) To meet challenges

c. Cannot afford to have all of the budget tied up in ongoing appropriations and operating costs

d. Budget has had to become much more focused

1) General Conference budget is a much smaller portion of the world
tithes and offerings than in the past

e. Budget trends and objectives

1) Adjusted appropriations based on Appropriations Commission
work

2) Targeted unentered areas and special opportunities

a) 10/40 Window Fund—One third of all increases in
appropriations to this fund

b) Special Opportunities Fund

10. General Conference Headquarters Operating and the Operating Cap

a. Major focus on controlling costs

1) Budget realistically

2) Operate under budget

b. Most important thing is to control the number of employees and employee
costs

1) Growth in work and membership around the world does not
require growth in General Conference headquarters staff or in staff at other levels

c. Number of General Conference Employees

1) Growth in worldwide Church without adding to General
Conference staff between 1995–2013

	<u>1995</u>	<u>2013</u>
Membership	8.8 million	18.1 million
Division	11 million	13 million
Unions	94 million	125 million
Conferences/Missions	459 million	602 million
General Conference Employees	282 million	287 million

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11. Faithfulness and Generosity of God's Children

a. Tithe-Sharing and Mission Offerings—Organization as well as individuals can be generous in sharing for the needs of the work in difficult places

CONCLUSION

As we review God's leading and the faithfulness of His children we cannot help but say as did Sister White, "Praise God."

TRE/14AC to REL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT—SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

VOTED, To record receipt of the September 30, 2014 Financial Summary and the Extraordinary Tithe Fund report.

TRE/SP&B14AC/14AC to JRP

2014 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

VOTED, 1. To extend assistance of \$500,000 to the Northern Asia-Pacific Division/ Chinese Union Mission from Supplemental Fund Balance at the end of 2014. This assistance for the Chinese Union Mission will be for their 2015 budget.

2. To extend assistance of \$1,000,000 to the Euro-Asia Division from the Supplemental Fund Balance at the end of 2014. The General Conference Administrative Committee will find another source of funding if the funds in Supplemental Fund Balance are not available. This assistance will be made available to the Euro-Asia Division immediately.

TRE/SP&B14AC/14AC to JRP

10/40 WINDOW CONTINGENCY—GENERAL

VOTED, To approve the 10/40 Window Contingency—General funds report and approve an allocation for the International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (ICPA) of \$280,000.

TRE/SP&B14AC/14AC to JRP

10/40 WINDOW CONTINGENCY—MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH
AFRICA UNION MISSION

VOTED, To approve the 10/40 Window Contingency—Middle East and North Africa Union Mission funds report along with an allocation of \$1,500,000.

TRE/SP&B14AC/14AC to JRP

UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND

VOTED, To approve the Unusual Opportunities Fund report, along with allocations as follows:

1. \$250,000 to the Trans-European Division for Denmark secular masses.
2. \$177,800 to the Middle East and North Africa Union Mission for Syria, Cyprus, and Yemen.

TRE/SP&B14AC/14AC to JRP

2015 WORLD ALLOCATIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS BUDGET
PROPOSAL

VOTED, To approve the 2015 World Allocations and Appropriations Budget proposal.

SP&B13AC/SP&B14AC/14AC to LCC

APPROPRIATIONS ADJUSTMENT PATTERN FOR 2016-2020

VOTED, To record receipt the report from the Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee on the Appropriations Adjustment Pattern for 2016-2020 document that outlines the guidelines that will be used for making budget recommendations to the General Conference Executive Committee. The document reads as follows:

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APPROPRIATIONS ADJUSTMENT PATTERN 2016-2020

In response to a 2008-2009 review of global appropriations several adjustments were made in appropriations for the period 2010-2014. These adjustments involved specific reductions to some units and increases to others. However, all units received equal annual increments if such were available. For example: if an increase of 2 percent was available this increase was granted to all entities receiving appropriations from the General Conference budget.

In 2013, the Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee requested General Conference administration to appoint an Appropriation Review Advisory Committee (SP&B-Ssub) with responsibility to review the current financial condition of organizations receiving appropriations from the General Conference and to propose an appropriations adjustment pattern for 2016-2020. The Committee recommends the following approach to budgeting appropriations during the forthcoming quinquennium. This proposal is made with the understanding that any major global or regional financial crisis may require significant revision to the pattern described below. This plan is intended to allow for a more flexible response to funding needs while shielding all units from appropriation decreases over the quinquennium.

1. Those sections in the General Conference budget that have been calculated using fixed percentages will continue to be determined on this basis. Sections of the General Conference budget computed in this manner include: the General Conference In-House Budget (2 percent of world tithe), the Interdivision/International Employee program (16.5 percent¹ of unrestricted tithe, offerings and donations), General Conference Auditing Service (6.5 percent plus \$500,000 of unrestricted tithe, offerings, and donations. The effective rate of this formula in 2014 was 6.78 percent).

2. Those entities that receive a portion of their appropriation according to a formula (e.g. actual cost of salary for designated positions, etc.) will continue to receive this portion of appropriation based on the applicable formula. Entities involved include the Ellen G White Estate, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Adventist World Radio and Geoscience Research Institute. The 10/40 Window Fund will continue to receive an amount equal to 1/3 of the increase in funds available for appropriation.

3. From 2016 -2020 no entity receiving appropriations from the General Conference will be expected to absorb decreases from the level of appropriations in 2015.

¹ This percentage may be revised if a recommendation respecting the re-classification of interdivision personnel resources for Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is approved. However, the intent is that the percentage of budget resources provided for interdivision/international employees, including ADRA, shall not exceed 16.5 percent.

4. The base appropriation for 2016 to each entity will be equal to the entity's total appropriation in 2015.

5. Any additional funds available for appropriation in 2016 will be distributed on the basis of need after a review by an Appropriations Review Committee appointed by General Conference administration. This means that the practice of granting similar annual increments to all units will be discontinued. Some units may receive no increase (i.e. appropriation is frozen for that budget year) while others receive increases of varying amounts.

6. This approach to appropriations will be repeated annually throughout the quinquennium. This means that appropriation levels of the previous year will form the base appropriation for the succeeding year. Any additional funds available will be distributed, by Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee recommendation to the General Conference Executive Committee, on the basis of need after a review by the Appropriations Review Committee.

7. It is not intended that exceptional circumstances arising in any unit receiving appropriations from the General Conference will be addressed by a sudden or dramatic redistribution of "additional funds available for appropriation." Such situations will be addressed primarily through other resources that may be available.

8. The Appropriations Review Committee will submit its appropriation recommendations annually to the Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee at the Spring Meeting prior to the budget year in question. For example: Appropriation freezes or increases for 2016 will be presented to the Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee in April 2015.

SP&B13AC/SP&B14AC/14AC to LCC

**INTERDIVISION/INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYEE RESOURCES
DEPLOYMENT PATTERN 2016-2020**

VOTED, To receive the report from the Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee on the guidelines for deployment of the Interdivision/International Employee Resources for 2016-2020 as outlined below, with the understanding that any major global or regional financial crisis may require significant revision to this action.

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INTERDIVISION/INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYEE
RESOURCES—DEPLOYMENT PATTERN 2016-2020

1. From 2016-2020, apart from interdivision employee resource adjustments already scheduled (SP&B 12-023), no interdivision employee/international service employee budget will be recalled from divisions or institutions for redeployment elsewhere. It is believed that financial stability will continue in the interdivision employee/international service employee budget and that sufficient resources are available to meet needs in the foreseeable future. The perception of sufficient resources includes the awareness of specific commitments, by some divisions, to provide personnel and financial resources for deployment to international assignments outside the division territory.

2. Costs for 2014 reflected in the interdivision program budget attributable to interdivision employees serving in the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) positions (not including ADRA headquarters staff) shall be determined and an equivalent amount classified as an appropriation to ADRA in 2015 for international staffing of ADRA country operations.

3. From January 1, 2015 onwards ADRA will receive an appropriation for international staffing of ADRA country operations rather than securing these resources through the interdivision employee program budget.

4. The interdivision employee program budget for 2015 shall be adjusted accordingly and the resulting percentage of the global budget (unrestricted tithe, offerings and donations) recalculated. The recalculated percentage, unless subsequently adjusted by the Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee, shall be used in budget preparations for subsequent years. (The current percentage is 16.5.)

5. ADRA commits to using the appropriations provided under this action for the employment/remuneration of international staff in its various country offices. Under this arrangement the basic remuneration of ADRA's international staff will be calculated according to interdivision employee/international service employee policies. The Appropriations Review Advisory Commission will receive an annual report from ADRA on the use of this appropriation.

6. The provisions outlined above pertain to the employment of international staff and their location of assignment. The continuation of current ADRA country offices and/or the establishment of new country offices is addressed separately through ADRA's consultations with divisions and unions concerned.

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TRE/SP&B14AC/14AC to REL

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION RELOCATION

WHEREAS, The North American Division for some time has been considering the advisability of relocating its headquarters, and

WHEREAS, The North American Division Executive Committee voted at their 2013 yearend meeting to request that the North American Division study the advisability of relocating the division headquarters outside of the General Conference complex, and

WHEREAS, The policy requires General Conference involvement in decisions on division headquarters locations, and

WHEREAS, The North American Division yearend meeting follows the Annual Council, and

NOTWITHSTANDING, The natural preference of the General Conference that the North American Division headquarters remain in the General Conference complex, it was

VOTED, That should the North American Division Executive Committee recommend relocation of the North American Division headquarters, the General Conference will support such a move, with the understanding that if the location recommended were other than the greater Washington area, the final location would need an additional approval by the General Conference. Further, that should the North American Division relocate its headquarters, the General Conference would provide assistance of \$3 million from the General Conference Plant Fund to assist with the costs.

TRE/14AC to REL

TREASURER'S REPORT

VOTED, To record receipt of the Treasurer's report, as presented.

FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

VOTED, That in light of continued concern regarding the phrasing in Fundamental Belief number one, to permit the writing group to give further consideration to the wording and submit any revision to the 2015 General Conference Session.

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ADCOM/ADCOM/PREXAD/GCDO13AC/13AC/133-13GS/BRI/ADCOM/ADCOM/PreC/
SecC/TreC/GCDO14AC/14AC to AAS-15GCS

124-14GS FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS - AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists, to read as follows:

Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists

Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed and hold certain fundamental beliefs to be the teaching of the Holy Scriptures. These beliefs, as set forth here, constitute the church's understanding and expression of the teaching of Scripture. Revision of these statements may be expected at a General Conference Session when the church is led by the Holy Spirit to a fuller understanding of Bible truth or finds better language in which to express the teachings of God's Holy Word.

1. The Holy Scriptures

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

2. The Trinity

There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. He God, who is love, is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation. (Gen. 1:26; Deut. 6:4; Isa. 6:8; Matt. 28:19; John 3:16 2 Cor. 1:21, 22; 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2.) (~~Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4 6; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Tim. 1:17; Rev. 14:7.~~)

Comment [TKB1]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB2]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB3]: This addition aims to make explicit the principle of *sola scriptura*.

Comment [TKB4]: To avoid a repetitive use of "authoritative" The word "definitive" establishes an understanding of the Bible as its own standard, without implying that we evaluate the Bible's role relative to a human assessment of rationality.

Comment [TKB5]: There is no reference to divine love in this statement about the Godhead. The character of God is at the heart of the cosmic conflict and the work of Christ.

3. The Father

God the eternal Father is the Creator, Source, Sustainer, and Sovereign of all creation. He is just and holy, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. The qualities and powers exhibited in the Son and the Holy Spirit are also those ~~revelations~~ of the Father. (Gen. 1:1; Exod. 34:6, 7; Deut. 4:35; Ps. 110:1, 4; John 3:16; 14:9; 1 Cor. 15:28; 1 Tim. 1:17; 1 John 4:8; Rev. 4:11.) Rev. 4:11; 1 Cor. 15:28; John 3:16; 1 John 4:8; 1 Tim. 1:17; Ex. 34:6, 7; John 14:9.)

Comment [TKB6]: This addition emphasizes the three persons and avoids reading the statement along the lines of modalism (the idea that there is one God who revealed Himself in three different ways; there are not three persons).

4. The Son

God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Through Him all things were created, the character of God is revealed, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and the world is judged. Forever truly God, He became also truly human, man, Jesus the Christ. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived and experienced temptation as a human being, but perfectly exemplified the righteousness and love of God. By His miracles He manifested God's power and was attested as God's promised Messiah. He suffered and died voluntarily on the cross for our sins and in our place, was raised from the dead, and ascended to heaven to minister in the heavenly sanctuary in our behalf. He will come again in glory for the final deliverance of His people and the restoration of all things. (Isa. 53:4-6; Dan. 9:25-27; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-3, 14; 5:22; 10:30; 14:1-3, 9; Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17-19; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:15-19; Heb. 2:9-18; Heb. 8:1, 2.) (John 1:1-3, 14; Col. 1:15-19; John 10:30; 14:9; Rom. 6:23; 2 Cor. 5:17-19; John 5:22; Luke 1:35; Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 2:9-18; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4; Heb. 8:1, 2; John 14:13.)

Comment [TKB7]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB8]: The addition provides consistency in the use of prepositional phrases in the sentence. It also includes the ascension among the events in the life of Jesus listed in the previous sentences.

5. The Holy Spirit

God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and redemption. He is as much a person as are the Father and the Son. He inspired the writers of Scripture. He filled Christ's life with power. He draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God. Sent by the Father and the Son to be always with His children, He extends spiritual gifts to the church, empowers it to bear witness to Christ, and in harmony with the Scriptures leads it into all truth. (Gen. 1:1, 2; 2 Sam. 23:2; Ps. 51:11; Isa. 61:1; Luke 1:35; 4:18; John 14:16-18, 26; 15:26; 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; 5:3; 10:38; 1 Cor. 12:7-11; 2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Peter 1:21.) (Gen. 1:1, 2; Luke 1:35; 4:18; Acts 10:38; 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:11, 12; Acts 1:8; John 14:16-18, 26; 15:26, 27; 16:7-13.)

Comment [TKB9]: The addition makes explicit what is implied in the Statement (the personhood of the Son and the Spirit) and thus removes any possible ambiguity.

6. Creation

God is the Creator of all things. He things, and has revealed in Scripture the authentic and historical account of His creative activity. In six days a recent six-day creation the Lord made

Comment [TKB10]: The article was added for consistency; see # 3.

Comment [TKB11]: This may be the best place to incorporate the historicity of the narrative. We can explore other possibilities, but the impression we have is that if we place it somewhere else within the Statement, we may have to elaborate on it.

Comment [TKB12]: This is the best place to introduce the idea of a recent creation.

“the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them” and rested on the seventh day. “the heaven and the earth” and all living things upon the earth, and rested on the seventh day of that first week. Thus He established the Sabbath as a perpetual memorial of His creative work, performed and completed during six literal days that together with the Sabbath constituted the same unit of time that we call a week today, completed creative work. The first man and woman were made in the image of God as the crowning work of Creation, given dominion over the world, and charged with responsibility to care for it. When the world was finished it was “very good,” declaring the glory of God. (Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:8-11; Ps. 19:1-6; 33:6, 9; 104; Isa. 45:12; Acts 17:24; Col. 1:16; Heb. 11:3; Rev. 10:6; 14:7.)~~(Gen. 1; 2; Ex. 20:8-11; Ps. 19:1-6; 33:6, 9; 104; Heb. 11:3.)~~

7. The Nature of Humanity ~~Man~~

Man and woman were made in the image of God with individuality, the power and freedom to think and to do. Though created free beings, each is an indivisible unity of body, mind, and spirit, dependent upon God for life and breath and all else. When our first parents disobeyed God, they denied their dependence upon Him and fell from their high position. ~~position under God.~~ The image of God in them was marred and they became subject to death. Their descendants share this fallen nature and its consequences. They are born with weaknesses and tendencies to evil. But God in Christ reconciled the world to Himself and by His Spirit restores in penitent mortals the image of their Maker. Created for the glory of God, they are called to love Him and one another, and to care for their environment. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7, 15; 3; Ps. 8:4-8; 51:5, 10; 58:3; Jer. 17:9; Acts 17:24-28; Rom. 5:12-17; 2 Cor. 5:19, 20; Eph. 2:3; 1 John 4:7, 8, 11, 20; 1 John 3:4.) ~~(Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7; Ps. 8:4-8; Acts 17:24-28; Gen. 3; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12-17; 2 Cor. 5:19, 20; Ps. 51:10; 1 John 4:7, 8, 11, 20; Gen. 2:15.)~~

8. The Great Controversy

All humanity is now involved in a great controversy between Christ and Satan regarding the character of God, His law, and His sovereignty over the universe. This conflict originated in heaven when a created being, endowed with freedom of choice, in self-exaltation became Satan, God’s adversary, and led into rebellion a portion of the angels. He introduced the spirit of rebellion into this world when he led Adam and Eve into sin. This human sin resulted in the distortion of the image of God in humanity, the disordering of the created world, and its eventual devastation at the time of the worldwide flood, as presented in the historical account of Genesis 1-11. ~~flood.~~ Observed by the whole creation, this world became the arena of the universal conflict, out of which the God of love will ultimately be vindicated. To assist His people in this controversy, Christ sends the Holy Spirit and the loyal angels to guide, protect, and sustain them in the way of salvation. (Gen. 3; 6-8; Job 1:6-12; Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:12-18; Rom. 1:19-32; 5:12-21; 8:19-22; 1 Cor. 4:9; Heb. 1:14; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Peter 3:6; Rev. 12:4-9.)

Comment [TKB13]: The quote is not from Genesis 1:1, but from Exodus 20:11. The reason is that terminology used in Exodus seems to restrict the creative act to what took place during the six days of creation and is not necessarily dealing with the creation of the cosmos. The Bible makes clear that during the creation of the earth, other intelligent beings already existed in the cosmos (Job 38:7). We also believe that sin originated in heaven among the angels before the creation of humans. Therefore our creation statement should reflect this biblical information without developing it. By quoting Exodus instead of Genesis, we leave open the possibility that Genesis 1:1 is dealing with the creation of the cosmos and the creation week is about life on the planet.

Comment [TKB14]: This is already included in the biblical quotation from Exodus.

Comment [TKB15]: We retain the verb “completed” to indicate that the biblical creation account is not describing a still ongoing process.

Comment [TKB16]: The question of a real week is considered to be important, but it is difficult to find a proper place for it and to express it in language that is clear and that does not add too much to the text.

Comment [TKB17]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB18]: This short phrase is redundant. It could also be misunderstood in its present context as suggesting that it was under God that Adam and Eve fell into sin.

Comment [TKB19]: There are a couple of reasons for placing this sentence here. First, this is the only place in the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs in which the flood is mentioned; second, the phrase “worldwide flood” is the equivalent of the originally suggested reading (“and that the flood was global in nature”); and third, Statement #8 takes us back to creation and the fall making it possible to make a reference to Genesis 1-11 and not only to chapters dealing with the flood.

(Rev. 12:4-9; Isa. 14:12-14; Eze. 28:12-18; Gen. 3; Rom. 1:19-32; 5:12-21; 8:19-22; Gen. 6-8; 2 Peter 3:6; 1 Cor. 4:9; Heb. 1:14.)

9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ

In Christ's life of perfect obedience to God's will, His suffering, death, and resurrection, God provided the only means of atonement for human sin, so that those who by faith accept this atonement may have eternal life, and the whole creation may better understand the infinite and holy love of the Creator. This perfect atonement vindicates the righteousness of God's law and the graciousness of His character; for it both condemns our sin and provides for our forgiveness. The death of Christ is substitutionary and expiatory, reconciling and transforming. The **bodily** resurrection of Christ proclaims God's triumph over the forces of evil, and for those who accept the atonement assures their final victory over sin and death. It declares the Lordship of Jesus Christ, before whom every knee in heaven and on earth will bow. (Gen. 3:15; Ps. 22:1; Isa. 53; John 3:16; 14:30; Rom. 1:4; 3:25; 4:25; 8:3, 4; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4, 20-22; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15, 19-21; Phil. 2:6-11; Col. 2:15; 1 Peter 2:21, 22; 1 John 2:2; 4:10.) (~~John 3:16; Isa. 53; 1 Peter 2:21, 22; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4, 20-22; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15, 19-21; Rom. 1:4; 3:25; 4:25; 8:3, 4; 1 John 2:2; 4:10; Col. 2:15; Phil. 2:6-11.~~)

Comment [TKB20]: This makes explicit what is already implicit in the statement.

10. The Experience of Salvation

In infinite love and mercy God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might be made the righteousness of God. Led by the Holy Spirit we sense our need, acknowledge our sinfulness, repent of our transgressions, and exercise faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord, Lord and Christ, as Substitute and Example. This **saving faith** ~~faith which receives salvation~~ comes through the divine power of the Word and is the gift of God's grace. Through Christ we are justified, adopted as God's sons and daughters, and delivered from the lordship of sin. Through the Spirit we are born again and sanctified; the Spirit renews our minds, writes God's law of love in our hearts, and we are given the power to live a holy life. Abiding in Him we become partakers of the divine nature and have the assurance of salvation now and in the judgment. (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 45:22; 53; Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 33:11; 36:25-27; Hab. 2:4; Mark 9:23, 24; John 3:3-8, 16; 16:8; Rom. 3:21-26; 8:1-4, 14-17; 5:6-10; 10:17; 12:2; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Gal. 1:4; 3:13, 14, 26; 4:4-7; Eph. 2:4-10; Col. 1:13, 14; Titus 3:3-7; Heb. 8:7-12; 1 Peter 1:23; 2:21, 22; 2 Peter 1:3, 4; Rev. 13:8.) (~~2 Cor. 5:17-21; John 3:16; Gal. 1:4; 4:4-7; Titus 3:3-7; John 16:8; Gal. 3:13, 14; 1 Peter 2:21, 22; Rom. 10:17; Luke 17:5; Mark 9:23, 24; Eph. 2:5-10; Rom. 3:21-26; Col. 1:13, 14; Rom. 8:14-17; Gal. 3:26; John 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:23; Rom. 12:2; Heb. 8:7-12; Eze. 36:25-27; 2 Peter 1:3, 4; Rom. 8:1-4; 5:6-10.~~)

Comment [TKB21]: The reason for using the title "Christ" is not clear. The connection between the two Christological titles and the final clause in the sentence ("as Substitute and Example") also needs clarification. The suggested changes resolve both items.

Comment [TKB22]: Proper English punctuation.

11. Growing in Christ

By His death on the cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the demonic spirits during His earthly ministry has broken their power and made certain their ultimate doom. Jesus' victory gives us victory over the evil forces that still seek to control us, as we walk with Him in peace, joy, and assurance of His love. Now the Holy Spirit dwells within us and empowers us. Continually committed to Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we are set free from the burden of our past deeds. No longer do we live in the darkness, fear of evil powers, ignorance, and meaninglessness of our former way of life. In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His character, communing with Him daily in prayer, feeding on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for worship, and participating in the mission of the Church. We are also called to follow Christ's example by compassionately ministering to the physical, mental, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of humanity. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience. (1 Chron. 29:11; Ps. 1:1, 2; 23:4; 77:11, 12; Matt. 20:25-28; 25:31-46; Luke 10:17-20; John 20:21; Rom. 8:38, 39; 2 Cor. 3:17, 18; Gal. 5:22-25; Eph. 5:19, 20; 6:12-18; Phil. 3:7-14; Col. 1:13, 14; 2:6, 14, 15; 1 Thess. 5:16-18, 23; Heb. 10:25; James 1:27; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18; 1 John 4:4.) (Ps. 1:1, 2; 23:4; 77:11, 12; Col. 1:13, 14; 2:6, 14, 15; Luke 10:17-20; Eph. 5:19, 20; 6:12-18; 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18; 2 Cor. 3:17, 18; Phil. 3:7-14; 1 Thess. 5:16-18; Matt. 20:25-28; John 20:21; Gal. 5:22-25; Rom. 8:38, 39; 1 John 4:4; Heb. 10:25.)

Comment [TKB23]: This addition summarizes a genuine Seventh-day Adventist concern for service to suffering human beings that is not emphasized in the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs and will make it unnecessary to add a new statement of faith on Christian Social Responsibility.

12. The Church

The church is the community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In continuity with the people of God in Old Testament times, we are called out from the world; and we join together for worship, for fellowship, for instruction in the Word, for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, for service to humanity, all mankind, and for the worldwide proclamation of the gospel. The church derives its authority from Christ, who is the incarnate Word revealed in the Scriptures, ~~Word, and from the Scriptures, which are the written Word.~~ The church is God's family; adopted by Him as children, its members live on the basis of the new covenant. The church is the body of Christ, a community of faith of which Christ Himself is the Head. The church is the bride for whom Christ died that He might sanctify and cleanse her. At His return in triumph, He will present her to Himself a glorious church, the faithful of all the ages, the purchase of His blood, not having spot or wrinkle, but holy and without blemish. (Gen. 12:1-3; Exod. 19:3-7; Matt. 16:13-20; 18:18; 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38-42; 7:38; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:22, 23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11; 5:23-27; Col. 1:17, 18; 1 Peter 2:9.) (Gen. 12:3; Acts 7:38; Eph. 4:11-15; 3:8-11; Matt. 28:19, 20; 16:13-20; 18:18; Eph. 2:19-22; 1:22, 23; 5:23-27; Col. 1:17, 18.)

Comment [TKB24]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB25]: The sentence implies that there are two sources of authority for the Church, namely Christ and the Scripture. But what we know about Christ is what the Scripture says or has revealed to us. The revision seeks to clarify this point.

Comment [TKB26]: This clause is now redundant.

13. The Remnant and Its Mission

The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. This proclamation is symbolized by the three angels of Revelation 14; it coincides with the work of judgment in heaven and results in a work of repentance and reform on earth. Every believer is called to have a personal part in this worldwide witness. (Dan. 7:9-14; Isa. 1:9; 11:11; Jer. 23:3; Mic. 2:12; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Peter 1:16-19; 4:17; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Jude 3, 14; Rev. 12:17; 14:6-12; 18:1-4.) (~~Rev. 12:17; 14:6-12; 18:1-4; 2 Cor. 5:10; Jude 3, 14; 1 Peter 1:16-19; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Rev. 21:1-14.~~)

14. Unity in the Body of Christ

The church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures we share the same faith and hope, and reach out in one witness to all. This unity has its source in the oneness of the triune God, who has adopted us as His children. (Ps. 133:1; Matt. 28:19, 20; John 17:20-23; Acts 17:26, 27; Rom. 12:4, 5; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 5:16, 17; Gal. 3:27-29; Eph. 2:13-16; 4:3-6, 11-16; Col. 3:10-15.) (~~Rom. 12:4, 5; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; Matt. 28:19, 20; Ps. 133:1; 2 Cor. 5:16, 17; Acts 17:26, 27; Gal. 3:27, 29; Col. 3:10-15; Eph. 4:14-16; 4:1-6; John 17:20-23.~~)

15. Baptism

By baptism we confess our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and testify of our death to sin and of our purpose to walk in newness of life. Thus we acknowledge Christ as Lord and Saviour, become His people, and are received as members by His church. Baptism is a symbol of our union with Christ, the forgiveness of our sins, and our reception of the Holy Spirit. It is by immersion in water and is contingent on an affirmation of faith in Jesus and evidence of repentance of sin. It follows instruction in the Holy Scriptures and acceptance of their teachings. (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38; 16:30-33; 22:16; Rom. 6:1-6; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12, 13.) (~~Rom. 6:1-6; Col. 2:12, 13; Acts 16:30-33; 22:16; 2:38; Matt. 28:19, 20.~~)

16. The Lord's Supper

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

17. Spiritual Gifts and Ministries

God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts ~~which~~ that each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity. Given by the agency of the Holy Spirit, who apportions to each member as He wills, the gifts provide all abilities and ministries needed by the church to fulfill its divinely ordained functions. According to the Scriptures, these gifts include such ministries as faith, healing, prophecy, proclamation, teaching, administration, reconciliation, compassion, and self-sacrificing service and charity for the help and encouragement of people. Some members are called of God and endowed by the Spirit for functions recognized by the church in pastoral, evangelistic, ~~apostolic,~~ and teaching ministries particularly needed to equip the members for service, to build up the church to spiritual maturity, and to foster unity of the faith and knowledge of God. When members employ these spiritual gifts as faithful stewards of God's varied grace, the church is protected from the destructive influence of false doctrine, grows with a growth that is from God, and is built up in faith and love. (Acts 6:1-7; Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:7-11, 27, 28; Eph. 4:8, 11-16; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 1 Peter 4:10, 11.) (~~Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:9-11, 27, 28; Eph. 4:8, 11-16; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 1 Peter 4:10, 11.~~)

18. The Gift of Prophecy

~~One~~ The Scriptures testify that one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and we believe it was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White. ~~As the Lord's messenger, her~~ Her writings speak with prophetic authority and provide comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction to the church. ~~are a continuing and authoritative source of truth which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction.~~ They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested. (Num. 12:6; 2 Chron. 20:20; Amos 3:7; Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:14-21; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 12:17; 19:10; 22:8, 9.) (~~Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:14-21; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 12:17; 19:10.~~)

Comment [TKB27]: Editorial change based on English usage.

Comment [TKB28]: If this term is retained, it would need to be clearly defined or it could be misunderstood.

Comment [TKB29]: This addition makes clear that the Church has recognized the manifestation of the biblical gift of prophecy in the ministry of Ellen G. White.

Comment [TKB30]: This addition makes clear that the church has recognized the manifestation of the biblical gift of prophecy in the ministry of Ellen G. White.

Comment [TKB31]: The suggested changes seek to avoid giving the impression that Ellen G. White and the Bible are equivalent sources of truth. It has also been indicated that the term "source" is difficult to translate into some languages without conveying that idea that her writings are like the Bible.

19. The Law of God

The great principles of God's law are embodied in the Ten Commandments and exemplified in the life of Christ. They express God's love, will, and purposes concerning human conduct and relationships and are binding upon all people in every age. These precepts are the basis of God's covenant with His people and the standard in God's judgment. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit they point out sin and awaken a sense of need for a Saviour. Salvation is all of grace and not of works, ~~but its fruitage~~ and its fruit is obedience to the Commandments. This obedience develops Christian character and results in a sense of well-being. It is ~~an~~ evidence of our love for the Lord and our concern for our fellow human beings. ~~men~~. The obedience of faith demonstrates the power of Christ to transform lives, and therefore strengthens Christian witness. (Exod. 20:1-17; Deut. 28:1-14; Ps. 19:7-14; 40:7, 8; Matt. 5:17-20; 22:36-40; John 14:15; 15:7-10; Rom. 8:3, 4; Eph. 2:8-10; Heb. 8:8-10; 1 John 2:3; 5:3; Rev. 12:17; 14:12.) (~~Ex. 20:1-17; Ps. 40:7, 8; Matt. 22:36-40; Deut. 28:1-14; Matt. 5:17-20; Heb. 8:8-10; John 15:7-10; Eph. 2:8-10; 1 John 5:3; Rom. 8:3, 4; Ps. 19:7-14.~~)

Comment [TKB32]: The preposition "but" could be understood as antithetical (as expressing an idea that is fundamentally the opposite of the previous one). The conjunction "and" indicates complementarity (obedience is the evidence/fruit of salvation).

Comment [TKB33]: Upgrading language

Comment [TKB34]: Inclusive language

20. The Sabbath

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

Comment [TKB35]: Upgrading language

21. Stewardship

We are God's stewards, entrusted by Him with time and opportunities, abilities and possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We are responsible to Him for their proper use. We acknowledge God's ownership by faithful service to Him and our fellow human beings. ~~men~~, and by returning tithes tithe and giving offerings for the proclamation of His gospel and the support and growth of His church. Stewardship is a privilege given to us by God for nurture in love and the victory over selfishness and covetousness. ~~The steward rejoices~~ Stewards

Comment [TKB36]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB37]: The plural "tithes" could be read as including the second tithe.

rejoice in the blessings that come to others as a result of his their faithfulness. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15; 1 Chron. 29:14; Haggai 1:3-11; Mal. 3:8-12; Matt. 23:23; Rom. 15:26, 27; 1 Cor. 9:9-14; 2 Cor. 8:1-15; 9:7.) (~~Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15; 1 Chron. 29:14; Haggai 1:3-11; Mal. 3:8-12; 1 Cor. 9:9-14; Matt. 23:23; 2 Cor. 8:1-15; Rom. 15:26, 27.~~)

Comment [TKB38]: Inclusive language and consistence of using the plural in the Fundamental Beliefs.

22. Christian Behavior

We are called to be a godly people who think, feel, and act in harmony with the biblical principles in all aspects of personal and social life. ~~principles of heaven.~~ For the Spirit to recreate in us the character of our Lord we involve ourselves only in those things ~~which that~~ will produce Christlike purity, health, and joy in our lives. This means that our amusement and entertainment should meet the highest standards of Christian taste and beauty. While recognizing cultural differences, our dress is to be simple, modest, and neat, befitting those whose true beauty does not consist of outward adornment but in the imperishable ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit. It also means that because our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, we are to care for them intelligently. Along with adequate exercise and rest, we are to adopt the most healthful diet possible and abstain from the unclean foods identified in the Scriptures. Since alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs and narcotics are harmful to our bodies, we are to abstain from them as well. Instead, we are to engage in whatever brings our thoughts and bodies into the discipline of Christ, who desires our wholesomeness, joy, and goodness. (Gen. 7:2; Lev. 11:1-47; Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; 10:31; 2 Cor. 10:5; 6:14-7:1; Eph. 5:1-21; Phil. 4:8; 1 Tim. 2:9, 10; 1 Peter 3:1-4; 1 John 2:6; 3 John 2.) (~~Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 John 2:6; Eph. 5:1-21; Phil. 4:8; 2 Cor. 10:5; 6:14-7:1; 1 Peter 3:1-4; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; 10:31; Lev. 11:1-47; 3 John 2.~~)

Comment [TKB39]: Questions have been raised about the meaning of the phrase "principles of heaven" the change underlines the biblical foundation of the Statement and removes unnecessary ambiguities.

Comment [TKB40]: This addition seeks to clarify that Christian behavior does not only have to do with health, dressing, and adornment but also with our interaction with others in the market place, in business, etc., thus promoting honesty, integrity, fairness in all we do.

Comment [TKB41]: Editorial change based on English usage.

23. Marriage and the Family

Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship. For the Christian a marriage commitment is to God as well as to the spouse, and should be entered into only between a man and woman partners who share a common faith. Mutual love, honor, respect, and responsibility are the fabric of this relationship, which is to reflect the love, sanctity, closeness, and permanence of the relationship between Christ and His church. Regarding divorce, Jesus taught that the person who divorces a spouse, except for fornication, and marries another, commits adultery. Although some family relationships may fall short of the ideal, ~~marriage partners~~ a man and a woman who fully commit themselves to each other in Christ through marriage may achieve loving unity through the guidance of the Spirit and the nurture of the church. God blesses the family and intends that its members shall assist each other toward complete maturity. Increasing family closeness is one of the earmarks of the final gospel message. Parents are to bring up their children to love and obey the Lord. By their example and their words they are to teach them that Christ is a loving, tender, and caring counselor ~~loving disciplinarian, ever tender and caring,~~ who wants them to

Comment [TKB42]: The term "partners" and the phrase "marriage partners" could be misused by those promoting homosexuality. The revision removes any ambiguity.

Comment [TKB43]: The term "partners" and the phrase "marriage partners" could be misused by those promoting homosexuality. The revision removes any ambiguity.

Comment [TKB44]: The phrase "through marriage" reintroduced the term "marriage" deleted from the previous line.

Comment [TKB45]: Used to be the last sentence.

Comment [TKB46]: The English term "disciplinarian" has undergone some change in meaning, giving to the sentence a negative tone. The additions aim at correcting this.

become members of His body, the family of God which embraces both single and married persons. God. Increasing family closeness is one of the earmarks of the final gospel message. (Gen. 2:18-25; Exod. 20:12; Deut. 6:5-9; Prov. 22:6; Mal. 4:5, 6; Matt. 5:31, 32; 19:3-9; Mark 10:11, 12; John 2:1-11; 1 Cor. 7:10, 11; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4.) (~~Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:3-9; John 2:1-11; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:21-33; Matt. 5:31, 32; Mark 10:11, 12; Luke 16:18; 1 Cor. 7:10, 11; Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:1-4; Deut. 6:5-9; Prov. 22:6; Mal. 4:5, 6.~~)

Comment [TKB47]: This addition acknowledges that single church members are part of the family of God and as valuable to the church as married couples.

Comment [TKB48]: The addition made in the previous sentence closes well the paragraph making it necessary to move the last sentence earlier in the paragraph, where it seems to fit better.

24. Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary

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

Comment [TKB49]: Editorial change based on English usage.

Comment [TKB50]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB51]: The statement does not mention the typological significance of the work of the high priest in the holy and most holy places of the earthly sanctuary. These additions make the connections clear.

Comment [TKB52]: The statement does not mention the typological significance of the work of the high priest in the holy and most holy places of the earthly sanctuary. These additions make the connections clear.

25. The Second Coming of Christ

The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the church, the grand climax of the gospel. The Saviour's coming will be literal, personal, visible, and worldwide. When He returns, the righteous dead will be resurrected, and together with the righteous living will be glorified and taken to heaven, but the unrighteous will die. The almost complete fulfillment of most lines of prophecy, together with the present condition of the world, indicates that Christ's coming is near. ~~Christ's coming is imminent.~~ The time of that event has not been revealed, and we are therefore exhorted to be ready at all times. (Matt. 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Cor.

Comment [TKB53]: It is better to use the biblical term "soon."

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15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:1-6; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2:8; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28; Rev. 1:7; 14:14-20; 19:11-21.) (Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; Matt. 24:14; Rev. 1:7; Matt. 24:43, 44; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2:8; Rev. 14:14-20; 19:11-21; Matt. 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 Thess. 5:1-6.)

26. Death and Resurrection

The wages of sin is death. But God, who alone is immortal, will grant eternal life to His redeemed. Until that day death is an unconscious state for all people. When Christ, who is our life, appears, the resurrected righteous and the living righteous will be glorified and caught up to meet their Lord. The second resurrection, the resurrection of the unrighteous, will take place a thousand years later. (Job 19:25-27; Ps. 146:3, 4; Eccl. 9:5, 6; Dan. 12:2, 13; Isa. 25:8; John 5:28, 29; 11:11-14; Rom. 6:23, 16; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; Col. 3:4; 1 Thess. 4:13-17; 1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 20:1-10.) (Rom. 6:23; 1 Tim. 6:15, 16; Eccl. 9:5, 6; Ps. 146:3, 4; John 11:11-14; Col. 3:4; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:13-17; John 5:28, 29; Rev. 20:1-10.)

27. The Millennium and the End of Sin

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

28. The New Earth

On the new earth, in which righteousness dwells, God will provide an eternal home for the redeemed and a perfect environment for everlasting life, love, joy, and learning in His presence. For here God Himself will dwell with His people, and suffering and death will have passed away. The great controversy will be ended, and sin will be no more. All things, animate and inanimate, will declare that God is love; and He shall reign forever. Amen. (Isa. 35:65:17-25; Matt. 5:5; 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 11:15; 21:1-7; 22:1-5.) (2 Peter 3:13; Isa. 35; 65:17-25; Matt. 5:5; Rev. 21:1-7; 22:1-5; 11:15.)

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Prayer was offered by Ruben De Abreu, President of the Franco-Belgian Union
Conference in the Inter-European Division.

Lowell C Cooper, Chair
Ted N C Wilson, Chair
John H Thomas, Secretary
Myron A Iseminger, Editorial Secretary
Tamara K Boward, Recording Secretary

**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
2015 Appropriations Budget
Tithe**

Voted Annual Council

Unallocated Income	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Budget 2015	Increase (Decrease)
Function 01000 - Tithe				
612100 TITHE - MISCELLANEOUS	28,456	50,000	50,000	0
612500/10/99 TITHE - IDE AFPR	916,042	865,000	865,000	0
616100 TITHE - DIVISION (2.0%)	28,613,905	27,594,161	28,612,109	1,017,948
616105 TITHE - NAD - (7.5%)(7.0%)(7.0%)	71,184,112	65,285,576	66,410,716	1,125,140
616300 TITHE - DIVISION ACCRUED	0	100,000	100,000	0
616430 TITHE - DIVISION-BLOCKED	(1,135,838)	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	0
616440 TITHE - DIVISION-BLOCKED	0	0	0	0
616600 TITHE - NSD (AUDIT ADJUST)	528,063	0	(2,500,000)	0
616700 TITHE - RET ADJ (0.30%)	(2,621,180)	(2,500,000)	(2,500,000)	0
617010 TITHE - MENA PERCENTAGES	123,630	50,000	50,000	0
617020 TITHE - ISRAEL FIELD PERCENTAGES	77,092	30,000	30,000	0
TITHE - INCREASE	0	2,700,000	2,700,000	0
TITHE - ADJUSTMENT-NAD PHASE IN	0	3,700,000	4,600,000	900,000
TITHE - Recovery Blocked Currency	0	0	0	0
	<u>97,714,282</u>	<u>96,874,737</u>	<u>99,917,825</u>	<u>3,043,088</u>

TITHE - ADDITIONAL	0	0	1,180,380	1,180,380
BLOCKED CURRENCY	0	0	0	0

Additional Funds	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Budget 2015	Increase (Decrease)
619001 ADDITIONAL TITHE TO GC	46,800,000	28,800,000	28,800,000	0
619005 NON-TITHE - APPROPRIATION	(46,800,000)	(28,800,000)	(28,800,000)	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

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 Non-Tithe**

		Voted Annual Council			
		Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Budget 2015	Increase (Decrease)
Unallocated Income					
Function 05000 - Non-Tithe					
Unrestricted Offerings					
631100	WORLD MISSION FUND - OS	63,896,795	60,177,883	64,100,000	3,922,117
631190	WMF - OS - TRF TO RSTR'D FNCTNS	(7,032,232)	(4,000,000)	(4,000,000)	0
631300	WMF - OVERSEAS ACCRUED	0	0	0	0
631630	WMF - OS BLOCKED	(3,074,162)	(2,500,000)	(2,500,000)	0
631640	WMF - OS BLOCKED	0	0	0	0
		<u>53,790,401</u>	<u>53,677,883</u>	<u>57,600,000</u>	<u>3,922,117</u>
631105	WORLD MSN FUND - NAD	22,348,827	22,776,468	22,348,827	(427,641)
631195	WMF - NAD - TRF TO RSTR'D FNCTNS	(2,209,784)	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)	0
		<u>20,139,043</u>	<u>20,776,468</u>	<u>20,348,827</u>	<u>(427,641)</u>
631805	World Mission Offering	1,308,462	1,100,000	1,100,000	0
		<u>75,237,906</u>	<u>75,554,351</u>	<u>79,048,827</u>	<u>3,494,476</u>
	TITHE - Recovery/Blocked Currency	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Unrestricted Donations					
638002	MISC DONATIONS	8,972	250,000	250,000	0
638005	MISSIONS UNSPECIFIED	1,027,476	450,000	650,000	200,000
		<u>1,036,448</u>	<u>700,000</u>	<u>900,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>
Unrestricted Investment Earnings					
711002	INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS	1,951,926	2,200,000	2,200,000	0
712001	CAPITAL GAINS INCOME (LOSS)	792,014	0	0	0
715001	UNREALIZED APPRECIATION OF INVEST	(3,396,622)	0	0	0
		<u>(652,682)</u>	<u>2,200,000</u>	<u>2,200,000</u>	<u>0</u>

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2015 Appropriations Budget
Non-Tithe**

		Voted Annual Council			
Unallocated Income	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Budget 2015	Increase (Decrease)	
Function 05000 - Non-Tithe					
Miscellaneous Income					
677111 LEASE INCOME-SW BELL	20,076	20,000	20,000	0	
678002 MISCELLANEOUS NON-TITHE INC	106,623	100,000	100,000	0	
678150 ROYALTIES	27,237	20,000	20,000	0	
720001 MATURED TRUSTSWILLS	191,365	0	0	0	
	<u>345,299</u>	<u>140,000</u>	<u>140,000</u>	<u>0</u>	
TITHE - ADDITIONAL	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(1,180,380)</u>	<u>(1,180,380)</u>	
631730 BLOCKED CURRENCY	<u>3,076,225</u>	<u>4,000,000</u>	<u>2,034,785</u>	<u>(1,965,215)</u>	
Transfers to/ from Other Functions					
01000 Offerings for Exchange - From Other Functions	0	26,681,932	26,681,932	0	
05000 Offerings Exchanged - To Other Functions	<u>0</u>	<u>(26,681,932)</u>	<u>(26,681,932)</u>	<u>0</u>	
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
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 Tithe**

	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Budget 2015	Voted Annual Council Increase (Decrease)
I. Office Operating				
GC OFFICE OPERATING CAP APPLIED TO WORLD BUDGET	44,036,903	46,247,183	47,586,599	1,339,416
Net in House Budget Funding	<u>44,036,903</u>	<u>46,247,183</u>	<u>47,586,599</u>	<u>1,339,416</u>
II. GC Administered Funds				
11042 ADVENTIST REVIEW ONLINE	25,000	25,000	25,000	0
11048 AR ADVENTIST WORLD (See Page 9)	5,500,000	5,500,000	5,500,000	0
11426 PREACH (Outreach to non-Adventist ministers)	0	120,000	120,000	0
11462 ELECTRONIC RESOURCES FOR SABBATH SCHOOL	99,000	99,000	99,000	0
11466 OMA MISSION QUARTERLY	309,196	200,000	200,000	0
11481 MINISTRIES COMMITTEE-GROWING DISCIPLES	50,000	50,000	50,000	0
41051 INTERNATIONAL BIBLE CONFERENCE	62,500	62,500	62,500	0
41102 CIEN - Global Internet Evangelism Network	45,000	45,000	45,000	0
41224 FAITH AND SCIENCE COUNCIL	100,000	100,000	100,000	0
51098 BLKD CURR EXPENDITURES	0	20,000	20,000	0
51105 WORLD BUDGET MSC	586,466	182,600	51,919	(130,681)
51175 ELMSHAVEN REPAIRS	20,000	20,000	20,000	0
51180 ELMSHAVEN SUPERVISION ASSIST	8,000	8,000	8,000	0
51682 CEW - GLOBAL EVANG	100,000	100,000	100,000	0
51682 EVANGELISM-CENTER OF GLOBAL EVANGELISM	50,000	50,000	50,000	0
51740 DEPARTMENTAL SPECIAL PROJECTS	550,000	550,000	550,000	0
52260 ADVENTIST MISSION	1,608,834	1,253,903	1,283,576	29,673
61050 ANNUAL COUNCIL TRAVEL	659,205	610,000	610,000	0
61130 ASTR - Research and Evaluation	253,893	329,029	191,578	(137,451)
61250 GC SESSION	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	0
61500 OFFERINGS PROMOTION-ADVENTIST MISSION	200,000	200,000	200,000	0
61683 PRE VIDEO PRODUCTION	320,000	320,000	320,000	0
61683 OFF OF GLOBAL SOFTWARE AND TECHNOLOGY	417,334	426,393	434,387	7,994
61693 INTERNET DEVELOPMENT	187,500	250,000	250,000	0
61729 SPRING MEETING	257,333	130,000	130,000	0
61750 COUNCIL ON EVANGELISM AND WITNESS	425,000	425,000	425,000	0
61752 GC COMMISSIONS	240,000	200,000	200,000	0
61755 LEADERSHIP TRAINING	100,000	100,000	100,000	0
61759 COUNCIL ON INTERCHURCH/FAITH RELATIONS	45,000	45,000	45,000	0
61760 STRATEGIC PLANNING	25,000	25,000	25,000	0
61781 MSC TRAVEL (WORLD BDGT)	140,000	100,000	100,000	0
61796 SDA ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE	1,447,459	0	0	0
61796 PAYROLL SOFTWARE SUPPORT - SAD	220,000	220,000	220,000	0
Sub-Total GC Administered Funds - Tithe	15,451,719	13,166,425	12,935,960	(230,455)

**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
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	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Budget 2015	Increase (Decrease)
<i>Voted Annual Council</i>				
II. GC Administered Funds -Tithe				
Overhead Subsidy	0	503,962	567,202	63,240
Sub-Total GC Administered Funds - Tithe	<u>15,451,719</u>	<u>13,670,387</u>	<u>13,503,162</u>	<u>(167,225)</u>
II. GC Administered Funds - Non-Tithe				
51100 CONTINGENCY	1,193,862	1,000,000	1,000,000	0
61603 OGC SPECIAL COUNSEL/LITIGATION	0	0	0	0
Total GC Admin Funds Non-Tithe	<u>1,193,862</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Total GC Administered Funds	<u><u>16,645,581</u></u>	<u><u>14,670,387</u></u>	<u><u>14,503,162</u></u>	<u><u>(167,225)</u></u>

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	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Budget 2015	Voted Annual Council Increase (Decrease)
III. IDE FUNDING				
IDE FUNDING	23,127,051	29,312,779	30,296,204	983,425
IV. Appropriations:				
Separate Board Units - Tithe				
11050 APPROPRIATIONS TO AMR	363,766	371,041	378,462	7,421
41215 GEOSCIENCE RESEARCH INSTITUTE	1,124,778	1,174,696	1,199,302	24,606
41920 WHITE ESTATE	1,696,255	1,698,081	1,974,189	276,108
41920 WHITE ESTATE	37,500	37,500	0	(37,500)
41935 WHT RESEARCH CTRS/BRANCHES	650,212	663,216	650,000	(13,216)
51101 WAGE FACTOR CONTINGENCY	0	0	0	0
61172 GCAS - GC DIV/INST IN NAD	340,000	340,000	340,000	0
61179 GCAS - PHASE IN CONTINGENCY	631,790	0	0	0
61179 GCAS - NEW BUDGETS	500,000	0	0	0
61170/79 GCAS - APPROPRIATION	11,210,621	12,047,459	12,434,868	387,409
Sub-Total Separate Board Units - Tithe	16,554,922	16,331,993	16,976,821	644,828

**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
2015 Appropriations Budget
Tithe**

		Voted Annual Council			
		Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Budget 2015	Increase (Decrease)
IV. Appropriations: (Cont'd)					
Divisions - Tithe					
52026 APPROPRIATIONS, TITHE OPERATING					
838ECD	ECD - EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIV	3,285,588	3,351,300	3,418,326	67,026
838ESD	EASTERN EUROPE FIN A FFA IRS COM	1,507,363	1,657,510	1,690,660	33,150
	EEFAC - Alternative Office	0	228,888	233,466	4,578
		<u>1,507,363</u>	<u>1,886,398</u>	<u>1,924,126</u>	
838EUD	EUD - INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION	883,678	901,352	919,379	18,027
838IAD	IAD - INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION	489,454	359,443	366,632	7,189
838NAD	NAD - NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION	63,814	65,090	66,392	1,302
838NADG	NAD (Guam Tithe % Diffr)	168,277			
838NSD	NSD - NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION	1,904,385	2,042,473	2,083,322	40,849
838SAD	SAD - SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION	1,285,281	1,110,987	1,133,207	22,220
838SADW	SATELITE TELEVISION - WHAST	312,611	318,863	325,240	6,377
		<u>1,597,892</u>	<u>1,429,850</u>	<u>1,458,447</u>	
838SID	SID - SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN	3,053,914	3,114,992	3,177,292	62,300
838SPD	SPD - SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION	1,092,403	1,114,251	1,136,536	22,285
838SSD	SSD - SOUTHERN ASIA PACIFIC DIV	2,490,351	2,540,158	2,590,961	50,803
838SUD	SOUTHERN ASIA DIV (GENCOSUD)	2,186,774	2,355,509	2,402,619	47,110
838TED	TED - TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION	2,404,853	2,532,638	2,583,291	50,653
838WAD	WAD - WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIV	2,589,291	2,771,077	2,826,499	55,422
838ZIF	IF - ISRAEL FIELD	171,357	174,784	178,280	3,496
838ZMENA	MENA Union (Was GMEU)	1,592,904	1,749,762	1,784,757	34,995
		<u>25,492,298</u>	<u>26,388,077</u>	<u>26,916,859</u>	<u>527,782</u>
41250	HIV AIDS	55,724	102,738	104,793	2,055
52012	ADVENTIST HERITAGE MINISTRIES	128,558	129,280	131,576	2,296
52035	APPROPS, EXCESS LIAB INSURANCE	952,027	662,194	675,438	13,244
52036	HFL INSURANCE RESERVE FUND	14,822	1,545,118	1,576,020	30,902
52765	APPROPRIATIONS TO TED	1,150,000	1,150,000	1,150,000	0
52792	1040 WINDOW APPROPRIATIONS	1,575,942	1,694,961	1,728,860	33,899
		<u>1,702,661</u>	<u>2,188,531</u>	<u>2,696,124</u>	<u>507,593</u>
	Sub-Total Divisions - Tithe	31,072,032	33,861,899	34,979,670	1,117,771

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 Tithe**

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	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Budget 2015	Increase (Decrease)
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IV. Appropriations: (Cont'd)

General Church Programs - Tithe

11090 EVANGELISM - STAFF	233,000	233,000	233,000	0
22265 GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS	100,000	100,000	100,000	0
Sub-Total General Church Programs - Tithe	333,000	333,000	333,000	0

Subsidies to Publications - Tithe

11047 AR ADV WORLD CONTINGENCY	350,000	350,000	350,000	0
11424 MINISTRY MAG (FRENCH)	26,050	26,350	27,300	950
11425 MINISTRY MAG (ENGLISH)	389,947	402,232	444,601	42,369
11565 EDUCATION AMCLUS	166,111	168,731	199,624	30,893
21175 EDUJAE ENGLISH EDITION	108,202	110,366	112,573	2,207
21176 EDUJAE INTL EDITION	21,640	22,073	22,514	441
22810 SDA PERIODICAL INDEX	7,033	7,174	7,317	143
32880 SPIRIT OF PROPHECY BOOKS	405,756	413,871	422,148	8,277
Sub-Total Subsidies to Publications - Tithe	1,474,739	1,500,797	1,586,077	85,280

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IV. Appropriations: (Cont'd)		Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Budget 2015	Increase (Decrease)
		Voted Annual Council			
Institutions - Tithe					
11015	ADRA	211,439	215,668	219,981	4,313
11017	AIAS OPERATING	418,686	489,560	499,351	9,791
21035	ANDREWS UNIV OPERATING APPROP SEMINARY:				
	REGULAR	1,287,672	1,313,425	1,339,694	26,269
	FAC REPLA CE-SEMINARY	81,793	83,429	85,098	1,669
	AU GENERAL OPERATING	70,695	72,109	73,551	1,442
	INST FOR PREVENT OF ADDICTION	148,773	151,748	154,783	3,035
	GUGIA OPERATING	336,673	430,906	439,524	8,618
		<u>1,925,606</u>	<u>2,051,617</u>	<u>2,092,650</u>	
21080	CHRISTIAN RECORD SERVICES (Recurring)	76,510	103,040	105,101	2,061
21455	LLU OPERATING	1,935,393	1,974,101	2,013,583	39,482
41657	PARL LIBERTY MAGAZINE	100,000	100,000	100,000	0
	Sub-Total Institutions - Tithe	<u>4,667,634</u>	<u>4,933,986</u>	<u>5,030,666</u>	<u>96,680</u>
	Total Appropriations - Tithe	<u>54,102,327</u>	<u>56,961,675</u>	<u>58,906,234</u>	<u>1,944,559</u>

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
 2015 Appropriations Budget
 Non-Tithe**

IV. Appropriations: Divisions - Non-Tithe	Actual		Budget		Voted Annual Council	
	2013	2014	2014	2015	Budget 2015	Increase (Decrease)
52027 APPROPRIATIONS, NON-TITHE OPERATING:						
838ECD EAST CENTRAL ARCA DIV HIV-AIDS OFFICE	1,468,016 34,104 <u>1,502,120</u>	1,497,376 34,786 <u>1,532,162</u>	1,527,324 35,482 <u>1,562,806</u>		29,948 696	
838ESD EASTERN EUROPE FIN AFFAIRS COM	282,944	288,603	294,375		5,772	
838EUD NTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION	409,583	417,775	426,131		8,356	
838IAD NTER-AMERICAN DIVISION	1,109,419	1,131,607	1,154,239		22,632	
838NAD NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION	210,161	214,364	218,651		4,287	
838NSD NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIV	187,679	191,433	195,262		3,829	
838SAD SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION	1,089,120	1,110,902	1,133,120		22,218	
838SID SO AFRICA INDIAN OCEAN HIV-AIDS OFFICE	1,104,487 34,104 <u>1,138,591</u>	1,126,577 34,786 <u>1,161,363</u>	1,149,109 35,482 <u>1,184,591</u>		22,532 696	
838SPD SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION	844,337	861,224	878,448		17,224	
838SSD SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIV	1,026,558	1,047,089	1,068,031		20,942	
838SUD SOUTHERN ASIA DIV (GENCOSUD)	999,457	1,019,446	1,039,835		20,389	
838TED TRANS-EUROPEAN DIV	813,134	829,387	845,985		16,588	
838WAD WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA HIV-AIDS OFFICE	1,139,223 22,735 <u>1,161,958</u>	1,162,007 23,190 <u>1,185,197</u>	1,185,247 23,654 <u>1,208,901</u>		23,240 464	
838ZMENA MENA UNION (Was GMEU)	671,637	685,070	698,771		13,701	
Sub-Total Divisions - Non-Tithe		11,446,698	11,675,632		11,909,146	233,514

* These Divisions had their appropriations reduced by \$65,000 to meet the \$140,000 requirement for AUA. GC now pays the full approp to AUA

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Non-Tithe**

		Voted Annual Council		
	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Budget 2015	Increase (Decrease)
IV. Appropriations: (Cont'd)				
Donations Non-Tithe:				
51140 DONATIONS	60,000	60,000	60,000	0
Institutions - Non-Tithe				
11015 ADRA - RENT	486,749	435,307	454,372	19,065
11017 AMAS OPERATING	648,315	661,281	674,507	13,226
11050 AMIR HEADQUARTERS -RENT	65,688	60,608	63,262	2,654
21035 ANDREWS UNIV OPERATING	2,534,271	2,584,956	2,636,655	51,699
GRADUATE SCHOOL	218,144	222,507	226,957	4,450
GUGIA OPERATING A PPROP	<u>2,752,415</u>	<u>2,807,463</u>	<u>2,863,612</u>	
21455 LLU OPERATING				
GENERAL	5,905,648	5,023,761	5,124,236	100,475
GRADUATE BIOLOGY	554,135	640,218	653,022	12,804
	<u>6,459,783</u>	<u>5,663,979</u>	<u>5,777,258</u>	
21560 OU OPERATING	1,235,804	1,260,520	1,285,730	25,210
51480 ADVENTIST UNIV OF AFRICA, GC	1,011,632	1,094,365	1,116,252	21,887
61708 HOPE CHANNEL OVERHEAD	<u>632,032</u>	<u>593,793</u>	<u>619,799</u>	26,006
Sub-Total Institutions	<u>13,292,418</u>	<u>12,577,316</u>	<u>12,854,792</u>	277,476
Total Appropriations Non-Tithe	<u>24,799,116</u>	<u>24,312,948</u>	<u>24,823,938</u>	510,990
Grand Total Approp Tithe & Non-Tithe	<u>78,901,443</u>	<u>81,274,623</u>	<u>83,730,172</u>	2,455,549

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		Voted Annual Council			
		Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Budget 2015	Increase (Decrease)
V. Special Funding - Tithe					
Institutional Programs - Tithe					
11050	AWR HEADQUARTERS	1,732,909	1,830,067	1,866,668	36,601
61708	HOPE CHANNEL	4,055,501	4,334,578	4,421,270	86,692
	Total Special Funding - Tithe	<u>5,788,410</u>	<u>6,164,645</u>	<u>6,287,938</u>	<u>123,293</u>
V. Special Funding - Non-Tithe					
Division Programs - Non-Tithe					
52030	Appropriations, Special:				
838ECD	ECD - EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION	62,522	63,772	65,047	1,275
838ESD	EASTERN EUROPE FIN AFFAIRS COM	102,309	104,355	106,442	2,087
838EUD	EUD - INTER EUROPEAN DIVISION	0	0	0	0
838IAD	IAD - INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION	85,258	86,963	88,702	1,739
838NAD	NAD - NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION	10,000	10,000	10,000	0
838NSD	NSD - NORTHERN ASIA PACIFIC DIV UNENTERED TERRITORIES	<u>56,838</u> <u>51,154</u>	<u>57,975</u> <u>52,177</u>	<u>59,135</u> <u>53,221</u>	<u>1,160</u> <u>1,044</u>
838SAD	SAD - SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION	79,574	81,165	82,788	1,623
838SADW	SOUTH AMERICAN DIV WHAST	<u>68,205</u>	<u>69,569</u>	<u>70,960</u>	<u>1,391</u>
		<u>107,992</u>	<u>110,152</u>	<u>112,356</u>	
838SID	SID - SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIV	56,838	57,975	59,135	1,160
838SPD	SPD - SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION	56,838	57,975	59,135	1,160
838SSD	SSD - SOUTHERN ASIA PACIFIC DIVISION	56,838	57,975	59,135	1,160
838SUD	SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION (GENCOSUD)	107,993	110,153	112,356	2,203
838TED	TED - TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION	193,250	197,115	201,057	3,942
838WAD	WAD - WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION	<u>362,522</u>	<u>363,772</u>	<u>365,047</u>	<u>1,275</u>
	Sub-total Division Programs	<u>1,350,139</u>	<u>1,070,941</u>	<u>1,092,160</u>	<u>21,219</u>

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2015 Appropriations Budget
Non-Tithe

		Voted Annual Council			
		Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Budget 2015	Increase (Decrease)
V. Special Funding (Cont'd)					
Institutional Programs - Non-Tithe					
11011	838NAD APPROPRIATIONS TO NAD CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES	39,007	40,583	41,395	812
11018	838AIAS APPROPRIATIONS TO AIAS	34,104	34,786	35,482	696
11050	838AWR APPROPRIATIONS TO AWR	136,412	139,140	141,923	2,783
AU SPECIALS:					
21040	838AU APPROPRIATIONS TO ANDREWS UNIV	56,838	57,975	59,135	1,160
834251	GRAD SCHOOL & SEM LIB BOOKS	142,096	144,938	147,837	2,899
838GU	APPROPRIATIONS TO GUGIA	268,845	274,222	279,706	5,484
		<u>467,779</u>	<u>477,135</u>	<u>486,678</u>	
61708	HOPE CHANNEL OPERATION	34,104	36,886	39,724	2,838
Sub-Total Institutional Programs		<u>711,406</u>	<u>728,530</u>	<u>745,202</u>	<u>16,672</u>
Total Special Funding - Non-Tithe		<u>2,061,545</u>	<u>1,799,471</u>	<u>1,837,362</u>	<u>37,891</u>
Grand Total Special Funding		<u>7,849,955</u>	<u>7,964,116</u>	<u>8,125,300</u>	<u>161,184</u>

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2015 Appropriations Budget
Non-Tithe

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		Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Budget 2015	Increase (Decrease)	2010 Investment Amount
VI. Appropriations (Not included in summary)						
Restricted Funds						
52028	APPROPRIATIONS					1,600,000
838EOD	APPROPRIATIONS TO EOD	130,517	129,377	207,002	77,625	12.94%
838ESD	EASTERN EUROPE FIN AFFAIRS COM	54,923	57,622	92,196	34,574	5.76%
838EUD	APPROPRIATIONS TO EUD	35,256	34,948	55,916	20,968	3.49%
838IAD	APPROPRIATIONS TO IAD	43,859	39,502	63,204	23,702	3.95%
838IAD	APPROPRIATIONS TO IAD	7,469	7,404	11,846	4,442	0.74%
838NSD	APPROPRIATIONS TO NSD	57,032	59,183	94,693	35,510	5.92%
838SAD	APPROPRIATIONS TO SAD	64,728	58,864	94,183	35,319	5.89%
838SID	APPROPRIATIONS TO SID	114,292	113,294	181,269	67,975	11.33%
838SPD	APPROPRIATIONS TO SPD	52,797	52,336	83,738	31,402	5.23%
838SSD	APPROPRIATIONS TO SSD	95,874	95,037	152,059	57,022	9.50%
838SUD	APPROPRIATIONS TO SUD	86,860	89,413	143,060	53,647	8.94%
838TED	APPROPRIATIONS TO TED	87,725	89,070	142,513	53,443	8.91%
838WAD	APPROPRIATIONS TO WAD	102,263	104,813	167,702	62,889	10.48%
838ZMENA	APPROPRIATIONS TO MENA Union	61,734	64,506	103,210	38,704	6.45%
838ZIF	APPROPRIATIONS TO F	4,671	4,631	7,409	2,778	0.46%
Total Restricted Funds		1,000,000	1,000,000	1,600,000	600,000	0

Divisions who can make adjustments within their budgets with out these funds are encouraged to release their allocations of this appropriation to the GC 10/40 Window Fund

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Divisions:	Base Appropriations			Special Appropriations			Total
	Tithe	Non-Tithe	Total	Tithe	Non-Tithe	Total	
52026/27/30	3,418,326	1,527,324	4,945,650	0	65,047	65,047	5,010,697
52026/27/30	1,924,126	294,375	2,218,501	0	106,442	106,442	2,324,943
52026/27/30	919,379	426,131	1,345,510	0	0	0	1,345,510
52026/27/30	366,632	1,154,239	1,520,871	0	88,702	88,702	1,609,573
52026/27/30	66,392	218,651	285,043	0	10,000	10,000	295,043
52026/27/30	2,083,322	195,262	2,278,584	0	112,356	112,356	2,390,940
52026/27/30	1,133,207	1,133,120	2,266,327	0	82,788	82,788	2,349,115
52026/27/30	325,240	0	325,240	0	70,960	70,960	396,200
52026/27/30	3,177,292	1,149,109	4,326,401	0	59,135	59,135	4,385,536
52026/27/30	1,136,536	878,448	2,014,984	0	59,135	59,135	2,074,119
52026/27/30	2,590,961	1,068,031	3,658,992	0	59,135	59,135	3,718,127
52026/27/30	2,402,619	1,039,835	3,442,454	0	112,356	112,356	3,554,810
52026/27/30	2,583,291	845,985	3,429,276	0	201,057	201,057	3,630,333
52026/27/30	1,150,000	0	1,150,000	0	0	0	1,150,000
52026/27/30	2,826,499	1,185,247	4,011,746	0	65,047	65,047	4,076,793
52026/27/30	4,424,984	0	4,424,984	0	0	0	4,424,984
52026/27/30	1,784,757	698,771	2,483,528	0	0	0	2,483,528
52026/27/30	178,280	0	178,280	0	0	0	178,280
	32,481,843	11,814,528	44,306,371	0	1,092,160	1,092,160	45,398,531

Institutions:

11015	ADRA	219,981	454,372	674,353	0	0	674,353
51480	ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF AFRICA	0	1,116,252	1,116,252	0	0	1,116,252
11050	ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO	378,462	63,262	441,724	1,866,668	2,008,591	2,450,315
11017	AIMS	499,351	674,507	1,173,858	0	35,482	1,209,340
21035	ANDREWS UNIVERSITY	2,092,650	2,863,612	4,956,262	0	486,678	5,442,940
41215	GRI	1,199,302	0	1,199,302	0	0	1,199,302
21455	LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY	2,013,583	5,777,258	7,790,841	0	0	7,790,841
21560	OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY	0	1,285,730	1,285,730	0	0	1,285,730
41920/35	WHITE ESTATE	2,624,189	0	2,624,189	0	0	2,624,189
		9,027,518	12,234,993	21,262,511	1,866,668	2,530,751	23,793,262

Institutional Svcs:

52012	ADVENTIST HERITAGE MINISTRIES	131,576	0	131,576	0	0	131,576
21080	CHRISTIAN RECORD SERVICES	105,101	0	105,101	0	0	105,101
61750	COUNCIL ONE/ANGEL & WITNESS	425,000	0	425,000	0	0	425,000
51140	DONATIONS	0	60,000	60,000	0	0	60,000
11090	E/ANGELISM - STAFF	233,000	0	233,000	0	0	233,000
52035	EXCESS AVIATION & LIAB INS	675,438	0	675,438	0	0	675,438
22264/65	GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS Church Pro	333,000	0	333,000	0	0	333,000
41250	HIV-AIDS - AFRICA	104,793	94,618	199,411	0	0	199,411
52036	HPL INSURANCE RESERVE FUND	1,576,020	0	1,576,020	0	0	1,576,020
61708	HOPE CHANNEL	0	619,799	619,799	4,421,270	39,724	5,080,793
41657	NAD - PA RL LIBERTY MAGAZINE	100,000	0	100,000	0	0	100,000
11011	NAD-SERVICE/MS CENTER-KOREA	0	0	0	0	41,395	41,395
	PUBLISHING PROGRAMS	1,586,077	0	1,586,077	0	0	1,586,077
		5,270,005	774,417	6,044,422	4,421,270	81,119	10,546,811

IDE PROGRAM
GENERAL CONF AUDITING SERVICE
GRAND TOTAL

30,296,204
12,434,868
122,469,676

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ANNUAL COUNCIL OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 13, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

Benjamin D Schoun, Chair, called to order the eighth session of the 2014 Annual Council.

Prayer was offered by J Kalervo Aromaki, President of the Finland Union Conference.

“IT’S TIME”—WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

Gilbert Wari, President of the West-Central Africa Division, presented a report on the Mission to the Cities initiatives in the West-Central Africa Division.

Gerson P Santos, Director of the Global Mission Urban Center offered a prayer for the West-Central Africa Division.

FPWG/ADCOM/FPWG/ADCOM/PreC/SecC/TreC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MLR(DIV)

222-14G MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST CHURCH - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC A, Mission Statement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which reads as follows:

A MISSION STATEMENT OF THE
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

A 05 Mission Statement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

A 05 05 Our Mission—The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to call all people to become disciples of Jesus Christ, to proclaim the everlasting gospel embraced by the three angels’ messages (Revelation 14:6-12), and to prepare the world for Christ’s soon return. ~~make disciples of all people, communicating the everlasting gospel in the context of the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14:6-12, leading them to accept Jesus as personal Savior and unite with His remnant Church, disciplining them to serve Him as Lord, and preparing them for His soon return.~~

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A 05 10 Our Method—Guided by the Bible and the Holy Spirit, Seventh-day Adventists pursue this mission through Christ-like living, communicating, discipling, teaching, healing, and serving. Method—We pursue this mission under the guidance and through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit through:

1. Preaching—Accepting Christ’s commission (Matt 28:18-20), we proclaim to all the world in these last days the everlasting gospel of God’s love, most fully revealed in His Son’s life, ministry, atoning death, resurrection, and high priestly ministry. Recognizing the Bible to be God’s infallible revelation of His will, we present its full message, including the second advent of Christ and the continuing authority of His Ten Commandment law with its reminder of the seventh day Sabbath.

2. Teaching—Acknowledging that development of mind and character is essential to God’s redemptive plan, we promote the growth of a mature understanding of and relationship to God, His Word, and the created universe.

3. Healing—Affirming the biblical principles of the well being of the whole person, we make the preservation of health and the healing of the sick a priority and through our ministry to the poor and oppressed, cooperate with the Creator in His compassionate work of restoration.

4. Discipling—Affirming the continued spiritual growth and development of all members, we nurture the newly converted, instruct them in righteous living, train them for effective witness, and encourage their responsive obedience to God’s will.

A 05 15 Our Vision—In harmony with Bible revelation, Seventh-day Adventists the great prophecies of the Scriptures, we see as the climax of God’s plan the restoration of all His creation to full harmony with His perfect will and righteousness.

IDENTITY AND MISSION IMPLEMENTATION STATEMENT

A 09 Identity and Implementation of Our Mission

A 09 05 Our Identity—The Seventh-day Adventist Church sees itself as the remnant Church of end-time Bible prophecy. Members of the Church, individually and collectively, understand their special role as ambassadors of God’s kingdom and messengers of the soon return of Jesus Christ. Seventh-day Adventists have enlisted as co-workers with God in His mission of reclaiming the world from the power and presence of evil, as part of the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan.

Therefore, every aspect of a Church member’s life is influenced by the conviction that we live in the last days described in Bible prophecy and the return of Jesus Christ is imminent.

Seventh-day Adventists are called by God to live in this world. Every action of the Christian life is done “in the name of Jesus” and to advance His kingdom.

A 09 10 Implementation of Our Mission—Seventh-day Adventists affirm the Bible as God’s infallible revelation of His will, accepting its authority in the life of the Church and of each believer, and its foundational role for faith and doctrine. Seventh-day Adventists believe that the Holy Spirit is the power that transforms lives and equips people with abilities to advance God’s kingdom in this world.

Called by God, guided by the Bible, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, Seventh-day Adventists, wherever we live in the world, devote ourselves to:

1. Christ-Like Living—Illustrating the lordship of Jesus in our lives by moral, ethical, and social behaviors that are consistent with the teachings and example of Jesus.
2. Christ-Like Communicating—Realizing that all are called to active witness, we share through personal conversation, preaching, publishing, and the arts, the Bible’s message about God and the hope and salvation offered through the life, ministry, atoning death, resurrection, and high priestly ministry of Jesus Christ.
3. Christ-Like Discipling—Affirming the vital importance of continued spiritual growth and development among all who accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, we nurture and instruct each other in righteous living, provide training for effective witness, and encourage responsive obedience to God’s will.
4. Christ-Like Teaching—Acknowledging that development of mind and character is essential to God’s redemptive plan, we promote the growth of a mature understanding of and relationship to God, His Word, and the created universe.
5. Christ-Like Healing—Affirming the biblical principles of the well-being of the whole person, we make healthful living and the healing of the sick a priority and through our ministry to the poor and oppressed, cooperate with the Creator in His compassionate work of restoration.
6. Christ-Like Serving—Following the example of Jesus we commit ourselves to humble service, ministering to individuals and populations most affected by poverty, tragedy, hopelessness, and disease.

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VALUES STATEMENT OF THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

A 10 Values Statement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

~~A 10 05 Our Values—Seventh-day Adventist values are rooted in the revelation of God provided through the Bible and the life of Jesus Christ. Our sense of identity and calling grows from an understanding of Bible prophecies, especially those concerning the time immediately preceding the return of Jesus. Consequently all of life becomes a growing experience and demonstration of involvement with God and His kingdom.~~

~~Our sense of mission is driven by the realization that every person, regardless of circumstances, is of infinite value to God and thus deserving of respect and dignity. Through God's grace every person is gifted for and needed in the diverse activities of the Church family. Our respect for diversity, individuality, and freedom is balanced by regard for community. We are one—a worldwide family of faith engaged in representing the reign of God in our world through ethical conduct, mutual regard, and loving service. Our faithfulness to God involves commitment to and support of His body, the Church.~~

TOTAL COMMITMENT TO GOD—A DECLARATION OF SPIRITUAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE FAMILY OF FAITH*

~~A 15 Total Commitment to God—A Declaration of Spiritual Accountability in the Family of Faith - No change~~

MISSION TO THE WORLD

~~A 20 Roadmap for Mission - No change~~

STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2020

VOTED, To support the Strategic Plan 2015-2020.

*It should be noted in this chapter that other terminology is used in some geographical areas for organizational units such as fields, sections, regions, or delegations.

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GENERAL CONFERENCE AUDITING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

Paul H Douglas, Director of the General Conference Auditing Service presented a report which represented the department's activities in 2013. This report included an analysis of the audits carried out in 2013, the work plan results, and emerging issues.

VOTED, To record receipt of the General Conference Auditing Service Annual Report.

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION MUSIC

Williams S. Costa, Jr., Director of the General Conference Communication Department, presented "Jesus Is Coming, Our Hope", a piece of music written especially for the General Conference Session in 2015. The music was played together with a video, whereupon a rehearsal kit was distributed, comprising a score and CD.

A short video, showcasing the Dare to Believe website was played.

VOTED, To record receipt of the report of the Communication department.

BIBLICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE REPORT

Ekkehardt F R Mueller, Deputy Director of the Biblical Research Institute (BRI), presented the report. The BRI has been involved in various Bible conferences, theological symposiums, faith and science conferences and meetings of Biblical Research Committees. They have several publications on anthropology, ecclesiology, the Sabbath, marriage, sexuality and family, as well as various other textbooks. Research projects include creation, theodicy, and Bible commentaries.

VOTED, To record receipt of the report of the Biblical Research Institute.

SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/401-12GS/ChManSub/401-13GS/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/
14AC to AM-ChMan+15GCS

401-14GS UNAUTHORIZED SPEAKERS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To refer the item, Unauthorized Speakers, to the *Church Manual* Committee.

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SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM-ChMan+15GCS

416-14GS MARRIAGE - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To refer the item, Marriage, to the *Church Manual* Committee.

SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM

426-14GS REASONS FOR DISCIPLINE - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

VOTED, Not to approve an amendment to the *Church Manual*, Chapter 7, Discipline, pages 61 and 62, Reasons for Discipline.

SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/401-12GS/ChManSub/402-13GS/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/
14AC to AM-15GCS

402-14GS CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 4, Pastors and Other Church Employees, pages 35 and 36, Credentials and Licenses, to read as follows:

Credentials and Licenses

God's work is to be jealously safeguarded by responsible leaders from the local church to the General Conference. Official credentials and licenses are issued to all authorized full-time Church employees and are granted by controlling committees for limited periods.

In a local conference, the committee confers authority upon individuals to represent the Church as pastors and gospel workers. This authority is represented by the granting of credentials and licenses, which are written commissions, properly dated and signed by the officers of the conference. The authority thus conveyed is not personal or inherent in the individual but is inherent in the granting body, which may recall the credentials for cause at any time. Credentials and licenses granted employees are not their personal property and must be returned when employment is terminated or at the request of the organization that issued them.

~~In order that enemies of the Church may not gain access to our pulpits, no~~ No one should be allowed to speak to any congregation unless he/she has been invited by the church in harmony

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~~with guidelines given by the conference, union, or division. presents a current denominational credential or license.~~ It is recognized, however, that there are times when congregations may be addressed by government officials or civic leaders; but all unauthorized persons ~~should be excluded from~~ shall not be given access to the pulpit. (See pp. 114-116.)

Expired Credentials and Licenses—Credentials and licenses are granted - No change

Retired Employees—Retired employees deserve honor and consideration - No change

Former Pastors Without Credentials—Individuals previously ordained as - No change

YOU/ChManSub/ChMan/405-13GS/YOU/ChManSub/YOU/ChManSub/ChManSub/ChMan/
GCDO14AC/14AC to AM-15GCS

405-14GS YOUTH MINISTRIES - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, pages 100 to 105, Youth Ministries, to read as follows:

Youth Ministries

The various youth organizations of the church should work closely with the youth ministries department of the conference.

Adventist Youth Society (AYS) ~~—The~~ Ministries (AYM) ~~—The~~ church works for and with its youth through the AYM, AYS. Under the AYM, AYS leader youth are to work ~~together in~~ together, in cooperation with the wider church community, towards the development of a strong youth ministry that includes spiritual, mental, and physical development of each individual, Christian social interaction, and an active witnessing program that supports the general soul-winning plans of the church. The goal of AYM AYS should be to involve all youth in activities that will ~~tie them closer to the church~~ lead them to active church membership and train them for Christian service.

AYM Mission—To lead young people into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and help them embrace His call to discipleship.

AYM Motto—The love of Christ compels us.

AYM Aim—The Advent Message to all the world in my generation.

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The youth ministries program of the church comprises three broad categories, namely: Junior Youth (Adventurers: ages 6-9 and Pathfinders: ages 10-15), Senior Youth (Ambassadors: ages 16-21 and Young Adults: ages 22-30+), and Public Campus Students: ages 16-30+.

God said to Moses, “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates” (Deut. 6:6-9).

The apostle Paul added, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12).

“We have an army of youth today who can do much if they are properly directed and encouraged. . . . We want them to be blessed of God. We want them to act a part in well-organized plans for helping other youth.”— GCB, Jan. 29, 30, 1893, p. 24.

“When the youth give their hearts to God, our responsibility for them does not cease. They must be interested in the Lord’s work, and led to see that He expects them to do something to advance His cause. It is not enough to show how much needs to be done, and to urge the youth to act a part. They must be taught how to labor for the Master. They must be trained, disciplined, drilled, in the best methods of winning souls to Christ. Teach them to try in a quiet, unpretending way to help their young companions. Let different branches of missionary effort be systematically laid out, in which they may take part, and let them be given instruction and help. Thus they will learn to work for God.”—GW 210.

“With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world!”—MYP 196.

While there is to be an active Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) AYS in every church, it is important that the youth program not be isolated from the rest of the church. In addition to their AYM AYS participation, youth should be integrated into responsible leadership and in all lines of church work. As young elders, deacons, and deaconesses, for example, they can work with and learn from experienced officers.

“In order that the work may go forward in all its branches, God calls for youthful vigor, zeal, and courage. He has chosen the youth to aid in the advancement of His cause. To plan with clear mind and execute with courageous hand demands fresh, uncrippled energies. Young men and women are invited to give God the strength of their youth, that through the exercise of their

powers, through keen thought and vigorous action, they may bring glory to Him and salvation to their fellow men.”—GW 67.

Adventist Youth Ministries Committee—The Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) Committee ~~youth ministries committee~~ is the umbrella organization in the church for the general planning of the youth ministry program. (See pp. 127, 128.) ~~It includes the elected officers of the Adventist Youth Society (AYS)~~ The AYM Committee includes the following church-elected officers: Young Adults director, Public Campus Ministries director/coordinator, Ambassador director, Pathfinder director, Adventurer director, plus the personal ministries leader, youth Sabbath School school division leader, children’s ministries leader, health ministries leader, principal of the school, the AYM sponsor, and the pastor. ~~Ambassador Club director, Pathfinder Club director, Adventurer Club director, principal of the school, the sponsor, and the pastor. The AYS leader, who is a member of the board, chairs this committee. The committee should meet as necessary to develop short- and long-range goals and plans for a successful ministry. (See Notes, #16, p. 171.)~~

If there are no distinct Ambassador ministry or young adults ministries established in the church, or until such time as they are established, the AYM Committee will plan for the senior youth ministry to include both age groups.

In parts of the world where there is no Pathfinder or Adventurer ministry, or until such time as they are organized, the AYM Committee will plan for appropriate activities for the junior youth.

The AYM director (formerly known as the AYS director), who is a member of the board, chairs this committee. The committee should meet as necessary to develop short- and long-range goals and plans for a successful ministry. (See Notes, #16, p. 171.)

AYS Committee—The AYS committee is responsible for senior youth activities and works in coordination with the other youth entities through the Adventist youth ministries committee. If there is no Ambassador, Pathfinder, or Adventurer program, the AYS will include these younger members in a junior society.

AYS Officers—The Young Adults Committee—The Young Adults Committee is responsible for Young Adult activities and works in coordination with the Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) Committee.

The church elects the following Young Adults officers: director, associate director, secretary-treasurer, assistant secretary-treasurer, and music director, these AYS officers: youth leader, associate youth leader, secretary-treasurer, assistant secretary-treasurer, chorister, pianist or organist, and sponsor (who may be an elder). Since music plays an important role in the

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formation of youth character, musicians should be as carefully selected as the other AYS officers. (See pp. 92, 96.) This group forms the nucleus for the Young Adults Committee, which appoints other officers for the respective activities. AYS committee, which in counsel with the youth appoints other officers. In smaller churches one person may carry several responsibilities.

Public Campus Ministries—Strengthening the Youth Ministries of the church. Public Campus Ministries (PCM), in collaboration with the Adventist Ministry to College and University Students (AMiCUS), provides vision and strategic planning for ministry to and support for Seventh-day Adventist students (ages 16-30+) who attend public colleges, universities, and other tertiary educational institutions around the world.

Public Campus Ministries Director/Coordinator—The church may appoint a public campus ministries director/coordinator to develop an intentional ministry with the purpose of caring for the special needs of public college/university students, in consultation with and support of the Adventist Youth Ministries Committee.

Ambassador Ministry—The Ambassador Ministry provides a specialized program to meet the needs of youth, ages 16 to 21. It offers young people in this age group organization and structure, and promotes their active involvement in the church, locally and globally. The ministry is designed to strengthen the current senior youth ministry of the Church. It challenges them to experience and share a personal relationship with Christ, helps them develop a lifestyle that is consistent with the Seventh-day Adventist belief system, provides training in diverse vocational interests, and provides them with a safe environment for the wholesome development of lifelong friendships. Its activities are to be carried out in accordance with conference policies and in coordination with the AYM Committee of the local church.

Ambassador Committee—The Ambassador Committee is responsible for Ambassador activities and works in coordination with the Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) Committee.

The church elects the following Ambassador officers: director, associate director, secretary-treasurer, assistant secretary-treasurer, and music director. This group forms the Ambassador Committee which appoints other officers for the respective activities.

Pathfinder Club—The Pathfinder Club provides a church-centered outlet for the spirit of adventure and exploration, in the context of spiritual development and soul-winning, for ages 10 to 15. Activities are carefully tailored to include outdoor living, nature exploration, crafts, hobbies, or vocations.

Pathfinder Committee—The Pathfinder Club director and deputy directors are elected by the church. (See pp. 105, 172.) If two deputy directors are elected, there should be one male and

one female. One of the deputy directors may also serve as club secretary and treasurer. The director is a member of the board and the Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) Committee.

Additional Pathfinder staff may include instructors of craft and nature classes and counselors who are each responsible for a unit of six to eight Pathfinders.

Resource materials are available from the conference youth ministries director.

Everyone involved in work with minor children must meet 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, #7, pp. 168, 169.)

Adventurer Club—The Adventurer Club provides home and church programs for parents with 6-to-9-year-old children. It is designed to stimulate the children’s curiosity and includes age-specific activities that involve both parents and child in recreational activities, simple crafts, appreciation of God’s creation, and other activities that are of interest to that age. All is carried out with a spiritual focus, setting the stage for participation in the church as a Pathfinder.

Adventurer Committee—The church elects the club director and associates. (See pp. 104, 172.) Additional staff members are selected by the administrative staff of the club. The director is a member of the Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) Committee.

Resource materials are available from the conference youth ministries director.

Everyone involved in work with minor children must meet 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, #7, pp. 168, 169.)

The AYS leader AYM Officers—The directors of the four youth ministry entities must exemplify Christlike graces and have a burden for soul winning and contagious enthusiasm. In helping motivate youth to work together and take responsibilities, the leader directors will be in the background— guiding, counseling, and encouraging youth, helping them gain experience and the joys of achievement. The leader directors should study the youth profile of the church and seek to involve every eligible youth in the Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM). AYS-

The leader directors will keep in touch with the pastor, the sponsor, their respective sponsors, and the conference youth ministries director, taking advantage of opportunities for in-service training and leading the society their respective ministry into a cooperative relationship with the church and the conference.

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The ~~associate leader~~ associate/deputy directors (if needed) will assist the ~~leader~~ directors and ~~will chair the AYS committee and~~ perform leadership duties when the ~~leader is~~ directors are absent. The ~~AYS committee~~ respective committees may assign additional responsibilities to the associate directors. ~~associate leader~~.

The ~~secretary-treasurer~~ secretary-treasurers will keep a record of ~~AYS activities~~, the activities of their respective ministries, submit monthly reports on forms provided to the conference youth ministries director, and encourage youth to report their witnessing activities during the ten-minute personal ministries period.

The respective assistant secretary-treasurers (if needed) assist with the secretary-treasurers' ~~secretary treasurer (if needed) assists with the secretary treasurer's~~ work as assigned.

AYS AYM Sponsor—The Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) ~~AYS~~ sponsor may be an elder or other person on the board who understands the objectives of the AYM, ~~AYS~~, is sympathetic with youth and their involvement in the church's ministries, and will serve as a valued counselor to the youth. The sponsor serves as a guide or counselor to AYM ~~AYS~~ officers and joins them regularly in the AYM Committee ~~AYS committee~~ meetings. The sponsor will work with the AYM directors ~~AYS leader~~ to present the ministry's ~~society's~~ needs to the board.

The sponsor should become acquainted with the conference youth ministries director and keep the director informed of changes in officer personnel and other AYM ~~AYS~~ matters. Along with AYM directors, ~~AYS officers~~, the sponsor should attend conference youth training institutes to keep informed about developments in youth ministry.

For the sake of continuity, the sponsor, if possible, should serve multiple terms.

Adventist Youth Features—~~To help youth grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, the youth ministries department arranges age-related programming that provides an environment for development of spiritual gifts.~~

Everyone involved in work with minor children must meet 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, #7, pp. 168, 169.)

Resources—For youth ministries resources, see Notes, #17, p. 171.

~~Adventist Junior Youth Society (AJY)—The objectives of AJY are the training of junior youth for Christian leadership and service and the development of members to their fullest potential.~~

~~In churches with schools the AJY is part of the curriculum and a teacher is AJY leader or sponsor. When the AJY is conducted in the school, each classroom is considered a society, with students in the lower elementary designated as preparatory members. Upper elementary students are regular members.~~

~~Everyone involved in work with youth must meet 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, #7, pp. 168, 169.)~~

~~Ambassador Club—The Ambassador Club provides a specialized program to meet the needs of youth, ages 16 through 21. It offers young people in this age group organization and structure, and promotes their active involvement in the church, locally and globally. The club is designed to strengthen the current senior youth/young adult ministry of the Church. It challenges them to experience and share a personal relationship with Christ, helps them develop a lifestyle that fits their belief system and vocational interest, and provides them with a safe venue for wholesome development of lifelong friendships. Its activities are to be carried out in accordance with conference policies and in coordination with other youth/young adult ministries of the local church. The Ambassador Club has a director and associate director(s). The associate director(s) may also serve as the secretary and treasurer. The director is a member of the Adventist Youth Society committee.~~

~~Pathfinder Club—The Pathfinder Club provides a church-centered outlet for the spirit of adventure and exploration found in junior youth. This includes carefully tailored activities in outdoor living, nature exploration, crafts, hobbies, or vocations beyond the possibilities in an average AJY. In this setting spiritual emphasis is well received, and the Pathfinder Club has demonstrated its soul-winning influence. In many churches Pathfinder Clubs have replaced the traditional AJY. If there is a school, the Pathfinder Club should supplement the work of the AJY.~~

~~The Pathfinder Club director and deputy directors are elected by the church. (See pp. 105, 172.) If two deputy directors are elected, there should be one of each gender. One of the deputy directors may also serve as club scribe and treasurer. The director is a member of the board and the Adventist youth ministries committee.~~

~~Additional Pathfinder staff may include instructors of craft and nature classes and counselors who are each responsible for a unit of six to eight Pathfinders.~~

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~~Resource materials are available from the conference youth ministries director.~~

~~Everyone involved in work with minor children must meet 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, #7, pp. 168, 169.)~~

~~Adventurer Club—The Adventurer Club provides home and church programs for parents with 6 through 9 year old children. It is designed to stimulate the children's curiosity and includes age specific activities that involve both parent and child in recreational activities, simple crafts, appreciation of God's creation, and other activities that are of interest to that age. All is carried out with a spiritual focus, setting the stage for participation in the church as a Pathfinder.~~

~~The church elects the club director and associates. (See pp. 104, 172.) Additional staff members are selected by the administrative staff of the club. The director is a member of the Adventist youth ministries committee. Resource materials are available from the conference youth ministries director.~~

~~Everyone involved in work with minor children must meet 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, #7, pp. 168, 169.)~~

~~Resources—For youth ministries resources, see Notes, #17, p. 171.~~

SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM-15GCS

409-14GSa REMOVING MEMBERS AT THEIR REQUEST -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 7, Discipline, page 66, Removing Members at Their Request, Process of Discipline, to read as follows:

Removing Members at Their Request—Great care should be exercised in dealing with members who request to be removed from membership. ~~Although the Church recognizes the right of members to decide whether to belong to the Church, ample time should be given such members for thought and reflection and every effort made to restore them to a satisfactory experience.~~

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~~Letters of resignation should be presented to the board, which will forward them to a business meeting. Out of Christian consideration for the individuals involved, action shall be taken without public discussion.~~

The Church recognizes the right of the individual to withdraw membership. Letters of resignation should be presented to the board, where the resignation will be recorded with the effective date according to the resignation letter. Efforts should be made to restore the individual to the church family.

SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM-15GCS

409-14GSb CHURCH BOARD CANNOT GRANT LETTERS -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Membership, pages 54 and 55, Church Board Cannot Grant Letters, Transferring Members, to read as follows:

Church Board Cannot Grant Letters—A board has no authority to vote letters of transfer or to receive members by letter. The board's authority is limited to making recommendations to the church. Action on all transfers of membership, favorable or otherwise, must be taken by the church. (See p. 52.) The clerk has no authority to remove names from or add names to the membership record except by vote of the church. When a member requests in writing to be removed from church membership, the church board must act on the request. Efforts should be made to restore the individual to the church family. When a member dies, the clerk records the date of death in the membership record, and no action by the church is necessary.

SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM-15GCS

409-14GSb NO NAMES ADDED OR REMOVED WITHOUT VOTE -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, page 80, No Names Added or Removed Without Vote, Clerk, to read as follows:

No Names Added or Removed Without Vote—The clerk has no authority to add names to or remove names from the membership record without a vote of the church, which must always vote to add or remove a name, except in the case of the death of a ~~member.~~ member, or when a member requests in writing to be removed from membership. When a member dies, the clerk will record the date of the death in the membership record. (See p. 55.)

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When a member submits a written request to the church board to be removed from membership, the clerk will record the action of the board. (See p. 66.)

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410-14GS REINSTATING THOSE PREVIOUSLY REMOVED
FROM MEMBERSHIP - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 7, Discipline, pages 66 and 67, Process of Discipline, Reinstating Those Previously Removed From Membership, to read as follows:

Reinstating Those Previously Removed From Membership—When persons have been ~~removed~~, removed for discipline, the church should, where possible, maintain contact and manifest the spirit of friendship and love, endeavoring to bring them back to the Lord.

Those previously removed may be received again into membership ~~when the period assigned by the church in a business meeting is concluded~~, when confession of wrongs committed is made, evidence is given of real repentance and change of life, and the life is consistent with Church standards and it is clear that the member will fully submit to Church order and discipline. Such reinstatement should preferably be in the church from which the member was dismissed. However, when this is not possible, the church where the person is requesting reinstatement must seek information from the former church about the reasons for which the person was removed from membership.

When dealing with perpetrators of sexual abuse, it should be remembered that restoration to membership does not remove all consequences of such a serious violation. While attendance at church activities may be permissible with properly established guidelines, a person convicted or disciplined for sexual abuse should not be placed in a role which could put them in contact with children, youth, and other vulnerable individuals. Neither shall they be given any position which would encourage vulnerable individuals to trust them implicitly.

Because removal from membership is the most serious form of discipline, the period of ~~time, determined by the church business meeting~~, time 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. It is expected that readmission to membership will be done in connection with rebaptism.

SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM

411-14GN TRAINING AND EQUIPPING OF DEACONS AND
DEACONESSES - *CHURCH MANUAL* NOTES ADDITION

VOTED, To add a new section to the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, Notes, page 167, #3, to read as follows:

3. Training and Equipping of Deacons and Deaconesses (see pp. 76 and 78)—While the pastor has the primary responsibility for the training of deacons and deaconesses, the Ministerial Association of the conference is encouraged to schedule periodic meetings for the training of the deacons and deaconesses.

SEC/ChManSub/TED/ChManSub/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM-15GCS

412-14GSa DEACONS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, pages 76 to 78, Deacons, to read as follows:

Deacons

The New Testament identifies the office of deacon with the Greek word *diakonos*, from which the English “deacon” is derived. The Greek word is variously interpreted as “servant, minister, writer, attendant” and in Christian circles has acquired the specialized meaning now attached to “deacon.”

The men who came to be known as the seven deacons of the apostolic church were chosen and ordained to attend to the business of the church. (See Acts 6:1-8.) Their qualifications, slightly less exacting than those of elders, are listed in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

“The fact that these brethren had been ordained for the special work of looking after the needs of the poor did not exclude them from teaching the faith. On the contrary, they were fully qualified to instruct others in the truth, and they engaged in the work with great earnestness and success.”— AA 90.

“The appointment of the seven to take the oversight of special lines of work proved a great blessing to the church. These officers gave careful consideration to individual needs as well as to the general financial interests of the church, and by their prudent management and their

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godly example they were an important aid to their fellow officers in binding together the various interests of the church into a united whole.”—AA 89.

Today appointment of deacons through election brings similar blessings in church administration by relieving pastors, elders, and other officers of duties that deacons may perform well.

“The time and strength of those who in the providence of God have been placed in leading positions of responsibility in the church should be spent in dealing with the weightier matters demanding special wisdom and largeness of heart. It is not in the order of God that such men should be appealed to for the adjustment of minor matters that others are well qualified to handle.”—AA 93.

The Ministerial Association of the conference, in connection with the departments, promotes the training and equipping of deacons. However, the pastor, in conjunction with the elder(s), has the primary responsibility for training the deacons. (See Notes, #3, p. 167)

Board of Deacons—Where a church has a number of deacons, it should - No change

Deacons Must Be Ordained—Newly elected deacons cannot fill their - No change

Deacons Not Authorized to Preside—Deacons are not authorized to preside at ~~any of the ordinances of the church~~ the Lord’s Supper, baptism, or business meetings and are not permitted to ~~cannot~~ perform the marriage ceremony or officiate at the reception or transfer of members.

If a church has no one authorized to perform such duties, ~~it~~ the church leader shall contact the conference for assistance.

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

1. Assistance at Services and Meetings—Deacons are usually - No change
2. Visitation of Members—In many churches visitation is arranged - No change
3. Preparation for Baptismal Services—Deacons make necessary - No change
4. Assistance at Communion Service—At the ~~celebration of the ordinance~~ service of foot-washing, the deacons or deaconesses provide everything needed, needed for the service, such as towels, basins, water, and buckets. After the service they see that the utensils and linen are washed and properly stored.

Remaining bread and wine should not be consumed, but disposed of in a respectful manner by deacons and deaconesses following the Lord's Supper.

5. Care of the Sick and Aiding the Poor and Unfortunate—Deacons - No change
6. Care and Maintenance of Property—In churches where the - No change

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412-14GSb DEACONESSSES - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, pages 78 and 79, Deacons, to read as follows:

Deaconesses

Deaconesses were included in the official staff of the early Christian churches.

“I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church [deaconess] in Cenckrea, that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also” (Rom. 16:1, 2).

Deaconesses should be chosen for their consecration and other qualifications that fit them for the duties of the office.

The Ministerial Association of the conference, in connection with the departments, promotes the training and equipping of deaconesses. However, the pastor, in conjunction with the elder(s), has the primary responsibility for training the deaconesses. (See Notes, #3, p. 167)

Board of Deaconesses—If a church elects several deaconesses, it should - No change

Ordination Service for Deaconesses—Such a service would be carried - No change

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

1. Greeting and Visiting Guests and Members—In many - No change

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2. Assistance at Baptisms—Deaconesses ensure that female candidates - No change

3. Arrangements for the Communion Service—Deaconesses and deacons arrange for everything needed for this service and see that everything used is cared for afterward. (See p. 121.)

Before the communion service begins, deaconesses ~~make arrangements for~~ set the communion table, including preparing the bread and wine, ~~arranging the ordinance table,~~ pouring the wine, placing the plates of unleavened bread, and covering the table with the linen provided for that purpose.

Deaconesses assist in the ~~ordinance service~~ of foot-washing, giving special aid to women visitors and new members.

4. The Care of the Sick and the Poor—Deaconesses assist deacons in - No change

5. Care and Maintenance of Property—In churches where the - No change

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413-14GS WHO MAY CONDUCT THE COMMUNION SERVICE -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

The inclusion of “commissioned” is done in order to be in harmony with page 73 of the *Church Manual*, which reads, “Communion services must always be conducted by an ordained/commissioned pastor or local elder.”

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, page 122, Who May Conduct the Communion Service, Communion Service, to read as follows:

Who May Conduct the Communion Service—The communion service is to be conducted by an ~~ordained~~ ordained/commissioned pastor or an ordained elder. ~~Deacons, although ordained, cannot~~ Deacons or deaconesses are not permitted to conduct the service.

SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM-15GCS

414-14GS FINANCE COMMITTEE - *CHURCH MANUAL* ADDITION

RECOMMENDED, To add a new section, Finance Committee, to the *Church Manual*, Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, following Church Board and Its Meetings, on page 127, to read as follows:

Finance Committee

Each church should have a mission-driven, broadly-based consultative financial planning and budgeting process with a committee structure that can give detailed review to the ongoing financial planning and budgeting. In some cases, this may take the form of a finance committee. In other cases, in smaller churches, this process may be handled directly by the church board. If the church establishes a separate committee for this purpose, the responsibilities should include reviewing budget requests and the review of the annual operating budget as well as a review of the financial position of the church as reflected in the financial statements. The approval of the budget and the review of the financial statement shall then be recommended to the church board and onward to the business meeting of the church for action.

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415-14GS BUSINESS MEETINGS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, pages 123 and 124, Business Meetings, to read as follows:

Business Meetings

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~~ constituency meeting of the local church. (See p. 29.) 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.

Business meetings shall be held at least once a year. The pastor, or the board in consultation with and support of the pastor, calls the meeting. Business meetings typically are announced a week or two in advance at the regular Sabbath worship service, with detail as to time and place. The pastor, an elder arranged by the pastor, or, in some cases, the conference president, serves as chairperson of the business meeting.

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Each church decides what the quorum will be for future meetings. Votes by proxy or letter are not permitted.

Major items should be decided at a regular or specially called business meeting. The business meeting has authority over the board and may delegate responsibilities to the board in addition to those already assigned by the *Church Manual*. (See pp. 124-127.)

The business meeting agenda should include reports about the work of the church. At least once a year the agenda should include reports covering church activities. Based on those reports, ~~presentation of~~ a proposed plan of action for the next ~~year year~~, including an annual budget, should be presented for approval. When possible, reports and plans for the next year should be presented in writing. (See Notes, #7, pp. 176, 177.)

In order to maintain a spirit of cooperation between the church and conference, the church shall secure counsel from conference officers on all major matters.

Conference and union officers (president, secretary, treasurer) or their designee may attend without vote (unless granted by the church) any business meeting of any church in their territory. An action to allow voting is not required if the officer is currently a member of that congregation.

YOU/ChManSub/YOU/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM-15GCS

417-14GS YOUTH MEETINGS - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, pages 127 and 128, Youth Meetings, to read as follows:

Youth Meetings

Leaders of the church's various youth groups should schedule regular meetings that involve the church's young people in meaningful activities that will tie them closer to the church and train them for useful service. (See also pp.100-105.)

Senior Youth Ministries Meetings (Ambassadors and Young Adults)—Senior Youth Ministries meetings should convene on a regular schedule and focus on developing the spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical characteristics of the church's youth. Meetings also provide

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Christian social interaction and witnessing programs supporting the soul-winning plans of the church. For resources, see Notes #9, p. 177.

Public Campus Ministries Meetings—Where the church has appointed a Public Campus Ministries director/coordinator, meetings should be organized to care for the special needs of public college/university students in consultation with and support of the Adventist Youth Ministries Committee.

Junior Youth Ministries Meetings (Adventurers and Pathfinders)—Junior Youth Ministries meetings are similar in purpose to Senior Youth Ministries, but involve junior youth. Adventurer Club meetings provide specialized programs for primary/early school-age children designed to complement and strengthen parental involvement in early childhood development, while Pathfinder Club meetings provide specialized indoor and outdoor activities for the holistic development of children from 10 to 15 years old. Meetings and other activities are to be carried out according to conference policies as outlined in the club manuals and in coordination with other youth-related and family-related organizations of the church.

Adventist Youth Society Meetings—Adventist Youth Society meetings should meet on a regular schedule and focus on developing the spiritual, mental, and physical characteristics of the church's youth. Meetings also provide Christian social interaction and witnessing programs supporting the soul-winning plans of the church. The Adventist youth ministries committee encourages and coordinates Adventist Youth Society activities and those of other youth organizations. (See p. 102.) For resources, see Notes, #9, p. 177.

Adventist Junior Youth Society Meetings—Adventist Junior Youth Society meetings are similar in purpose to Adventist Youth Society meetings but involve junior youth. If there is a church school, the Adventist Junior Youth Society is usually a part of the school's spiritual curriculum. (See Notes, #10, p. 177.)

Ambassador Club Meetings—Ambassador Club meetings provide specialized programs to meet the needs of youth, ages 16 through 21, and promote their involvement in the Church. Its meetings and other activities are to be carried out according to conference policies and in coordination with other youth/young adult ministries of the local church.

Pathfinder Club Meetings—The Pathfinder Club meetings provide specialized programs for junior youth and in some areas have replaced the Adventist Junior Youth Society meetings. Churches where both function should coordinate their activities. Pathfinders will meet according to conference departmental policy.

Adventurer Club Meetings—Adventurer Club meetings provide specialized programs for primary/early school-age children designed to complement and strengthen parental involvement

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~~in early childhood development. Meetings and other activities are to be carried out according to conference policies as outlined in the club manuals and in coordination with other youth related and family-related organizations of the church.~~

SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM-15GCS

418-14GS FUNDS OF AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS (TREASURER) -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, pages 81 and 82, Funds of Auxiliary Organizations, to read as follows:

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

The treasurer shall give receipts for all funds received. On receiving money from the treasurer, the secretary of the auxiliary organization shall give a proper receipt to the treasurer.

SEC/407-14GS/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM-15GCS

419-14GS CHURCH BOARD AND ITS MEETINGS - *CHURCH
MANUAL AMENDMENT*

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, pages 124 and 125, Church Board and Its Meetings, to read as follows:

Church Board and Its Meetings

Definition and Function—Every church must have a functioning board whose members have been elected during a church business meeting. Its chief concern is having an active discipleship plan in place, which includes both the spiritual nurture of the church and the work of planning and fostering evangelism. ~~evangelism in all of its phases.~~

Included in church board responsibilities are:

1. An active discipleship plan.
- ~~1- 2.~~ Spiritual nurture and mentoring of members. ~~nurture.~~
- ~~2- 3.~~ Evangelism in all of its phases.
- ~~3- 4.~~ Maintenance of doctrinal purity.
- ~~4- 5.~~ Upholding of Christian standards.
- ~~5- 6.~~ Recommending changes in church membership.
- ~~6- 7.~~ Church Oversight of church finances.
- ~~7- 8.~~ Protection and care of church properties.
- ~~8- 9.~~ Coordination of church departments.

The gospel commission of Jesus ~~makes evangelism, proclaiming the good news of the~~ gospel, tells us that making disciples, which includes baptizing and teaching, is the primary function of the church (Matt. 28:18-20). It is, therefore, also the primary function of the board, which serves as the chief committee of the church. When the board devotes its first interests and highest energies to ~~every member evangelism, involve every member in proclaiming the good~~ news and making disciples, most problems are alleviated or prevented, and a strong, positive influence is felt in the spiritual life and growth of members.

~~The board is elected by the members at the time of the regular election of officers. (See pp. 70, 71.)~~

Spiritual Nurture—Christ’s love for the Church needs to be manifested within the Church by His followers. True discipleship entails not only Biblical teaching (Matt. 28:20), but also a passionate commitment to loving our fellow believers unconditionally. This was the heart of Christ’s message to His disciples as He faced the cross (John 15:9-13). Christ’s command to them applies to us: that we “love one another.” Ellen G White’s powerful insight into this historical scene is still vital for us: “This love is the evidence of their discipleship.”—DA 677, 678.

Therefore, it is one of the primary functions of the board to ensure that members are nurtured and mentored in a personal, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ.

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Discipleship—The purpose of the Church as the body of Christ is to intentionally disciple members, so that they continue in an active and fruitful relationship with Christ and His Church.

Discipleship is based on an ongoing, lifelong relationship with Jesus. The believer commits to “abiding in Christ” (John 15:8), to being trained for fruitful discipleship by sharing Jesus with others, as well as to leading other members to also be faithful disciples.

The Church, individually and collectively, shares responsibility for ensuring that every church member remains part of the body of Christ.

Membership—In Membership—The board is elected by the members at the time of the regular election of officers. (See pp. 70, 71.) In addition to conference-appointed pastors, the church should elect a representative board that includes the following officers:

Elders
Head deacon
Head deaconess
Treasurer
Clerk
Interest coordinator
Adventist Community Services leader or Dorcas Society leader
Adventist Men’s coordinator
Adventist Youth Ministries director ~~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
Public campus ministries director/coordinator
Publishing ministries coordinator
Religious liberty leader
Sabbath school superintendent

Stewardship ministries leader
Women's ministries leader
Young adults leader

In some cases, depending on the size of the membership, the board may not include all of this list or may add additional members. The pastor appointed by the conference to serve the church always is a member of the board.

Officers—The chairperson of the board is the conference-appointed - No change

Meetings—Because the work of the board is vital to the - No change

~~Work of the Board—1. The most important item on the agenda should be planning the evangelization of~~ Board—The board is responsible to: 1. Ensure that there is an active, ongoing discipleship plan in place, which includes both spiritual nurture and outreach ministries. This is the most important item for the board's attention.

2. Study membership lists and initiate plans for reconnecting (reclaiming) members who have separated from the church.

3. Train church leadership in how to encourage intentional spiritual growth in themselves and others.

4. Evangelize the outreach (missionary) territory of the church. ~~In addition, once~~ Once each quarter an entire meeting should be devoted to plans for evangelism. The board will study conference recommendations for evangelistic programs and methods and how they can be implemented locally. The pastor and the board will initiate and develop plans for public evangelistic meetings, campaigns.

~~2. 5. Coordinating outreach programs of departments. The church board is responsible for coordinating the work of all church departments. Each~~ Coordinate outreach programs for all church departments, although each department develops its plans for outreach within its own sphere. To avoid conflict in ~~timing and competition in securing volunteers~~ timing, competition in securing volunteers, and to achieve maximum beneficial results, coordination is essential. Before completing and announcing plans for any program, each department should submit its plans to the board for approval. The departments also report to the board on the progress and results of their outreach programs. The board may suggest how departmental programs can contribute to the preparation, conduct, and follow-up of a public evangelistic campaign.

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~~3- 6. Encouraging~~ Encourage the personal ministries department to enlist all members and children in some form of personal outreach (missionary) service. Training classes should be conducted in various lines of outreach ministry.

~~4- 7. Encouraging~~ Encourage the interest coordinator to ensure that every interest is personally and promptly followed up by an assigned layperson.

~~5- 8. Encouraging~~ Encourage each department to report at least quarterly to the board and to members at business meetings or in Sabbath meetings in regards to spiritual nurture and evangelism. ~~meetings.~~

~~6- 9. Receiving~~ Receive regular reports. The board should consider details of church business and receive regular reports of the treasurer on the church's finances. The board should study the membership record and inquire into the spiritual standing of all members and provide for visits to sick, discouraged, or backslidden members. Other officers should periodically report.

Committees of the Board—The board should permit no other business - No change

YOU/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM

420-14GN ADVENTIST YOUTH SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONAL
PLAN - *CHURCH MANUAL* NOTES AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Local Church Officers and Organizations, Notes, page 171, #16, to read as follows:

16. Adventist Youth ~~Society~~ Ministries Organizational Plan (see p. 102)—Detailed information regarding the Adventist Youth ~~Society~~ Ministries organizational plan is available from the conference youth ministries director. Each church should study its own youth and family profile, resources, personnel, facilities, and school relationships, developing the best youth ministry in keeping with these factors.

~~In some places another term for~~ Different terms such as “club,” “society,” ~~such as~~ “fellowship” “fellowship.” or “action,” may be selected, but the name “Adventist Youth” should always be used to clearly identify the organization.

YOU/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM

421-14GN YOUTH MINISTRIES RESOURCES - *CHURCH MANUAL*
NOTES AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Local Church Officers and Organizations, Notes, page 171, #17, to read as follows:

17. Adventist Youth Ministries Resources (see p. 105)—Local church officers should first contact their respective conference/mission, union, and division for resources. In addition, the General Conference Youth Ministries website also provides support for all levels of youth ministry at gcyouthministries.org. (see p. 105)—Visit our Web site for many more materials and further information at www.gcyouthministries.org or e-mail youth@gc.adventist.org.

YOU/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM

422-14GN SAMPLE LIST OF CHURCH LEADERS - *CHURCH*
MANUAL NOTES AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Elections, Notes, pages 171 and 172, #1, to read as follows:

1. Sample List of Church Leaders (see p. 108). The nominating committee selects members to serve as officers in a variety of positions. A small church may have a short list of officers. A large church may have a long list of officers. Here is a list that may be considered:

Elder(s)
Deacon(s)
Deaconess(es)
Clerk
Treasurer and assistant(s)
Interest coordinator
Church board
Church school board
Adventist Community Services leader or Dorcas Society leader
Adventist Community Services secretary-treasurer or Dorcas Society secretary-treasurer
~~Adventist Junior Youth Society leader and assistant(s)~~
Adventist Youth ~~Society~~ Ministries director and associate(s)
Adventist Youth ~~Society~~ Ministries sponsor
Adventist Youth ~~Society~~ Ministries secretary-treasurer and assistant

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Adventist Youth ~~Society~~ Ministries music director
Adventist Youth ~~Society~~ Ministries pianist or organist
Adventurer Club director
Ambassador Club director
Bible school coordinator
Children's ministries coordinator
Church chorister or song leader or music coordinator
Church organist or pianist
Communication secretary or communication committee
~~Community Services director~~
~~Doreas Society leader~~
~~Doreas Society secretary-treasurer~~
Education secretary
Family ministries leader(s)
Health ministries leader
Ministry to People With Disabilities coordinator
Pathfinder Club director and deputy director
Personal ministries leader
Personal ministries secretary
Prayer ministries director
Public campus ministries director/coordinator
Publishing ministries coordinator
Religious liberty leader
Sabbath school superintendent(s) and assistant(s)
Sabbath school secretary and assistant(s)
Sabbath school division leaders, including leaders for the adult and extension divisions
Sabbath school Investment secretary
Stewardship ministries leader
Vacation Bible School director
Women's ministries leader
Young adults leader

Additional personnel considered necessary

Home and School Association officers (leader and secretary-treasurer): If only one church supports a school, the church nominating committee makes recommendations to the school board, which then makes the appointments. If more than one church supports a school, the school board conducts the whole process. (See pp. 88, 89.)

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423-14GN ADVENTIST YOUTH SOCIETY RESOURCES - *CHURCH*
MANUAL NOTES AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, Notes, page 177, #9, to read as follows:

9. Adventist Youth ~~Society~~ Ministries Resources (see p. 128)—Resource materials to help Adventist Youth Society leadership are available from the division, union, and conference youth ministries departments. Included in these resource materials is *Youth Ministry Accent*, a quarterly journal published by the General Conference Youth Ministries Department. Available leaflets covering a broad spectrum of topics to help in youth ministry may be secured from the conference youth ministries department and the Adventist Book Center.

YOU/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/AM to AM

424-14GN ADVENTIST JUNIOR YOUTH SOCIETY - *CHURCH*
MANUAL NOTES DELETION

VOTED, To delete the *Church Manual*, Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, Notes, page 177, #10, which read as follows:

10. Adventist Junior Youth Society (see p. 128)—If the AJY is part of the local Adventist school program, each classroom is considered a separate society, with the teacher as the leader and students elected as society officers. Where there is no church school, junior youth should be integrated into the overall youth program with a family-involvement approach.

OGC/ChManSub/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14 to AM-15GCS

425-14GS GENERAL CONFERENCE THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 3, Organization and Authority, page 31, General Conference the Highest Authority, to read as follows:

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General Conference the Highest Authority

In the Church today the General Conference Session, and the General Conference Executive Committee between Sessions, is the highest ecclesiastical authority in the administration of the Church. The General Conference Executive Committee is authorized by its Constitution to create subordinate organizations with authority to carry out their roles. Therefore all subordinate organizations and institutions throughout the Church will recognize the General Conference Session, and the General Conference Executive Committee between Sessions, as the highest ecclesiastical authority, under God, among Seventh-day Adventists.

~~When differences arise in or between churches and conferences or institutions, appeal to the next higher constituent level is proper until it reaches an Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee or the General Conference Session. Between these meetings, the General Conference Executive Committee constitutes the body of final authority on all questions. The committee's decision may be reviewed at a General Conference Session or an Annual Council.~~ When differences arise in or between churches and conferences or institutions, it is proper to appeal to the next higher organization not directly involved in the matter. The decision of the organization to which the matter was referred shall be final unless that organization itself chooses to refer the matter with comment or recommendation to a division or General Conference Executive Committee/General Conference Session. During the interim between sessions, the General Conference Executive Committee at Annual Council shall constitute the body of final authority on all questions where a difference of viewpoint has been referred. Its decisions shall control on controverted points, but at the request of the division executive committee concerned, such a decision may be reviewed at a General Conference Session. When organizations review decisions of other organizations, they do not assume responsibility for the liabilities of any other organization.

“I have often been instructed by the Lord that no man’s judgment should be surrendered to the judgment of any other one man. Never should the mind of one man or the minds of a few men be regarded as sufficient in wisdom and power to control the work and to say what plans shall be followed. But when, in a General Conference, the judgment of the brethren assembled from all parts of the field is exercised, private independence and private judgment must not be stubbornly maintained, but surrendered. Never should a laborer regard as a virtue the persistent maintenance of his position of independence, contrary to the decision of the general body.”— 9T 260.

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TRE/ChManSub/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM-15GCS

428-14GS CHURCH LEADERS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, pages 75 and 76, Church Leaders, to read as follows:

Church Leaders

Occasionally no one possesses the experience and qualifications to serve as an elder. Under such circumstances the church should elect a person to be known as “leader.” In the absence of the pastor or a conference-assigned pastor, the leader is responsible for the services of the church, including business meetings. The leader must either conduct ~~these~~ the church service or arrange for someone else to do so. If the church leader is unable to lead out in the business meeting, the conference should be contacted for assistance.

~~A leader, who is not an ordained elder, may not~~ ~~leader may not preside at any of the church ordinances,~~ administer baptism, conduct the Lord’s Supper, perform the marriage ceremony, or preside at business meetings when members are disciplined. A request should be made to the conference president for an ordained pastor to preside at such meetings.

TED/ChManSub/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM-15GCS

429-14GS COMMUNION SERVICE - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, pages 119 to 122, Communion Service, to read as follows:

Communion Service

The communion service customarily is celebrated once per quarter. The service includes ~~the ordinance of~~ foot-washing followed by the Lord’s Supper. It should be a most sacred and joyous occasion to the congregation, pastor, and elders. The service usually takes place during the worship service but may be scheduled at other times.

~~Ordinance of~~ The Foot-Washing—“Now, having washed the disciples’ feet, He said, ‘I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.’ In these words Christ was not merely enjoining the practice of hospitality. More was meant than the washing of the feet of guests to remove the dust of travel. Christ was here instituting a religious service. By the act of

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our Lord this . . . ceremony was made a consecrated ordinance. It was to be observed by the disciples, that they might ever keep in mind His lessons of humility and service.

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

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

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

The Lord’s Supper—Angels declare that Jesus, the Redeemer of this world, is holy. Likewise, the symbols representing His body and His blood are holy. Since the Lord Himself selected the deeply meaningful symbols of the unleavened bread and unfermented fruit of the vine and used the simplest of means for washing the disciples’ feet, there should be great reluctance to introduce alternative symbols and means, except under emergency conditions, lest the original significance of the service be lost. Likewise in the order of service and the traditional roles played by the pastor, elders, deacons, and deaconesses, there should be caution lest substitution and innovation tend to make common that which is sacred.

The service of the Lord’s Supper is just as holy today as it was when instituted by Jesus Christ. Jesus is still present when this sacred ~~service~~ ordinance is celebrated. “It is at these, His own appointments, that Christ meets His people, and energizes them by His presence.”—DA 656.

Unleavened Bread and Unfermented Wine (Grape Juice)—“Christ is still – No change

A Memorial of the Crucifixion—“As we receive the bread and wine - No change

A Proclamation of the Second Coming—“The Communion service - No change

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Announcing the Communion Service—The communion service may - No change

Conducting the Communion Service—Length of Service—Time is - No change

Who May Participate—The Church practices open communion. All who - No change

Every Member Should Attend—“None should exclude themselves - No change

Who May Conduct the Communion Service—The communion service is to be conducted by an ~~ordained~~ ordained/commissioned pastor or an ordained elder. ~~Deacons, although ordained, cannot~~ Deacons or deaconesses are not permitted to conduct the service.

Communion for Those Who Cannot Attend—If members are ill or - No change

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430-14GS CHURCH ORGANIZATION TODAY - *CHURCH*
MANUAL AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 3, Organization and Authority, pages 28 and 29, Church Organization Today, to read as follows:

Church Organization Today

The Seventh-day Adventist form of governance is representative, which recognizes that authority rests in the membership and is expressed through duly elected representatives at each level of organization, with executive responsibility delegated to representative bodies and officers for the governing of the Church at each separate level. The *Church Manual* applies this principle of representation to the operations of the local congregation. General Conference *Working Policy* addresses how this principle functions in the rest of denominational structure. This form of governance recognizes also that ordination to the ministry is recognized by the Church worldwide.

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

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The present organizational system of the Church resulted from a developing theological understanding of the mission of the Church, membership growth, and the Church's geographic spread. Representatives of conferences met in 1863 to organize the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

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.) 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.

SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM-15GCS

432-14GS LICENSED MINISTERS - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 4, Pastors and Other Church Employees, page 34, Licensed Ministers, to read as follows:

~~Licensed Ministers—To give men~~ Licensed Pastors—To give individuals an opportunity to demonstrate their call to the ministry, especially in the area of soul winning, prospective candidates are granted ~~ministerial~~ pastoral licenses by the conference. The granting of such licenses confers the opportunity to develop the ministerial gift.

Licensed pastors ~~ministers~~ are authorized to preach, to engage in evangelism, to lead out in outreach (missionary) work, and to assist in all church activities.

There are circumstances, however, where it is necessary for the conference to appoint a licensed pastor ~~minister~~ to carry responsibility as a pastor or assistant pastor of a church or group of churches. In order to open the way for a licensed pastor ~~minister~~ to perform certain pastoral functions, the church or group of churches being served must elect the pastor as a local elder. Then, since the right to permit the extension of a licensed pastor's ~~minister's~~ authority rests first with the division executive committee, it must approve the extension by specifically and clearly defining the additional functions licensed pastors ~~ministers~~ may perform. The extended functions are limited only to the church or group of churches where the pastor is assigned and is an elder. After the division committee acts, the conference committee may act. (See p. 74.)

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The conference committee shall not extend the functions of a licensed ~~pastor minister~~ beyond what has been authorized by the division committee. It also shall not authorize a licensed ~~pastor minister~~ to perform the extended functions in any church beyond where the licensed ~~pastor minister~~ is assigned and is an elder. A conference committee action cannot be substituted for church election or ordination to gospel ministry.

SSPM/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM-15GCS

433-14GS COMMUNITY SERVICES/DORCAS SOCIETY LEADER -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, page 98, Community Services/Dorcas Leader, to read as follows:

Adventist Community Services Leader or Dorcas Society Leader—The church elects the Adventist Community Services leader or Dorcas Society leader, assistant leaders (as needed), and secretary-treasurer of Adventist Community Services, which in some areas is known as the Dorcas Society. (See Notes, #14, p. 170.) This organization gathers and prepares clothing, food and other supplies for those in need and works closely with the Adventist Men, deacons, deaconesses, and other church departments in community outreach. Adventist Community Services or Dorcas Society ministry, however, includes more than giving material aid. It focuses on identifying needs and responding with services based on these specific needs. Examples are educational seminars, community development, visiting, counseling, and other services relevant to the community. ~~Community Services/Dorcas Society Leader—The church elects the Community Services/Dorcas Society leader, assistant leaders (as needed), and secretary-treasurer. This organization gathers and prepares clothing, food, and other supplies for those in need and works closely with the deacons and deaconesses. Community Services/Dorcas ministry, however, includes more than giving material aid. It encompasses adult education, visiting, homemaking, home nursing, counseling, and other services.~~

The Adventist Community Services Leader or Dorcas Society Leader is a member of the Personal Ministries Council and the church board. If the church operates a Community Services center, the personal ministries council is its governing committee. The council appoints the director of the center, who is a member of the council as well as the church board. ~~council.~~

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434-14GN ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES - *CHURCH*
MANUAL NOTES ADDITION

VOTED, To add a new section to the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, Notes, page 170, #14, to read as follows:

14. Adventist Community Services (see pp. 98 and 99)—Some territories continue to have an active Dorcas Society and Adventist Men, or have alternate names for social ministry out of the local church that have been officially approved by regional church administrative units. In such cases, the church should elect an Adventist Community Services coordinator (not a director) to coordinate all community services conducted by the local church departments, services, and deacons/deaconesses, which have their individual leaders.

Leaders of Dorcas, Adventist Men, other officially approved local church social ministries organizations, and Adventist Community Services coordinators at the local level participate as members of the Personal Ministries Council under the umbrella of the Personal Ministries Department as stated in this *Church Manual*.

When community services work is newly organized in a territory, it is recommended to follow the Adventist Community Services model, which involves all church members, in a wide array of community services based on identified needs. For more information go to www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org and click on the Adventist Community Services tab.

SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM

435-14GE USE OF “COMMUNITY SERVICES” AND “DORCAS
SOCIETY” - *CHURCH MANUAL* EDITORIAL DIRECTIVE

VOTED, To approve a directive to amend the *Church Manual* where appropriate, by replacing “Community Services,” “Dorcas Society,” or “Community Services and/or Dorcas Society,” with “Adventist Community Services or Dorcas Society.”

SSPM/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM

436-14GN SABBATH SCHOOL AND PERSONAL MINISTRIES
RESOURCES - *CHURCH MANUAL* NOTES AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, Notes, page 170, #13, to read as follows:

13. Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Resources (see pp. 97, 99)— Sabbath ~~School~~ ~~school~~ Bible study guides for various ages (*CQ*, *Cornerstone Connections*, *Real-Time Faith*, *PowerPoints*, *Primary*, *Kindergarten*, and *Beginner*); *In Step with Jesus* (a four-quarter Sabbath School Bible study guide for new members); *Sabbath School Handbook*; *Personal Ministries Handbook*; *Keys for Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Leaders* (a series of leaflets); *Reaching and Winning* (a series of booklets for personal ministries to peoples of various faith systems and other target groups); *Keys to Adventist Community Services* (a leaflet/handbook); *The Sharing* (departmental newsletter); and *Community Services and Urban Ministry Certification Program* (www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/acs_iicm). ~~systems~~; ~~Adventist Community Services Handbook~~; ~~The Sharing~~ (newsletter). For further information, contact your local conference Sabbath school ~~the local conference Sabbath School~~ and personal ministries director. ~~You can also go to www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org or to:~~ Other resources may be found at www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org, GraceLink.net, JuniorPowerPoints.org, RealTimeFaith.net, CornerstoneConnections.net, CQBibleStudy.org, SabbathSchoolU.org, InStepWithJesus.org, or the Sabbath School app can be downloaded on a mobile device. ~~or SabbathSchoolU.org.~~

SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM

437-14GE USE OF “SABBATH SCHOOL” - *CHURCH MANUAL*
EDITORIAL DIRECTIVE

VOTED, To approve a directive to amend the *Church Manual* where appropriate, by replacing “Sabbath school” with “Sabbath School.”

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TED/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM-15GCS

438-14GS RECEIPTS TO MEMBERS (TREASURER) - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8 , Local Church Officers and Organizations, page 83, Receipts to Members, to read as follows:

Receipts to Members—Receipts should be issued promptly for all money received from members, no matter how small the amount, and a strict account of all receipts and payments should be kept by the treasurer. All general offerings not in envelopes should be counted by the treasurer in the presence of another officer, preferably a deacon or deaconess, ~~deacon~~, and a receipt given to such officer.

TED/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC to AM

439-14GN FORM OF SERVICE - *CHURCH MANUAL NOTES*
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, Notes, pages 173 and 174, #3, to read as follows:

3. Form of Service (see p. 118)—As the participants enter and kneel, the congregation should, with bowed heads, implore the presence and blessing of God. A worshipful hush prepares the way for the exercises that follow.

The two main divisions of the worship service are:

- a. The congregational response in praise and - No change
- b. The message from the Word of God.

The one leading the ~~worshippers~~ worshippers into the presence of God with the pastoral prayer ~~is performing perhaps the holiest exercise of the service and, should do so~~ with a sense of awe, ~~should humbly realize~~ realizing its importance. Customarily the person praying kneels facing the congregation, and the congregation, as far as practicable kneeling, in turn faces the individual praying. The prayer should be brief but should include adoration, thanks, and mention of the personal needs of worshippers, as well as of the world field.

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

Special music or a devotional hymn is appropriate.

Then comes what should be one of the most important parts of the worship hour—the spiritual feeding of the flock of God. Blessed results to the glory of God always follow when a congregation is truly fed and feels that “God has visited His people” (Luke 7:16). The one who brings the message should fully sense the sacredness of this work and should be thoroughly prepared.

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

HOPE CHANNEL, INC CONSTITUENCY MEETING

At 4:30 p.m., the Hope Channel, Inc Constituency Meeting was convened, after which the business session of the General Conference Executive Committee was reconvened.

RECOGNITION OF LEADERSHIP

Lisa M Beardsley-Hardy, Director of General Conference Education, and Benjamin D Schoun, General Vice President, presented the General Conference Education Award of Excellence to Niels-Erik A Andreasen, President of Andrews University, in recognition of his leadership and commitment to education.

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ADCOM/ADCOM/PREXAD/GCDO13AC/13AC/133-13GS/BRI/ADCOM/ADCOM/PreC/
SecC/TreC/GCDO14AC/14AC/BRI/14AC to AAS-15GCS

124-14GS FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS - AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists, to read as follows:

Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists

Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed and hold certain fundamental beliefs to be the teaching of the Holy Scriptures. These beliefs, as set forth here, constitute the church's understanding and expression of the teaching of Scripture. Revision of these statements may be expected at a General Conference Session when the church is led by the Holy Spirit to a fuller understanding of Bible truth or finds better language in which to express the teachings of God's Holy Word.

1. The Holy Scriptures

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

2. The Trinity

There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. He God, who is love, is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation. (Gen. 1:26; Deut. 6:4; Isa. 6:8; Matt. 28:19; John 3:16 2 Cor. 1:21, 22; 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2.) (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4 6; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Tim. 1:17; Rev. 14:7.)

Comment [TKB1]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB2]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB3]: This addition attempts to make explicit the principle of *sola scriptura*.

Comment [TKB4]: To avoid a repetitive use of "authoritative." The word "definitive" establishes an understanding of the Bible as its own standard, without implying that we evaluate the Bible's role relative to a human assessment of rationality.

Comment [TKB5]: There is no reference to divine love in this statement about the Godhead. The character of God is at the heart of the cosmic conflict and in the work of Christ.

3. The Father

God the eternal Father is the Creator, Source, Sustainer, and Sovereign of all creation. He is just and holy, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. The qualities and powers exhibited in the Son and the Holy Spirit are also those ~~revelations~~ of the Father. (Gen. 1:1; Deut. 4:35; Ps. 110:1, 4; John 3:16; 14:9; 1 Cor. 15:28; 1 Tim. 1:17; 1 John 4:8; Rev. 4:11.) ~~Rev. 4:11; 1 Cor. 15:28; John 3:16; 1 John 4:8; 1 Tim. 1:17; Ex. 34:6, 7; John 14:9.)~~

Comment [TKB6]: This addition emphasizes the three persons and avoids reading the statement along the lines of modalism (the idea that there is one God who revealed Himself in three different ways; there are not three persons).

4. The Son

God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Through Him all things were created, the character of God is revealed, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and the world is judged. Forever truly God, He became also truly human, man, Jesus the Christ. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived and experienced temptation as a human being, but perfectly exemplified the righteousness and love of God. By His miracles He manifested God's power and was attested as God's promised Messiah. He suffered and died voluntarily on the cross for our sins and in our place, was raised from the dead, and ascended to heaven to minister in the heavenly sanctuary in our behalf. He will come again in glory for the final deliverance of His people and the restoration of all things. (Isa. 53:4-6; Dan. 9:25-27; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-3, 14; 5:22; 10:30; 14:1-3, 9, 13; Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17-19; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:15-19; Heb. 2:9-18; 8:1, 2.) ~~(John 1:1-3, 14; Col. 1:15-19; John 10:30; 14:9; Rom. 6:23; 2 Cor. 5:17-19; John 5:22; Luke 1:35; Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 2:9-18; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4; Heb. 8:1, 2; John 14:13.)~~

Comment [TKB7]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB8]: The addition provides consistency in the use of prepositional phrases in the sentence. It also includes the ascension among the events in the life of Jesus listed in the previous sentences.

5. The Holy Spirit

God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and redemption. He is as much a person as are the Father and the Son. He inspired the writers of Scripture. He filled Christ's life with power. He draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God. Sent by the Father and the Son to be always with His children, He extends spiritual gifts to the church, empowers it to bear witness to Christ, and in harmony with the Scriptures leads it into all truth. (Gen. 1:1, 2; 2 Sam. 23:2; Ps. 51:11; Isa. 61:1; Luke 1:35; 4:18; John 14:16-18, 26; 15:26; 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; 5:3; 10:38; Rom. 5:5; 1 Cor. 12:7-11; 2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Peter 1:21.) ~~(Gen. 1:1, 2; Luke 1:35; 4:18; Acts 10:38; 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:11, 12; Acts 1:8; John 14:16-18, 26; 15:26, 27; 16:7-13.)~~

Comment [TKB9]: The addition makes explicit what is implied in the Statement (the personhood of the Son and the Spirit) and thus removes any possible ambiguity.

6. Creation

God is the Creator of all things. He things, and has revealed in Scripture the authentic and historical account of His creative activity. In six days a recent six-day creation the Lord made

Comment [TKB10]: The article was added for consistency; see # 3.

Comment [TKB11]: This may be the best place to incorporate the historicity of the narrative. We can explore other possibilities, but the impression we have is that if we place it somewhere else within the Statement, we may have to elaborate on it.

Comment [TKB12]: This is the best place to introduce the idea of a recent creation.

“the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them” and rested on the seventh day. “the heaven and the earth” and all living things upon the earth, and rested on the seventh day of that first week. Thus He established the Sabbath as a perpetual memorial of His creative work, performed and completed during six literal days that together with the Sabbath constituted the same unit of time that we call a week today, completed creative work. The first man and woman were made in the image of God as the crowning work of Creation, given dominion over the world, and charged with responsibility to care for it. When the world was finished it was “very good,” declaring the glory of God. (Gen. 1-2; 5; 11; Ex. 20:8-11; Ps. 19:1-6; 33:6, 9; 104; Isa. 45:12; Acts 17:24; Col. 1:16; Heb. 11:3; Rev. 10:6; 14:7.) (~~Gen. 1; 2; Ex. 20:8-11; Ps. 19:1-6; 33:6, 9; 104; Heb. 11:3.~~)

7. The Nature of Humanity ~~Man~~

Man and woman were made in the image of God with individuality, the power and freedom to think and to do. Though created free beings, each is an indivisible unity of body, mind, and spirit, dependent upon God for life and breath and all else. When our first parents disobeyed God, they denied their dependence upon Him and fell from their high position, position under God. The image of God in them was marred and they became subject to death. Their descendants share this fallen nature and its consequences. They are born with weaknesses and tendencies to evil. But God in Christ reconciled the world to Himself and by His Spirit restores in penitent mortals the image of their Maker. Created for the glory of God, they are called to love Him and one another, and to care for their environment. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7, 15; 3; Ps. 8:4-8; 51:5, 10; 58:3; Jer. 17:9; Acts 17:24-28; Rom. 5:12-17; 2 Cor. 5:19, 20; Eph. 2:3; 1 Thess. 5:23; 1 John 3:4; 4:7, 8, 11, 20.) (~~Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7; Ps. 8:4-8; Acts 17:24-28; Gen. 3; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12-17; 2 Cor. 5:19, 20; Ps. 51:10; 1 John 4:7, 8, 11, 20; Gen. 2:15.~~)

8. The Great Controversy

All humanity is now involved in a great controversy between Christ and Satan regarding the character of God, His law, and His sovereignty over the universe. This conflict originated in heaven when a created being, endowed with freedom of choice, in self-exaltation became Satan, God’s adversary, and led into rebellion a portion of the angels. He introduced the spirit of rebellion into this world when he led Adam and Eve into sin. This human sin resulted in the distortion of the image of God in humanity, the disordering of the created world, and its eventual devastation at the time of the worldwide flood, as presented in the historical account of Genesis 1-11. ~~Observed~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~whole~~ ~~creation,~~ this world became the arena of the universal conflict, out of which the God of love will ultimately be vindicated. To assist His people in this controversy, Christ sends the Holy Spirit and the loyal angels to guide, protect, and sustain them in the way of salvation. (Gen. 3; 6-8; Job 1:6-12; Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:12-18; Rom. 1:19-32; 3:4; 5:12-21; 8:19-22; 1 Cor. 4:9; Heb. 1:14; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Peter 3:6;

Comment [TKB13]: The quote is not from Genesis 1:1, but from Exodus 20:11. The reason is that terminology used in Exodus seems to restrict the creative act to what took place during the six days of creation and is not necessarily dealing with the creation of the cosmos. The Bible makes clear that during the creation of the earth, other intelligent beings already existed in the cosmos (Job 38:7). We also believe that sin originated in heaven among the angels before the creation of humans. Therefore our creation statement should reflect this biblical information without developing it. By quoting Exodus instead of Genesis, we leave open the possibility that Genesis 1:1 is dealing with the creation of the cosmos and the creation week is about life on the planet.

Comment [TKB14]: This is already included in the biblical quotation from Exodus.

Comment [TKB15]: We retain the verb “completed” to indicate that the biblical creation account is not describing a still ongoing process.

Comment [TKB16]: The question of a real week is considered to be important, but it is difficult to find a proper place for it and to express it in language that is clear and that does not add too much to the text.

Comment [TKB17]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB18]: This short phrase is redundant. It could also be misunderstood in its present context as suggesting that it was under God that Adam and Eve fell into sin.

Comment [TKB19]: There are a couple of reasons for placing this sentence here. First, this is the only place in the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs in which the flood is mentioned; second, the phrase “worldwide flood” is the equivalent of the originally suggested reading (“and that the flood was global in nature”); and third, Statement #8 takes us back to creation and the fall making it possible to make a reference to Genesis 1-11 and not only to chapters dealing with the flood.

Rev. 12:4-9.) (Rev. 12:4-9; Isa. 14:12-14; Eze. 28:12-18; Gen. 3; Rom. 1:19-32; 5:12-21; 8:19-22; Gen. 6-8; 2 Peter 3:6; 1 Cor. 4:9; Heb. 1:14.)

9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ

In Christ's life of perfect obedience to God's will, His suffering, death, and resurrection, God provided the only means of atonement for human sin, so that those who by faith accept this atonement may have eternal life, and the whole creation may better understand the infinite and holy love of the Creator. This perfect atonement vindicates the righteousness of God's law and the graciousness of His character; for it both condemns our sin and provides for our forgiveness. The death of Christ is substitutionary and expiatory, reconciling and transforming. The **bodily** resurrection of Christ proclaims God's triumph over the forces of evil, and for those who accept the atonement assures their final victory over sin and death. It declares the Lordship of Jesus Christ, before whom every knee in heaven and on earth will bow. (Gen. 3:15; Ps. 22:1; Isa. 53; John 3:16; 14:30; Rom. 1:4; 3:25; 4:25; 8:3, 4; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4, 20-22; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15, 19-21; Phil. 2:6-11; Col. 2:15; 1 Peter 2:21, 22; 1 John 2:2; 4:10.) (John 3:16; Isa. 53; 1 Peter 2:21, 22; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4, 20-22; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15, 19-21; Rom. 1:4; 3:25; 4:25; 8:3, 4; 1 John 2:2; 4:10; Col. 2:15; Phil. 2:6-11.)

Comment [TKB20]: This makes explicit what is already implicit in the statement.

10. The Experience of Salvation

In infinite love and mercy God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might be made the righteousness of God. Led by the Holy Spirit we sense our need, acknowledge our sinfulness, repent of our transgressions, and exercise faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord, Lord and Christ, as Substitute and Example. This **saving faith** ~~faith which receives salvation~~ comes through the divine power of the Word and is the gift of God's grace. Through Christ we are justified, adopted as God's sons and daughters, and delivered from the lordship of sin. Through the Spirit we are born again and sanctified; the Spirit renews our minds, writes God's law of love in our hearts, and we are given the power to live a holy life. Abiding in Him we become partakers of the divine nature and have the assurance of salvation now and in the judgment. (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 45:22; 53; Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 33:11; 36:25-27; Hab. 2:4; Mark 9:23, 24; John 3:3-8, 16; 16:8; Rom. 3:21-26; 8:1-4, 14-17; 5:6-10; 10:17; 12:2; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Gal. 1:4; 3:13, 14, 26; 4:4-7; Eph. 2:4-10; Col. 1:13, 14; Titus 3:3-7; Heb. 8:7-12; 1 Peter 1:23; 2:21, 22; 2 Peter 1:3, 4; Rev. 13:8.) (2 Cor. 5:17-21; John 3:16; Gal. 1:4; 4:4-7; Titus 3:3-7; John 16:8; Gal. 3:13, 14; 1 Peter 2:21, 22; Rom. 10:17; Luke 17:5; Mark 9:23, 24; Eph. 2:5-10; Rom. 3:21-26; Col. 1:13, 14; Rom. 8:14-17; Gal. 3:26; John 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:23; Rom. 12:2; Heb. 8:7-12; Eze. 36:25-27; 2 Peter 1:3, 4; Rom. 8:1-4; 5:6-10.)

Comment [TKB21]: The reason for using the title "Christ" is not clear. The connection between the two Christological titles and the final clause in the sentence ("as Substitute and Example") also needs clarification. The suggested changes resolve both items.

Comment [TKB22]: Proper English punctuation. "Saving faith" is a better option since it is a person that receives salvation and not faith.

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11. Growing in Christ

By His death on the cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the demonic spirits during His earthly ministry has broken their power and made certain their ultimate doom. Jesus' victory gives us victory over the evil forces that still seek to control us, as we walk with Him in peace, joy, and assurance of His love. Now the Holy Spirit dwells within us and empowers us. Continually committed to Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we are set free from the burden of our past deeds. No longer do we live in the darkness, fear of evil powers, ignorance, and meaninglessness of our former way of life. In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His character, communing with Him daily in prayer, feeding on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for worship, and participating in the mission of the Church. We are also called to follow Christ's example by compassionately ministering to the physical, mental, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of humanity. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience. (1 Chron. 29:11; Ps. 1:1, 2; 23:4; 77:11, 12; Matt. 20:25-28; 25:31-46; Luke 10:17-20; John 20:21; Rom. 8:38, 39; 2 Cor. 3:17, 18; Gal. 5:22-25; Eph. 5:19, 20; 6:12-18; Phil. 3:7-14; Col. 1:13, 14; 2:6, 14, 15; 1 Thess. 5:16-18, 23; Heb. 10:25; James 1:27; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18; 1 John 4:4.) (Ps. 1:1, 2; 23:4; 77:11, 12; Col. 1:13, 14; 2:6, 14, 15; Luke 10:17-20; Eph. 5:19, 20; 6:12-18; 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18; 2 Cor. 3:17, 18; Phil. 3:7-14; 1 Thess. 5:16-18; Matt. 20:25-28; John 20:21; Gal. 5:22-25; Rom. 8:38, 39; 1 John 4:4; Heb. 10:25.)

Comment [TKB23]: This addition summarizes a genuine Seventh-day Adventist concern for service to suffering human beings that is not emphasized in the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs and will make it unnecessary to add a new statement of faith on Christian Social Responsibility.

12. The Church

The church is the community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In continuity with the people of God in Old Testament times, we are called out from the world; and we join together for worship, for fellowship, for instruction in the Word, for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, for service to humanity, all mankind, and for the worldwide proclamation of the gospel. The church derives its authority from Christ, who is the incarnate Word revealed in the Scriptures, ~~Word, and from the Scriptures, which are the written Word.~~ The church is God's family; adopted by Him as children, its members live on the basis of the new covenant. The church is the body of Christ, a community of faith of which Christ Himself is the Head. The church is the bride for whom Christ died that He might sanctify and cleanse her. At His return in triumph, He will present her to Himself a glorious church, the faithful of all the ages, the purchase of His blood, not having spot or wrinkle, but holy and without blemish. (Gen. 12:1-3; Exod. 19:3-7; Matt. 16:13-20; 18:18; 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38-42; 7:38; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:22, 23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11; 5:23-27; Col. 1:17, 18; 1 Peter 2:9.) (Gen. 12:3; Acts 7:38; Eph. 4:11-15; 3:8-11; Matt. 28:19, 20; 16:13-20; 18:18; Eph. 2:19-22; 1:22, 23; 5:23-27; Col. 1:17, 18.)

Comment [TKB24]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB25]: The sentence implies that there are two sources of authority for the Church, namely Christ and the Scripture. But what we know about Christ is what the Scripture says or has revealed to us. The revision seeks to clarify this point.

Comment [TKB26]: This clause is now redundant.

13. The Remnant and Its Mission

The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. This proclamation is symbolized by the three angels of Revelation 14; it coincides with the work of judgment in heaven and results in a work of repentance and reform on earth. Every believer is called to have a personal part in this worldwide witness. (Dan. 7:9-14; Isa. 1:9; 11:11; Jer. 23:3; Mic. 2:12; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Peter 1:16-19; 4:17; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Jude 3, 14; Rev. 12:17; 14:6-12; 18:1-4.) (~~Rev. 12:17; 14:6-12; 18:1-4; 2 Cor. 5:10; Jude 3, 14; 1 Peter 1:16-19; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Rev. 21:1-14.~~)

14. Unity in the Body of Christ

The church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures we share the same faith and hope, and reach out in one witness to all. This unity has its source in the oneness of the triune God, who has adopted us as His children. (Ps. 133:1; Matt. 28:19, 20; John 17:20-23; Acts 17:26, 27; Rom. 12:4, 5; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 5:16, 17; Gal. 3:27-29; Eph. 2:13-16; 4:3-6, 11-16; Col. 3:10-15.) (~~Rom. 12:4, 5; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; Matt. 28:19, 20; Ps. 133:1; 2 Cor. 5:16, 17; Acts 17:26, 27; Gal. 3:27, 29; Col. 3:10-15; Eph. 4:14-16; 4:1-6; John 17:20-23.~~)

15. Baptism

By baptism we confess our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and testify of our death to sin and of our purpose to walk in newness of life. Thus we acknowledge Christ as Lord and Saviour, become His people, and are received as members by His church. Baptism is a symbol of our union with Christ, the forgiveness of our sins, and our reception of the Holy Spirit. It is by immersion in water and is contingent on an affirmation of faith in Jesus and evidence of repentance of sin. It follows instruction in the Holy Scriptures and acceptance of their teachings. (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38; 16:30-33; 22:16; Rom. 6:1-6; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12, 13.) (~~Rom. 6:1-6; Col. 2:12, 13; Acts 16:30-33; 22:16; 2:38; Matt. 28:19, 20.~~)

16. The Lord's Supper

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

17. Spiritual Gifts and Ministries

God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts ~~which~~ that each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity. Given by the agency of the Holy Spirit, who apportions to each member as He wills, the gifts provide all abilities and ministries needed by the church to fulfill its divinely ordained functions. According to the Scriptures, these gifts include such ministries as faith, healing, prophecy, proclamation, teaching, administration, reconciliation, compassion, and self-sacrificing service and charity for the help and encouragement of people. Some members are called of God and endowed by the Spirit for functions recognized by the church in pastoral, evangelistic, ~~apostolic,~~ and teaching ministries particularly needed to equip the members for service, to build up the church to spiritual maturity, and to foster unity of the faith and knowledge of God. When members employ these spiritual gifts as faithful stewards of God's varied grace, the church is protected from the destructive influence of false doctrine, grows with a growth that is from God, and is built up in faith and love. (Acts 6:1-7; Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:7-11, 27, 28; Eph. 4:8, 11-16; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 1 Peter 4:10, 11.) (~~Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:9-11, 27, 28; Eph. 4:8, 11-16; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 1 Peter 4:10, 11.~~)

18. The Gift of Prophecy

~~One~~ The Scriptures testify that one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and we believe it was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White. ~~As the Lord's messenger, her~~ Her writings speak with prophetic authority and provide comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction to the church. ~~are a continuing and authoritative source of truth which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction.~~ They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested. (Num. 12:6; 2 Chron. 20:20; Amos 3:7; Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:14-21; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 12:17; 19:10; 22:8, 9.) (~~Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:14-21; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 12:17; 19:10.~~)

Comment [TKB27]: Editorial change based on English usage.

Comment [TKB28]: If this term is retained, it would need to be clearly defined or it could be misunderstood.

Comment [TKB29]: This addition makes clear that the Church has recognized the manifestation of the biblical gift of prophecy in the ministry of Ellen G. White.

Comment [TKB30]: This addition makes clear that the church has recognized the manifestation of the biblical gift of prophecy in the ministry of Ellen G. White.

Comment [TKB31]: The suggested changes seek to avoid giving the impression that Ellen G. White and the Bible are equivalent sources of truth. It has also been indicated that the term "source" is difficult to translate into some languages without conveying that idea that her writings are like the Bible.

19. The Law of God

The great principles of God's law are embodied in the Ten Commandments and exemplified in the life of Christ. They express God's love, will, and purposes concerning human conduct and relationships and are binding upon all people in every age. These precepts are the basis of God's covenant with His people and the standard in God's judgment. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit they point out sin and awaken a sense of need for a Saviour. Salvation is all of grace and not of works, ~~but its fruitage~~ and its fruit is obedience to the Commandments. This obedience develops Christian character and results in a sense of well-being. It is ~~an~~ evidence of our love for the Lord and our concern for our fellow human beings. ~~men~~. The obedience of faith demonstrates the power of Christ to transform lives, and therefore strengthens Christian witness. (Exod. 20:1-17; Deut. 28:1-14; Ps. 19:7-14; 40:7, 8; Matt. 5:17-20; 22:36-40; John 14:15; 15:7-10; Rom. 8:3, 4; Eph. 2:8-10; Heb. 8:8-10; 1 John 2:3; 5:3; Rev. 12:17; 14:12.) (~~Ex. 20:1-17; Ps. 40:7, 8; Matt. 22:36-40; Deut. 28:1-14; Matt. 5:17-20; Heb. 8:8-10; John 15:7-10; Eph. 2:8-10; 1 John 5:3; Rom. 8:3, 4; Ps. 19:7-14.~~)

Comment [TKB32]: The preposition "but" could be understood as antithetical (as expressing an idea that is fundamentally the opposite of the previous one). The conjunction "and" indicates complementarity (obedience is the evidence/fruit of salvation).

Comment [TKB33]: Upgrading language

Comment [TKB34]: Archaic use of article

Comment [TKB35]: Inclusive language

20. The Sabbath

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

Comment [TKB36]: Upgrading language

21. Stewardship

We are God's stewards, entrusted by Him with time and opportunities, abilities and possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We are responsible to Him for their proper use. We acknowledge God's ownership by faithful service to Him and our fellow human beings. ~~men~~, and by returning ~~tithes~~ tithe and giving offerings for the proclamation of His gospel and the support and growth of His church. Stewardship is a privilege given to us by God for nurture in love and the victory over selfishness and covetousness. ~~The steward rejoices~~ Stewards

Comment [TKB37]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB38]: The plural "tithes" could be read as including the second tithe.

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rejoice in the blessings that come to others as a result of his their faithfulness. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15; 1 Chron. 29:14; Haggai 1:3-11; Mal. 3:8-12; Matt. 23:23; Rom. 15:26, 27; 1 Cor. 9:9-14; 2 Cor. 8:1-15; 9:7.) (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15; 1 Chron. 29:14; Haggai 1:3-11; Mal. 3:8-12; 1 Cor. 9:9-14; Matt. 23:23; 2 Cor. 8:1-15; Rom. 15:26, 27.)

Comment [TKB39]: Inclusive language and consistency of using the plural in the Fundamental Beliefs.

22. Christian Behavior

We are called to be a godly people who think, feel, and act in harmony with the biblical principles in all aspects of personal and social life. ~~principles of heaven.~~ For the Spirit to recreate in us the character of our Lord we involve ourselves only in those things ~~which~~ that will produce Christlike purity, health, and joy in our lives. This means that our amusement and entertainment should meet the highest standards of Christian taste and beauty. While recognizing cultural differences, our dress is to be simple, modest, and neat, befitting those whose true beauty does not consist of outward adornment but in the imperishable ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit. It also means that because our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, we are to care for them intelligently. Along with adequate exercise and rest, we are to adopt the most healthful diet possible and abstain from the unclean foods identified in the Scriptures. Since alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs and narcotics are harmful to our bodies, we are to abstain from them as well. Instead, we are to engage in whatever brings our thoughts and bodies into the discipline of Christ, who desires our wholesomeness, joy, and goodness. (Gen. 7:2; Exod. 20:15; Lev. 11:1-47; Ps. 106:3; Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; 10:31; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 10:5; Eph. 5:1-21; Phil. 2:4; 4:8; 1 Tim. 2:9, 10; Titus 2:11, 12; 1 Peter 3:1-4; 1 John 2:6; 3 John 2.) (Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 John 2:6; Eph. 5:1-21; Phil. 4:8; 2 Cor. 10:5; 6:14-7:1; 1 Peter 3:1-4; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; 10:31; Lev. 11:1-47; 3 John 2.)

Comment [TKB40]: Questions have been raised about the meaning of the phrase "principles of heaven." The change underlines the biblical foundation of the Statement and removes unnecessary ambiguities.

Comment [TKB41]: This addition seeks to clarify that Christian behavior does not only have to do with health, dressing, and adornment but also with our interaction with others in the marketplace, in business, etc., thus promoting honesty, integrity, fairness in all we do.

Comment [TKB42]: Editorial change based on English usage.

23. Marriage and the Family

Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship. For the Christian a marriage commitment is to God as well as to the spouse, and should be entered into only between a man and a woman partners who share a common faith. Mutual love, honor, respect, and responsibility are the fabric of this relationship, which is to reflect the love, sanctity, closeness, and permanence of the relationship between Christ and His church. Regarding divorce, Jesus taught that the person who divorces a spouse, except for fornication, and marries another, commits adultery. Although some family relationships may fall short of the ideal, ~~marriage partners~~ a man and a woman who fully commit themselves to each other in Christ ~~through marriage~~ may achieve loving unity through the guidance of the Spirit and the nurture of the church. God blesses the family and intends that its members shall assist each other toward complete maturity. Increasing family closeness is one of the earmarks of the final gospel message. Parents are to bring up their children to love and obey the Lord. By their example and their words they are to teach them that Christ is a loving, tender, and caring guide ~~loving disciplinarian, ever tender and caring,~~ who wants them to

Comment [TKB43]: The term "partners" and the phrase "marriage partners" could be misused by those promoting homosexuality. The revision removes any ambiguity.

Comment [TKB44]: The term "partners" and the phrase "marriage partners" could be misused by those promoting homosexuality. The revision removes any ambiguity.

Comment [TKB45]: The phrase "through marriage" reintroduced the term "marriage" deleted from the previous line.

Comment [TKB46]: Used to be the last sentence.

Comment [TKB47]: The English term "disciplinarian" has undergone some change in meaning, giving to the sentence a negative tone. The additions aim at correcting this.

become members of His body, the family of God which embraces both single and married persons. God. Increasing family closeness is one of the earmarks of the final gospel message. (Gen. 2:18-25; Exod. 20:12; Deut. 6:5-9; Prov. 22:6; Mal. 4:5, 6; Matt. 5:31, 32; 19:3-9, 12; Mark 10:11, 12; John 2:1-11; 1 Cor. 7:7, 10, 11; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4.) (~~Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:3-9; John 2:1-11; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:21-33; Matt. 5:31, 32; Mark 10:11, 12; Luke 16:18; 1 Cor. 7:10, 11; Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:1-4; Deut. 6:5-9; Prov. 22:6; Mal. 4:5, 6.~~)

Comment [TKB48]: This addition acknowledges that single church members are part of the family of God and as valuable to the church as married couples.

Comment [TKB49]: The addition made in the previous sentence closes well the paragraph making it necessary to move the last sentence to lines 20 and 21, where it seems to fit better.

24. Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary

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

Comment [TKB50]: Editorial change based on English usage.

Comment [TKB51]: Inclusive language

Comment [TKB52]: The statement does not mention the typological significance of the work of the high priest in the holy and most holy places of the earthly sanctuary. These additions make the connections clear.

Comment [TKB53]: The statement does not mention the typological significance of the work of the high priest in the holy and most holy places of the earthly sanctuary. These additions make the connections clear.

25. The Second Coming of Christ

The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the church, the grand climax of the gospel. The Saviour's coming will be literal, personal, visible, and worldwide. When He returns, the righteous dead will be resurrected, and together with the righteous living will be glorified and taken to heaven, but the unrighteous will die. The almost complete fulfillment of most lines of prophecy, together with the present condition of the world, indicates that Christ's coming is near. ~~Christ's coming is imminent.~~ The time of that event has not been revealed, and we are therefore

Comment [TKB54]: It is better to use the biblical term "near."

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exhorted to be ready at all times. (Matt. 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:1-6; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2:8; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28; Rev. 1:7; 14:14-20; 19:11-21.) (~~Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; Matt. 24:14; Rev. 1:7; Matt. 24:43, 44; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2:8; Rev. 14:14-20; 19:11-21; Matt. 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 Thess. 5:1-6.~~)

26. Death and Resurrection

The wages of sin is death. But God, who alone is immortal, will grant eternal life to His redeemed. Until that day death is an unconscious state for all people. When Christ, who is our life, appears, the resurrected righteous and the living righteous will be glorified and caught up to meet their Lord. The second resurrection, the resurrection of the unrighteous, will take place a thousand years later. (Job 19:25-27; Ps. 146:3, 4; Eccl. 9:5, 6, 10; Dan. 12:2, 13; Isa. 25:8; John 5:28, 29; 11:11-14; Rom. 6:23, 16; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; Col. 3:4; 1 Thess. 4:13-17; 1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 20:1-10.) (~~Rom. 6:23; 1 Tim. 6:15, 16; Eccl. 9:5, 6; Ps. 146:3, 4; John 11:11-14; Col. 3:4; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:13-17; John 5:28, 29; Rev. 20:1-10.~~)

27. The Millennium and the End of Sin

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

28. The New Earth

On the new earth, in which righteousness dwells, God will provide an eternal home for the redeemed and a perfect environment for everlasting life, love, joy, and learning in His presence. For here God Himself will dwell with His people, and suffering and death will have passed away. The great controversy will be ended, and sin will be no more. All things, animate and inanimate, will declare that God is love; and He shall reign forever. Amen. (Isa. 35; 65:17-25; Matt. 5:5; 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 11:15; 21:1-7; 22:1-5.) (~~2 Peter 3:13; Isa. 35; 65:17-25; Matt. 5:5; Rev. 21:1-7; 22:1-5; 11:15.~~)

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WOMEN'S MINISTRIES BIBLE EMPHASIS

Heather-Dawn K Small, Director of General Conference Women's Ministries, presented a study Bible for women, published by the Women's Ministries department. Copies of the Bible were presented to Nancy Wilson, the female members of the General Conference Committee, and the wives of the division presidents. Ted N C Wilson, President of the General Conference, offered prayer for the women of the Church and for the distribution of the Bible.

FAMILY MINISTRIES DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

Willie and Elaine Oliver, Director and Associate Director of General Conference Family Ministries, presented their departmental report. They presented the Family Ministries vision and objectives and resources for evangelism with Mission to the Families in the Cities; leadership training with the Leadership Certification Program; and nurture and retention with Revival and Reformation, *Building Family Memories*, and a video program called, "Real Family Talk with Willie and Elaine Oliver."

VOTED, To record receipt of the Family Ministries report.

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION REPORT

Jairyong Lee, President of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, presented a video report on initiatives in the Division, including centers of influence which feed the elderly and teach English, churches for migrant workers, nursing homes and hospitals, restaurants and fitness centers.

Prayer was offered by G T Ng, Secretary of the General Conference.

Benjamin D Schoun, Chair
Harald Wollan, Secretary
John H Thomas, Secretary
Myron A Iseminger, Editorial Secretary
Wendy B Trim, Recording Secretary

ANNUAL COUNCIL OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 14, 2014, 8:00 a.m.

DEVOTIONAL

The devotional message entitled “Mission, Hope, and Healing” was presented by Peter N Landless, Director of Health Ministries.

Michael L Ryan, chair, called to order the ninth session of the 2014 Annual Council.

Prayer was offered by a Special Guest from China.

“IT’S TIME”—SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

Barry D and Julie Oliver gave a report detailing the work in the cities of the South Pacific Division.

Prayer was offered by Frank Artavia, Laymember from the South Central American Union Conference in the Inter-American Division.

14AC to MLR

THEOLOGY OF ORDINATION—LIMITING SPEECHES

VOTED, To limit speeches on the topic of the Theology of Ordination to three minutes.

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THEOLOGY OF ORDINATION

INTRODUCTION

Artur A Stele, General Vice President, introduced the subject of the theology of ordination.

BRIEF HISTORY

Ted N C Wilson, President of the General Conference, gave a history of the appointment and work of the Theology of Ordination Study Committee. The final report of the committee was presented and handed out. The process leading to the final recommendation was explained. This recommendation will be shared and discussed this afternoon.

PRAYER TIME

Committee members got into groups of two or three for prayer, concluded by Ramesh Y Jadhav, President of the Western India Union Section in the Southern Asia Division.

REVIEW OF THEOLOGY OF ORDINATION STUDY COMMITTEE

Artur A Stele outlined the process by which the Theology of Ordination Study Committee completed their work.

TOSC/130-13GS/EOM/ADCOM/PreC/GCDO14AC/14AC to AAS-15GCS

123-14GS CONSENSUS STATEMENT ON A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST THEOLOGY OF ORDINATION

VOTED, To receive and endorse the document, “Consensus Statement on a Seventh-day Adventist Theology of Ordination,” which reads as follows:

In a world alienated from God, the Church is composed of those whom God has reconciled to Himself and to each other. Through the saving work of Christ they are united to Him by faith through baptism (Eph 4:4-6), thus becoming a royal priesthood whose mission is to “proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Pet 2:9, NKJV). Believers are given the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor 5:18-20), called and enabled through the power of the Spirit and the gifts He bestows on them to carry out the Gospel Commission (Matt 28:18-20).

While all believers are called to use their spiritual gifts for ministry, the Scriptures identify certain specific leadership positions that were accompanied by the Church's public endorsement for persons who meet the biblical qualifications (Num 11:16-17; Acts 6:1-6; 13:1-3; 14:23; 1 Tim 3:1-12; Titus 1:5-9). Several such endorsements are shown to involve "the laying on of hands." English versions of the Scriptures use the word *ordain* to translate many different Greek and Hebrew words having the basic idea of *select* or *appoint* that describe the placement of these persons in their respective offices. Over the course of Christian history the term *ordination* has acquired meanings beyond what these words originally implied. Against such a backdrop, Seventh-day Adventists understand ordination, in a biblical sense, as the action of the Church in publicly recognizing those whom the Lord has called and equipped for local and global Church ministry.

Aside from the unique role of the apostles, the New Testament identifies the following categories of ordained leaders: the elder/supervising elder (Acts 14:23; Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Tim 3:2-7; 4:14; 2 Tim 4:1-5; 1 Pet 5:1) and the deacon (Phil 1:1; 1 Tim 3:8-10). While most elders and deacons ministered in local settings, some elders were itinerant and supervised greater territory with multiple congregations, which may reflect the ministry of individuals such as Timothy and Titus (1 Tim 1:3-4; Titus 1:5).

In the act of ordination, the Church confers representative authority upon individuals for the specific work of ministry to which they are appointed (Acts 6:1-3; 13:1-3; 1 Tim 5:17; Titus 2:15). These may include representing the Church; proclaiming the gospel; administering the Lord's Supper and baptism; planting and organizing churches; guiding and nurturing members; opposing false teachings; and providing general service to the congregation (cf. Acts 6:3; 20:28-29; 1 Tim 3:2, 4-5; 2 Tim 1:13-14; 2:2; 4:5; Titus 1:5, 9). While ordination contributes to Church order, it neither conveys special qualities to the persons ordained nor introduces a kingly hierarchy within the faith community. The biblical examples of ordination include the giving of a charge, the laying on of hands, fasting and prayer, and committing those set apart to the grace of God (Deut 3:28; Acts 6:6; 14:26; 15:40).

Ordained individuals dedicate their talents to the Lord and to His Church for a lifetime of service. The foundational model of ordination is Jesus appointing the twelve apostles (Matt 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16), and the ultimate model of Christian ministry is the life and work of our Lord, who came not to be served but to serve (Mark 10:45; Luke 22:25-27; John 13:1-17).

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THEOLOGY OF ORDINATION

PRAYER TIME

Committee members got into groups of two or three for prayer, concluded by Ron Carlson, President of the Kansas-Nebraska Conference in the North American Division.

INTRODUCTION OF THEOLOGY OF ORDINATION STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Artur A Stele introduced the presenters of the statements of possible ways forward.

WAY FORWARD #1

Clinton L Wahlen, Associate Director of the Biblical Research Institute, presented a possible way forward that did not allow for the ordination of women.

WAY FORWARD #2

Carl P Cosaert, Professor of Biblical Studies at Walla Walla University, presented a possible way forward that allows for the ordination of women.

Prayer was offered by Donna Jackson, Ministerial Spouse Association Leader/Assistant Field Secretary for the North American Division.

Michael L Ryan, Chair
Rosa T Banks, Secretary
Myron A Iseminger, Editorial Secretary
Tamara K Boward, Recording Secretary

ANNUAL COUNCIL OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 14, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

Michael L Ryan, Chair, called to order the tenth session of the 2014 Annual Council.

Prayer was offered by Nathaniel M Walemba, Secretary of the East-Central Africa Division.

“IT’S TIME”—INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

Israel J Leito, President of the Inter-American Division, presented a video report on the Mission to the Cities initiatives in the Inter-American Division.

Marlene J Muller Bulich, Lay Member from the South America Division, offered a prayer for the Inter-American Division.

THEOLOGY OF ORDINATION

WAY FORWARD #3

Nicholas Miller, Professor of Church History at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, presented a possible way forward that allows for each division to determine whether to allow ordination of women in its territory.

THEOLOGY OF ORDINATION STUDY COMMITTEE REPORT

VOTED, To receive the Theology of Ordination Study Committee Report.

Committee members broke into small groups for prayer, concluded by Audrey E Andersson, Secretary of the Trans-European Division.

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PREXAD/GCDO14AC/14AC to TNCW-15GCS

155-14GS THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF MINISTERIAL ORDINATION

VOTED, To send to the 2015 General Conference Session, the document, “Theology and Practice of Ministerial Ordination,” which reads as follows:

THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF MINISTERIAL ORDINATION

INTRODUCTION

Seventh-day Adventists believe that the gospel commission is addressed to all followers of Jesus Christ. As an expression of discipleship and engagement in the gospel commission, men and women have held important leadership roles in the life of the Seventh-day Adventist Church at all levels of denominational structure. Since the late 1960s much attention has been focused on the role of women in leadership positions requiring ordination. Several General Conference-appointed commissions¹ as well as individual authors have studied this question from the standpoint of theology, ecclesiology and mission.

The General Conference Executive Committee voted in 1973 that continued study be given to the “theological soundness of the election of women to local church offices which require ordination... and that in areas receptive to such action, there be continued recognition of the appropriateness of appointing women to pastoral-evangelistic work...”² The 1974 Annual Council reaffirmed sections of the 1973 action and added its opinion that “...in the interest of world unity of the church, no move be made in the direction of ordaining women to the gospel ministry.”³

General Conference Sessions have also expressed decisions regarding the role of women in church work. The 1985 Session urged that “‘affirmative action’ for the involvement of women in the work of the church be a priority... and to request leaders to use their executive influence to open to women all aspects of ministry in the church that do not require ordination.”⁴

¹ Council on the Role of Women in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Camp Mohaven, Danville, Ohio, September 16-19, 1973; Committee on Role of Women in the Church, Washington, DC, March 26-28, 1985; Commission on the Role of Women in the Church, Cohutta Springs, Georgia, July 12-18, 1989; Theology of Ordination Study Committee met four times in 2013-2014.

² 1973 Autumn Council of the General Conference Committee

³ 1974 Annual Council of the General Conference Committee

⁴ “Session Actions”, *Adventist Review*, July 11, 1985, p.20

The 1990 Session, upon recommendation of the 1989 Annual Council, accepted a report and recommendations from the Role of Women Commission. In its report the Commission stated that it “does not have a consensus as to whether or not the Scriptures and the writings of Ellen G. White explicitly advocate or deny the ordination of women to pastoral ministry... Further in view of the wide-spread lack of support for the ordination of women to the gospel ministry in the world church and in view of the possible risk of disunity, dissension, and diversion from the mission of the church, we do not approve ordination of women to the gospel ministry.”⁵

The 1995 Session denied a request from the North American Division that each division might be given “the right to authorize the ordination of individuals within its territory in harmony with established policies. In addition, where circumstances do not render it inadvisable, a division may authorize the ordination of qualified individuals without regard to gender.”⁶

During the 2010 General Conference Session a delegate requested an official Church study of ordination. In response to this request, General Conference administration informed the Session of its commitment “to establishing a process to review the subject of ordination and will report back to Annual Council during this quinquennium.”⁷

Consequently, the General Conference Administrative Committee suggested a process of study for the division Biblical Research Committees and appointed a Theology of Ordination Study Committee. Committee membership included more than 100 persons of both genders serving the Church as theologians, pastors, administrators and laypersons. As in previous commissions, the Theology of Ordination Study Committee did not arrive at a consensus regarding a biblical position or Ellen G White’s counsel on the matter of whether or not ministerial ordination should be gender inclusive. Diverse interpretations of Bible passages give rise to firm convictions in favor of or in opposition to the ordination of women to gospel ministry.

However, the commission did reach a high degree of accord concerning a biblical theology of ordination.⁸ This statement summarizes several important aspects of ordination as practiced in the early Church and recorded in the New Testament. Two foundational concepts in this Statement are: 1) that “Seventh-day Adventists understand *ordination*, in a biblical sense, as the action of the Church in publicly recognizing those whom the Lord has called and equipped for local and global Church ministry”, and 2) that “While ordination contributes to Church order,

⁵ “Session Actions”, *Adventist Review*, July 13, 1990 p.15

⁶ “Session Actions”, *Adventist Review*, July 11, 1995, p.30

⁷ In “Fourteenth Business Meeting” on July 2, 2010, *Adventist Review*, July 8-22, 2010 p.34

⁸ “Consensus Statement on the Theology of Ordination”, Theology of Ordination Study Committee Report, June 2014, p.21-22

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it neither conveys special qualities to the person nor introduces a kingly hierarchy within the faith community.”

The proceedings of the Theology of Ordination Study Committee and division-appointed Biblical Research Committees provided opportunity for a global conversation in the Church regarding its understanding and practice of ordination. The Theology of Ordination Study Committee’s report⁹ was presented to the General Conference Executive Committee at the 2014 Annual Council. This report included theological and hermeneutical rationales for conclusions on both sides of the question. The Committee suggested three ways forward but did not make a consensus recommendation concerning the practice of ordination in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Differing interpretations of the Bible on this matter and conscientious convictions based on those interpretations may be found in virtually all areas of the world. As a result, the question becomes one of how Church members will live in harmony and unity while acknowledging the presence of differing views on a variety of issues.

Recognizing the importance of this question with respect to understanding the Bible, the multinational and multicultural nature of the Church and its mission, and the biblical example¹⁰ of addressing differences that do not directly involve fundamental beliefs, the General Conference Executive Committee chose to again call for guidance from the global Church. The decisions of the Church in a General Conference Session are recognized as the will of the Church. Ellen G White affirmed this view as follows: “I have been shown that no man’s judgment should be surrendered to the judgment of any one man. But when the judgment of the General Conference, which is the highest authority that God has upon the earth, is exercised, private independence and private judgment must not be maintained, but be surrendered.”¹¹

REQUEST TO THE 2015 GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION

WHEREAS, The unity for which Jesus prayed is vitally important to the witness of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and;

WHEREAS, The Seventh-day Adventist Church seeks to engage every member in its worldwide mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ among people from every nation, culture and ethnicity, and;

⁹ The Theology of Ordination Study Committee report is available at: www.adventistarchives.org/final-tosc-report.pdf

¹⁰ See Acts chapter 15 on how the early church dealt with the tension regarding circumcision.

¹¹ Ellen G White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol 3, p.492

WHEREAS, Various groups appointed by the General Conference and its divisions have carefully studied the Bible and Ellen G White writings with respect to the ordination of women and have not arrived at consensus as to whether ministerial ordination for women is unilaterally affirmed or denied, and;

WHEREAS, The Seventh-day Adventist Church affirms that “God has ordained that the representatives of His Church from all parts of the earth, when assembled in a General Conference Session, shall have authority”¹²,

THEREFORE, The General Conference Executive Committee requests delegates in their sacred responsibility to God at the 2015 General Conference Session to respond to the following question:

After your prayerful study on ordination from the Bible, the writings of Ellen G White, and the reports of the study commissions, and;

After your careful consideration of what is best for the Church and the fulfillment of its mission,

Is it acceptable for division executive committees, as they may deem it appropriate in their territories, to make provision for the ordination of women to the gospel ministry? Yes or No

Closing prayer was offered by Bertil A Wiklander, Retired President of the Trans-European Division, and Matthew A Bediako, Retired Secretary of the General Conference.

Michael L Ryan, Chair
G Alexander Bryant, Secretary
Myron A Iseminger, Editorial Secretary
Wendy B Trim, Recording Secretary

¹² Seventh-day Adventist *Church Manual*, 18th edition, p.18 quoting from Ellen G White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol 9, p. 261

ANNUAL COUNCIL OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 15, 2014, 8:00 a.m.

DEVOTIONAL

The devotional message entitled “God Still Opens Doors” was presented by Robert Costa, Associate Secretary of the Ministerial Association.

Artur A Steele, chair, called to order the eleventh session of the 2014 Annual Council.

Prayer was offered by Rainer Wanitschek, President of the South German Union Conference in the Inter-European Division.

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY CONSTITUENCY MEETING

At 9:10 am, the Oakwood University constituency meeting was convened, after which the business session of the General Conference Executive Committee was reconvened.

“IT’S TIME”—TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION

Raafat A Kamal, President of the Trans-European Division, reported on the work in London, England, which is being done as a part of the Mission to the Cities initiative.

CHURCH AMBASSADOR: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR
ALL WHO REPRESENT THE CHURCH AND ITS
INSTITUTIONS—BOOK PRESENTATION

John Graz, Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, presented the book, *Church Ambassador: A Practical Guide for All Who Represent the Church and Its Institutions*, to Ted N C Wilson, President of the General Conference. Graz stressed the importance of training members to become church ambassadors.

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GRAZ, JOHN—APPRECIATION

Appreciation was expressed to John Graz, Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, who will be retiring next year.

Prayer was offered for John Graz, as he looks forward to retirement, by Ted N C Wilson, President of the General Conference.

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

Ella S Simmons, General Vice President of the General Conference, shared three major priorities of the International Board of Education

1. Creating a plan for achieving a worldwide system for Seventh-day Adventist education.
2. Researching Seventh-day Adventist education.
3. Providing resources for Seventh-day Adventist education.

ADVENTIST MISSION REPORT

Gary D Krause, Associate Secretary of the General Conference and Director of Adventist Mission, reported on how the work of Adventist Mission and the work of the Church needs to focus on church planting. The associate directors of Adventist Mission shared the various projects of the department.

ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY MEMBER MEETING

At 11:34 am, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency member meeting was convened, after which the business session of the General Conference Executive Committee was reconvened.

GEOSCIENCE RESEARCH INSTITUTE REPORT

L James Gibson, Director of the Geoscience Research Institute, explained the work of the Geoscience Research Institute, which is to research questions of faith and science and share information in public seminars and publications.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES REPORT

Linda Mei Lin Koh, Director of Children's Ministries, presented a new book, *Celebrations! Healthy Inside and Out!* and *A Musical Journey CD-Book*. Several new available resources were passed out to members of the General Conference Executive Committee.

VOTED, To accept the report of Children's Ministries.

ADVENTIST REVIEW POSTER

William M Knott, Editor of the *Adventist Review*, presented the new poster published by the *Adventist Review*. Copies were passed out to members of the General Conference Executive Committee.

Prayer was offered by David Nommik, President of the Baltic Union Conference in the Trans-European Division.

Artur A Stele, Chair
Agustin Galicia, Secretary
Myron A Iseminger, Editorial Secretary
Tamara K Boward, Recording Secretary

ANNUAL COUNCIL OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 15, 2014, 1:30 p.m.

Ted N C Wilson, chair, called to order the twelfth session of the 2014 Annual Council.

Prayer was offered by Nepthali Manez, President of the North Philippine Union Conference in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division.

ADCOM/ADCOM/14AC to AG-15GCS

147-14GS SOUTH CENTRAL AMERICAN UNION CONFERENCE—
REORGANIZATION

RECOMMENDED, To reorganize the South Central American Union Conference in the Inter-American Division into two union missions, effective January 1, 2015, as follows:

1. The Panama Union Mission with constituency from Central Panama Conference, West Panama Conference, Metropolitan Panama Conference, Atlantic Panama Mission, and Southeast Panama Mission, with headquarters in Balboa, Panama; and
2. The South Central American Union Mission with constituency from South-Central Costa Rica Conference, Caribbean Costa Rica Mission, Central Nicaragua Mission, North Costa Rica Mission, Northwestern Nicaragua Mission, and South Atlantic Nicaragua Mission, with headquarters in Alajuela, Costa Rica.

REPORT ON THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH

Peter N Landless, Director of General Conference Health Ministries department, presented a video report from the Global Conference on Health held in Geneva, Switzerland, July 7-12, 2014. The focus of the conference was non-communicable diseases caused by unhealthy lifestyles. Landless thanked all those on the executive committee who helped support the conference. He explained that Health Ministries is based on three pillars: a biblical foundation, resonance with the Spirit of Prophecy, and peer-reviewed, evidence-based science.

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OGC/ADCOM/PreC/SecC/GCDO14AC/14AC to TNCW

149-14G *GENERAL CONFERENCE RULES OF ORDER*

VOTED, To amend the *General Conference Rules of Order*, to read as follows:

General Conference

Rules of Order

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Silver Spring, Maryland, USA

Sixth Edition
~~PRINTED IN THE USA~~

GENERAL CONFERENCE RULES OF ORDER
(Procedural Rules for General Conference
Business Sessions and Executive Committee Meetings)

At the 1985 General Conference Session in New Orleans, a number of delegates expressed the desire for more precise and written rules of order for General Conference Sessions. In harmony with the wishes of the Session, the General Conference Executive Committee subsequently appointed a subcommittee to study the matter and draw up such rules of procedure.

In its work, this committee was guided by the desire to prepare rules of order for the Church which are in harmony with the Spirit of Prophecy instruction and Seventh-day Adventist policy and reflect a sensible approach to session and committee efficiency based on tried and true working methods.

The General Conference Executive Committee ratified the work of the subcommittee and the *General Conference Rules of Order* were approved. The current edition has been updated for the ~~2010~~ 2015 General Conference Session to assure consistency within the rules and for clarity.

A fundamental aim of these rules is to facilitate the participation by delegates and committee members in discussions and debates, and in the decision-making process. Rules of procedure are set up to facilitate free participation and are not set in theological concrete.

It was felt that it was not necessary to go into great detail. Specific provision has been made for most eventualities. Neither the Bible nor the writings of Ellen G. White are textbooks of

ecclesiastical parliamentary law. Ellen G. White asks for harmony and simplicity in the business meetings of the Church and recommends the avoidance of unnecessary machinery which could sap the physical and mental energies of those called to participate in council and committee meetings (Ms 3, 1890, p. 9).

The purpose of this short compendium of rules of order is to guide church leaders and other participants so that the work of church sessions and committees can move along smoothly, expeditiously, and fairly. These procedures should serve church business sessions like the clear signalization which enables traffic to move smoothly, safely, and rapidly without confusion and delay.

The Church is a voluntary society of those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. She is the body of Christ. She is not a parliamentary body, a political forum, a service club, or a business corporation. When Seventh-day Adventists meet to transact the business of the Church, they are meeting with God. In the final analysis, it is the Holy Spirit who leads and guides. “If your committee meetings and council meetings,” wrote Ellen G. White, “are not under the direct supervision of the Spirit of God, your conclusions will be earthborn, and worthy of no more consideration than are any man’s expressions” (Letter 81, 1896, pp. 8, 9).

The delegates at church sessions and especially the General Conference Session are legislating, not to satisfy personal or party interests, not to cater to nationalistic or regional ambitions, but to work “for time and eternity” and participate in the divine mission for the salvation of the world—7T 258, 259. Delegates and committee members are warned against a spirit of selfishness, self-exaltation, and pomposity in council and committee meetings (see Ms 29, 1895, p. 8).

The overarching concern of church sessions and committees is to discover and understand God’s will regarding the issues, plans, and appointments to be considered. In the light of this purpose, the object of rules of order is to facilitate accomplishing the will of God. In this sense, the delegated sessions of the Church are *sui generis* (unique), different from any other human organization.

These rules of order are intended to be used with a sense of reverence for the divine purpose. They are not intended to provide for quick or dilatory parliamentary maneuvers to gain a point, gain undeserved attention, gain advantage by suppressing the wishes of others, or to confuse the chair, fellow delegates, or committee members. These rules, furthermore, should not be used in such a way as to become an excuse for procedural wrangling which could keep sessions or committees from moving forward with dispatch. Ellen G. White counsels that there should be “constant effort for brevity in business meetings” (Ms 3, 1890, p. 9).

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It must never be forgotten that the letter of procedural rules can kill; it is the spirit that gives life to church order and government. The chair, with the support of the delegates, must use good judgment and not let the machinery get in the way of the advancement of God's work.

Where procedural issues arise which are not specifically covered by the *General Conference Rules of Order*, the chair shall rule according to his best judgment. However, any delegate has the right to appeal the ruling. In that case, if the appeal is seconded, the chair shall put the issue to the delegates for a decision by simple majority vote.

May these rules of order help church delegates and committee members in their appointed work of "legislating for God" (Letter 81, 1896, p. 8).

—General Conference Executive Committee

Relationship of *General Conference Rules of Order* to the
Church Manual and *General Conference Working Policy*

The *Church Manual* and General Conference Constitution, Bylaws, and *Working Policy* take precedence over the rules of order, should there be any conflict.

Duties of Chair

1. The chair shall preside over sessions and committee meetings in harmony with the rules of order.
2. The chair shall take up the various committee reports and items of business on the approved agenda.
3. The chair shall work for consensus in decision making by treating each side of an issue with fairness.
4. The chair may vote
 - a. If the vote is by ballot, or
 - b. To make a tie or break a tie (if he has not already voted by ballot).
5. It is the duty of the chair to hold speakers to their allotted time and help move business along as expeditiously and fairly as possible.

6. The chair shall decide points of order (though the decision may be appealed by any delegate).

7. While it is necessary for the chair to give leadership, in order to be impartial and give evidence that justice is done, the chair should not personally become closely involved in session floor debate while in the chair. Should he wish to express his views at length and take sides in the debate, he should step down from the chair calling upon another officer to take the chair temporarily. It is understood, however, that in committee meetings the president, even while occupying the chair, will be free to fully participate in the discussions and present his views.

Duties of Delegates and Committee Members

1. In view of the privilege of serving as delegates at church sessions or as committee members, those acting in these capacities should conduct themselves with Christian decorum, realizing they are doing the Lord's business, not making frivolous, irrelevant, unnecessarily time-consuming, or obstructionist speeches or motions. In such cases the chair has every right to rule out of order.

2. Delegates or committee members, for reasons of fairness and respect for fellow delegates or members, should not expect to speak to a motion a second (or additional) time until others wishing to speak have had the opportunity to do so (as far as this is feasible). However, the chair may give a person who has already spoken the opportunity to answer a question or clarify previous remarks.

3. Delegates or committee members have the right to speak in their own language, subject to the availability of translators.

Quorum

The quorum for sessions or committee meetings shall be fixed by the bylaws of the respective church organizations.

Voting

1. Voting normally shall be by voice vote (viva voce).
2. If there is no objection, the chair can declare a vote by general consent.
3. By ruling of the chair or by majority vote of the delegates present and voting, voting can be by raising of hands, standing, secret ballot, or use of electronic device. If there

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appears to be a reasonable doubt regarding the result of a vote, either the chair or any member may call for the votes to be counted/recounted (a division of the assembly).

4. The chair may ask the secretary for assistance in counting the vote and/or appoint tellers.

5. A simple majority, or absolute majority, means more than half of the total number of valid votes cast by eligible voters.

Elections

1. Elections shall be in harmony with the General Conference Constitution, Bylaws, and *Working Policy*.

2. All nominations for elective office or executive committee membership shall be made by the Nominating Committee. This precludes nominations from the floor or by any other body or person.

3. Only one name shall be presented to the floor by the Nominating Committee for each position to be filled. The Nominating Committee may choose to present successive partial reports when there are a large number of positions to be filled.

4. The Nominating Committee shall meet in closed session. This does not mean that officers of higher church organizations cannot be invited to sit as counselors with the committee.

5. Election shall be by simple majority vote.

6. If there is objection to a part or the whole of the ~~the~~ Nominating Committee report, the objector(s) may request that the report (not an individual name) be referred back to the Nominating Committee for further consideration. It is the usual procedure for the chair to accept the referral; however, if the request becomes a motion, it is nondebatable and is decided by simple majority vote.

7. A request or motion to refer should be based on information which the objector(s) may have and which could be helpful to the Nominating Committee. When referral is granted, all objections must then be made known to the Nominating Committee chair and secretary. In counsel with the chair and secretary, the Nominating Committee shall determine the procedure for hearing the objection(s) to the report.

8. Persistent referrals back, particularly from the same source, are inconsistent with fairness and good procedure. In this case, there is every right to refuse referral and the Nominating Committee report can then be voted upon without further delay.

Dealing With Motions

There are basically four types of motions:

1. Main motions
2. Privileged motions
3. Subsidiary motions
4. Incidental motions

Each category has its own purposes, characteristics, and order of precedence.

1. **Main Question or Motion.** The purpose of a main motion is to introduce and propose the action regarding an item of business. Only delegates or members with the right to vote may make motions or speak to motions.

a. Requires a second.

b. A simple majority vote is required for the motion to pass unless the Bylaws or these rules specify a different requirement.

c. It may be amended by a majority vote.

d. Another motion is not in order when a main motion is being considered, except

1) Privileged motions (fixing time of future meeting, adjournment, and question of privilege), and

2) Subsidiary motions (tabling, previous questions, refer to committee, amendments, postpone indefinitely, and limit time of debate), and

3) Incidental motions (appeals regarding points of order, division of a question, and withdrawing or modifying a motion).

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e. In case of a tie vote, the motion is lost. This provision respects the right of the chair, if the chair has not already voted, to do so in order to make or break a tie vote.

2. Privileged Motions. This category of motions deals with the rights of delegates or committee members as a whole and the rights of individual delegates or members in regard to the session or meeting. No debate is allowed on privileged motions, and they cannot be tabled (except a question of privilege), postponed, or referred to a committee (committed).

These rules recognize three kinds of privileged motions: Fixing the time of a further meeting, calling for adjournment or recess, and questions of privilege.

a. Fixing the time of a further meeting.

This motion

- 1) Requires a second.
- 2) Cannot be debated.
- 3) Is the highest motion in rank.
- 4) Can be amended in regard only to time and place.
- 5) Cannot interrupt a person speaking.
- 6) Requires a simple majority.
- 7) Can be reconsidered.

b. Calling for adjournment or recess.

This motion

- 1) Requires a second.
- 2) Cannot be debated, though the chair or secretary may provide information regarding business requiring attention.
- 3) Adjournment cannot be amended, recess may be amended.
- 4) Requires a simple majority.

5) Cannot interrupt a person speaking.

6) Cannot be reconsidered.

c. Questions of privilege. A question of privilege is used to get the attention of the chair and meeting regarding a matter of business or procedure that cannot wait.

1) Questions of privilege refer to

a) Organization of session or meeting.

b) Comfort of delegates or members.

c) Conduct of delegates, members or of others present.

2) Procedure for questions of privilege

a) Do not require a second.

b) Cannot be debated.

c) Cannot be amended.

d) Can interrupt a person speaking.

e) Are usually decided by determination of the chair (though two delegates can appeal from the decision).

f) Can be reconsidered.

3. Subsidiary Motions. Subsidiary motions apply to a main motion and take precedence over the main motion because they need to be decided before the main motion can proceed. Privileged motions have precedence over subsidiary motions.

These rules of order recognize six kinds of subsidiary motions: motion to table, calling previous question, refer to committee (commit), amendments, postpone indefinitely, and limit time of debate.

a. Motion to Table. A motion to table should be used when delegates or committee members wish to postpone to a later time consideration of an item that has been

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moved. It is not used to “drop” or suppress a motion; the correct motion for this is “postpone indefinitely.” A motion to take from the table business previously tabled, is treated in the same way as a motion to table, though it can be renewed if it fails to pass. A motion to table

- 1) Requires a second.
- 2) Cannot be debated.
- 3) Cannot be amended.
- 4) Requires a simple majority.
- 5) Cannot be reconsidered.
- 6) Does not apply to committee reports or unfinished business but only to a pending motion.

b. Motion to Call the Previous Question. The purpose of this motion is to stop and close debate immediately and vote on a main motion or amendment under consideration. If previous question is ordered regarding an amendment, debate can continue on the main motion after the previous question on the amendment is voted. Privileged motions, motion to table, and incidental motions take precedence over previous question. Simply calling out “question” is not formally moving “previous question,” but indicates to the chair that a delegate or committee member feels it is time to vote. This motion

- 1) Requires a second.
- 2) Cannot be debated.
- 3) Cannot be amended.
- 4) Requires a two-thirds vote.
- 5) Cannot interrupt a person speaking.
- 6) Can be reconsidered.

c. Refer to Committee (Commit). The purpose of the motion to commit is to refer an item of business to a committee. The motion to commit

- 1) Requires a second.

- 2) Can be debated.
- 3) Can be amended.
- 4) Requires a simple majority.
- 5) Takes precedence, except the motion to postpone indefinitely and the main question.
- 6) Can be reconsidered if the committee has not already begun its work.

d. Amendments. The purpose of the motion to amend is to change or modify a main motion, and thus it must be germane to the business matter to be amended. A motion to amend (first level) may itself be amended (second level), but there can be no amendment (third level) to an amendment to an amendment. A “substitute motion” is really an amendment. The motion to amend

- 1) Requires a second.
- 2) Can be debated with discussion limited to the amendment itself.
- 3) Requires a simple majority.
- 4) Only one amendment can be considered at a time. As each is voted, other amendments offered are considered in succession.
- 5) Amendments are usually done by inserting, striking out or substituting, or a combination of these.
- 6) Can be reconsidered.

e. Postpone Indefinitely. The purpose of this motion is to suppress a motion. Subsidiary motions do not apply, except previous question and limit (or extend) time of debate. The motion to postpone indefinitely

- 1) Requires a second.
- 2) Is fully debatable, including both the main question and the propriety of postponing indefinitely.

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- 3) Cannot be amended.
- 4) Requires a simple majority.
- 5) Applies essentially only to main motions, though it can be applied to “Questions of Privilege.”
- 6) Can be reconsidered if the vote was affirmative.

f. Set Time of Debate. The purpose of this motion is to establish limits regarding the length of individual speeches in a discussion or to limit the time period provided for discussion before voting.

The motion to set time of debate

- 1) Requires a second.
- 2) Can be debated.
- 3) Can be amended.
- 4) Requires a two-thirds vote.
- 5) Can be reconsidered by moving to extend time of debate (two-thirds majority required). (~~majority required~~).

4. Incidental Motions. These motions deal with incidents concerning main motions and must be decided before the main motion. These rules of order recognize as incidental motions only appeals regarding points of order, division of a question, and withdrawing or modifying a motion.

a. Appeal regarding points of order. The purpose is to object to a decision or ruling of the chair at the time it is made regarding a point of order or to relieve the chair from having to make a decision by placing responsibility on the delegates or members. The appeal

- 1) Requires a second.
- 2) Generally is debatable, but not when the decorum of the session or meeting is in question or when an undebatable question is pending.

- 3) Cannot be amended.
- 4) Requires a simple majority.
- 5) Motions to “table” and “privileged motions” take precedence, as does “previous question” when the appeal is debatable.
- 6) Can be reconsidered.
- 7) In a question of appeal a delegate or member may speak only once, except by special permission of the chair, and the chair has the right to present the arguments in favor of the chair’s decision or ruling.

b. Division of a question. The purpose of this motion is to divide a question having several propositions or sections (e.g. document with several pages or paragraphs) into separate parts which are to be considered and voted on as distinct questions. When divided, each part is voted on separately as if it had been offered alone. For practical purposes, it is better to divide a question when it is introduced, though the motion can be made any time while the question is pending.

The formality of a vote on division of a question can be dispensed with, the chair ruling by common consent regarding the method of division. If this procedure is objected to, then a formal motion to divide becomes necessary, specifying how the question is to be divided. The motion to divide

- 1) Applies only to main questions and amendments.
 - a) Requires a second.
 - b) Requires a simple majority.
- 2) Yields to all privileged and subsidiary motions and to the incidental motion to appeal from a decision of the chair, except the motions to amend and to postpone indefinitely over which it has precedence.
- 3) Can be amended, but the other five kinds of subsidiary motions do not apply to the motion to divide.
- 4) Cannot be debated.
- 5) Can be reconsidered.

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c. **Withdrawing or Modifying a Motion.** Before a motion has been stated by the chair, it is the property of the mover, who can withdraw it or modify it without asking for consent. After the motion has been stated by the chair, the maker must ask the assembly's permission to withdraw or modify the motion. If there is no objection, the chair shall treat the request as a unanimous-consent request. If there is an objection, the chair shall put the request to a majority decision vote. A motion to modify or withdraw

- 1) Does not require a second.
- 2) Cannot be debated.
- 3) Cannot be amended.
- 4) Requires a simple majority.
- 5) Cannot be reconsidered.

After a motion has been withdrawn, the situation is as if the motion had never been made.

d. **Reconsideration of Motions.** When these rules of order permit it, a motion already voted on can be reconsidered. The purpose of reconsideration is to permit correction of an erroneous action, especially when added information has become available or a changed situation has developed since the vote was taken. In order to protect against possible abuse, the motion to reconsider must be made by one who voted with the prevailing side. The motion to reconsider is appropriate when made during the same meeting or council. (After adjournment, the motion to rescind is the appropriate motion to be used at a subsequent meeting.)

- 1) Requires a second.
- 2) Is debatable, except when the motion proposed for reconsideration is undebatable.
- 3) Cannot be amended.
- 4) Requires a simple majority.
- 5) Cannot be reconsidered, except by unanimous consent.

e. Rescinding or Amending Previous Actions. The purpose of the motion to rescind is to repeal or annul an action previously voted. The motion to amend a previous action aims at changing only a part of the text previously voted.

- 1) Requires a second.
- 2) Can be amended.
- 3) Is debatable, except when the motion proposed for repeal is undebatable.
- 4) Can be reconsidered only if vote was in the negative.
- 5) Needs two-thirds majority, unless prior notice has been given that consideration will be given to rescind a previous action.

Suspending General Conference Rules of Order

Under special circumstances, and for the purpose of facilitating the business of the Church, these rules of order may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the delegates or members.

Official Languages of the General Conference Rules of Order

For the benefit of the delegates and the world Church, these Rules of Order may be translated into other languages. The English version of these Rules of Order remains the official version and any other translations are only for the convenience of the delegates and not the official version of these rules.

Changing General Conference Rules of Order

These rules of order may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the General Conference Executive Committee.

Rules of Order for General Conference

These rules of order shall apply to both the General Conference Sessions and Executive Committee meetings.

Adapting General Conference Rules of Order to Union or Conference Sessions and Executive Committee Meetings

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These General Conference rules of order apply in principle to the world Church. Division committees may adapt, where necessary, these rules of order for use at sessions and executive committee meetings within their territory. Any adaptation by a division for use in its territory shall be done by way of supplemental rules or addendum and not by modifying this document.

Use of General Conference Rules of Order by Other Church Organizations

Other church organizations, such as local churches, boards, and faculty meetings, may use these rules of order.

MOTIONS SUMMARY TABLE

Rank	Motions	Interrupt	Second	Debate	Amend	Vote	Reconsider	Notes*
10	Fix Time of Further Meeting (P)	No	Yes	No	Yes*	Majority	Yes	As to time and place
9	Adjourn/ Recess (P)	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No	
8	Question of Privilege (P)	Yes	No	No	No	Chair*	Yes	Chair's decision can be appealed by two members
7	Table (S)	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No	
6	Previous Question (S)	No	Yes	No	No	2/3	Yes	
5	Limit/Extend Debate (S)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3	Yes*	To extend debate only
4	Refer to Committee (S)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes*	If committee has not begun consideration
3	Amendment (S)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes	
2	Postpone Indefinitely (S)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	Yes*	Affirmative vote only
1	MAIN MOTION	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes	
-	Appeal Points of Order (I)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	Yes	
-	Division of Question (I)	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	Yes	
-	Reconsider (I)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	No	
-	Motion to Rescind	No	Yes	Yes ¹	Yes	Majority ²	Yes	
-	Refer Back to Nominating Committee (I)	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No	Usually accepted
-	Take from the Table (I)	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No	
-	Withdraw Motion (I)	No	No	No	No	Majority	No	

2/3 Two-thirds Vote; P—Privileged Motion; S—Subsidiary Motion; I—Incidental Motion

¹ Except when motion proposed for repeal is undebatable.

² If notice of motion to rescind was previously given, otherwise requires a two-thirds majority.

OGC/Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO13AC/13AC/213-13GS/Con&By/ADCOM/Con&By/
ADCOM/SecC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI-15GCS

201-14GS GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

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

ARTICLE VIII—GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

- a. Ex Officio Members—
 - 1) Those elected as provided for - No change
 - 2) Presidents of unions, past presidents of the General Conference holding credentials from the General ~~Conference~~, ~~Conference, the president-executive director of Adventist Development and Relief Agency International, the president of Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, the editor of *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World*, the editor of *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*, the president of Adventist Risk Management Incorporated, the president of Adventist University of Africa, the president-executive director of Adventist World Radio, the president of Andrews University, the director of Archives and Statistics, the director of Biblical Research Institute, the president of Christian Record Services Incorporated, the president and the board chair of Ellen G White Estate, the president of Hope Channel, the director of Geoscience Research Institute, the president of Griggs University and International Academy, the president of Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center, the editor of *Ministry*, the president of Oakwood University, the president of Pacific Press Publishing Association, and the president of Review and Herald Publishing Association.~~
 - 3) The president-executive director of each of the following organizations provided the respective organization remains classified as a General Conference-sponsored entity: Adventist Development and Relief Agency International, Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, Adventist Risk Management, Adventist University of Africa, Adventist World Radio, Andrews University, Christian Record Services, Hope Channel, Loma Linda University Health, Review and Herald Publishing Association.
 - 4) The editor of each of the following publications: *Adventist Review*, *Adventist World*, *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*, *Ministry*.
 - 5) The director of each of the following: Archives, Statistics, and Research, Biblical Research Institute, Geoscience Research Institute.

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- 6) The president and board chair of Ellen G White Estate.
- b. Elected Members—
- 1) Three laypersons and one church - No change
 - 2) No fewer than fifteen and no more than twenty - No change
 - 3) No fewer than fifteen and no more than twenty - No change

PRE/Con&By/ADCOM/PreC/SecC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI-15GCS

205-14GS TERM OF OFFICE - CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
AMENDMENT

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

ARTICLE X—TERM OF OFFICE

Sec. 1. All officers of the General Conference and those whose election is provided for in Article VI, Sec 1. shall hold office from the time they are elected and, except for resignation or ~~other termination~~, termination for other reasons, shall serve until the end of their term, ~~their reelection~~, or until their replacement is elected. A person who is not ~~reelected~~ elected to a new term of office during a session does not thereby lose delegate status at the session. Unless other arrangements are made in consultation with administration, such individuals will be expected to fulfill during the session itself any session-related responsibilities which have been assigned to them. In situations where official responsibilities cannot be ~~immediately transferred~~ transferred immediately to a newly elected individual, the officer whose term has expired may be requested by the newly elected officer, and approved by the General Conference Administrative Committee, to carry limited responsibilities, for a defined period of time until transition arrangements have been completed. ~~Their term of office~~, The current term of office for those elected under Article VI, Sec 1. or elected by the Executive Committee between General Conference sessions to fill such office for the remainder of a term, unless government requirements dictate otherwise, is not subject to division retirement policies, which may determine specific ages for mandatory retirements. This provision does not override the service credit limitations, if any, of a retirement plan in which the person participates. Those who have passed the age of mandatory retirement, as determined by their division or legislation, shall not be eligible for election to a new term of office for positions indicated in Article VI, Sec 1., in that division.

- Sec. 2. Members of the General Conference Executive Committee - No change
- Sec. 3. Members of the General Conference Executive Committee - No change
- Sec. 4. Those persons who, by virtue of holding elected position - No change
- Sec. 5. All those who are appointed to serve the General Conference - No change
- Sec. 6. Service as outlined in Sec. 1. to Sec. 5. above - No change

SEC/Con&By/ADCOM/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI-15GCS

206-14GS DIVISION SECRETARIES - CONSTITUTION AND
BYLAWS AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws,
Article VI—Division Secretaries, to read as follows:

ARTICLE VI—DIVISION SECRETARIES

Sec. 1. A secretary shall be elected for each division to be designated “division secretary.”

Sec. 2. Each division secretary shall work according to plans and programs voted by the General Conference in session and according to plans and policies agreed upon by the division executive committee. The division secretary shall serve as vice-chair of the executive committee, and shall report to the executive committee after consultation with the president. It shall be the duty of the division secretary to keep the minutes of the division executive committee meetings, to collect information and make such reports as may be required, and to do such other work as usually pertains to this office.

Sec. 3. Division executive committees may appoint - No change

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207-14GS DIVISION TREASURERS - CONSTITUTION AND
BYLAWS AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws,
Article VI—Division Treasurers, to read as follows:

ARTICLE VII—DIVISION TREASURERS
TREASURERS/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS

Sec. 1. A treasurer shall be elected for each division to be designated ~~“division treasurer.”~~
“division treasurer/chief financial officer.”

Sec. 2. Each ~~division treasurer~~ division treasurer/chief financial officer shall work according to plans and programs voted by the General Conference in session and according to plans and policies agreed upon by the division executive committee and shall report to the executive committee after consultation with the president. The ~~treasurer~~ division treasurer/chief financial officer shall be responsible for providing financial leadership to the division which will include, but shall not be limited to, receiving, safeguarding, and disbursing all funds in harmony with the actions of the division executive committee, for remitting all required funds to the General Conference in harmony with General Conference policy, and for providing financial information to the president and to the executive committee. The ~~treasurer~~ division treasurer/chief financial officer shall also be responsible for furnishing copies of the financial statements to the General Conference officers.

Sec. 3. Division executive committees may appoint - No change

PRE/Con&By/ADCOM/PreC/SecC/TreC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI-15GCS

230-14GS GENERAL AND DIVISION FIELD SECRETARIES -
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws,
Article IX—General and Division Field Secretaries, to read as follows:

ARTICLE IX—GENERAL CONFERENCE AND
DIVISION FIELD SECRETARIES

~~Sec. 1. The term “general field secretary” shall be used to designate general field leaders elected to assist the officers in carrying the field responsibilities of the General Conference. The term “field secretary” shall be used to designate the role of persons elected/appointed to assist the officers of the General Conference or division in a range of general or specific responsibilities.~~

~~Sec. 2. The general field secretaries~~ A General Conference “general field secretary” shall work under the direction of ~~the General Conference Executive Committee~~ and the president, and be assigned either to field service or to special projects or responsibilities that are approved by the General Conference Executive Committee. General field secretaries shall be elected by the General Conference Session or by the Executive Committee.

~~Sec. 3. A General Conference “field secretary” ordinarily carries another portfolio of responsibility, the nature of which involves frequent interactions with global church leadership. In the role of field secretary this person works under the direction of the president or another designated officer. Field secretaries shall be elected by the General Conference Executive Committee after having been appointed by their respective boards or the General Conference Administrative Committee in the case of General Conference headquarters assignments. Their term of service as field secretaries is contingent on the term of service in the individual’s primary responsibility.~~

~~Sec. 3. Sec. 4.~~ The term “division field secretary” shall be used to designate field leaders appointed by ~~divisions~~. a division executive committee and assigned either to field service or to special projects or responsibilities. They may be appointed as necessary to serve in the divisions under the direction of the president ~~and their respective division executive committees.~~ or designee.

ASTR/Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI-15GCS

231-14GS FUNDS - CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article XVII—Funds, to read as follows:

ARTICLE XVII—FUNDS

Sec. 1. The funds of the General Conference shall be as follows:

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a. A percentage of the tithe receipts of the ~~local conference/mission/field~~ local conference/mission/field/region/field station shall be forwarded through ~~the union and division denominational channels~~ in accordance with the General Conference ~~Working Policy.~~ Working Policy.

b. A percentage of the tithe receipts of the union - No change

c. Regular mission offerings. - No change

d. Special gifts. Proceeds from the maturities of planned - No change

CHRISTIAN RECORD SERVICES FOR THE BLIND CONTITUENCY MEETING

The Christian Record Services for the Blind Constituency meeting was convened, after which the business session of the General Conference Executive Committee was reconvened.

SEC/GCDO14SM/14SM/ADCOM/GCDO14AC/14AC to RTB(DIV)

140-14G ALLOCATION OF AT-LARGE DELEGATE SEATS—GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION - 2015

VOTED, To approve the following allocation of at-large delegate seats for the 2015 General Conference Session:

1. From the 300 delegate seats available under Section 8. f. under Article V of the General Conference Constitution, 100 seats shall be allocated among divisions based on the division's membership as of December 31, 2013, as a proportion of total world membership. At its discretion a division may surrender any of these delegate seats for re-allocation by the General Conference Administrative Committee (ADCOM).

East-Central Africa Division (ECD)	16
Euro-Asia Division (ESD)	1
Inter-American Division (IAD)	20
Inter-European Division (EUD)	1
North American Division (NAD)	7
Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD)	4
South American Division (SAD)	12

South Pacific Division (SPD)	2
Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID)	17
Southern Asia Division (SUD)	8
Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD)	7
Trans-European Division (TED)	1
West-Central Africa Division (WAD)	4

2. Seventy seats shall be reserved for allocation by the General Conference Administrative Committee.

3. The remaining 130 at-large delegate seats shall be allocated as follows:

East-Central Africa Division (ECD)	7
Euro-Asia Division (ESD)	7
Inter-European Division (EUD)	7
GC Attached Union (MENA)	2
GC Attached Field (IF)	1
Inter-American Division (IAD)	11
North American Division (NAD)	35
South American Division (SAD)	13
Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD)	4
West-Central Africa Division (WAD)	10
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	3
Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS)	2
Adventist Risk Management (ARM)	4
Adventist University of Africa (AUA)	2
Adventist World Radio (AWR)	2
Andrews University	7
Christian Record Services, International	1
E G White Estate	1
General Conference Auditing Services (GCAS)	2
Geoscience Research Institute	1
Hope Channel	1
Loma Linda University and Medical Center	7

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SEC/ADCOM/GCDO14AC/14AC to RTB(DIV)

152-14G APPOINTED STAFF—ALLOCATION OF DELEGATES AT LARGE—
GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION - 2015

VOTED, To approve the following allocation of delegates at large for the 2015 General Conference Session, under the provision of General Conference Constitution, Article V, Section 8. c. for appointed staff:

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------|--|
| 1. | Beckett, John R | Director, Global Software and Internet |
| 2. | Brasil de Souza, Elias | Associate Director, Biblical Research Institute |
| 3. | Brink, Penelope L | Assistant Director, Stewardship Ministries |
| 4. | Caesar, Lael O | Associate Editor, <i>Adventist Review</i> |
| 5. | Colon, May-Ellen | Assistant Director, Sabbath School/Personal Ministries |
| 6. | Donkor, Kwabena | Associate Director, Biblical Research Institute |
| 7. | Doukmetzian, Karnik | General Counsel |
| 8. | Ingram-Hudgins, Sherri | Director, Adventist Membership Software |
| 9. | Kajiura, Richard D | Associate Director, Adventist Mission |
| 10. | King, Andrew | Assistant Director, Communication |
| 11. | Klingbeil, Gerald A | Associate Editor, <i>Adventist Review</i> |
| 12. | Korff, Eugene | Controller |
| 13. | McEdward, Richard E | Associate Director, Adventist Mission |
| 14. | Moore, Rowena J | Assistant Director, Archives, Statistics, and Research |
| 15. | Mueller, Ekkehardt F R | Deputy Director, Biblical Research Institute |
| 16. | Richli, Claude J | Associate Publisher, <i>Adventist Review</i> |
| 17. | Tennyson, B Mack III | Special Assistant to the Treasurer |
| 18. | Wahlen, Clinton L | Associate Director, Biblical Research Institute |

SEC/ADCOM/GCDO14AC/14AC to RTB(DIV)

153-14G ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL SPECIAL GUESTS—GENERAL
CONFERENCE SESSION - 2015

VOTED, To approve the following allocation of additional special guest seats to divisions for the 2015 General Conference Session:

East-Central Africa Division (ECD)	18
Euro-Asia Division (ESD)	4
Inter-American Division (IAD)	33
Inter-European Division (EUD)	4

North American Division (NAD)	42
South American Division (SAD)	92
Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD)	8
West-Central Africa Division	20
ADCOM (for General Conference Centers)	6

OGC/PolRev&Dev/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/PreC/SecC/TreC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI(DIV)

208-14G LEGAL ORGANIZATIONS - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC BA 25, Legal Organizations, to read as follows:

BA 25 Corporations, Trusts, Associations, Institutions,
and Other Legal Entities—Establishment, Structure, and
Relationships ~~Legal Organizations~~

BA 25 01 Incorporating Organizations—Much of the evangelistic and ecclesiastical activity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is accomplished through unincorporated organizations. However, the Church increasingly uses various legal vehicles in furtherance of its mission. In order for an organization to exercise certain rights, privileges, duties, and to be held accountable for certain liabilities, it is necessary to have a legal persona. For legal purposes, organizations can be recognized as a legal person separate from the individual members of that group. A corporation is the most common form of this legal personality. From time to time corporations, institutions or other legal entities, such as trusts and associations, are formed for specific functions related to the Church and its mission. Such organizations are established in harmony with local laws governing charitable, religious, not-for-profit associations, societies, or foundations. The incorporation or registration of legal entities of the Church, other than at the General Conference level, is subject to division policy that takes into consideration the principles of denominational organization and representation, relevant provisions in law, and the specific needs of the Church in the geographic areas served.

BA 25 05 Incorporating Organizations—The General Conference divisions, Distinct Identities of Unincorporated Entities for Legal Purposes—The General Conference, divisions of the General Conference, unions, and local conferences/missions have separate identities for their legal purposes. No church organization or entity assumes responsibility for the liabilities, debts, acts, or omissions of any other church organization simply because of its church affiliations. The incorporation or registration of legal entities of the Church, other than at the General Conference level, is subject to division policy which takes into consideration the principles of denominational organization and representation, laws of jurisdictions, and the specific needs of the Church in the geographic areas served. Unless local laws require otherwise, the local church

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operates under the legal structure of the local conference, mission, or union of churches and not as a separate legal entity.

BA 25 10 Authorization—General Conference institutions and organizations planning to form legal ~~corporations~~ entities such as corporations, trusts, associations, or other forms of organization recognized by local laws, may do so with prior approval from their respective governing board and only after consultation, through the board chair, with the General Conference president, secretary, and treasurer/chief financial officer. Division institutions and subsidiary organizations seeking to form ~~corporations~~ such organizations shall comply with division policy regarding the formation of ~~corporations~~ legal entities or, in the absence of such a policy, shall secure approval from the respective division executive committee.

These kinds of organizations do not come into being of themselves. Each must be specifically authorized by the executive committee of a church organization (conference/mission, union, division, General Conference) or by the board of an institution.

BA 25 12 Union and Local Conference/Mission Corporations—In some situations, divisions have made provision for unions and local conferences/missions to conduct all their operations through an incorporated structure. Where this is not practiced, a division will need to determine the arrangements for handling certain legal matters for the unincorporated entities in its territory. Examples of such arrangements are described in BA 25 15 and BA 25 20.

BA 25 15 Relationships to Conferences—The Local Conference Association/Corporation for Management of Gifts, Wills, Legacies, and Trust Funds—The conference association, or corporation, serves primarily in a legal and trustee capacity. ~~Associations/Corporations~~ Local conference associations/corporations hold, manage, and invest trust funds and ~~legally and officially~~ channel unrestricted matured funds as directed by action of the conference executive committee.

BA 25 20 Property-Holding Corporations—Division policies may provide for the division and/or unions within the division's territory to establish a corporation for the purpose of holding title to denominational property. In such cases the properties are held in trust for the denomination or other legal entities such as institutions. The corporation in this case facilitates the documentation and procedures necessary for legitimate property ownership by the Church and its various organizations.

BA 25 25 Institutions and Other Special-Purpose Organizations—Several aspects of the Seventh-day Adventist Church mission are addressed through denominational organizations dedicated to a particular facet of mission. Examples would include educational and healthcare institutions, publishing houses, media organizations, social service entities, and food factories. In each case the organization has been established to give added impetus to one or more dimensions

of Church activity. In many instances the identity of the organization includes the name “Adventist” or “Seventh-day Adventist,” trademarks owned by the General Conference Corporation and used, under license, by other organizations. Any use of trademarks or names owned by the General Conference must be in harmony with the *Trademarks Policy* and could involve entering into a license agreement for their use. These organizations are not structured as integral parts of the regular ecclesiastical organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They have their own distinct legal personality. Their identity and participation in Seventh-day Adventist Church mission and values occurs through selection, by a constituency, of Seventh-day Adventist Church members in regular standing to serve as constituents, directors/trustees, administrators, and employees.

BA 25 30 Organizational Structure of Legal Entities—The specifics of organizational structure may vary depending on local laws and regulations. To the fullest extent possible corporations and legal entities established to advance Seventh-day Adventist mission and identity shall embrace the following principles of organizational structure and operation:

1. Each organization shall have a defined membership or constituency. Unless local regulations (i.e. government charter for a university) require otherwise the membership or constituency shall be drawn from or appointed by the sponsoring organization and all individual members shall be Seventh-day Adventist members and/or organizations associated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

2. A majority of the membership or constituency is selected/appointed by the executive committee or board of the sponsoring denominational entity. This constituency is entrusted with the ownership rights and obligations of the corporation, including the responsibility to maintain a close relationship with the sponsoring body and its purposes.

3. A membership or constituency meeting is held at least once in five years to review the progress of the organization, its alignment with Seventh-day Adventist Church identity and objectives; to appoint a board of directors/trustees with ability and authority to govern the organization; to adopt/amend the governing documents of the organization; and to perform such other functions as belong to the members or constituency of an organization.

4. Unless board composition is addressed elsewhere in General Conference or division working policy, the board shall be comprised of directors/trustees who are Seventh-day Adventists in regular standing.

5. The board, after consultation with the administration of the organization’s sponsoring entity (i.e. division, union, or other church entity) shall elect the chairperson. In the interest of preserving close alignment with denominational teachings, values, programs, and initiatives the chairperson ordinarily shall be an officer of the sponsoring entity.

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6. The governing documents of the entity shall clearly indicate that the board is accountable to the membership/constituency. In rare occasions where a majority of the board membership is based on ex officio positions in denominational entities it may be permissible, subject to executive committee approval (General Conference or division, as applicable), for an organization to have a self-perpetuating board.

7. The governing documents provide that on dissolution all funds remaining shall be used for charitable purposes as directed by the sponsoring organization or its designated entity or the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

BA 25 35 For-Profit Corporations and Joint Ventures—Corporations are generally established by the Seventh-day Adventist Church as religious not-for-profit entities. From time to time, due to the nature of its activity, a denominational corporation may find it advisable to establish a for-profit subsidiary or to enter into a joint venture with other persons/corporations who are not members or organizations of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The formation of for-profit subsidiaries and joint ventures shall follow the same process of authorization as described in BA 25 10. Joint ventures recognized as denominational entities shall have majority control by a denominational entity.

BA 25 40 Relationship of Denominational Legal Entities to the Church—Legal entities established or authorized by denominational units for specific purposes must bear in mind that their activity is intended to support the overall identity and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Their corporate conduct is expected to demonstrate Seventh-day Adventist teachings, values, ethics, and lifestyle. Such legal organizations are affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in advancing its mission and are obligated to maintain alignment with denominational policies, objectives, and purposes.

BA 25 45 Relationship of Denominational Legal Entities to Local Seventh-day Adventist Congregations—Denominational institutions and other legal entities, by virtue of a relatively high concentration of Seventh-day Adventist employees in one location, also need to maintain a clear and mutually beneficial relationship with the local Seventh-day Adventist Church. In many cases the church building may reside on the campus of the institution and a high percentage of the church members be drawn from the institution's employees. In these situations it is important to preserve a distinction between the functions of the institution and the role of the local church. The pastors of the local church are employees of the local conference/mission and the local church remains a member unit of the conference/mission. The administration of the institution and the pastors of the church will need to keep in frequent and mutually supportive communication in order for the life of institution and church to thrive.

NSD/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI(DIV)

209-14G MEMBERSHIP/CONSTITUENCY MEETINGS (UNION
MISSION MODEL OPERATING POLICY) - POLICY
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC D 15, Union Mission Model Operating Policy, Article VII,
Membership/Constituency Meetings, to read as follows:

Article VII—Membership/Constituency Meetings

Sec. 1. Regular Meetings: This union mission shall hold regular - No change

Sec. 2. Special Meeting - No change

Sec. 3. Chair and Secretary for Constituency Meetings - No change

Sec. 4. Regular Meeting Business: The business of the regular - No change

Sec. 5. Quorum: At least _____ percent of the delegates - No change

Sec. 6. Proxy Voting: All delegates must be present in person - No change

Sec. 7. Voting Rights of the Delegates: Each delegate appointed to act - No change

Sec. 8. Voting: The voting on matters of business shall normally be - No change

Sec. 9. Parliamentary Authority: The parliamentary authority for - No change

Sec. 10. Elections/Appointments and Term of Office: a. Elections: The president, secretary, and treasurer/chief financial officer of this union mission shall be elected by the division executive committee rather than by the session of this union mission. ~~The presidents, secretaries, and treasurers/chief financial officers of local missions/fields within the territory of this union mission shall be elected by the union constituency meeting.~~ The election of departmental directors, associate departmental directors, associate secretaries, or associate treasurers, treasurers for this union mission, if not determined by the delegates at the union constituency meeting, shall be referred to the executive committee for appointment. The union constituency meeting shall also elect the members (other than ex officio) of the union executive committee and, where required by the governance documents of union institutions, the chief administrator(s) and board members of such entities.

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b. Term of Office: Persons elected at the constituency - No change

Sec. 11. Election of Local Mission/Field Officers and Term of Office: a: Elections: ~~The presidents, secretaries, and treasurers/~~The president, secretary, and treasurer/chief financial officers of local missions/fields within the territory of this union ~~conference~~ mission shall be elected by the union constituency meeting or by the union executive committee between constituency meetings. ~~conference in regular session.~~

b. Term of Office: Local mission/field officers elected at the - No change

(Note: Sec. 11. above is applicable to union missions in whose territory there is a local mission.)

PRE/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI(DIV)

210-14G MEMBERSHIP/CONSTITUENCY MEETINGS (LOCAL MISSION MODEL OPERATING POLICY) - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC D 25, Local Mission Model Operating Policy, Article VII, Membership/Constituency Meetings, to read as follows:

Article VII—Membership/Constituency Meetings

Sec. 1. Regular Meetings: This mission/field shall hold regular - No change

Sec. 2. Special Meeting - No change

Sec. 3. Chair and Secretary for Constituency Meetings - No change

Sec. 4. Regular Meeting Business: The business of the regular - No change

Sec. 5. Quorum: At least _____ percent of the delegates - No change

Sec. 6. Proxy Voting: All delegates must be present in person - No change

Sec. 7. Voting Rights of the Delegates: Each delegate appointed to act on - No change

Sec. 8. Voting: The voting on matters of business shall normally be by - No change

Sec. 9. Parliamentary Authority: The parliamentary authority for - No change

Sec. 10. Elections/Appointments and Term of Office: a. Elections: The president, secretary, and treasurer/chief financial officer ~~presidents, secretaries, and treasurers/chief financial officers~~ of this mission/field shall be elected by the union constituency/executive committee rather than by the session of this mission/field. The election of departmental directors, associate departmental directors, associate secretaries, or associate ~~treasurers, treasurers for this local mission/field,~~ is normally done during the constituency session. If personnel for available positions are not all elected during the session, their appointment shall be referred to the executive committee. The constituency meeting shall also elect the members (other than ex officio) of the mission/field executive committee and, where required by the governance documents of local mission/field institutions, the chief administrator(s) and board members of such entities.

b. Term of Office: Persons elected at the - No change

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/TreC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI(DIV)

211-14G ANNUAL OFFERING (ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO
ANNUAL WORLD OFFERING) - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC HB 30 05, Annual Offering (Adventist World Radio Annual World Offering), to read as follows:

HB 30 05 Annual Offering—An offering known as the Adventist World Radio Offering shall be received annually throughout the world field on a date approved by the General Conference Executive Committee/respective division committees. The date shall be included in the General Conference Calendar of Offerings Weekly Appeal. ~~General Conference/Division Calendar of Special Days and Offerings~~. Divisions that follow a combined offering plan covering world mission offerings shall include Adventist World Radio in that plan. This offering and any other offerings designated for Adventist World Radio shall be processed according to V 40 50. ~~the General Conference Working Policy, W 30, Adventist World Radio Offering.~~

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HC/OGC/PolRev&Dev/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/PreC/SecC/TreC/GCDO14AC/14AC to
MAI(DIV)

212-14G HOPE CHANNEL AND HOPE CHANNEL, INC - NEW
POLICY

VOTED, To adopt a new policy GC HD, Hope Channel and Hope Channel, Inc, to read
as follows:

HD HOPE CHANNEL AND HOPE CHANNEL, INC

HD 05 Statement of Purpose

Hope Channel is the global television network of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Hope Channel, Inc is an institution of the General Conference and has been authorized to be the coordinating entity of the global television network of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The mission of Hope Channel is to offer God's good news for a better life today and for eternity through the Seventh-day Adventist Church's wholistic understanding of the Bible, including the Three Angels' Messages and end-time prophecies. The vision of Hope Channel is to be the premier global Christian television network. Hope Channel produces TV programs and other media and broadcasts globally via satellite, cable systems and the internet.

HD 10 Organization and Procedures

HD 10 05 Constituency—Hope Channel, Inc is a separately incorporated institution of the General Conference with the General Conference Executive Committee serving as its constituency.

HD 10 10 Constitution and Bylaws—Hope Channel, Inc shall operate and be administered in harmony with its constitution and bylaws as approved by its constituency.

HD 10 20 Network—The Hope Channel network is composed of program production and broadcast entities licensed by Hope Channel, Inc to use its name, logo mark, and any other unique brand identity elements.

HD 20 Relationships to World Divisions

HD 20 05 Activities—Hope Channel, Inc may enter into license agreements for the use of name, logo mark and programs, with denominational entities which own and operate their own satellite broadcasting, internet streaming, or television channels.

HD 20 10 Broadcast Services—Hope Channel, Inc collaborates with divisions and their unions by planning television broadcasts to areas of mutual agreement. Hope Channel, Inc provides broadcast and uplink services for some channels operated by the Hope Channel Network.

HD 20 15 Division Coordination—The divisions may appoint coordinators to liaise with Hope Channel, Inc. These individuals may coordinate the acquisition of broadcast licenses, production of programs, development of new studios, promotion of Hope Channel in their territories and other initiatives.

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/TreC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI(DIV)

213-14G EXCHANGE GAINS OR LOSSES - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC T 25 25, Exchange Gains or Losses, to read as follows:

T 25 25 Currency Exchange Gains or Losses—~~Exchange Losses~~—Currency exchange gains or losses are incurred due to exchange rate variations. The following provisions shall apply:

1. Responsibility—Gains or losses due to currency exchange fluctuations are the responsibility of divisions.
2. Allocated Fund—Gains or losses are to be entered by divisions - No change
3. ~~Unions or Conferences/Missions~~—~~In unions or conferences/missions~~ Union Conferences/Missions or Local Conferences/Missions—In union conferences/missions or local conferences/missions whose territory covers more than one country, and who therefore, operate in more than one currency, gains or losses on currency exchange are to be carried by the organization concerned.
4. Protection—Treasurers/chief financial officers at all levels are to handle currency and currency exchange transactions in such a way as to protect the church from risk and loss.
5. Fund—Due to the potential for loss from fluctuations in currency exchange rates, divisions are encouraged to maintain an allocated currency fluctuation fund to be funded as follows:

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- a. ~~Exchange~~ Currency exchange gains on appropriations and other transactions.
- b. Allocations through the annual budget with monthly credits - No change
- c. Special appropriations - No change
- d. ~~Exchange~~ Currency exchange losses are charged as expenses to the fund.

6. Special Appropriations—Divisions may use the currency fluctuation fund as a source of funding for special appropriations, but caution must be exercised to always maintain an adequate fund balance to meet potential losses due to fluctuating currency exchange rates.

7. Appropriation Adjustments—In cases where divisions incur substantial currency exchange losses on operating appropriations over an extended period, the General Conference will endeavor to partially compensate by providing additional operating appropriations.

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/TreC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI(DIV)

214-14G DISASTER AND FAMINE RELIEF (CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS WEEKLY APPEAL) - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC V 40 45, Annual Offering (Calendar of Offerings Weekly Appeal), to read as follows:

V 40 45 Disaster and Famine Relief—1. Date of Offering—An offering known as the Disaster and Famine Relief Offering shall be received annually, in fields which are on the weekly offering plan, on a date approved by the General Conference/respective division executive committees. The date shall be included in the General Conference Calendar of Offerings Weekly Appeal. ~~Special Days and Offerings.~~

2. Purpose (Use)—This offering shall be used for the temporary and - No change
3. Promotion—The Adventist Development and Relief - No change
4. Distribution - No change

SEC/BRI/PolRev&Dev/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI(DIV)

215-14GE USE OF “DOCTRINE” - POLICY EDITORIAL DIRECTIVE

VOTED, To approve a directive to amend the General Conference *Working Policy*, sections B and D, where appropriate, by replacing “doctrine” with “Fundamental Beliefs.”

The following is the only instance in section B of where this directive will be in effect (GC B 05, Organizational and Operational Principles of Seventh-day Adventist Church Structure, paragraph 3.):

3. Organizational status is granted to a constituency as a trust. Official recognition as a local church, local conference/mission, or union conference/mission is not self-generated, automatic, or perpetual. It is the result of a formal decision by an executive committee or a constituency session at higher levels of denominational organization. Organizational membership and status are entrusted to entities that meet certain qualifications including faithfulness to Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs, ~~doctrines~~, compliance with denominational practices and policies, demonstration of adequate leadership and financial capacity, and responsiveness to mission challenges and opportunities. Membership and status can be reviewed, revised, amended, or withdrawn by the level of organization that granted it.

Here is an example of this directive impacting section D (GC D 10 05, Union Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution, Article III, Relationships)

Article III—Relationships

The _____ Union Conference is a member unit of the global Seventh-day Adventist Church and is located in the territory of the _____ Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The purposes, policies, and procedures of this union conference shall be in harmony with the working policies and procedures of the _____ Division and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. This union conference shall pursue the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in harmony with the ~~doctrines~~, Fundamental Beliefs, programs, and initiatives adopted and approved by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in its quinquennial sessions.

Similar changes are made in section D at the following locations:

GC D 10 05, Union Conference Bylaws, Article VI, Officers, Sec. 1.

GC D 15 05, Union Mission Operating Policy, Article III, Relationships

GC D 15 05, Union Mission Operating Policy, Article XI, Officers and Their Duties, Sec. 1.

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GC D 17 05, Union of Churches Constitution, Article III, Relationships

GC D 17 05, Union of Churches Bylaws, Article VI, Officers, Sec. 1.

GC D 19 05, Union of Churches Model Operating Policy, Article III, Relationships

GC D 19 05, Union of Churches Operating Policy, Article XI, Officers and Their Duties,

Sec. 1.

GC D 20 05, Local Conference Constitution, Article III, Relationships

GC D 20 05, Local Conference Bylaws, Article VI, Officers, Sec. 1.

GC D 25 05, Local Mission Operating Policy, Article III, Relationships

GC D 25 05, Local Mission Operating Policy, Article XI, Officers and Their Duties, Sec. 1.

TRE/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/TreC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI(DIV)

221-14G DESCRIPTION (CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS WEEKLY
APPEAL) - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC V 40 05, Description (Calendar of Offerings Weekly Appeal), to read as follows:

V 40 05 Description—The Calendar of Offerings Weekly Appeal is the traditional offering plan in use by the church over the years. Sabbath School and other offerings are given for mission purposes and special appeals are made during the divine service according to a yearly calendar of offerings voted by the General Conference. It is the basis on which the two simplified offering plans, Combined Offerings Plan (V35) and Personal Giving Plan (V 45) are based.

Under the Calendar of Offerings Weekly Appeal offering plan, the offerings for each Sabbath during the year are allocated as follows:

1. Local Church—Twenty-four Sabbaths (two per month) are - No change
2. Conference/Mission/Field/Union of Churches—Twelve Sabbaths - No change
3. Division—Six Sabbaths per year are designated for division - No change
4. General Conference—Six Sabbaths per year are designated for General Conference offerings which include:
 - a. Disaster and Famine Relief
 - b. Adventist World Radio

c. Annual Week of Sacrifice

d. World Mission Budget—Three offerings which include support for the ~~Special~~ Unusual Opportunities Fund and for the mission program of the Church. One or more of the weeks may be used for the General Conference Session Offering in the year preceding and the year of a Session.

5. Local Church and/or Union and/or Division—Each year has four - No change

SEC/ASTR/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/216-14G/217-14G/218-14G/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/PreC/SecC/TreC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI(DIV)

223-14Ga ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION - POLICY
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend B, Organization and Administration, to read as follows:

B Organization and Administration

B 05 Organizational and Operational Principles of Seventh-day Adventist Church Structure - No change

B 10 Outline and Definitions of Denominational Organization

B 10 02 Nomenclature and Status of Organizational ~~Units—The Units—~~Units—1. The global structure of the Seventh-day Adventist Church includes layers of organizations which serve successively greater geographic territory. These include: the local church, the local conference/mission, the union conference/mission, and the General Conference and its divisions. (See B 05, paragraph 2. for further explanation of divisions).

~~It may be necessary, from time to time in the establishment of a Seventh-day Adventist presence in new territory, to form organizational units that are not constituency based. Examples of such are: Companies of members and clusters of churches within a relatively small geographic area that are administered directly by a union conference/mission rather than by a local conference/mission. Such arrangements are generally transition stages towards becoming a local church (in the case of companies) or a local conference/mission (in the case of groups of churches directly administered by a union conference/mission).~~

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2. One of two classifications, mission status or conference status, may be granted to ~~certain~~ constituency-based levels of denominational organization. In denominational structure, typically, the family of local churches may be classified as a local mission, ~~mission~~[‡], local conference, or union of churches with conference or mission status. In similar fashion, the family of local missions/conferences may be classified as a union mission or a union conference.

3. It may be necessary, to form organizational units that are not constituency-based when establishing and developing a Seventh-day Adventist presence in new territory or territory where there is not yet a capacity to form constituency-based organizational units.

a. Examples of such are: Companies of members and clusters of churches which are within a relatively small geographic area or located in countries with very limited Seventh-day Adventist presence, and which are administered directly by a union conference/mission rather than by a local conference or mission/field.

b. Such organizational units will be classified as either “regions” or “field stations” depending on the size of the Seventh-day Adventist presence. Where there are at least two local churches or companies, the title shall be “region;” where there is either no more than one company or church, or a small group of believers not yet organized into a church or company, the title shall be “field station.” Region/field station status, when authorized by a division executive committee, entitles the entity to identify itself as an official part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

c. Such arrangements are generally transitional stages towards becoming a local church (in the case of companies) or a local mission/field (in the case of groups of regions/field stations, or groups of churches directly administered by a union).

4. When an organization having region/field station status is considered by the division executive committee to have demonstrated its capacity for greater responsibility and participation in the global life of the Church (see B 65 10), it may be granted mission/field status or, through territorial realignment, become part of an existing conference/mission.

5. Mission Mission/Field (the alternative English-language term for a local “mission” is local “field”) status entitles an organization to identify itself as an official part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In addition, ~~mission~~ mission/field status indicates that an organization may receive direct support (financial and/or administrative) from the next higher level of organization. The officers of an organization having mission status are appointed by the next higher level of organization; in the case of local ~~missions~~, missions/fields, by the union in

[‡] In some areas of the world, terms such as “field” or “section” are used instead of the term “mission.” When such terms are used, they refer to units having “mission” status. Organizations having conference status carry the designation in their name.

session or by the union executive committee between sessions; and in the case of union missions, by the division executive committee. Organizations with ~~mission~~ mission/field status conduct constituency meetings in harmony with operating policies (based on model documents in the General Conference *Working Policy*) for the level of organization concerned.

6. When an organization having ~~mission~~ mission/field status is considered by higher levels of organization to have demonstrated its capacity for greater responsibility and participation in the global life of the Church (see B 65 15 and B 75 10), conference status may be granted. Conference status entitles the organization to identify itself as an official part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It also represents the highest level of self-governance available to an organization as part of denominational structure. ~~organization.~~ Accordingly, the officers of organizations having conference status are elected by the constituency session or executive committee of that organization. Organizations with conference status have constitutions and bylaws (based on model documents in the General Conference *Working Policy*) that serve as governing documents for constituency meetings.

B 10 05 Local Church—A group of Seventh-day Adventist - No change

B 10 08 Field Station—A country or distinct geographic area, with an official presence but fewer than two organized churches or companies of believers, which has been designated by action of a division executive committee at midyear, yearend, or division council meeting, a Seventh-day Adventist field station.

B 10 09 Local Region—Two or more local churches or companies of believers, within a defined geographic area, that have been organized in harmony with General Conference and division working policy and have been granted, by action of a division executive committee at midyear, yearend, or division council meeting, official status as a Seventh-day Adventist local region.

B 10 10 Local Conference/Mission/Field—A group of local - No change

B 10 15 Union Conference/Mission—A group of local - No change

B 10 17 Union of Churches—A group of local churches, within a - No change

B 10 20 General Conference - No change

B 10 22 General Conference Authority and Settlement of Differences Between Organizations - No change

B 10 25 Structural Stability—Local churches, local - No change

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B 10 27 Structural Flexibility—Flexibility in Seventh-day Adventist - No change

B 10 28 Alternatives in Organizational Structure— Denominational - No change

B 10 30 Variations in Administrative Relationships - No change

B 15 General Conference *Working Policy* - No change

B 20 General Conference Sessions - No change

B 25 Election of Retirees to Elective Offices - No change

B 30 Procedures for the Replacement of President, Secretary, or Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer of the General Conference - No change

B 35 Procedures for Referring to the General Conference Executive Committee Questions of Conduct in the Office of President, Secretary, or Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer - No change

B 40 Administrative Relationships - No change

B 45 Personal Relations and Organizational Authority - No change

B 50 Relationships Between Organizations - No change

B 55 Responsibility and Relationship of Officers - No change

B 60 Establishing New Constituency-based Organizational Units - No change

B 65 Organizing New Missions*/Conferences/Unions

B 65 05 Responsibility of Administrative Committees - No change

B 65 07 Organizing New Local Region—1. If it is proposed to organize groups of churches into a new local region, the proposal shall be considered by the respective union executive committee at a time when a full representation of the conferences/missions and institutions in the union is present. Proposals to organize new regions/field stations may be initiated by the union or by the division.

2. If the union committee favors the proposal, and the churches to be formed into a new region are part of an existing conference, then the union shall request the conference to call a constituency meeting to consider the proposal. In the event of a positive action by the constituency, or where the churches involved are a part of an existing mission or region, the decision shall be conveyed to the division.

3. The division executive committee shall appoint a survey team to evaluate the proposal. The report and recommendation of the survey team will be submitted to the division executive committee.

4. The final division executive committee decision shall be made at its midyear or yearend meeting, or at a division council.

5. If the division executive committee approves the proposal, the union executive committee (or division executive committee, if the region is to be attached directly to the division) shall prepare a simple operating policy. The union or division executive committee shall also appoint the superintendent, and other officers (if any), of the new region. The superintendent (and any other officers) shall be subject to reappointment by the union executive committee, or, if the region is directly attached to the division, by the division executive committee.

B 65 10 Organizing New Local Missions—1. If it is proposed to organize a new local mission, the proposal shall be considered by the respective union executive committee at a time when a full representation of the conferences/missions and institutions in the union is present. Proposals to organize regions or groups of churches into new missions may be initiated by the conference/mission, by a group of churches, by the union, or by the division.

2. If the union committee favors the proposal, and the churches to - No change

3. The division committee shall appoint a survey team to evaluate - No change

4. The final division executive committee decision shall be made at - No change

5. If the division executive committee approves the proposal, the union - No change

6. The union shall call a constituency meeting of the new - No change

7. The new mission shall be presented at the next union constituency - No change

B 65 15 Organizing New Local Conferences - No change

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B 65 20 Organizing New Union Missions—1. If it is proposed to organize a new union mission, the division officers shall initiate a preliminary consultation with General Conference officers to assess the general merit and implications of such a proposal. If such a consultation results in a decision to study the matter further, the proposal shall be considered by the respective division executive committee at its midyear or yearend meeting, or at a division council.

Proposals to organize groups of missions/ conferences into new union missions may be initiated by the union, by a group of missions/conferences, by the division, or by the General Conference.

2. If the division executive committee favors the proposal, and the local conferences/missions to be formed into a new union mission are part of an existing union conference, the division shall request the union to call a union constituency meeting to consider the proposal. In the event of a positive action by the constituency, or where the organizations involved are a part of an existing union mission, the division shall request the General Conference to appoint a survey team, including General Conference and division representation, to consider the merits of the proposal.

~~3. The survey team, after its investigation, shall report its findings to the General Conference and division executive committees.~~

3. The survey team shall conduct an on-site evaluation and report its findings to the General Conference Administrative Committee (ADCOM). If favorable, ADCOM recommends new status to the General Conference Executive Committee. In the event that ADCOM determines the field is not ready for union status at the time of the General Conference's evaluation, recommendations will be made and, when addressed, a further evaluation conducted.

~~4. If, after considering the findings of the survey team, the division chooses to proceed with organizing the new union mission, it shall record an action to this effect at its midyear or yearend meeting or division council, and forward its recommendation to the General Conference Executive Committee for consideration.~~

~~5. 4. The General Conference Executive Committee shall consider the report of the survey team and the recommendation of the division and shall take the appropriate action.~~

~~6. 5. If the General Conference Executive Committee approves the recommendation, the division executive committee shall prepare an operating policy for the union mission patterned after the model in the General Conference and division working policies. The division executive committee shall also appoint the officers of the new union mission.~~

~~7. 6. The division shall call a constituency meeting of the new organization as soon as possible in order to organize the union mission. At this meeting, departmental directors and the~~

executive committee shall be elected according to provisions of the union mission operating policy.

~~8. 7.~~ The new union mission shall be presented at the next General Conference Session for acceptance into the sisterhood of unions.

B 65 22 Organizing New Unions of Churches—(See also B 75 12 Criteria for Union of Churches Status)—1. A union of churches structure is designed for unusual - No change

2. If it is proposed to organize a new union of churches, the division - No change

3. When a group of conferences/missions initiates a proposal to - No change

4. When a union conference or union mission initiates a proposal - No change

5. If the division executive committee initiates and/or concurs with - No change

6. When the General Conference initiates a proposal to organize - No change

7. Further consideration of a proposal to organize a union of churches - No change

~~8. The survey team, after its investigation, shall report its findings to the General Conference and division executive committees.~~

~~9. If, after considering the findings of the survey team, the division chooses to proceed with organizing the new union of churches, it shall record an action to this effect at its midyear, yearend meeting, division council, or at a time when adequate representation is available, and forward its recommendation to the General Conference Executive Committee for consideration.~~

~~10. The General Conference Executive Committee shall consider the report of the survey team and the recommendation of the division and shall take the appropriate action and, if approving the formation of a new union of churches, shall authorize mission or conference status for the new organization.~~

8. The survey team shall conduct an on-site evaluation and report its findings to the General Conference Administrative Committee (ADCOM). If favorable, ADCOM recommends new status to the General Conference Executive Committee. In the event that ADCOM determines the field is not ready for union status at the time of the General Conference's evaluation, recommendations will be made and, when addressed, a further evaluation conducted.

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~~44.~~ 9. In any situation involving constituency meetings pertaining to - No change

~~42.~~ 10. The new union of churches shall be presented at the next - No change

B 65 25 Organizing New Union Conferences - No change

B 70 Organizing New Divisions - No change

B 75 Adjustments in Organizational Status

B 75 05 Criteria for Conference Status—As local missions/fields grow in strength and experience, they normally qualify for larger responsibilities in organization and administration. When studying the eligibility of missions/fields for conference status, the following considerations shall serve to guide union and division organizations in studying such authorization:

1. The members and employees of the mission/field for which - No change
2. The mission/field shall have attained a well-balanced program - No change
3. The membership shall be sufficiently large to justify the - No change
4. The mission/field shall have an adequate church membership records system.
5. The mission/field shall provide evidence of the accuracy of church membership records and the process for maintaining the records through membership audit.
- ~~4.~~ 6. The mission/field shall be expected to have given evidence over a - No change
- ~~5.~~ 7. The mission/field shall have demonstrated its ability to properly store the materials specified in the records retention schedule as provided by the General Conference Office of Archives, ~~Statistics~~ Statistics, and Research.
8. A region or field station will typically first be reorganized as a mission/field before being considered for reorganization as a conference.

B 75 10 Organizing Local Missions/Fields Into Local Conference Status—Procedure - No change

B 75 12 Criteria for Union of Churches Status—A decision to establish a union of churches will involve the assessment of many different factors some of which are external to the

territory under consideration. However, the church membership and internal infrastructure of the territory also needs to be evaluated. The following criteria must guide this evaluation:

1. Leaders, employees, and members of an organization(s) for which - No change
2. The membership, employees, and Church leaders should give - No change
3. The proposed union of churches must demonstrate that it is able to - No change
4. The union of churches shall demonstrate its ability to develop - No change
5. The union of churches shall demonstrate its ability to properly - No change
6. A spirit of unity shall prevail among the members, employees, and - No change
7. The membership, the ministry, and the leadership shall give evidence - No change
8. The union shall have an adequate church membership records system.
9. The union shall provide evidence of the accuracy of church membership records and the process for maintaining the records through membership audit in its territory.
10. The union shall have demonstrated its ability to properly store the materials specified in the records retention schedule as provided by the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research.
- ~~8.~~ 11. Confidence in, and loyalty to, the leadership of the denomination - No change
- ~~9.~~ 12. Administrative officers and committees shall demonstrate an - No change
- ~~10.~~ 13. The major portion of the financial resources for the operating of - No change
- ~~11.~~ 14. The proposed union of churches shall possess financial - No change

B 75 15 Criteria for Union Conference Status—A union mission should normally develop to the point where the world sisterhood of churches, represented by the division and General Conference, will recognize its readiness to become a union conference with the larger responsibilities thus implied. As a means of evaluating this development and guiding the organizations responsible for determining the readiness of a field for union conference status, the following criteria are established:

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1. Leaders, employees, and members of organizations comprising a - No change
2. The membership, employees, and church leaders should give - No change
3. The union field should be adequately staffed to care for the various - No change
4. The union should have demonstrated its ability to develop and - No change
5. The union shall have demonstrated its ability to properly store - No change
6. The union shall have an adequate church membership records system.
7. The union shall provide evidence of the accuracy of church membership records and the process for maintaining the records through membership audit in its territory.
8. The union shall have demonstrated its ability to properly store the materials specified in the records retention schedule as provided by the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research.
- ~~6.~~ 9. A spirit of unity should prevail among the members, employees, and - No change
- ~~7.~~ 10. The membership, the ministry, and the leadership on the local - No change
- ~~8.~~ 11. Confidence in, and loyalty to, the leadership of the denomination - No change
- ~~9.~~ 12. Administrative officers and committees should have demonstrated - No change
- ~~10.~~ 13. One or more of the local organizations should have attained to - No change
- ~~11.~~ 14. The major portion of the financial resources for the operating of - No change
- ~~12.~~ 15. The union as a whole, including its subsidiary - No change

B 75 20 Union Conference Status—Procedure—1. The union mission shall request its committee(s) for strategic and financial planning to prepare specific, detailed incremental plans for moving the union mission toward union conference status. Status—Procedure—The following procedure shall be suspended until further notice. The procedure presented in the guidelines entitled, “Becoming A Union Conference—A Guidebook and Procedural Steps for Changing From a Union Mission to a Union Conference” shall be used during this trial period. (See Appendix A in the General Conference Working Policy.)

~~1. The union mission shall request its committee(s) for strategic and financial planning to prepare specific, detailed incremental plans for moving the union mission toward union conference status.~~

2. The union mission clarifies the meaning of union conference status to its member units, its local church leaders, and church members.

~~2. 3.~~ At the request of the union mission, the division shall assist - No change

~~3. 4.~~ The union mission executive committee shall review the - No change

~~4. 5.~~ If the division executive committee, in consultation with - No change

5. 6. The survey team shall conduct an on-site evaluation and report its findings to the General Conference Administrative Committee (ADCOM). If favorable, ADCOM recommends new status to the General Conference Executive Committee, division executive committee. In the event the union mission is not ready for union conference status at the time of the General Conference's evaluation, recommendations will be made and, ~~after a suitable passage of time, when addressed,~~ a further evaluation conducted.

~~6. The division executive committee shall study the findings of the survey team and, if satisfied that the union mission is ready for union conference status, shall record an action to this effect at a meeting when the presidents of the unions are present and forward the request to the General Conference for consideration.~~

7. The General Conference Executive Committee shall, at its spring - No change

8. Upon the approval of the General Conference Executive - No change

9. Where there has been a change of status from a union mission to a - No change

B 75 30 Process For Reviewing Status - No change

B 75 35 Survey Commissions—When a division requests the General Conference to establish a new union or change the status of an existing union, the General Conference Administrative Committee will appoint a survey commission. The survey commission shall consist of the following members:

Chair	General Conference Vice President
Secretary	General Conference Secretary (or designee)
Members	General Conference Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer (or designee)

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	Two executive officers (president preferred) from other divisions
	President of division requesting the survey
Advisors	Secretary and Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer of the division requesting the survey (to be granted voice but not vote)
	<u>Union Administration requesting change (to be granted voice but not vote)</u>
Invitees	Others at the discretion of the commission

The survey commission shall assess the proposed entity's readiness for the denominational responsibilities of maintaining the Seventh-day Adventist faith and values, nurturing believers, furthering the Church's mission, demonstrating and developing leadership capacity, and fulfilling all financial obligations to the denomination while remaining fiscally viable. (For expanded criteria, see B 75 12 and B 75 15).

The survey commission shall submit its report and recommendations to the General Conference Administrative Committee. On the basis of the survey commission's report, the General Conference Administrative Committee will determine its response to the division's request. If the response is in support of proceeding with the establishment of a new union or the change of status of an existing union, the General Conference Administrative Committee will forward its recommendation to the General Conference Executive Committee. If the General Conference Administrative Committee's response is not in support of the organizational change, it shall refer the matter back to the division and indicate the reasons for such a decision, listing the conditions, if any, that need to be addressed before further consideration of the matter.

B 80 Adjustments in Territory of Organizations

B 80 05 Territorial Adjustments or Resizing of Territories - No change

B 80 10 Dividing Existing Union Conferences/Missions—Criteria-- Care should be exercised to assure that dividing a union conference/mission is of benefit to the mission of the Church and does not add an unreasonable burden to the administration of the work of the Church that would cancel out the benefits. As a means of evaluating the situation and guiding the organizations responsible for determining the benefits of dividing a union conference/mission, one or more of the following criteria shall apply:

1. An increase in the number of local - No change
2. A decision on the part of the division, following consultation with - No change
3. Evidence that there is sufficient leadership, with experience and - No change
4. The union shall have an adequate church membership records system.

5. The union shall provide evidence of the accuracy of church membership records and the process for maintaining the records through membership audit in its territory.

6. The union shall have demonstrated its ability to properly store the materials specified in the records retention schedule as provided by the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research.

~~4. 7.~~ Sufficient financial stability or provisions for the new organizations - No change

~~5. 8.~~ The proposal to divide shall be driven by a genuine desire for the - No change

~~6. 9.~~ Extremely difficult political situations or lack of adequate - No change

~~7. 10.~~ Internal situations where cultural, linguistic, ethnic, territorial, and/or - No change

B 80 15 Dividing a Union Conference/Mission—Procedure—1. A proposal - No change

2. If, after completing the assessment described above, the division - No change

3. The survey team shall conduct an on-site evaluation and report its findings to the General Conference Administrative Committee (ADCOM) ~~division executive committee.~~

~~4. The division executive committee shall study the findings of the survey team at a meeting at which the union presidents are present and, if satisfied that dividing the union will be an advantage to the mission of the Church, shall record an action to this effect and forward the request to the General Conference for consideration.~~

~~5. 4.~~ The General Conference Executive Committee shall, at its Spring - No change

~~6. 5.~~ Upon the approval of the General Conference Executive - No change

~~7. 6.~~ For any new union conferences, the division shall call constituency - No change

~~8. 7.~~ For any new union missions, the division executive committee - No change

~~9. 8.~~ The General Conference Executive Committee shall recommend - No change

B 85 Union of Churches [Repealed Annual Council 2011]

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B 90 Discontinuation of Organizations

B 90 03 Reasons for Discontinuation of Organizations - No change

B 90 05 Discontinuation of Conferences, Missions, Fields, Unions, and Unions of Churches by Merger - No change

B 90 10 Merger of Local Conferences/Missions/Fields—1. If it is proposed - No change

2. The union executive committee shall assess the recommendations - No change

3. If the union executive committee approves the proposal, it shall - No change

4. If the division executive committee approves the merger, it shall authorize the formation of the new organization (local conference/mission). The merger shall proceed once the union dissolves any local mission involved and there is a corresponding constituency meeting action of any conference involved. ~~(local conference/mission) or recommend, to the General Conference Executive Committee, the formation of a union of churches with conference or mission status. The merger shall proceed subject to dissolution, by the union, of any local mission involved and by corresponding action of the constituency meeting of any conference involved.~~

5. If the division sees wisdom in forming a union of churches rather than implementing a merger, they may request the General Conference Administrative Committee (ADCOM) to appoint a survey commission to study the feasibility of the formation of a union of churches with conference or mission status.

~~5.~~ 6. If the new unit is to function as a local mission, the union shall - No change

~~6.~~ 7. If the new unit is to function as a local conference or union of - No change

~~7.~~ 8. All assets and any liabilities of the merging organizations shall - No change

~~8.~~ 9. Following any actions involving the dissolution of a local - No change

B 90 15 [Repealed Annual Council 2011]

B 90 20 [Repealed Annual Council 2011]

B 90 25 Merger of Union Conferences/Union Missions/Unions of Churches - No change

B 95 Discontinuation of Organizations by Voluntary or Involuntary Dissolution - No change

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/PreC/SecC/TreC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI(DIV)

223-14Gb GUIDELINES FOR BECOMING A UNION CONFERENCE—
POLICY APPENDIX DELETION

VOTED, To delete GC Appendix A, Guidelines for Becoming a Union Conference, which reads as follows:

Appendix A

Guidelines for Becoming a Union Conference

Introduction¹ The following guidelines have been prepared to assist with the process of preparing union missions for union conference status. At the heart of the process is the question of maturity. The move from union mission to union conference status is a recognition that a mission has “come of age.” It has demonstrated spiritual maturity of the constituency and has made progress in areas of leadership, self-reliance, financial management, property care, strategic planning, evangelism, and in the nurturing care of its members.

Accomplishing union conference status is a significant achievement. It is a statement of maturity—a maturity that fosters a climate for spiritual renewal and evangelism. One evidence of a developing union mission is the filling of leadership positions with qualified individuals who have a mission focus and who earnestly seek Divine wisdom. An organization is characterized as mature when its various entities work synergistically towards common mission objectives. Administrative processes are carried out in ways that cultivate a sense of ownership and confidence on one hand and a sense of humility and openness to counsel on the other.

The role of financial management is an integral part of organizational maturity. In the “Stewardship, Self-reliance, and Sacrifice,” document voted at the 1993 Annual Council the following paragraph is found:

“It is important that procedures be recommended that will move the church from a state of financial dependence—mission status to financial interdependence—conference status, in a community of mutual sharing and sacrificing for the good of the body. Fields that have grown

¹ In several areas of the world, local field units not holding conference status may be classified with terminology other than “mission.” For the purposes of this document, conference status, whether it be local conference or union conference, may be classified with terminology other than “mission,” i.e. “field” and “section.”

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accustomed to receiving funds from higher organizations to meet basic operational expenses must develop the ability to provide for their own needs and increase their self-reliance to the place where they are able to share with others in the global mission of the Church. It is easy to remain in comfortable dependence. God has provided the resources with which the Church may accomplish its mission and every field must seek ways to discover and multiply those resources.”

To reach these goals administrators will need to recognize and facilitate the development of the spiritual gifts among their staff and membership. One important part of this development is the involvement of every member in some form of ministry. The faithful stewardship of time, talent, and resources—as represented in tithes and offerings—will have a powerful impact on the new union conference. When members become involved in the process of strategic planning, goal-setting, and giving, they become a motivated force for spiritual renewal and evangelism.

An overview of the organizational process outline follows.

I. Procedure for Changing Union Mission Status to that of Union Conference

1. The union mission clarifies the meaning of union conference status to members, local church leaders, and all denominational leaders within the union.
2. The union mission executive committee recommends the change to division officers.
3. Division officers receive the request and provide a self-evaluation document to be completed by the union mission.
4. Division officers receive the completed document and, if favorable, recommend to the division executive committee.
5. The division executive committee reviews the recommendation and, if favorable, requests that the General Conference appoint a survey commission.
6. The General Conference Survey Commission conducts an on-site evaluation and reviews the in-depth self-evaluation completed by the union mission.
7. The General Conference Survey Commission reports findings to the General Conference Administrative Committee and, if favorable, the Administrative Committee recommends new status to the General Conference Executive Committee.

8. Action of the General Conference Executive Committee is communicated to division officers for implementation. See General Conference Working Policy, B 85 10, paragraph 8.

II. Criteria for Union Conference Status

A union mission should normally develop to the point where the world sisterhood of churches, represented by the division and General Conference, will recognize its readiness to become a union conference with the implied larger responsibilities. The following criteria for union conference status is outlined in the General Conference Working Policy. It serves as a means for determining the development and maturity of the mission. These criteria also assist other organizations in determining the readiness of a field for union conference status.

“1. Leaders, employees, and members of organizations comprising a union field for which conference status is contemplated shall give evidence of possessing a clear perception of the denomination’s primary objectives which are to supply the spiritual needs of the church and obey the Lord’s commission, ‘Go . . . and preach the gospel’ (Mark 16:15).

“2. The membership, employees, and church leaders should give evidence that they understand the worldwide character of the work and participate by assuming their share of the financial responsibility.

“3. The union field should be adequately manned to care for the various lines of activity and, when necessary, be ready to share its employees with other fields.

“4. The union should have demonstrated its ability to develop and administer a balanced departmental and institutional program.

“5. The union shall have demonstrated its ability to properly store the materials specified in the records retention schedule as provided by the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research.

“6. A spirit of unity should prevail among the members, employees, and leaders of the field. This unity should be evident in the plans formulated and in the implementation of the same. It should be found between individual members and between the various organizations within the union.

“7. The membership, the ministry, and the leadership on the local and union level should give evidence of understanding and accepting the established principles of denominational administration and relationships between the various organizations. Leaders and

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committees should demonstrate willingness to work in harmony with the working policies of the denomination.

“8. Confidence in and loyalty to, the leadership of the denomination at all levels should be evident on the part of the membership. Employees and members should respect the decisions of responsible committees.

“9. Administrative officers and committees should have demonstrated the ability to recognize problems which affect the welfare of the work, and thus take steps which will resolve these problems.

“10. One or more of the local organizations should have attained to conference status and should be operating successfully.

“11. The major portion of the financial resources for the operating of organizations and institutions should be found within the union field.

“12. The union as a whole, including its subsidiary organizations, should possess financial stability, having its operating capital intact. It should also have adequate resources to meet its financial obligations promptly, including accounts payable to other denominational organizations.”—General Conference *Working Policy*, B 85 05.

III. Information to Be Supplied for Evaluation by Division Officers, Division Executive Committee, and General Conference Survey Commission

1. Documents required for the entity(s) being considered for change of status:
 - a. Most recent audited financial statement
 - b. Approved budget for the current fiscal period
 - c. Most recent unaudited financial statement
 - d. Most recent statistical report
 - e. Current year minutes of the executive committee/administrative committee
 - f. Mission statement

2. Descriptive information required:
- a. Rationale for desiring change of status
 - b. Statement on various aspects of collective church life in each of the entities which will become part of the proposed union conference. This statement is to cover such topics as:
 - 1) Ways in which the membership of each entity is kept informed about the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church.
 - 2) Ways in which the membership of each entity participates in and supports the Seventh-day Adventist Church, i.e. financial support and commitment to the worldwide mission of the Church.
 - 3) Ways in which the membership in each entity demonstrates its support for and cooperation with division leadership.
 - 4) A summary of recent (within last five years) organizational conflicts, if any, within the territory under consideration—e.g. churches withholding tithes and offerings, protests by employees/members against section/region/attached field leadership, strikes or conflict at institutions, legal cases initiated by church members or employees or entities, employee dismissals, cases of alleged/proven fraud or misappropriation.
 - 5) Statement regarding the impact of independent ministries (local or international) and/or tendencies towards congregationalism within local churches.
 - 6) Questionable theological views espoused by pastors/Bible teachers/employees within the territory under consideration.

3. Statistical/Analytical information required:

- a. Church growth

Composite of Union Church Growth Statistics for the Last Five Years

Year _____

Church Membership _____

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Number of increase/decrease in membership from previous year	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Percentage of change in membership from previous year	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
SS membership	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
SS/church ratio	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number of baptisms	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number of apostasies	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number of employee evangelistic series	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number of lay evangelistic series	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number of literature evangelists	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number of baptisms by literature evangelists	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number of ordained and licensed ministers	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ratio of ministers to members	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number of office employees	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number of field employees	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ratio of office to field employees	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number of volunteers (AVS)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Does the union have a long-range plan for development? If so, please attach a description of the plan for the following:

Personnel

Facilities

Global Mission thrust to reach all people groups within the union territory

b. Spiritual growth/maturity

1)* What has the union leadership done during the past year to help the church members better understand the importance of having a personal relationship with God? (See Criteria for Union Conference Status, paragraph 1.)

2)* Do employees and church members have confidence in and loyalty to church leadership on all levels? Please respond with a brief written statement. (See Criteria for Union Conference Status, paragraph 8.)

3)* On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = very poor and 5 = excellent), at what level would you at this time rate the spirit of unity in the union? (See Criteria for Union Conference Status, paragraph 6.)

1 2 3 4 5

c. Union educational statistics for the last five years

Educational Statistics for Last Five Years

Years:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Elementary Schools:					
Number of church schools	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number of SDA teachers	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number non-SDA teachers	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number of SDA students	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number non-SDA students	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
 Day academies/Secondary Schools:					
Number of academies/ secondary schools	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number SDA teachers	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number non-SDA teachers	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number of SDA students	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number non-SDA students	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
 Boarding Academies/Secondary Schools:					
Number of academies/ secondary schools	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number of SDA teachers	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number non-SDA teachers	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

* Indicates sections which will be completed by the division survey commission.

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Number SDA students	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number non-SDA students	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Colleges/Universities:

Number of colleges/ universities	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number SDA teachers	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number non-SDA teachers	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number of SDA students	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Number non-SDA students	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

1) Does the educational statistics report for the last five years coincide with conference/mission records? Yes No

2) Estimated present number of SDA youth ages 6-14 years _____

3) Estimated present number of SDA youth ages 15-21 years _____

4. Services, programs, ministries

a. What evidence can be provided which indicates that there is currently a personal stewardship plan or its equivalent functioning within the union? (You may wish to reply on a separate sheet of paper.)

b. What percentage of the union membership is returning a faithful tithe? _____%

c. How many Adventist Book Centers are operating in the union? _____

d. In terms of the currency used by the union office, what is the total sale of trade and subscription literature for the past five years in the union?

Year	Total Trade Literature Sales	Total Subscription Sales
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

e. Union-wide, what is the total number of new enrollments in the Bible correspondence schools secured by the church members during each of the last five years?

Year	Number of Enrollments
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

f. What percentage of the church members are involved in outreach of some form on a regular basis (at least one time per week)? _____%

- 1) In Go 1 Million? _____%
- 2) In Sow 1 Billion? _____ %
- 3) Other _____ %

g. Is there an annual spiritual emphasis week? ____ Yes ____ No

h. What methods are currently being used for lay involvement? (e.g. Revelation Seminars, lay evangelistic series, etc)

5. Leadership, personnel, and organization—a. Does the union have a current constitution and bylaws? ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, does the union administration abide by it in organizational matters?
____ Always ____ Almost always ____ Usually ____ Occasionally ____ Seldom

b. Are church/union owned properties properly registered with the government?

- 1) Are the original deeds in the union files? ____ Yes ____ No
- 2) Are copies of the deeds maintained at the division office?
____ Yes ____ No

c. Does the union operate an adequate records management system? Please comment.

d. Provide a list of union employees which includes administrators and department directors/associates. Report should indicate title, responsibilities as assigned by

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committee, educational attainment, and years of service in current position as well as the total number of years served in the denomination. Please attach a separate sheet for this information.

e. List the institutions within the union (i.e., clinics, hospitals, colleges/ universities, publishing houses, etc) and indicate the names of current administrators, and date when current assignment was made. How many full-time employees are on each institutional payroll? How many part-time employees? What is the average institutional employee turnover rate? Please use separate sheet.

f. Has the union developed an employee handbook which clarifies employee benefits and the relationship of employees with the union's policies and procedures?

g. Does the union understand the importance of continuing a close relationship with the division and the General Conference even after union conference status is granted?

h. Has the union developed its "Statement of Mission" and set measurable goals which indicate the direction in which the organization is moving? ____ Yes
____ Currently considering

i. How often does the union executive committee meet?

j. Do the following entities record and preserve board/committee minutes and other vital documents as outlined in the General Conference *Working Policy*, BA 65?

Union: ____ Yes ____ No
Conference/Mission: ____ Yes ____ No
Institutions: ____ Yes ____ No

k. Does the union have adequate personnel to staff all normal functions?
____ Yes ____ Almost enough ____ Inadequate

l. Does the union currently have missionaries serving in other parts of the world? ____ Yes ____ No

m. How often does the union executive committee meet? _____
How many members of the union executive committee are denominational employees?
_____ How many are laypersons? _____

n. Do the union and the entities within the union—such as conferences, missions and institutions—understand their relationship with other denominational organizations? Yes No

o. Have the leaders and committees demonstrated an ability to:

- 1) Recognize problems impacting the church?
 Always Almost always Usually
 Occasionally Seldom
- 2) Take corrective action?
 Always Almost always Usually
 Occasionally Seldom

6. Financial Stability

a. What have been the giving trends throughout the union during the past five years in gross tithes, Sabbath School offerings, and local church funds? Please state in the currency where the union is located.

Local Year	Total Tithe	SS Offerings	Church Funds
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

b. Provide copies of the audited annual operating statements, audit management letter, and the management’s response to the audit management letter for the past five-year period for the union and its institutions.

c. With the financial statements as a basis, please state on a separate page the working capital and liquidity percentages for the past five-year period for the union and its institutions.

d. Indicate liabilities and accounts receivable in the currency where the union office is located.

e. Are inter-organizational account reconciliations up-to-date and are outstanding items cleared on a timely basis? On a separate sheet of paper, please provide a summary of the most current inter-organizational account reconciliations showing the entity

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involved, the date of the reconciliation, a listing of all outstanding items in excess of three months that have not yet been cleared, and the designation as to which entity has yet to enter the transaction.

f. On a separate sheet of paper, please list the most recent balances on the union's ledgers of denominational entities accounts receivable and accounts payable.

g. Is the union giving subsidies to the colleges/universities according to policy? Yes No

If yes, please attach a schedule showing relevant amounts and applicable policies.

h. Does the union have adequate income to be able to function at an acceptable level without any appropriation from the division? Yes No

1) On a separate sheet please list the union's self-support ratio for the past five years.

2) On the same page please list any operating subsidies received for the past five years.

i. How many years in succession has the union operated within a balanced budget? Years

List below the budgeted and actual expenses for the last five years.

Year	Actual	Budget	(Over)/Under
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

j. Are contributions to the denominational retirement fund current?
 Yes No

k. Is the union currently implementing all authorized employee's subsidies and allowances? Yes No

l. Is the union operating within the remuneration and allowance policies as set by the division? Yes No

m. Are tithes and offering funds forwarded to the division and cleared monthly? Yes No

n. How is the physical property (union office, union institutions, vehicles) maintained?

Very well maintained Usually well maintained
 Poorly maintained Very poorly maintained

o. Are all properties insured according to denominational guidelines?
 Yes No

p. Are the finances of the union sufficient to provide reasonable wages and allowances for employees? Yes No

q. Does there appear to be a willingness by the executive committee and constituency to be held accountable for financial management according to policy? Yes No

r. Church statistics (Duplicate this page to accommodate the number of conferences/missions within the union mission.)

1) Date organized into a union mission _____

2) Current population of union mission territory _____

Union
Total

Names of Conferences/
Missions:

Organization:

Number of districts _____

Number of churches _____

Number of companies _____

Membership:

Number of members
in companies _____

Number of members
in churches _____

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Total	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Churches/Places of worship:						
Building owned by churches	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Buildings rented by churches	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Buildings owned by companies	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Buildings rented by companies	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

List of Conferences

Date Organized into a Conference

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**IV. Issues Which Should Be Probed Further
 During the Survey Process**

1. What is the strategic planning process for this entity?
2. What provision is made for church members to have Sabbath School Bible Study Guides in their own language? To what extent do members actually have copies of the Sabbath School Bible Study Guides?
3. What provision is made for church members to purchase or have access to the writings of Ellen G White?
4. Do leaders of conferences and missions have a clear understanding regarding the worldwide character of the work of the Church?
5. Does the union administration understand that the status of “conference” not only implies self-support but also requires significant contribution to the world field?
6. Does the union administration and the committee recognize the authority of the General Conference?

7. What inter-church gatherings (i.e. camp meetings, rallies, etc) are held to promote awareness of a larger church life beyond that of the local congregation?
8. What is the budget preparation process for this entity?
9. What is the educational level of employees, especially pastors? What is expected? To what extent is the expectation met?
10. Is there an adequate pool of leadership?
11. Who is handling employee service records? Are these records up-to-date? What kind of review process is there to ensure that records are maintained and accurate?
12. Are trust funds (tithes and offerings) remitted monthly in total from each unit to the division?
13. What is the financial statement review process for this entity?
14. Is there a functioning audit committee and what kind of review process is in place?
15. Is there a salary audit committee and, if so, what kind of review process is in place?
16. Does the remuneration/wage scale reflect reality within the local economy considering such issues as inflation?
17. What depreciation provisions are made? Are they adequate? Is there cash available for equipment replacement, etc? Is there a capital budget each year?
18. To what extent are local church financial records being audited? What is the arrangement for local church financial audits?
19. Are church properties secure? Where are titles? Are all details kept up-to-date? Who is responsible? How are maintenance and repair matters cared for? What is the current state of maintenance and repair?
20. What is the process for ensuring that church properties are adequately insured?
21. What is the situation regarding housing for employees—adequate/inadequate?

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22. How does administration ensure that title is used in harmony with policy?

13AC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/TreC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI(DIV)

224-14Ga POLICIES THAT GOVERN THE INTERDIVISION EMPLOYEE PROGRAM - POLICY DELETION

WHEREAS, The following action was voted at the 2013 Annual Council:

PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/TreC/GCDO13AC/13AC to MAI-PolRev&Dev

256-13G NEW APPROACH TO POLICIES THAT GOVERN THE INTERDIVISION EMPLOYEE PROGRAM

VOTED, To initiate the process of transferring interdivision employee-related policies from the General Conference *Working Policy* and placing them in a new interdivision employee handbook. Changes to this handbook would be approved by the General Conference Mission Board (GCC-S) at Spring Meetings and Annual Councils.

Therefore, it is

VOTED, 1. To delete sections N, O, P, and Q of the General Conference *Working Policy*, with the understanding that these sections will be incorporated into the *Interdivision Employee Handbook*, which is approved by the General Conference Mission Board.

2. To revise section M of the General Conference *Working Policy*, with the understanding that the deleted portions of section M will be incorporated into the *Interdivision Employee Handbook*, which is approved by the General Conference Mission Board.

3. Any references found in the General Conference *Working Policy* to interdivision employee policies moved to the *Interdivision Employee Handbook*, will be changed accordingly.

13AC/SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/TreC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI(DIV)

224-14Gb INTERDIVISION SERVICE POLICIES - POLICY
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC M, Interdivision Service Policies—General, which reads as follows:

M INTERDIVISION SERVICE POLICIES—GENERAL

M 05 Interdivision Service

The Gospel Commission requires us to proclaim the message in all the world. The very fundamentals of our faith call for the accomplishment of this work as quickly as possible. Church entities around the world need men and women who will dedicate their lives to whatever task is set before them by the leading of the Lord and the decisions of the Church. Employees who are willing to accept such special opportunities for service and self-sacrifice are needed for interdivision appointments. Interdivision employees are to unite their interests with those of the people they serve, seeking by love, devotion, and consecrated will to win them to Christ. Their chief objective must be the presentation of the gospel to all peoples in a way that will bring men and women to rejoice in the hope of a soon-coming Savior.

One of the most important and far-reaching activities of the Church is the procedure of calling and appointing interdivision employees. This involves heavy financial outlay as well as profound changes in the lives and careers of its interdivision employees. Consequently, the utmost care is to be exercised in the application of all policies relating to employees called to interdivision service.

M 06 Interdivision Employee

An interdivision employee is one, who on the basis of a call processed by the General Conference, serves in an official assignment outside the country of birth or normal residency.

M 07 Interdivision Policies

The General Conference Executive Committee has appointed a General Conference Mission Board and has entrusted it with the responsibility for the policy framework pertaining to international service assignments funded by the General Conference. These policies are contained in the *Interdivision Employee Handbook*, which is available from General Conference International Personnel Resources and Services (IPRS).

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M 09 Seventh-day Adventist Institute of World Mission

M 09 05 Purpose—The Institute of World Mission is located within the General Conference Secretariat. The Institute of World Mission fulfills the following functions in collaboration with General Conference International Personnel Resources and Services (IPRS) under the oversight of the Mission Board Strategy and Funding Committee:

1. Holds regularly scheduled Mission Institutes to prepare international service employees, volunteers, and others interested in cross-cultural mission for effective service.
2. Assists in providing an on-going “flow of care” for international service employee and volunteer families to enhance their service and long-term commitment to the mission of the Church.
3. Provides mission training resources and cross-cultural training seminars for church administrators, educators, pastors, and members.
4. Conducts research beneficial to the missionary program of the Church.
5. Assists in cultivating mission vision in the world Church.

M 10 Interdivision Policies

~~Individuals called as interdivision employees are called under terms of the interdivision policies as outlined in the General Conference *Working Policy*. Some policies allow discretion on the part of the calling organization, but others, such as the right to annual leaves, are not discretionary. Some calling organizations, in an attempt to allow individuals to continue to accrue service credit in the base division country and not lose prior service credit, consider placing interdivision calls but with special conditions requiring the interdivision employees to give up annual leaves or other rights provided for under interdivision policy.——~~

~~In such circumstances, organizations not agreeing to provide the full benefits in harmony with interdivision policies should consider use of the provisions in E-20, Independent Transfers. If the employing organization wishes to address the issue of lost retirement benefits, it can offer to purchase an annuity under terms agreeable to both parties to compensate for the expected loss. Any such agreement would not involve any guarantee that the value of the annuity would be equal to the lost retirement benefits, as it is not possible to determine precisely what those benefits will be at a future date, but would help to offset some or all of the loss incurred.~~

~~Special arrangements in effect as of October 31, 1998 are not voided by this policy, but no employing organization placing a call on or after October 31, 1998 is allowed to make any~~

special arrangements with any individual called as an interdivision employee that would require foregoing benefits provided under the interdivision policies of the General Conference. Only the General Conference Executive Committee has the authority to modify terms of the interdivision policy.

M 15 Definition of Terms

~~M 15-05 Base Division—The division in which the interdivision employee is accruing service credit, whether it be his/her home division or adopted division. (See E 15-15 for full definition.)~~

~~M 15-10 Base Division Country—The base division country is the country within the employee's base division in which the employee has citizenship or resident status under the criteria as set out in E 15-20. The base division country determines the calculation of the base country deposit, if applicable, and other allowances related to the base division country. The base division country is recorded in the minutes of the Mission Personnel Processing Committee.~~

~~M 15-15 Base Division Country Rate—The remuneration and allowances a local employee with similar experience and assignment of tasks in the base division country would receive, inclusive of local salary and any applicable local allowances. For interdivision employees, the base division country rate includes all normal allowances received by local employees for which the interdivision employee would qualify, such as automobile depreciation (if the interdivision employee continues to own an automobile in either the host or base division); child allowance (in countries where applicable), housing allowance or housing subsidy (where applicable), and medical allowance. During annual leave, educational allowance for children in secondary schools and colleges/universities will normally remain under the policies applicable to an interdivision employee in the field, but any elementary level educational allowance for children enrolled in school in the base division during annual leave would be reimbursed under the policies of the base division country. In the case of an extended annual leave beyond the normal 36 or 51 calendar days and where it includes a full semester or quarter for secondary school or college/university age children, the educational allowance for that period of time would be based on the rates and policies of the base division country rather than the policy for children of interdivision employees studying in the base division (O 50 and O 55), since the interdivision employee is receiving the base division country rate. (See also P 34-35.)~~

~~M 15-20 Family Adopted Division Country—Where an interdivision employee and spouse have base division countries which are different, they shall choose a family adopted division country. (See E 15-45.) The family adopted division country shall be the base division country of either the interdivision appointee or spouse. This is a one-time choice for any continuous period of interdivision service and may not be changed unless there is a change in citizenship or a loss of resident status. Family adopted division country determines the following:~~

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1. ~~The division country for appointee/annual leave/permanent return travel, freight, and related allowances as follows (does not involve remuneration rates):~~

a. ~~Visits to parents/children. (See N 05 25, P 34 10, and Q 10 20.)~~

b. ~~Medical allowance rates and policies.~~

c. ~~Freight shipments.~~

2. ~~The division country for application of educational allowance. (See O 50 and O 55.)~~

3. ~~The division for application of the Return of a Deceased Interdivision Employee or Family Member. (See M 75.)~~

4. ~~The division country for application of Child Adoption. (See O 90 15.)~~

5. ~~The division country for application of Financial Settlement With Interdivision Employees and Their Children Who Elect Not to Return to the Base Division or Family Adopted Division, where applicable. (Salary would still be based on base division country for the individual involved.) (See Q 40.)~~

~~M 15 25 Appointing Division—The base division of the individual being called.~~

~~M 15 30 Calling Division—The host division where the interdivision employee will serve.~~

~~M 15 35 Host Division—The division in which the interdivision employee is serving. When referring to an entity as opposed to a territory, it also refers to General Conference institutions. (See E 15 50.)~~

~~M 15 40 Host Division Country—The country in the host division where the interdivision employee is serving. There may be unusual situations where the interdivision employee lives in a different country from the country in which he/she serves. In such cases, the interdivision employee is normally paid in harmony with the rates and policies of the country where he/she lives. (See E 15 55.)~~

~~M 15 45 Host Division Country Rate—The remuneration and allowances an interdivision employee or interdivision employed spouse receives while serving in a particular country in the host division. It includes local salary, expatriate allowance (if any), base country deposit (if any),~~

and any applicable local allowances for which an interdivision employee would continue to have ongoing responsibility, such as automobile depreciation (if the interdivision employee still owns an automobile), child allowance, compassionate leave (where applicable), and housing allowance (where applicable). Even if an interdivision employee chooses to remain on the host division country rate during annual leave, medical allowance, annual leave rent subsidy (when applicable), and automobile mileage or kilometrage reimbursement will be at the applicable rates and under the policies of the base division country. Educational allowance for children in secondary schools or colleges/universities will normally remain under the policies applicable to an interdivision employee in the field, even during annual leave, but any elementary level educational allowance for children enrolled in school in the base division during annual leave would be granted under the policies of the base division country. In the case of extended annual leaves beyond the normal 36 or 51 calendar days and where a full semester or quarter for secondary school or college/university age children is included, the educational allowance for that period of time will be based on the rates and policies of the base division country rather than the policy for children of interdivision employees studying in the base division (see O 55 and O 60), since the interdivision employee is eligible to receive the base division country rate. (See also P 34 35.)

~~M 15 50 Budget/Interdivision Budget—The authorized employment position for an interdivision employee, an interdivision employed spouse, or a locally employed spouse. The code position number for an approved budget identifies the funding arrangements through reference to the code, and is tied to a specific assignment in a specific country with a specific maximum salary percentage. Interdivision employee budgets include provision for the budget servicing costs (appointee, annual leave, and permanent return expenses; and educational allowance for children in secondary schools or colleges/universities, etc.), whereas spouse budgets do not. The costs associated with an interdivision employee budget applied to a specific assignment or location may be very different from costs associated with a budget applied to a different assignment and/or location. When considering requests by divisions for changes in location or assignment of interdivision employee Code 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 budgets (see M 20), the Mission Personnel Processing Committee and Mission Board Strategy and Funding Committee will take into consideration the relative difference in the average costs to the General Conference of the budgets as they are currently applied and as requested.~~

~~M 15 55 Budget Servicing Expenses—The appointee, annual leave, and permanent return expenses of the appointee/employee, as well as all allowances, both in the host and base divisions, which would be paid for the spouse and dependents based on the interdivision appointee/employee's service, whether or not the spouse is employed. All budget servicing is charged to the appointee/employee's budget regardless of the code position of the spouse.~~

~~M 15 60 New Appointee Period—The pre-embarkation period (up to one month to prepare for departure and to visit family in the base division), time of attendance at the Institute~~

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of World Mission if taken before departing for the field, and the language study period if it is taken outside the host division.

~~M 15-65 Employing Organization in the Host Division/Calling Organization in the Host Division—The denominational institution or organization in the host division bearing the full expenses of a Code 4 budget. The host division may choose to participate in some of the expenses, but generally all expenses of a Code 4 budget are borne by the local employer.~~

~~M 15-70 Local Employer—The local denominational organization where an interdivision employee is working, regardless of the budget code position.~~

~~M 15-75 Interdivision Appointee/Interdivision Employee—The primary individual called to interdivision service. In some cases, both the wife and the husband may have been called for appointments which either one would have been called for separately, thereby making it unclear as to which one should be considered the “appointee/employee” and which the “employed spouse” for policy application purposes. In such cases, the individual called to the position with the higher maximum salary percentage on the wage scale shall be considered as the “appointee/employee” and the other as the “employed spouse.” If both are in positions with an equal maximum salary percentage, the “birthday rule” shall come into effect with the one whose birthday comes earlier in the calendar year being considered the “appointee/employee” and the other the “employed spouse.”~~

~~M 15-80 Interdivision Employed Spouse—The spouse of an interdivision employee as defined under M 15-75 who is employed on a Code 1, 2, 3, 4, or 6 budget and receives applicable interdivision remuneration and benefits according to policy.~~

~~M 15-85 Locally Employed Spouse—The spouse of an interdivision employee as defined under M 15-75 who is employed on a Code 5 budget and receives only local host division country salary and allowances plus service credit in the base division.~~

~~M 15-90 Spouse of an Interdivision Employee—The spouse, whether denominationally employed or not, of an interdivision employee.~~

~~M 15-95 Mission Personnel Processing Committee—The committee approves direct action appointments; records interdivision appointments, transfers, and annual leaves of interdivision employees serving at the General Conference and General Conference institutions located in the North American Division territory, permanent returns, assignment of code budgets, independent transfers, and base division status; records volunteer assignments; and interprets general policies relating to interdivision service; determines the best use and allocation of interdivision budgets, both within and between divisions; and interprets and implements interdivision financial policies and deals with special cases.~~

~~M 15-100 General Conference Interdivision Employee Budget Oversight Committee
[Repealed Annual Council 2010]~~

~~M 15-105 General Conference Interdivision Employee Remuneration and Allowances
Committee [Repealed Annual Council 2010]~~

~~M-20 Interdivision Employee Budget Code Plan~~

~~M 20-05 Disposition of Interdivision Employee Budgets—The disposition of
interdivision employee budgets (Codes 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6) falls within the purview of the General
Conference.~~

~~M 20-10 Categories of Interdivision Employee Budgets—To plan for more efficient use
of church resources, all interdivision employee positions are assigned one of the following
budget codes:~~

~~1. Code 1—Regular—Interdivision employees who are appointed to pioneer work in
unentered territories and with new people groups as well as to carry on the work in well-
established areas.~~

~~a. Regular terms of service apply.~~

~~b. The need and utilization of interdivision budgets is to be evaluated
annually by the General Conference International Personnel Resources and Services in
consultation with the divisions.~~

~~c. The Mission Personnel Processing Committee shall work with the
divisions to facilitate the most effective use and distribution of interdivision budgets both within
and between divisions.~~

~~2. Code 2—General Conference Temporary—Interdivision employees who are
appointed to division-controlled unentered territories or other areas of unusual opportunity.~~

~~a. Terms may vary depending upon the appointment.~~

~~b. The division will present proposal requests to the General Conference
International Personnel Resources and Services.~~

~~c. The Mission Personnel Processing Committee will evaluate requests and
approve Code 2 budgets based on the availability of funds.~~

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d. ~~Code 2 budgets are temporary in nature and requests must include specific plans for transition to another budget code over a defined period of time, or a termination date for use of the budget.~~

3. ~~Code 3—Direct Action—Interdivision employees who are appointed to General Conference-initiated Global Mission projects developed in close cooperation with divisions.~~

a. ~~Terms may vary depending upon the appointment.~~

b. ~~Emphasis must be on General Conference-identified targets.~~

e. ~~Interdivision employee appointments must be target driven.~~

d. ~~Need for and utilization of direct action interdivision budget points will be evaluated annually by the division, the General Conference Global Mission personnel, and the General Conference International Personnel Resources and Services.~~

e. ~~Funding is provided from the General Conference Global Mission operating budget or other special funding sources.~~

4. ~~Code 4—Institutionally or Locally Funded—Interdivision employees who are called and funded by denominational institutions or organizations located outside of the base division.~~

a. ~~Regular terms of service apply.~~

b. ~~The appointment is division approved.~~

5. ~~Code 5—Locally Employed Spouse—The spouse of an interdivision employee who receives only local host division country salary and allowances plus service credit in the base division country.~~

6. ~~Code 6—Flat Rate Institutionally Funded—Interdivision employees who are called and funded by denominational institutions or organizations located outside of the base division. Budget servicing costs are cared for by the General Conference in exchange for a flat rate annual charge to the employing organization in the host division.~~

a. ~~Regular terms of service apply.~~

b. ~~Subject to terms set by the Mission Personnel Processing Committee for approval of Code 6 budgets.~~

e. ~~The arrangement is division approved.~~

~~M 20 15 Financial Plan for Interdivision Employee Budgets—Funding for Interdivision Budgets is provided by denominational organizations, as follows:~~

1. ~~Code 1—Regular—General Conference funding except for the local salary, housing, and local and other allowances which are borne by the local employer. (See M 20 20 and M 20 25.)~~

2. ~~Code 2—General Conference Temporary—General Conference funding except for the local salary, housing, and local and other allowances which are borne by the local employer. (See M 20 20 and M 20 25.)~~

3. ~~Code 3—Direct Action—General Conference funding of all expenses including local salary, allowances, and housing. This does not include funding of program expenses or travel budget.~~

4. ~~Code 4—Institutionally or Locally Funded—Funded by the employing organization in the host division including appointee, annual leave, and permanent return expenses, base country deposits, expatriate allowance, interdivision allowances, contributions to the base division country retirement plan, and host division country local salary, allowances, housing, and all other applicable expenses.~~

5. ~~Code 5—Locally Employed Spouse—Funded entirely by the local employer, except for the cost of contributions to the base division country retirement plan and the employer's share of the base division country national insurance/social security, which are borne by the General Conference in the case of locally employed spouses of interdivision employees on Code 1, 2, 3, and 6 budgets, and by the employing organization in the host division in the case of locally employed spouses of interdivision employees on Code 4 budgets.~~

6. ~~Code 6—Flat Rate Institutionally Funded—Funding is the same as a Code 4 budget except that the institution or organization is charged a flat amount annually by the General Conference to treat an institution or organization's Code 4 budgets as if they were Code 1 budgets. Terms and conditions of this arrangement are subject to approval by the Mission Personnel Processing Committee.~~

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~~M 20 20 Local Employer or Host Division Responsibility*—Codes 1, 2, 4, and 6 (General Conference Responsibility—Code 3)—1. Local salary while in the host division, during annual leave, including the employer's share of local national insurance/social security and other employer borne payroll taxes. (See O 25.)~~

~~2. All local allowances which may include, but are not limited to: automobile depreciation, automobile insurance assistance, child allowance, utilities allowance, local income tax subsidy, and household insurance assistance. (Some divisions are on the package plan where a single allowance is given in lieu of a number of individual allowances.) (See O 20 and O 25 25.)~~

~~3. Employer's share of base division country national insurance/social security on the local salary and allowances (when applicable). (See O 25 05.)~~

~~4. Housing provided by the local employer or host division with an appropriate rental charge to the interdivision employee, or a housing allowance package. (See O 05 and O 15.)~~

~~5. Medical expense reimbursement and repatriation costs, if required for medical care, for the interdivision employee and eligible family members while serving in the host division. This does not include medical expense reimbursement for appointee/annual leave, or permanent return periods, or for children in secondary schools or colleges/universities who are studying outside the host division. (See O 75.)~~

~~6. Travel expense reimbursement for business travel as authorized by the local employer or host division. (This is a local employer expense even for Code 3 budgets.) (See M 20 10.)~~

~~7. Payments for visas, passports, work permits, etc., after arrival in the host division country.~~

²⁵ In principle, the local organization is to bear costs equivalent to what it would cost to have a local employee fill the same position, but there are a number of exceptions to that principle in the way the costs have been allocated. Generally, medical and educational allowances for interdivision employees run higher than for local employees. To try to partially offset that, the local organization is charged only for the educational allowance at the elementary level while the secondary school and college/university level educational allowances are charged to the General Conference. Certain allowances, although not typically paid to local employees, could be better handled at the host division or local employer level (i.e. postgraduate/continuing education, local payments for visas, passports, professional membership fees, special vacation allowances, base division country national insurance/social security on the local salary and allowances, etc.). Still other items, such as the 50 percent educational loan amortization for physicians, dentists, and others with specialized degrees, were left with the host division or employing organization to assist in keeping a balance between the long term need to train local workers and the immediate demand for high cost highly trained personnel.

The host division may decide to bear some of the expenses for interdivision employees which exceed what it would cost for a national employee in the same field of service. The host division may choose to process all payments of local salary and allowances for an interdivision employee at the host division level and send a charge to the local employer for actual expenses or the average expense for a national employee in the same position. The host division may choose to grant extra assistance in the form of appropriations to the local employer to help cover the expenses being borne by the local employer for the interdivision employee's budget; but the appropriation must not be tied to the interdivision budget and thus be removed in the event the interdivision employee's budget is removed. (Regardless of the method used, the local employer must bear the equivalent costs for a national employee in its operating budget, so that if the interdivision budget were removed, the local employer would not be affected financially.)

8. Elementary educational allowance. (See O 50.)
9. Fifty percent reimbursement for doctoral degrees. (See N 25 15.)
10. Postgraduate/continuing education expense. (See O 115 25 and P 19 20.)
11. Fifty percent medical/dental/optometrical appointee amortization. (See N 25 20, N 25 25, and O 25 25.)
12. Fifty percent residency program amortization. (See N 40.)
13. Fifty percent assistance for educational indebtedness to nurses with advanced degrees to be amortized during infield service. (See N 45 05 and O 25 25.)
14. Professional membership fees and magazine allowance. (See O 105.)
15. Special vacation allowance. (See O 85 10.)
16. Cost of intradivision moves of interdivision employees. (See O 30 05.)
17. Child adoption assistance for adoptions taking place within the host division. (See O 90.)
18. Insurance coverages including accidental death and dismemberment, personal effects, workers' compensation, and travel insurance. (See N 60 and N 75 20.)
19. Advanced study arrangements. (See O 115 15 and P 19 20.)
20. Qualifying/licensing expenses for physicians/dentists/optometrists. (See P 115 20.)
21. All specialized training costs authorized by the local employer or the host division while in the base division during the preembarkation period or while on annual leave. (This does not include attendance at Mission Institute or language study.) (See N 15 and O 10.)
22. Compassionate leave (where applicable).
23. Any other allowances granted to local employees.
24. Accruals for the extended interdivision service allowance for interdivision employees on Code 4 budgets. (See Q 40 15.)

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~~M 20-25 General Conference Responsibility—Codes 1, 2, 3, and 6 Budgets (In the case of Code 4 budgets*, these responsibilities are handled by the employing organization.)—1. All expenses of appointment, annual leave, and permanent return periods (except for local salary and related payroll taxes during annual leave). (See N 05, N 15-35, P 34, and Q 10.)~~

~~2. Base country deposits and expatriate allowances (where applicable). (See O 15.)~~

~~3. Compensation for loss of income by the spouse. (See N 05-20 and N 15-35, paragraph 3.)~~

~~4. Travel to the Mission Institute, base division country salary during the Institute when attended before departure. (Institute costs including per diem, housing, tuition, child care, etc, are an expense of the base division.) (See N 15-35.)~~

~~5. Educational allowances for secondary school and college/university age children of interdivision employees, including travel and medical expense reimbursement for those studying outside the host division. (See O 55 and O 60.) For those studying in the host division, travel expenses as per O 55-15, paragraph 2 and O 60-15, paragraph 1.~~

~~6. General educational indebtedness assistance. (See N 25-05.)~~

~~7. Fifty percent reimbursement for doctoral degrees. (See N 25-15.) (The cost of this 50 percent reimbursement is borne by the General Conference even in the case of Code 4 budget appointments.)~~

~~8. Fifty percent medical/dental/optometrical appointee amortization. (See N 25-20.) (The cost of this 50 percent amortization is borne by the General Conference even in the case of Code 4 budget appointments.)~~

~~9. Fifty percent residency training program amortization. (The employing organization bears full responsibility for this cost in the case of Code 4 budget appointments). (See N 40.)~~

* Code 4 Budgets. The employing organization in the host division is to bear the full cost of employing individuals on Code 4 budgets. To help reduce the expense to the employing organization, the General Conference will be responsible for 50 percent of the cost of loan amortization for interdivision employees with doctoral degrees. The base division, or in the case of North American Division based individuals, the General Conference, will also bear the cost of permanent return assistance beyond three months.

Code 5 Budgets. In general, the employment of individuals on Code 5 budgets would not be a General Conference expense. In order to allow more opportunity for employment of spouses and to provide for their retirement income in the base division country, the General Conference bears the cost of the contributions to the base division country retirement plan and the base division country national insurance/social security for spouses of interdivision employees on Code 1, 2, 3, and 6 budgets, and the employing organization in the host division bears the cost for such contributions for spouses of interdivision employees on Code 4 budgets.

10. ~~Fifty percent assistance for educational indebtedness to nurses with advanced degrees to be amortized during infield service. (See N 45 05.)~~
11. ~~Approved language study when taken in the host or base division. (See O 10.)~~
12. ~~National insurance/social security tax equalization for ministers. (See O 25 20.)~~
13. ~~Health evaluations whether taken in the base or host division. (See M 70.)~~
14. ~~Workers' compensation insurance and long term disability insurance where retirement plans do not provide for disability retirement.~~
15. ~~Contributions to the base division country retirement plan.~~
16. ~~Employer's share of base division country national insurance/social security on the expatriate allowance and base country deposit (where applicable). (See O 25 05 and O 25 25.)~~
17. ~~Assistance on duplicate national insurance/social security. (See O 25 15.)~~
18. ~~Extended interdivision service allowance. (See Q 40.)~~
19. ~~Permanent return salary or salary subsidy based on policies of the base division. (Assistance or subsidies beyond three months are a base division cost.) (See Q 10 15 and Q 45 15.)~~
20. ~~Retirement allowance/subsidy. (See Q 50 50.)~~

~~M 20 30 Allocation of Costs for Spouse and Family Related Allowances—On occasions the interdivision employee and the interdivision employed or locally employed spouse work for different organizations or are on different budget codes. Under such circumstances, it is necessary to determine the expenses which each organization will bear. The appointee, annual leave, and permanent return expenses of the appointee/employee, as well as all allowances, both in the host and base divisions, or family adopted division, where applicable, which would be paid for the spouse and dependents based on the interdivision appointee/employee's service whether or not the spouse was employed, are charged to the appointee/employee's budget regardless of the budget code of the spouse. (See M 15 50 and M 15 55.)~~

~~M 20 35 Transferring of Interdivision Budgets—A division may request to transfer budgets from one position to another, however, any changes in budgets must be approved by the Mission Personnel Processing Committee. Additional Code 1, 2, or 3 budgets must be approved~~

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~~by the Mission Personnel Processing Committee. Because Code 4 and 5 budgets are locally funded, they may be added at any time with the approval of the Mission Personnel Processing Committee. Due to the financial arrangements associated with Code 6 budgets, these budgets must be approved by the Mission Personnel Processing Committee.~~

~~M 25 The Interdivision Employee Family~~

~~M 25-05 The Family—A Unit—The interdivision employee family stands as a unit. While in a majority of cases only one member of the family is placed under appointment, the spouse is regarded as an associate of the appointee/employee in influence and service and is expected to learn the language and engage in the work as far as is practical.~~

~~Because marriage is a God-ordained institution and its sanctity must be guarded, interdivision employees and their spouses are expected to live together in the field of service. Even in the case of extenuating circumstances, arrangements to live separately shall not normally extend beyond a period of three consecutive months. (See O-95.)~~

~~M 25-10 Role of Interdivision Employee's Spouse—1. Work in a General Way—An interdivision employee's spouse who assists in the work of the Church in a general way in the host division country will not receive a separate salary or additional remuneration.~~

~~2. With Employment Assignment—An interdivision employee's spouse may be given an employment assignment either before departure for interdivision service or after arrival in the host division country. Spouse assignments shall be approved by the Mission Personnel Processing Committee and a code budget assigned. Remuneration in the host division country shall be in harmony with the applicable provisions of M 30-15.~~

~~M 30 Interdivision Employee Spouse Employment~~

~~M 30-05 Division Responsibility—Decisions regarding denominational employment for the spouse of an appointee/employee during the time of the family's interdivision service shall be the responsibility of the calling division. Whenever possible, arrangements for such employment should be made through the General Conference International Personnel Resources and Services prior to the arrival of the appointee/employee in the host division country. Interdivision status is not granted to locally hired spouses of locally hired employees, regardless of their citizenship status. (See E-15-20, paragraph 7.)~~

~~M 30-10 Employment Assignment—If a specific request has been received from the calling division for denominational employment in the host division country, and there is an available interdivision Code 1, 2, or 3 budget or the division arranges for the addition of a Code 4, 5, or 6 budget, the Mission Personnel Processing Committee~~

shall record an employment assignment for the spouse of the appointee.

~~M 30 15 Remuneration—1. Remuneration in the Host Division Country—The spouse of an interdivision employee shall receive local salary in the host division country on the same basis as a national employee working in the same field of service who has similar assignments and hours of work. This applies for all budget codes.~~

~~2. Base Country Deposit—Spouses of interdivision employees who are assigned to either Code 1, 2, 3, 4, or 6 budgets receive base country deposits and expatriate allowances, if applicable. These deposits shall be made in the same way as for all interdivision employees.~~

~~3. Remuneration in the Base Division Country—If the spouse of an interdivision appointee/employee is employed on a Code 1, 2, 3, 4, or 6 budget, he/she may be given remuneration during specified periods under the conditions outlined below:~~

Status	Authorized Periods	Conditions	Base Division Remuneration
a. Appointee	Preembardation (up to 1 month), Institute of World Mission	Full or part time employment assignment recorded by General Personnel Processing Committee	Full or part time salary based on employment assignment and at base division country rate
b. Person on Annual Leave	Family earned annual leave time	Employed (full, or part time) on Code 1, 2, 3, 4, or 6 budget(s) during some period since most recent annual leave, or arrival in the host division country	Percentage of full salary equal to average percentage of full time employment on Code 1, 2, 3, 4, or 6 budget(s) since annual leave, or arrival in the host division country (whichever is most recent)—includes annual leave salary top-up if applicable
	Extension of annual leave for other than study or continuing under O 115 25 and P 19 20	The same criteria as for the interdivision employee	At host division country rate without annual leave salary top-up and based on same percentage of full time employment as for

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	Interdivision employee study leave	As authorized by host division and approved by General Conference Mission Personnel Processing Committee	annual leave salary As authorized by host division
	Continuing education (O 115-25 and P 19-20)	Only if interdivision employed spouse qualifies based on O 115-25 and P 19-20	At host division country rate without annual leave salary top-up and based on same percentage of full-time employment as for annual leave salary
e. Permanent Returnee	One to three months or as determined by the base division	Employed (full-part time) on Code 1, 2, 3, 4, or 6 budget(s) during some period since most recent annual leave, or arrival in the host division country	Percentage of full salary equal to average percentage of full-time employment on Code 1, 2, 3, 4, or 6 budget(s) since most recent annual leave, or arrival in the host division country. Paid at base division country rate except as provided for in Q 40-05.

~~At annual leave, and permanent return time, locally employed spouses on Code 5 budgets are entitled to payment of unused accrued vacation on the same basis and at the same rate as a national employee working in the same field of service and who has similar assignments and hours of work. This payment is made in the host division by the local employer or host division. There is no extra salary or annual leave salary top-up provision granted for locally employed spouses on Code 5 budgets in connection with annual leaves, or permanent returns.~~

~~M 30-20 Funding—1. While in Base Division Country—Responsibility for funding the remuneration of interdivision employee spouses who are being paid under the provisions of M 30-15, paragraph 3., while in the base division country, shall be as follows:~~

~~The General Conference shall be responsible for funding of the interdivision employed spouse remuneration during the appointee period for spouses assigned to Code 1, 2, 3, or 6 budgets. The remuneration of those assigned to Code 4 budgets will be charged to the employing organization in the host division. Locally employed spouses assigned to Code 5 budgets are not~~

eligible for salary during the appointee period but could possibly qualify for compensation for loss of income during the new appointee period under N 05 20.

2. ~~While in Host Division Country—Responsibility for the funding of local host division country salary and allowances of interdivision employees' spouses on Code 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 budgets and locally employed spouses on Code 5 budgets, while in the host division country, shall be the responsibility of the local employing organization. Base country deposits and expatriate allowances for interdivision employed spouses on Code 1, 2, 3, or 6 budgets, if applicable, will be funded by the General Conference. The base country deposits and expatriate allowances of Code 4 interdivision employed spouses, if applicable, will be charged to the employing organization in the host division. Locally employed spouses on Code 5 budgets are not eligible for base country deposits or expatriate allowances.~~

3. ~~Funding for Appointee/Annual Leave/Permanent Return Expenses When Spouse Is Employed on a Different Budget Code from the Interdivision Appointed Employee—When the interdivision appointed employee is employed on a Code 1, 2, 3, or 6 budget and the spouse is on a Code 4 or 5 budget, the General Conference will bear the budget servicing expenses as outlined in M 20 10.~~

~~If the interdivision appointed employee is on a Code 4 budget and the spouse is on a Code 1, 2, 3, 5, or 6 budget, the interdivision employee's employing organization in the host division shall bear the budget servicing expenses as outlined in M 20 10.~~

~~M 30 25 Service Credit—A record of the service given by the spouse of an interdivision appointee/employee shall be kept by the Service Records Office in the General Conference International Personnel Resources and Services. Accrued vacation time on full pay shall be included on the service record. Service credit for retirement benefits shall be calculated by the base division in harmony with its retirement policy for the country involved.~~

~~M 35 Interdivision Calls~~

~~All calls for individuals to serve outside their base divisions shall be made by the host division committee and shall be communicated to the General Conference International Personnel Resources and Services by one of the division officers.~~

~~M 40 Deferred Mission Appointment~~

~~M 40 05 Definition—Deferred appointment to interdivision service is an optional status for prospective interdivision employees. It may be voted by the Mission Personnel Processing Committee for an individual who is not denominationally employed, but who meets, or is~~

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~~expected to meet, the qualifications for a specific type of interdivision service, and who wishes to formally express his/her willingness to accept an interdivision call if and when it is extended.~~

~~M 40-10 Loma Linda University Global Mission Appointment Committee Recommendation—1. Deferred appointment status for an individual who is a medical/dental student enrolled at Loma Linda University shall be voted by the Mission Personnel Processing Committee only upon favorable recommendation by the Loma Linda University Global Mission Appointment Committee. As long as the individual is a student of Loma Linda University, deferred appointment status shall be continued only upon periodic renewal of that recommendation by the Loma Linda University Global Mission Appointment Committee.~~

~~2. An individual who desires deferred appointment status shall be advised by the General Conference International Personnel Resources and Services prior to enrolling as a medical/dental student at Loma Linda University that his/her deferred appointment status while enrolled at Loma Linda University will be subject to favorable recommendation by the Loma Linda University Global Mission Appointment Committee. This shall be required initially at the close of his/her first quarter at Loma Linda University. Periodic renewal of that recommendation by the Loma Linda University Global Mission Appointment Committee shall be required for as long as the individual is a student at Loma Linda University. (See N 30 and N 35.)~~

M 45 Transfer of Personal Funds

~~M 45-05 Regular Transfer Provision—1. At the time of annual leave or permanent return, interdivision employees shall be eligible to transfer funds to their base division country at the current rate of exchange according to the following provisions:~~

~~a. Up to 30 percent of the actual local denominational salary earned in the host division country by both the interdivision employee and spouse since the last annual leave.~~

~~b. The funds invested in one automobile at the time of purchase, and in the currency in which the automobile was purchased. The proceeds from the sale of an automobile, equal to the initial investment, may be transferred only at the end of each fourth annual leave. Such transfers may be made only at annual leave time, time of transfer to another country, or at the time of permanent return. At the time of permanent return or transfer to another country, customs and import fees may be added.~~

~~M 45-10 Sale of Furniture and Equipment—At the time of permanent return or transfer to another division, an additional amount may be transferred which is equivalent to the original investment or verified replacement cost of necessary home furnishings and equipment in the base or new host division.~~

~~M 45-15 Unusual Situations—Transfer of funds not covered by the above provisions shall be made only upon approval of the host division officers in consultation with the Mission Personnel Processing Committee.~~

~~M 50 Medical Employees—Calling and Supplying~~

~~To provide more adequately for the staffing of existing and future medical work, division committees should adopt long range plans that will enable them to anticipate their needs for medical employees, and place calls about two years in advance.~~

~~Division committees should plan for the staffing of their health care facilities so that, where the volume of work justifies it, more than one physician shall be employed. The physician should not be so burdened with strictly professional medical work that he/she cannot give appropriate attention to spiritual interests in and around the medical institution and give a portion of his/her time to health education work. In cases where more than one physician is not essential or practicable, it is urged that the division plan so that a relief physician shall always be available when the regular physician has to proceed on annual leave or is absent for some other reason. Special attention should be given to staffing hospitals in such a way that continuity of service is assured even in emergencies.~~

~~M 55 Self-Supporting Physicians and Dentists~~

~~As an auxiliary to denominationally operated medical work, a plan has been adopted for appointing physicians and dentists to self-supporting work. Such appointments are made by the Mission Personnel Processing Committee based on specific calls from the division concerned. The same standards will be required as for regular interdivision appointees. Generally, self-supporting physicians/dentists should not be located in proximity to a medical institution or service operated by the interdivision field.~~

~~The following arrangements shall apply in the appointment of self-supporting physicians and dentists to interdivision fields:~~

~~1. Travel expense is allowed to the homes of the parents prior to departure. Outfitting, freight, and customs allowances, and transportation to the field are granted on the same basis as for regular interdivision appointees. These expenses are borne by the receiving organization and are considered fully amortized upon arrival in the field.~~

~~2. Annual leave privileges, return transportation to the home country, and rehabilitation allowance are not provided, nor is any additional loan authorized to cover these items.~~

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3. ~~When necessary, a loan shall be made to the physician/dentist by the receiving organization concerned covering a wage provision from a month prior to departure and up to six months after arrival in the field in accordance with prevailing interdivision physicians' rates in that particular field. The Mission Personnel Processing Committee, after consultation with and agreement of the receiving organization concerned, may approve an additional loan to enable the physician/dentist to purchase necessary equipment. The physician/dentist shall sign notes covering the amount of the loan and the salary provision. These notes are to be held by the receiving organization treasurer/chief financial officer, and the physician/dentist shall repay the receiving organization by installments of not less than one fourth of the total loan each year after the first year.~~

4. ~~If it is necessary for the physician/dentist to obtain additional qualifications to meet practice requirements of a particular country, the expenses may be authorized by the General Conference in counsel with the receiving organization concerned. To secure the required qualifications at the nearest examination center, the expense involved will be advanced by the receiving organization concerned and amortized over a period of five years.~~

5. ~~If the physician/dentist enters denominational work, any portion of the amount remaining under paragraphs 3. and 4. above shall be amortized in harmony with the policy relating to physicians and dentists entering denominational work.~~

6. ~~As these individuals are not regular denominational employees, there is no denominational service credit accrual or retirement benefit entitlement arising out of this service arrangement.~~

M 60 Special Interdivision Transfers—Financial Provisions

~~M 60-05 Modified Transfer Allowances—The General Conference, in counsel with the appointing and calling divisions concerned, may approve modified financial and transfer (moving and freight) allowances for interdivision employees in specific situations in which it is not considered reasonable to grant the regular allowances.~~

~~M 60-10 Modified Provisions—1. For the United States of America (including the General Conference and Inter American Division Employees Residing in the North American Division)—An individual called from within the North American Division to serve at the General Conference or the Inter American Division headquarters while residing within the North American Division territory is not an interdivision employee and is therefore not entitled to receive interdivision benefits.~~

~~2. For Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Guam, Iceland, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland—Interdivision~~

~~employees, interdivision employed spouses, and locally employed spouses of interdivision employees who are appointed to serve in one of these areas shall be eligible to receive all interdivision benefits except base country deposit. No base country deposit shall be paid unless provided for by a specific General Conference Administrative Committee action.~~

~~M 65 Expenses of Interdivision Employees—Transferred Between Divisions~~

~~M 65-05 Transfer During Term of Service—1. When an interdivision employee is transferred by call to another division and the transfer is made at any time other than a regularly scheduled annual leave, the interdivision employee shall be allowed outfitting, baggage, and freight allowances on an appointee basis. The freight allowance may be used for shipments from the place of current interdivision employment, as well as from the base division country, provided the total cost does not exceed what would normally be paid for the entire shipment to be sent from the place of current interdivision employment. Any expense incurred beyond this shall be borne by the interdivision employee. If the transferring interdivision employee is being called to a Code 4 budget, all expenses for the transfer, as well as all subsequent annual leave and permanent return expenses while serving this same organization, shall be borne by the calling organization in the new host division. If the transferring interdivision employee is being called to a Code 1, 2, 3, or 6 budget, all expenses relating to the transfer, as well as subsequent annual leave, and permanent return expenses, shall be borne by the General Conference.~~

~~2. When an interdivision employee is transferred by call to another division within twelve months of being appointed to interdivision service, and the transfer involves a Code 4 budget, the calling organization in the new host division, if calling to a Code 4 budget, or the General Conference, if the individual is being called to a Code 1, 2, 3, or 6 budget, shall participate in the original expenses incurred in getting the appointee to the previous host division country. The entity bearing the budget servicing costs for the budget to which the interdivision employee is being called shall reimburse the entity that bore the new appointee costs on the following basis:~~

0—4 months served	100% of new appointee costs
5—8 months served	67% of new appointee costs
9—12 months served	33% of new appointee costs
13+ months served	None

~~(Appointee costs, for the purposes of this policy, shall be all the expenses incurred in getting the appointee to the host division country including salary and allowances, and expenses during the preembarkation period, attendance at the Institute of World Mission, and language study, as well as the ticket and freight costs of getting to the host division country. These costs shall not include any amortization of debt, any special training costs authorized by the host division, or any work-related special trips between the base and host divisions.)~~

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~~3. Accrued postgraduate/continuing education allowance entitlement at the time of transfer shall be the responsibility of the previous host division or local employing organization in the previous host division.~~

~~M 65-10 Transfer at Annual Leave—1. When an interdivision employee is transferred by call to another division, and the transfer is made at the time of a regularly scheduled annual leave, the following provisions shall apply:~~

~~a. Travel expense for the interdivision employee and the family to the base division or family adopted division, where applicable— If an interdivision employee has been serving on a Code 4 budget, these travel expenses shall be charged to the employing organization in the host division where he/she has been serving. If a transferring interdivision employee has been serving on a Code 1, 2, 3, or 6 budget, these travel expenses shall be charged to the General Conference.~~

~~b. Local salary during annual leave shall continue to be paid by the host division/local employer until the cut-off date provided by General Conference International Personnel Resources and Services (IPRS).~~

~~Expatriate allowance, base country deposit, and annual leave salary top-up, if applicable, shall continue during annual leave, based on the rate of the host division country where the interdivision employee has been serving. The costs for expatriate allowance, base country deposit, and annual leave salary top-up are borne by the General Conference if the employee was serving on a Code 1, 2, 3, or 6 budget, or by the employing organization in the previous host division if the employee was on a Code 4 budget.~~

~~c. Annual leave extensions, if approved, are paid at the host division country rate of the division to which the interdivision employee is called. If the interdivision employee is being called to serve on a Code 1, 2, 3, or 6 budget, the cost of any expatriate allowance and base country deposit during an annual leave extension are borne by the General Conference, while the cost of the local salary and allowances at the new host division country rate are borne by the employing organization in the new host division. If the call is to serve on a Code 4 budget, all costs for any annual leave extensions are borne by the employing organization in the new host division.~~

~~d. The interdivision employee receives regular outfitting and freight allowances on the same basis as an appointee. The freight allowance may be used for shipments from the place of current interdivision employment, as well as from the base division country, provided the total cost does not exceed what would normally be paid for the authorized weight to be sent from the place of current interdivision employment. Any shipment expense incurred~~

~~beyond this shall be the responsibility of the interdivision employee. The cost of these allowances are borne by the General Conference if the individuals are being called to serve on Code 1, 2, 3, or 6 budgets, and by the employing organization in the new host division for those on Code 4 budgets.~~

~~e. Accrued postgraduate/continuing education allowance at the time of transfer shall be the responsibility of the previous host division or local employing organization in the previous host division.~~

~~M 65 15 Transfer to Base Division—1. By Call—When an interdivision employee's base division wishes to place a call for his/her services, the following conditions shall apply:~~

~~a. Prior clearance shall be requested from the Mission Personnel Processing Committee which shall make its decision in counsel with the employing host division.~~

~~b. If clearance is granted, the transferring interdivision employee shall be granted the regular permanent return allowances as per policy.~~

~~c. The calling organization in the base division shall be responsible for payment of the following:~~

- ~~1) One month salary for family visitation (See Q 50 10.)~~
- ~~2) Travel expense to the base division, including family visitation~~
- ~~3) Baggage allowance~~
- ~~4) Rehabilitation allowance~~
- ~~5) Freight expense according to policy~~
- ~~6) Health evaluation costs~~

~~d. All other permanent return costs shall be borne by the General Conference for those interdivision employees who were serving on Code 1, 2, 3, or 6 budgets, or by the employing organization in the host division for those on Code 4 budgets.~~

~~e. If the spouse of the interdivision employee has been employed in the host division country, the employing organization shall pay the spouse for any unused accrued vacation time. No additional permanent return salary and no salary subsidy is provided to the spouse's new employing organization.~~

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~~2. By Election—When an individual returns to the base division because of election to a position provided for in the General Conference Constitution, Article VI, Section 1., the provisions of paragraph 1. above shall apply.~~

~~3. By Permanent Return—If an interdivision employee has been voted a permanent return by the employing host division and the Mission Personnel Processing Committee, no call need be extended and the regular provisions for a permanent return shall apply.~~

~~M 65 20 Special Arrangements—There may be unusual circumstances where the organizations bearing the costs of items outlined in M 65 05, M 65 10, and M 65 15 mutually agree to different terms for sharing of costs. In such cases, the agreement must be approved by and recorded in the minutes of the Mission Personnel Processing Committee.~~

M 70 Health Evaluations and Clearance

~~M 70 05 Health Evaluations—1. Health evaluations are required or recommended as follows:~~

~~a. At the time of appointment, the initial health evaluation(s) shall be completed in the interdivision employee's base division. (See N 05 10.)~~

~~b. During the term of regular service, periodic health evaluations are recommended as per the schedule below. The scope of the health evaluation is defined in health evaluation forms provided by the General Conference or division secretariat. Costs for health evaluations as listed on the health evaluation form, when taken according to the following schedule, are reimbursed in full. (See N 05 10.) The cost of any treatments for conditions brought to light by the health evaluations is reimbursed in harmony with health care assistance policies.~~

~~Individuals desiring to have health evaluations more frequently than indicated below may do so in consultation with the employing organization. Costs for these health evaluations shall be reimbursed in harmony with health care assistance policies.~~

Age	Frequency
Up to 30	Once every six years
31 to 40	Once every three years
41 to 60	Once every two years
61+	Once every year

~~At the time of an individual's appointment, the frequency of these evaluations may be adjusted to meet specific health needs and situations upon approval of the General Conference~~

~~International Personnel Resources and Services in consultation with the General Conference Health Ministries Department. Evaluations shall focus on specific health needs and/or preventive screening procedures. Employing organizations, in counsel with the interdivision employee, shall have the option of providing the health evaluations:~~

- ~~1) Within the host division, provided the health care facility used for such evaluation has been approved by the General Conference/host division, or,~~
- ~~2) While on annual leave in the base division or family adopted country, where applicable.~~

~~The timing of periodic health evaluations may be reasonably adjusted to coordinate with travel schedule, annual leave, and permanent return dates, but these should not occur more frequently than provided for in paragraph b. above. (See P 70 05.)~~

~~e. At the time of the interdivision employee's permanent return, the health evaluation will ordinarily be done in the base division or family adopted division, where applicable, unless otherwise approved by the General Conference International Personnel Resources and Services. If done outside the base division or family adopted division, where applicable, copies of the reports and recommendations shall be sent to the base division secretariat or family adopted division secretariat, where applicable, for final health clearance. (In the case of North American Division based employees, to the General Conference International Personnel Resources and Services) (See Q 35 05 and Q 35 10.)~~

~~M 70 10 Health Clearance—1. The interdivision employee's base division or family adopted division, where applicable, shall review the health evaluation reports completed at the time of appointment and permanent return and determine if health clearance is to be granted or withheld.~~

~~2. The base division or family adopted division, where applicable, shall advise the interdivision employee's host division and the General Conference International Personnel Resources and Services of its decision.~~

~~M 75 Return of a Deceased Interdivision Employee or Family Member~~

~~If an interdivision employee or a member of the immediate family dies while outside the base division or family adopted division, where applicable, the deceased shall normally be interred in the country of death; however, the General Conference International Personnel Resources and Services in the case of those on Code 1, 2, 3, or 6 budgets, or the employing organization in the host division in the case of those on Code 4 budgets, shall authorize~~

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~~reimbursement of the cost to return the body prior to interment to the base division country or family adopted division country, where applicable, if this is requested by the immediate family.~~

M 80 Taxation for Interdivision Employees

~~M 80-05 Taxation Issues—Taxation issues for interdivision employees are considerably more complex both for the employers and employees than is the case with local employees. For a local employee, under normal circumstances, the employee is resident, working, and paid in the country where the employer is located and is registered as a local employer. In the case of an interdivision employee, the employee is called from one country, serves in a different country, his/her salary and allowances are partly paid by his/her employer in the host country, by the base division in the base division country and by the General Conference. In some situations, interdivision employees are citizens of more than one country and may have legal residence status in more than one country. The tax status of the interdivision employee in his/her base country may depend on personal decisions made by the employee as to retaining or not retaining residence status while out of the country. Some countries tax citizens or residents only on the income received in the country, others on the income earned for services in the country regardless of where it is received, and others tax on worldwide income regardless of where it is received or earned. Given all these complexities, it is not possible for the organization to know and keep current on all the issues involved with the taxation issues relating to each interdivision employee and the personal decisions made that affect his/her tax status.~~

~~M 80-10 Tax Reporting Responsibilities—The local employer, host division, General Conference, and base division are responsible for working with the interdivision employee to try to determine and appropriately handle the tax reporting and filing requirements on the various components of the interdivision employee's compensation and allowances, but the ultimate responsibility for reporting and paying taxes rests with the interdivision employee. The General Conference provides interdivision employees with annual reports on all remuneration and allowances that have been paid by the General Conference; and host and base divisions are requested to do the same to assist the employees with their tax filings.~~

TRE/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/TRE/AUD/OGC/ADCOM/TreC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI(DIV)

225-14G IN-SERVICE TRAINING ASSISTANCE - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend FE 75, In-Service Training Assistance, to read as follows:

FE 75 In-Service Training Assistance

1. Each division is encouraged to develop an in service training policy to assist teachers in graduate study programs. This policy should determine the basic degree the teacher is expected to secure at personal expense and the level of graduate work on which assistance may be granted by sponsoring organizations. It should also specify the terms under which such assistance is provided including any obligation to the sponsoring institution, provide for the amortization of such assistance.

2. It is recommended that when teachers are granted assistance for graduate work on a part-time basis or during a break in the school program such as during summers the ~~assistance be amortized by~~ service obligation only extends to the following year of service.

If the teacher leaves the employ of the sponsoring institution the ~~unamortized expense shall be the obligation~~ remaining service obligation shall become a financial obligation of the teacher or a calling organization based upon the percentage of the uncompleted service obligation and assistance provided. ~~organization.~~

3. A teacher who is approved for leave of absence - No change

4. For such a teacher, a graduate study expense account - No change

5. Assistance granted teachers under this plan ~~is amortized by service~~ creates a service obligation to the sponsoring institution in harmony with the policies of the division and the contract entered into between the institution and the teacher. If the teacher leaves the employ of the sponsoring institution the uncompleted service obligation shall become a financial obligation of the teacher or a calling organization based upon the percentage of the uncompleted service obligation and the assistance provided. ~~unamortized expense shall be the obligation of the teacher or a calling organization.~~

6. In case of an interdivision call the college may waive the ~~unamortized portion of the financial~~ obligation.

7. A faculty member who, during a leave of absence- No change

8. If the stipend is less than regular full salary, the faculty - No change

9. Professional nurses, dietitians, and other properly qualified - No change

10. Accounting Records—All in-service financial assistance that is provided in accordance with this policy shall be charged to operating expense in the year it is provided.

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11. The organization shall provide to the controlling board or executive committee a report that enumerates the individuals receiving assistance and any remaining service obligation at the end of the year. Information regarding remaining service obligation should be filed along with the service record of the individual receiving the assistance.

TRE/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/TreC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI(DIV)

226-14G GENERAL CONFERENCE CORE POLICIES FOR POLICY
COMPLIANCE TESTING - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC S 90, General Conference Core Policies for Policy Compliance Testing, to read as follows:

S 90 General Conference Core Policies for
Policy Compliance Testing(a)(b)

The General Conference Executive Committee has identified core policies to be tested during the financial audit or review engagement for each denominational organization. In identifying these core policies, a materiality threshold was defined for each core policy which determines the level of reporting for any noted noncompliance; and a related assertion statement was developed for each core policy which together shall be signed and submitted by the principal officers of each denominational organization before the commencement of the audit engagement.

[Table - No change]

Notes:

- (a) These policies relate to General Conference Working Policy. - No change
- (b) Auditors are to test for compliance with these core policies - No change
- (c) Materiality is to be used by the auditor to determine - No change
- (d) The assertions should be provided by management to the auditor - No change
- (e) Except transitional employees, if approved by administrative - No change

(f) Where an issue is being studied by General Conference Treasury which may result in a change to any of the core polices or the associated materiality thresholds for reporting.

the General Conference Administrative Committee may grant a variance to the application of these policies not to exceed one year.

TRE/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/TreC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI(DIV)

227-14G POLICIES (INVESTMENT OF CHURCH FUNDS) -
POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC S 85 20, Policies (Investment of Church Funds), to read as follows:

- S 85 20 Policies—1. Investments in any company should not exceed - No change
2. At no time shall a controlling committee allow more than 5 percent - No change
 3. At no time shall a controlling committee allow more than 15 percent - No change
 4. Retention of external managers or the construction of - No change
 5. Use of Brokers - No change
 6. Controlling committees shall complete an asset allocation - No change
 7. Common and convertible preferred stocks should be of good quality - No change
 8. For each asset pool, an Investment Policy Statement in a format - No change
 9. All members of controlling committees must have a current, signed - No change
 10. Custody and Valuation of Securities: Self custody of securities - No change
 11. Investment Management Consultancy: All controlling committees - No change
 12. Investment managers—Investment managers selected to manage - No change
 13. Controlling committees shall require qualified legal review of - No change
 14. Controlling committees are required to retain all records pertaining - No change

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15. When ~~restricted or illiquid securities~~ restricted securities, illiquid securities that have special agreements related to holding periods and/or sale instructions, or real estate are acquired through donation or the maturities of a ~~trust are~~ trust, they may be held until a prudent investor would liquidate such ~~assets, they assets~~. When held, such assets shall not constitute a violation of S 85. Reasonable effort will be made to dispose of said assets in a timely manner or according to the terms of any special agreements. ~~manner.~~

16. Divisions and General Conference to Establish Investment Policy - No change

TRE/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/PreC/SecC/TreC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI(DIV)

228-14G SUPPORT OF WORLDWIDE WORK - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend V 09 05, Support of Worldwide Work, to read as follows:

V 09 05 Support of Worldwide Work— 1. Divine Plan—In His wisdom - No change

2. Regular Tithe Percentages—The following schedule of tithe sharing has been established for the work of the Church around the world and may be adjusted from time to time by action of the General Conference Executive Committee at an Annual Council meeting:

- a. Local Church (which includes companies) - No change
- b. Local Conference/Mission/Fields - No change
- c. Union Conferences/Union Missions/Union of Churches - No change

d. Divisions are to forward to the General Conference Treasury a percentage of the gross tithe from their territory. The North American Division is to forward ~~8 percent in 2012 with the amount decreasing to 6 percent by 2020~~ amounts based on the schedule below. All other divisions are to forward 2 percent to the General Conference. These funds are to be used by the General Conference for operations of the General Conference headquarters, appropriations to divisions and General Conference institutions, and the support of global programs adopted by the General Conference Executive Committee.

Phase in of the North American Division tithe percentage to the General Conference:

2012	8.00 percent
2013	7.50 percent
2014	7.00 percent

2015	7.00 percent <u>6.85 percent</u>
2016	7.00 percent <u>6.85 percent</u>
2017	6.75 percent <u>6.60 percent</u>
2018	6.50 percent <u>6.35 percent</u>
2019	6.25 percent <u>6.10 percent</u>
2020 <u>and onward</u>	6.00 percent <u>5.85 percent</u>
2021 <u>and onward</u>	6.00 percent

- e. The percentages listed in paragraphs a. through d. are based - No change
3. Additional Tithe Percentages—In addition to the above - No change
 4. Promptness in Remittance—The tithe sharing process adopted by the - No change
 5. Sources of Tithe Receipts at the General Conference—The General - No change

WHT/OGC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI(DIV)

232-14G FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (THE ELLEN G WHITE
ESTATE AND THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY COMMITTEE) -
POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC GE 15 75, Financial Assistance (The Ellen G White Estate and the Spirit of Prophecy Committee), to read as follows:

- GE 15 75 Financial Assistance—1. The objective of the Spirit of Prophecy - No change
2. Although preference is given to the Introductory - No change
 3. Subsidies for the initial publication of Ellen G White books - No change
 4. The union committee concerned shall take the initiative in - No change
 5. The union officers shall, in consultation with the division, prepare - No change
 6. The request shall be approved by the division committee, and - No change
 7. Division Fund—Each division shall set up a fund to cover - No change
 8. Book Stocks—Inasmuch as it is the objective of this plan to - No change

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9. In order to ensure the continual availability of - No change
10. To make economical reprints possible, steps should be taken - No change

11. If unions covered by Plans C or D are financially unable to pay their percentage of the required translation subsidy, they may apply through their division Spirit of Prophecy coordinator to the Spirit of Prophecy Committee for a waiver. Included with the waiver request must be verification from their respective division treasurer that the union is unable financially to pay its required percentage of the translation subsidy.

~~11.~~ 12. When an original translation is found to be inaccurate, or outdated, a retranslation may be done. Translations that are at least twenty-five years old may be eligible for retranslation at full subsidy rates, as set out in paragraph 3. a. to d. above, subject to submission to the Spirit of Prophecy Committee of written justification describing the need for a new translation. Such requests must be approved by the Spirit of Prophecy Committee. Subsidies for retranslation of books less than twenty-five years old, or if older but that did not receive approval from the Spirit of Prophecy Committee for full subsidy, may still receive partial retranslation subsidy. In such instances, the amount of subsidy per page from the General Conference, the division, and the union shall be set at 50 percent of the regular translation subsidies as set out in paragraph 3. a. to d. above. The subsidies for retranslation work per page, from the General Conference, the division, and the union shall be set at 50 percent of the regular translation subsidies as set out in paragraph 3. a. to d. above.

13. Where a book will only be published in electronic format, 20 percent of the regular translation subsidies as set out in paragraph 3. a. to d. above may be given. If it is decided at a later time to also print the book, application may be made to the Spirit of Prophecy Committee for the balance of the subsidy that would have been granted initially had the book then been printed.

~~12.~~ 14. For transferring translated material onto CD-ROM format, the General Conference, the divisions, and the unions involved shall subsidize with 5 percent of the regular translation subsidies as set out in paragraph 3. a. to d. above.

15. The Spirit of Prophecy Committee recognizes the need for the production of selected books into audio books, in languages other than English. Assistance for such production may be granted on a limited basis, subject to the approval of the Spirit of Prophecy Committee. If the book has already been translated, a subsidy equal to 50 percent of the regular translation subsidies as set out in paragraph 3. a. to d. above may be given. If the book needs to be translated first then a subsidy equal to 70 percent of the regular translation subsidies as set out in paragraph 3. a. to d. above may be given.

SecC/GCDO14AC/14AC to MAI(DIV)

233-14G PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY - POLICY DIRECTIVE

VOTED, To approve a directive to amend General Conference *Working Policy*, section D, Model Constitutions and Operating Policies, Parliamentary Authority, where appropriate, to read as follows:

Sec. 9. Parliamentary Authority: The parliamentary authority pertaining to all rules and procedures for constituency meetings not covered by its bylaws shall be based on those published in the ~~General Conference Rules of Order~~ General Conference Rules of Order, and any adaptation or supplement approved by the division committee, unless otherwise determined by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the constituency meeting.

This change should be made in section D at the following locations:

- GC D 10 05, Union Conference Bylaws, Article II, Sec. 9. (bold print)
- GC D 15 05, Union Mission Operating Policy, Article VII, Sec. 9. (no bold print)
- GC D 17 05, Union of Churches Bylaws, Article II, Sec. 9. (no bold print)
- GC D 19 05, Union of Churches Model Operating Policy, Article VII, Sec. 9. (no bold print)
- GC D 20 05, Local Conference Bylaws, Article II, Sec. 9. (bold print)
- GC D 25 05, Local Mission Operating Policy, Article VII, Sec. 9. (no bold print)

SEC/14AC to MAI

235-14GE USE OF DIVISION, UNION, AND MISSION-FIELD
"COMMITTEE" - POLICY EDITORIAL DIRECTIVE

VOTED, To approve a directive to amend section D, Model Constitutions and Operating Policies, in the General Conference *Working Policy*, by replacing all usages of "division committee" with "division executive committee." all usages of "union committee" with "union executive committee," and all usages of "mission/field committee" with "mission/field executive committee," where appropriate.

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GCASBd/14AC to MAI(DIV)

234-14Ga AUDITING POLICIES - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC SA, Auditing Policies, to read as follows:

SA AUDITING POLICIES ~~POLICIES~~*

SA 05 Auditors and Auditing

SA 05 05 General Conference Auditing Service—1. Responsibility— The General Conference Auditing Service is charged with the responsibility for:

- a. ~~Providing a worldwide auditing service assurance and related services as part of the worldwide financial oversight program for the Seventh-day Adventist Church;~~
- b. ~~Monitoring the assurance and related services provided for the Seventh-day Adventist Church including where such services are rendered by an external provider; and audit program for denominational organizations in its client base (see SA 05 25);~~
- c. Recommending to the General Conference - No change
- d. Reporting annually to the General Conference Executive Committee, through the General Conference Auditing Service Board, on the overall assurance and related services in the Church and on current issues and emerging trends that appear in the global picture of financial reporting and organizational policy compliance; and audit program in the Church and trends/issues that appear in the global picture of financial and policy administration; and
- e. Reporting annually to the administrators and executive committees of divisions on the overall assurance and related services in their respective territories and on current issues and emerging trends that appear in the regional picture of financial reporting and organizational policy compliance. executive committees of divisions and unions on the overall audit program in their respective territories and the trends/issues that pertain to financial and policy administration.

2. Purpose—The purpose of the General Conference Auditing Service is to conduct structurally independent financial audits, financial reviews, financial inspections, audits (or financial reviews where authorized), reviews of trust operations, and compliance (policy,

*It should be noted in this chapter that other terminology is used in some geographical areas for organizational units such as fields, sections, regions, or delegations.

contractual, and regulatory, as applicable) tests of the highest quality, in a cost-effective manner, for denominational organizations. The objective is to provide administrators and governing boards within the scope of the audit an assurance on financial and nonfinancial information and its compliance with applicable professional standards, denominational policy and external regulations.

3. Objectives—a. Within the scope of a financial audit, the objective is to provide administrators and controlling boards, or executive committees, reasonable assurance on financial and nonfinancial information and its compliance with applicable professional standards, denominational policy, and external regulations.

b. Within the scope of a financial review, the objective is to provide administrators and controlling boards or executive committees moderate assurance on financial and non-financial information in accordance with applicable professional standards.

c. Within the scope of a financial inspection, review of trust operations, and compliance tests, the objective is to provide administrators and controlling boards or executive committees sufficient and appropriate insight on financial and non-financial information in accordance with applicable professional standards, denominational policy, and external regulations.

~~3. 4.~~ Mandate—a. The General Conference Auditing Service and external auditors engaged by a denominational entity shall comply with professional auditing standards in the delivery of assurance and related services to audit of denominational organizations throughout the world.

b. The General Conference Auditing Service shall function - No change

4. ~~5.~~ Enablement—a. To enable the General Conference Auditing Service to fulfill its responsibility, achieve its purpose, meets its objectives, and comply with its mandate, all General Conference Auditing Service personnel shall be responsible to the director of the General Conference Auditing Service through associate directors.

b. Auditors are authorized to conduct unannounced - No change

SA 05 10 ~~Generally Accepted Auditing Standards—1. International Standards for Assurance and Related Services—1. International Standards~~—Statements on auditing standards published in various countries differ in form and content, and govern, to a greater or lesser degree, the practices followed in the auditing of financial information. To enhance the degree of uniformity of auditing practices throughout the world, the international accounting fraternity has developed International Standards on Auditing. To achieve standardization of auditing procedures within the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, the General Conference

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Auditing Service shall adopt an audit methodology that, at a minimum, complies with International Standards on Auditing. For any other level of assurance or related service provided, the General Conference Auditing Service shall similarly adopt a methodology based on the relevant professional standards. ~~methodology which shall, at a minimum, comply with International Standards on Auditing.~~

2. Country-Specific Standards—International Standards on Auditing shall not override the country-specific regulations governing the audits of denominational entities in a particular country. To the extent that International Standards on Auditing conform to local regulations, audits in those countries in accordance with local regulations shall automatically comply with the International Standards on Auditing. For any other level of assurance or related service provided, the General Conference Auditing Service shall similarly adopt a methodology based on the relevant professional standards.

3. Independence—a. The General Conference Auditing Service shall maintain an impartial attitude and be, appear to be, and strive to be recognized to be free of any interest or bias ~~that~~ which might be regarded as being incompatible with integrity and objectivity.

b. General Conference Auditing Service personnel shall - No change

~~e. All audits and related professional services required by denominational organizations shall be performed by the General Conference Auditing Service and/or by an external auditor selected from a roster of auditors endorsed by the General Conference Executive Committee in the case of audits for divisions or General Conference institutions or field units directly attached to the General Conference or, in the case of audits for entities within a division, endorsed by the division executive committee.~~

~~d. c.~~ General Conference Auditing Service or external audit personnel shall not be members of any denominational administrative committee or controlling board or executive committee, or governing committee and/or board, other than the director of the General Conference Auditing Service who shall be the secretary of the General Conference Auditing Service Board. It is recommended that General Conference Auditing Service personnel be invited to meet with the various officer groups and committees for counsel relative to their professional duties. However, in no instance shall auditors have administrative authority to direct or compel administrative action of any nature.

~~e. d.~~ Administrators of denominational entities shall not attempt - No change

4. Competence—a. To ensure that ~~audits of denominational organizations are performed by persons having adequate technical training and proficiency as auditors,~~ assurance and related services provided to denominational organizations and performed by persons who

have adequate technical training and proficiency, the General Conference Auditing Service shall employ professionals who have, either through formal education or experience, the appropriate background to perform such services. ~~education or experience, attained the highest professional status possible.~~

b. The General Conference Auditing Service shall establish guidelines and requirements for attaining relevant professional certification and completing continuing professional education commensurate with the requirements of professional accounting bodies. The objective is to ensure a foundation in accounting as evidenced by professional certification and continuing awareness of developments in the field of accounting and auditing matters. ~~continuing professional education commensurate with the requirements of national professional accounting bodies. The objective is to ensure a continuing awareness of developments including relevant international and national pronouncements on accounting and auditing matters, and regulations and statutory requirements.~~

5. Quality Control—~~a. To comply with national professional standards and to maintain uniform auditing standards around the world, the~~ The General Conference Auditing Service shall establish a system of quality control policies and procedures to provide it with reasonable assurance of conforming with the professional standards that govern the assurance and related services that are rendered to denominational organizations. generally accepted auditing standards in its engagements.

b. The director shall report to the General Conference Auditing Service Board regarding the design, implementation, and monitoring of its system of quality control. ~~results of quality control reviews.~~

SA 05 15 Levels of Assurance Related Services—The financial oversight program of the Church includes the following levels of assurance and related services: Definition of an Audit, Financial Review, and Compilation—As used in this section:

1. Financial Audits—An examination in accordance with International Standards on Auditing, of the assertions management has made on its financial statements resulting in an opinion that provides reasonable assurance on whether those statements are fairly stated in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards or other appropriate financial reporting framework.

2. Financial Reviews—A review, in accordance with International Standards on Review engagements, of an organization's financial statement comprised of analytical review procedures and inquiries resulting in a report that provides moderate assurance on whether those financial statements are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards or other appropriate financial reporting framework.

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3. Financial Inspections—An inspection in accordance with standards developed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, of an organization’s financial activities resulting in a report related to a set of agreed-upon procedures and supplemented by a letter of recommendations with corrective actions based on findings related to the agreed-upon procedures performed.

~~1. A financial audit is the examination by an auditor, in accordance with professional auditing standards, of the assertions of management as embodied in its financial statements, to enable the auditor either to express or to disclaim an opinion on the fairness with which the financial statements present the entity’s financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in accordance with the appropriate financial reporting framework in each country.~~

~~2. A financial review consists primarily of inquiries addressed to management and of analytical procedures applied to the financial data by the auditor to provide a reasonable basis for expressing limited assurance that there is no material modifications needed for the financial statements to be in conformity with the appropriate financial reporting framework in each country. Financial reviews, where authorized (see SA 20), shall be conducted in accordance with industry standards, for example, the “International Standards on Review Engagements” (ISRE’s), and “International Standards on Related Services” (ISRS’s). The auditor’s report in the case of a financial review is, at best, a statement of negative assurances.~~

~~3. A compilation is the presentation of financial information, as asserted by management, without any inquiry process to provide a level of assurance regarding the accuracy of information. Compilations are not acceptable substitutes for audits or financial reviews in denominational entities.~~

~~4. Other Services—Other services may be requested. Special investigations are not considered to be financial audits. Requests for such services, if and when submitted to the director of the General Conference Auditing Service, shall be considered on a case-by-case case-by-case basis, depending on the availability of personnel or other relevant factors. The costs involved in such investigations services shall be borne by the organization requesting the service, unless other arrangements have been made. otherwise approved by the organization funding the audit.~~

5. Reviews of Trust Operations—A review of trust operations consists of an evaluation of an organization’s compliance with trust accreditation standards and other fiduciary practices for the administration of the assets for which the organization has responsibility as a trustee, personal representative, attorney-in-fact, or in some other fiduciary capacity, and is also designed to make recommendations that will assist in the safeguarding against loss from unauthorized use or disposition and that will assist in ensuring that transactions are executed in accordance with appropriate authorizations and in conformity with the governing instruments.

and are recorded properly to permit the preparation of the required financial, tax, and other reports.

6. Compliance Testing—a. A compliance test is the examination by an auditor of evidence to determine compliance with General Conference *Working Policy*, division working policy, and other denominational policies, if any, applicable to the client. The General Conference Executive Committee shall identify core policies to be tested, establish guidelines for evaluating materiality thresholds, define agreed-upon procedures, and recommend the manner of reporting noncompliance with General Conference policies. Division executive committees shall do likewise for any additional policies established by the division. An entity's controlling board or executive committee may require that other policies, in addition to the core policies, shall be included in the compliance tests. Added costs associated with testing of any policies, in addition to core policies, shall be the responsibility of the entity that determined the additional policies to be tested or by pre-arrangement with other entities that may be involved in bearing such costs. Compliance testing of core policies and other policies relating to a financial audit may be conducted by either the General Conference Auditing Service or by an external auditor. Compliance tests can be done in one of the following ways:

1) By examining evidence for compliance with the core policies encountered in the course of the financial audit. The auditor will give negative assurance (no non-compliance with policy came to the attention of the auditor), issue a qualified report, or state that it is not possible to report, on the organization's compliance with policy. In addition, the principal officers shall be required to submit an assertion of compliance with the core policies. Such declaration shall be in the manner prescribed by the General Conference Executive Committee or as enhanced by additional clauses as determined by the organization's governing authority; or

2) By performing agreed-upon procedures on all the core policies. An organization whose controlling board or executive committee wishes to have agreed-upon procedures applied to only selected items on the list of core policies shall still be reviewed under the negative assurance provisions of paragraph a. above. The auditor will report on the findings from applying the prescribed procedures, and where applicable, a report under paragraph a. above.

3) By performing an examination engagement in accordance with generally accepted attestation standards on, at a minimum, the core policies designated by the General Conference Executive Committee from time to time. Every controlling board or executive committee may add to the core policies to meet specific circumstances and situations. An organization whose controlling board or executive committee wishes to have examination engagement procedures applied to only selected items on the list of core policies shall still be reviewed under the negative assurance provisions of paragraph a. above. The auditor will

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provide an opinion on the organization's compliance with the core policies under consideration, and where applicable, a report under paragraph a. above.

4) By performing, as per prior arrangement with the controlling board or executive committee, a combination of the three levels described above.

b. The controlling board or executive committee of each organization wishing to select options b., c., or d., above must do so prior to the commencement of the financial audit otherwise option a. will apply. The responsibility for additional costs relative to option b., c., or d., are to be determined at the time the option is selected.

c. In the case of contractual agreements and regulatory requirements, the examination for compliance should include review of specific agreements and/or requirements, to enable the auditor to report on compliance with the prescribed requirements and standards.

~~SA 05-16 Reviews of Trust Operations—A review of trust operations consists of an evaluation of an organization's compliance with trust accreditation standards and other fiduciary practices for the administration of the assets for which the organization has responsibility as a trustee, personal representative, attorney in fact, or in some other fiduciary capacity, and is also designed to make recommendations that will assist in the safeguarding against loss from unauthorized use or disposition and that will assist in ensuring that transactions are executed in accordance with appropriate authorizations and in conformity with the governing instruments, and are recorded properly to permit the preparation of the required financial, tax, and other reports.~~

~~SA 05-17 Compliance Testing—1. A compliance test is the examination by an auditor of evidence to determine compliance with General Conference Working Policy, division working policy, and other denominational policies, if any, applicable to the client. The General Conference Executive Committee shall identify core policies to be tested, establish guidelines for evaluating materiality thresholds, define agreed upon procedures, and recommend the manner of reporting noncompliance with General Conference policies. Division executive committees shall do likewise for any additional policies established by the division. An entity's governing committee or board may require that other policies, in addition to the core policies, shall be included in the compliance tests. Added costs associated with testing of any policies, in addition to core policies, shall be the responsibility of the entity that determined the additional policies to be tested or by pre-arrangement with other entities that may be involved in bearing such costs. Compliance testing of core policies and other policies relating to a financial audit may be conducted by either the General Conference Auditing Service or by an external auditor. Compliance tests can be done in one of the following ways:~~

a. ~~By examining evidence for compliance with the core policies encountered in the course of the financial audit. The auditor will give negative assurance (no non-compliance with policy came to the attention of the auditor), issue a qualified report, or state that it is not possible to report, on the organization's compliance with policy. In addition, the principal officers shall be required to submit an assertion of compliance with the core policies. Such declaration shall be in the manner prescribed by the General Conference Executive Committee or as enhanced by additional clauses as determined by the organization's governing authority; or~~

b. ~~By performing agreed-upon procedures on all the core policies. An organization whose governing board/committee wishes to have agreed-upon procedures applied to only selected items on the list of core policies shall still be reviewed under the negative assurance provisions of paragraph a. above. The auditor will report on the findings from applying the prescribed procedures, and where applicable, a report under paragraph a. above.~~

c. ~~By performing an examination engagement in accordance with generally accepted attestation standards on, at a minimum, the core policies designated by the General Conference Executive Committee from time to time. Every governing committee/board may add to the core policies to meet specific circumstances and situations. An organization whose governing board/committee wishes to have examination engagement procedures applied to only selected items on the list of core policies shall still be reviewed under the negative assurance provisions of paragraph a. above. The auditor will provide an opinion on the organization's compliance with the core policies under consideration, and where applicable, a report under paragraph a. above.~~

d. ~~By performing, as per prior arrangement with the governing committee or board, a combination of the three levels described above.~~

2. ~~The governing committee/board of each organization wishing to select options b., c., or d., above must do so prior to the commencement of the financial audit otherwise option a. will apply. The responsibility for additional costs relative to option b., c., or d., are to be determined at the time the option is selected.~~

3. ~~In the case of contractual agreements and regulatory requirements, the examination for compliance should include review of specific agreements and/or requirements, to enable the auditor to report on compliance with the prescribed requirements and standards.~~

SA 05-20 Management's Responsibility—1. While the auditor is responsible for forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements of an organization, the responsibility for the preparation of those financial statements is that of the organization's management. Management's responsibilities include the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls, the selection and application of appropriate accounting policies, and the

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safeguarding of the assets of the entity. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management of its responsibilities.

2. Management shall allow the auditor/auditing team personnel complete access to all employees, accounting and corporate records, agreements, contracts, minutes, service records, and other related documents, deemed necessary by the auditor for the performance of an audit, review of trust operations, or policy compliance test. Even though an external audit may have been completed, management shall also allow the General Conference Auditing Service similar access when the General Conference Auditing Service is responding to a request of the unit's constituency or of the board/executive committee of the next higher organization.

SA 05 25 Responsibility for Assurance and Related Services Provided to Denominational Organizations—1. Providers—All assurance and related services required by denominational organizations shall be performed by the General Conference Auditing Service and/or by an external auditor selected from a roster of auditors endorsed by the General Conference Executive Committee in the case of audits for divisions or General Conference institutions or field units directly attached to the General conference or, in the case of audits for entities within a division, endorsed by the division executive committee. (See SA 05 30.) Assignment—Client Base—The General Conference Auditing Service shall be the Seventh-day Adventist Church's preferred provider of auditing or financial review services. The client base includes all denominational organizations such as General Conference institutions, world divisions and their institutions, unions/unions of churches and their institutions, local conferences/missions and their educational institutions at the secondary level or higher, and Adventist Development and Relief Agency country offices and projects not audited by external auditors. The General Conference Auditing Service shall not be responsible for the audit or financial review of entities, regardless of type, that are controlled/directed/managed by either a single local congregation or a number of local congregations. The client base and any exclusions are identified in consultation with the General Conference and division administrations and voted upon by the General Conference Executive Committee. Any type of organization not described above requires a specific voted action of the General Conference Executive Committee to be included in the client base. The financial arrangements related to providing services to the client base will be agreed upon between the General Conference and division administrations.

2. Management—While the auditor is responsible for forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements of an organization, the responsibility for the preparation of those financial statements is that of the organization's management. Management's responsibilities include the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls, the selection and application of appropriate accounting policies, and the safeguarding of the assets of the entity. The financial audit of the financial statements does not relieve management of its responsibilities. Management shall allow the auditor complete access to all employees, accounting and corporate records, agreements, contracts, minutes, service records, and other

related documents deemed necessary by the auditor for the performance of a financial audit, financial review, financial inspection, review of trust operations, or policy compliance test. Even though an external audit may have been completed, management shall also allow the General Conference Auditing Service similar access when the General Conference Auditing Service is responding to a request of the unit's constituency or of the controlling board or executive committee of the next higher organization.

3. Client Base—The General Conference Auditing Service serves as the Seventh-day Adventist Church's preferred provider of assurance and related services. The client base includes all denominational organizations such as General Conference institutions, world divisions and their institutions, unions/unions of churches and their institutions, local conferences/missions and their educational institutions at the secondary level or higher, and Adventist Development and Relief Agency country offices and projects not audited by external auditors. Generally, the level of assurance and related services applicable to these entities would be financial audits or financial reviews (where financial reviews are determined to be appropriate). Any tithe-based organization is required to have an annual financial audit. The General Conference Auditing Service shall not be responsible for the financial audit or financial review of entities, regardless of type, that are controlled/directed/managed by either a single local congregation or a number of local congregations. The client base and any change in level of service, for other than a tithe-based organization or exclusions are determined in consultation with the General Conference and division administrations and voted upon by the General Conference Executive Committee. Any type of organization not herein described requires a specific voted action of the General Conference Executive Committee to be included in the client base. The financial arrangements related to providing services to the client base will be agreed upon between the General Conference and division administrations.

4. Frequency—Assurance or related services shall normally be conducted annually. When this does not occur, all years since the last financial review shall be included in the next scheduled engagement, unless as otherwise provided by an agreement between the General Conference Auditing Service and division administrations.

5. New Organizations—It shall be the responsibility of the authorizing higher organization to inform the General Conference Auditing Service through standard denominational channels whenever a new entity, which corresponds to the types of entities included in the client base, is organized or created. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency shall advise the General Conference Auditing Service as soon as a new country office is organized or created and when a proposal for a project has been approved by an aid organization that does not require the use of an external auditor.

6. General Conference Audit—The financial records of the General conference shall be audited by a certified public accounting firm, engaged for this purpose by the General

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Conference Executive Committee. The audit shall be conducted, and the audit reports signed, by employees of the certified public accounting firm. The General Conference Auditing Service shall assist with the audit.

SA 05 27 Responsibility for Assurance and Related Services for Local Conference Institutions and Local Churches—Except for educational institutions at the secondary level or higher, the local conference/mission/field/region is responsible for assurance and related services for its institutions, churches, and enterprises operated by one or more churches. It is the responsibility of the division to determine which level of service these entities receive. Generally, the appropriate level of service would be a financial inspection, or the division will give guidance on a lower level of service. If a higher level of service is determined to be appropriate, divisions shall secure the services of General Conference Auditing Service or an external firm to provide such services (see SA 05 25). Responsibility for Audits of Local Conference Institutions and Local Churches—Unless specifically included in the General Conference Auditing Service client base (see SA 05 25), financial audits or reviews of local conference institutions, local churches, and other enterprises operated by one or more churches, shall be conducted annually by competent individuals engaged by the local conference/mission/field. The report should be provided to the officers of the entity being audited/reviewed with copies to the officers of the local conference/ mission/field. In situations where it is not feasible to perform these services on an annual basis, other arrangements may be put in place so that on a regular cycle as determined by the division, not to exceed a two-year period, an audit/financial review will be done. For the years that the conference/mission/field is not able to provide an audit/financial review, arrangements may be made for qualified individuals to provide an interim financial review.

Reporting—At the conclusion of each engagement a report should be provided to the officers of the entity for which a financial inspection, or other lower level of service, has been performed with copies to the officers of the local conference/mission/field. In situations where it is not feasible to perform these services on an annual basis, other arrangements may be put in place so that on a regular cycle as determined by the division, not to exceed a two-year period, a financial inspection or lower level of service will be done. An annual report on all engagement shall be presented to the Audit Committee of the conference/mission/field indicating which organizations have received a financial inspection, or lower level of service during the year or during the regularly scheduled period as determined by the division in harmony with this policy. This report shall be in writing and shall include the date and place of each engagement.

1. Annual Report—The conference/mission/field employee who audits/reviews financial records of local conference institutions, local churches, and other enterprises operated by one or more churches shall report to the Audit Committee of the conference/mission/field indicating which organizations have been audited/reviewed during the year, or during the regularly scheduled period as determined by the division in harmony with this policy. This report shall be in writing and shall include the date and place of each audit/financial review.

~~2. Audit Frequency—Audits, or financial reviews when authorized in the case of specifically designated entities (see SA 20), shall normally be conducted annually. Even when audits, or financial reviews when authorized, are not performed annually, all years since the last audit or financial review shall be included in the next audit or financial review. Division executive committees may approve a longer interval between audits or financial reviews for some organizations or institutions within its territory or may delegate this authority to the next higher organization of the entity being audited or reviewed.~~

~~3. New Organizations—It shall be the responsibility of the authorizing higher organization to inform the General Conference Auditing Service through standard denominational channels whenever a new entity, which corresponds to the types of entities included in the client base, is organized or created. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency shall advise the General Conference Auditing Service as soon as a new country office is organized or created and when a proposal for a project has been approved by an aid organization that does not require the use of an external auditor.~~

~~4. General Conference Audit—The financial records of the General Conference shall be audited by a certified public accounting firm, engaged for this purpose by the General Conference Executive Committee. The audit shall be conducted, and the audit reports signed by employees of the certified public accounting firm. The General Conference Auditing Service shall assist with the audit.~~

SA 05 30 Use of Accountants in Public Practice—Although the General Conference Auditing Service is the denomination's preferred provider of auditing or financial review services, there may be occasions where, due to circumstances or legal requirements, it is preferable to engage the services of an external auditor. A division, or the General Conference Executive Committee in the case of General Conference institutions, divisions or other entities attached to the General Conference, shall identify circumstances and outline a process under which an organization may choose an external auditor. In such situations an auditor shall be engaged for a specific period from a list of external auditors endorsed by the General Conference Executive Committee in the case of General Conference institutions, divisions or other entities attached to the General Conference, or in case of audits or financial reviews for entities within a division, endorsed by the division executive committee. (See Appendix C for the standards and guidelines for the endorsement and selection of external auditors.) Where an organization has the financial audit or financial review performed by an external auditor, the cost of these services shall be borne by the entity being audited or reviewed unless other prior arrangements have been approved by organization(s) sharing the cost. (In the case of audits where the General Conference is requested to share in the costs, approval must be obtained from the General Conference Administrative Committee.)

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SA 05 35 Assurance and Related Services Reports—In connection with the assurance and related services described in SA 05 15, the following reports shall be provided: Auditor's Reports—1. Types of Reports—a. The auditor's written expression of an opinion on financial information may be unqualified, qualified, adverse, or a disclaimer of opinion, based on the conclusions drawn from the audit evidence obtained.

1. Financial Audit Reports—a. The auditor's written expression of an opinion on financial information may be unqualified, qualified, adverse, or a disclaimer of opinion, based on the conclusions drawn from the audit evidence obtained.

b. The auditor shall be required to report on the entity's compliance with

1) ~~General Conference Working Policy and other applicable denominational working policies as they relate to financial matters and specific policies required to be tested in terms of these policies, and~~

2) ~~Contractual agreements and regulatory requirements, when applicable, based on the audit of the financial statements. Instances of noncompliance with the General Conference Working Policy, division working policy, and other applicable denominational working policies and contractual agreements and regulatory requirements shall be enumerated in the relevant report.~~

e. b. The auditor shall also communicate matters required by professional auditing standards in an audit communication letter. ~~letter (formerly known as the "management letter").~~

~~d.~~ c. When the condition of an organization's accounting - No change

~~e. At the conclusion of a review of trust operations, a report shall be prepared which shall provide findings related to compliance with trust accreditation standards and other fiduciary practices and will provide related recommendations that will assist in the safeguarding of assets against loss from unauthorized use or disposition and will assist in ensuring that transactions are executed in accordance with appropriate authorizations and in conformity with the governing instruments, and are recorded properly to permit the preparation of the required financial, tax, and other reports.~~

2. Financial Review Reports—The auditor's written financial review report may be standard or non-standard, depending on whether it describes departures from the applicable financial reporting framework which were not corrected by the client entity. If the auditor issues a supplemental communication letter, that letter shall accompany the review report.

3. Financial Inspection Reports—The auditor’s written financial inspection report shall list the agreed-upon procedures performed and the findings related to each procedure. If the auditor supplements the report of findings with a letter of recommendations, that letter shall accompany the report of findings.

4. Compliance Reports—a. The auditor’s written report on policy compliance may be standard or non-standard, depending on whether it describes detected instances of non-compliance.

b. The auditor shall be required to report on the entity’s compliance with

1) General Conference Working Policy and other applicable denominational working policies as they relate to financial matters and specific policies required to be tested in terms of these policies, and

2) Contractual agreements and regulatory requirements, when applicable, based on the audit of the financial statements.

3) Instances of noncompliance with the General Conference Working Policy, division working policy, and other applicable denominational working policies and contractual agreements and regulatory requirements shall be enumerated in the relevant report.

5. Review of Trust Operations—At the conclusion of a review of trust operations, a report shall be prepared which shall provide findings related to compliance with trust accreditation standards and other fiduciary practices and will provide related recommendations that will assist in the safeguarding of assets against loss from unauthorized use or disposition and will assist in ensuring that transactions are executed in accordance with appropriate authorizations and in conformity with the governing instruments, and are recorded properly to permit the preparation of the required financial, tax, and other reports.

~~2. 6. Distribution of Reports—~~a. ~~The auditor’s opinion, review report, or inspection of findings, and the report reports on compliance, and the audited or reviewed annual financial statements shall be forwarded by the auditor, along with the audit communication letter in connection with audits, or a supplemental communication letter, if any, in connection with reviews, to the officers of the organization being served, the chair of its controlling board or executive committee, and the chair of its Audit Committee. letter, to the officers of the organization being served and the chair of the Audit Committee.~~

b. Every division/attached union shall determine the time periods, which shall not exceed the maximum periods stipulated below, within which the organizations in its

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territory shall respond to the audit communication letter. If such a determination is not made, the following shall apply:

- 1) Each organization shall have a maximum of 60 days - No change
 - 2) The auditor shall be invited to present the auditor's opinion, review report, or inspection report of findings, and the report on policy compliance, the audited/reviewed financial statements, and the audit communication letter or supplemental communication letter to the Audit Committee of the entity concerned (see S 34 05).
 - 3) At the close of the applicable time period, the auditor shall send sufficient copies of the auditor's opinion, review report, or inspection reports of findings, and the reports on compliance, the audited or reviewed financial statements, the audit communication ~~letter,~~ letter, or supplemental communication letter, and management's response to the audit communication letter, if any, to the treasurer/chief financial officer for the members of the controlling board or executive committee of the organization being audited or reviewed. The treasurer/chief financial officer is responsible for distributing the reports received at the next scheduled meeting or by any other appropriate means of distributions. The treasurer/chief financial officer shall assist in the presentation of the Audit Committee's report to the controlling board or executive committee (see S 34 05).
 - 4) The auditor shall also distribute the same information
 - a) To the appropriate officers of the higher - No change
 - b) To the General Conference Auditing Service, and
 - c) The auditor's opinion, review report, or inspection of findings, and the report ~~reports~~ on compliance, and the audited financial statements to the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research.
- c. The auditor's report resulting from a review of trust - No change

SA 05 40 General Conference Auditing Service Board—1. Function—a. General - No change

b. Personnel—1) The director and associate directors of the General Conference Auditing Service shall be elected by the General Conference in session.

A recommendation for director and associate directors of the General Conference Auditing Service shall be made by the General Conference Auditing Service Board to each

regular General Conference Session nominating committee after taking into consideration work performance and feedback from a variety of sources. ~~consultation with the administration of the respective divisions.~~

- 2) Assistant directors of the General Conference - No change
 - 3) All other professional personnel necessary for - No change
 - 4) The General Conference Auditing Service Board - No change
 - 5) To implement section SA 05 50, paragraph 3., the - No change
2. Composition—The General Conference Auditing Service Board - No change
- SA 05 45 Division Audit Affairs Committee—[Repealed Annual Council 2011].
- SA 05 50 General Conference Auditing Service Organizational Structure - No change
- SA 05 55 General Conference Auditing Service Budget—The budget of - No change

SA 10 Audit/Financial Review of Financial Records of Local
Churches and Small Organizations
[Repealed Annual Council 2011]

SA 15 Financial Audit Review Committee
[Repealed Annual Council 2011]

SA 20 Authorization for Financial Reviews or Special Engagements

~~SA 20 05 Authorization for Financial Reviews or Special Engagements—When, in the judgment of a division's officers, circumstances indicate that a financial review would be a sufficient and appropriate level of service to be performed by the General Conference Auditing Service or exceptional circumstances indicate the need for a special engagement to be designed and performed by the General Conference Auditing Service, the officers may file a request with the General Conference President for such arrangements to be made. The General Conference officers (President, Secretary, and Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer), after consultation with the director of the General Conference Auditing Service and the chair of the General Conference Auditing Service Board, may recommend that the General Conference Administrative Committee authorize arrangements for a financial review or special engagement instead of the standard financial audit ordinarily performed by General Conference Auditing Service. The General Conference Administrative Committee may grant such authorization for up to two years~~

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~~at a time and will indicate how the costs for these services will be covered. The General Conference Executive Committee and the General Conference Auditing Service Board shall be notified regarding in any General Conference Administrative Committee approved arrangements for financial reviews or special engagements in the place of standard financial audits.~~

GCASBd/14AC to MAI(DIV)

234-14Gb STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR THE ENDORSEMENT
AND SELECTION OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS - NEW POLICY
APPENDIX

VOTED, To adopt a new policy appendix GC Appendix C, Standards and Guidelines for the Endorsement and Selection of External Auditors, to read as follows:

APPENDIX C STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR THE
ENDORSEMENT AND SELECTION OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

Section I—Scope of Work and Reporting Framework

The external auditor would be engaged to perform attestation services on the organizations financial statements that are prepared based on International Financial Reporting Standards or a country specific framework of financial reporting.

Section II—Competencies and Credibility of External Auditing Firm

1. Firm must be in existence for at least five years.
2. Firm should have audit experience in the not-for-profit industry within the last year where the accounting standards are different from what is applied in general to organizations subject to an audit.
3. Firm must have extensive audit experience with the industries that are similar in type to the denominational entities being considered to audit (e.g. educational, publishing, healthcare, retail, manufacturing, etc.).
4. Firm must be independent of the organization to be audited.
5. Firm and auditors must have recent “unqualified” (clean) Peer Review Report or its equivalent. If there is no Peer Review requirement in a country, the firm needs to have some appropriate licensure required for auditors engaged in auditing publicly traded companies.

6. Firm should have no disciplinary actions or sanctions against the local office of the firm being considered, for its audit practice (or any of its audit partners) by any local or national professional accounting licensing body.

Section III—Criteria for Requesting Services of an External Firm

1. Required by law
2. Required by external third parties:
 - a. Funding agencies
 - b. Banks
 - c. Bond issuers
 - d. Accrediting or regulatory agencies
3. The General Conference Auditing Service does not possess the specialized expertise required for engagement
4. The General Conference Auditing Service does possess the specialized expertise required for engagement but the General Conference or division determines for cost/benefit considerations that the choice of an external firm would be more appropriate
5. The governing board of an institution determines the need for services of an external firm. However, such determination is to be made in consultation with the division treasurer and such consultation takes into consideration the Memorandum of Understanding between the division and the General Conference Auditing Service.

Section IV—Process to Make the Selection of an External Firm

1. The denominational entity making a request for use of an external firm must meet one or more of the criteria described above in Section III.
2. The denomination entity must engage in consultations with the General Conference or division before finalizing the process to send out a Request For Proposal (RFP) to external firms.

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- a. The external firm must respond to a formal RFP for consideration to provide its services.
 - b. The denominational entity seeking to engage an external firm may contact the General Conference Auditing Service for assistance to develop a RFP which includes all the requirements generally included in such a document.
 - c. For cost containment, RFP should consider including the General Conference Auditing Service doing appropriate portions of the audit engagement under the supervision of the external firm.
 - d. Without prior authorization, the selected external firm should not subcontract the performance of any portion of the audit engagement to another external firm.
3. At the conclusion of those consultations the denominational entity must request approval to engage the services of the external firm selected based on the responses received to the RFP. Any approval granted shall be for a period for no more than three years and any subsequent periods will need to be approved after following the process herein described
- a. Divisions and General Conference institutions—General Conference Executive Committee
 - b. Within a division territory—Division Executive Committee
4. As part of the General Conference Auditing Service Director's responsibility to monitor the overall audit program of the Church, the denominational entity shall provide information regarding the external firm selected and copies of any reports resulting from its work.

GCASBd/14AC to MAI(DIV)

234-14Gc PRESENTATION TO CONSTITUENCY SESSIONS
(FINANCIAL REPORTS) - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC S 19 20, Presentation to Constituency Sessions (Financial Reports), to read as follows:

S 19 20 Presentation to Constituency Sessions—Reports to the constituency sessions of organizations shall include audited comparative financial statements, as enumerated in S 19 15, showing each of the years in the reporting period. If it is not possible to have audited

comparative financial statements prepared for the session's reporting period, each year's financial statement, with the accompanying auditor's report, shall be presented separately. Any financial reports presented at constituency sessions that are not accompanied by an opinion from the auditor should clearly indicate that it is non-audited information. The auditor shall be invited to attend the constituency session at which the audit reports and audit communication letter are presented. Whenever possible, the audit report is to be presented personally by the auditor (see GC C 30 20 and C 35 20.) However, under circumstances where legal requirements permit and conference facilities are deemed satisfactory to the client and the auditor, the auditor may choose to attend the constituency meeting via teleconference or videoconference.

GCASBd/14AC to MAI(DIV)

234-14Gd AUDIT COMMITTEE - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC S 34 05, Audit Committee, to read as follows:

S 34 05 Audit Committee (formerly referred to as Financial Audit Review Committee)—The controlling board or executive committee of each organization shall establish a subcommittee known as the Audit Committee to meet at least annually and discharge the functions as outlined in the charter (terms of reference) provided to promote transparency and full disclosure on audit matters. These meetings may be held in person or via conference call where such facilities are available and if considered appropriate.

1. Composition—The Audit Committee shall consist of a minimum - No change
2. Charter (Terms of Reference)—The following represents the - No change
3. Invitation to Auditor—The auditor shall be invited to attend the Audit Committee meeting at which the audit reports and audit communication letter are studied, and the controlling board or executive committee meeting at which the Audit Committee makes its recommendations, if any. Under circumstances where legal requirements permit and conferencing facilities are deemed satisfactory to the client and the auditor, the auditor may choose to attend, via teleconference or videoconference, the meetings mentioned above. ~~Although it would be normal and expected for the auditor to attend the Audit Committee in person or via other conference facilities, attendance by the auditor at such meetings is not mandatory.~~
4. Representatives from Higher Organizations—If there are official - No change
5. Copy of Recommendations—A copy of the recommendations - No change

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ASTR/Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO14AC/GCASBd/14AC to MAI-15GCS

229-14GS AUDITING SERVICE AND AUDITS - CONSTITUTION
AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

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

ARTICLE VIII—AUDITING SERVICE AND AUDITS

Sec. 1. At each regular General Conference Session, the General Conference shall elect a director of the General Conference Auditing Service, whose duties shall be to:

a. Administer a program to provide assurance and related services as part of the worldwide financial oversight program for the Seventh-day Adventist Church; Administer the conduct of audits that the General Conference Auditing Service performs for organizations of the Church throughout the world.

b. Monitor the assurance and related services provided for the Seventh-day Adventist Church including where such services are rendered by an external provider; Monitor the overall audit program throughout the denomination.

c. Recommend to the General Conference Executive Committee or division executive committee standards and/or guidelines for the endorsement and selection of external auditors; and Recommend to the General Conference Administrative Committee or division executive committee standards and/or guidelines for use by divisions in the endorsement of external auditors that may be engaged within the division territory, and

d. Report to the General Conference Executive Committee, through the General Conference Auditing Service Board, on the overall assurance and related services in the Church and on current issues and emerging trends that appear in the global picture of financial reporting and organizational policy compliance. Report to the General Conference Executive Committee, through the General Conference Auditing Service Board, on the overall audit program in the Church and the trends/issues that appear in the global picture of financial and policy administration.

Associate directors shall also be elected at each regular General Conference Session. The director and associate directors shall be recommended by the General Conference Auditing Service Board to the Session Nominating Committee after consultation with the administrations of the respective divisions.

References to service directors and associate service directors elsewhere in these Bylaws shall not apply to the director and associate directors of the General Conference Auditing Service, except as provided for in Article XIII, Sec. 1.c.

Sec. 2. a. At each regular General Conference Session - No change

b. A quorum of the General Conference Auditing Service Board - No change

Sec. 3. The General Conference Auditing Service, ever sensitive to the country-specific regulations governing the audits of denominational entities in a particular country, serves as the Seventh-day Adventist Church's preferred provider of assurance and related services. The Client base includes all denominational organizations such as General Conference institutions, world divisions and their institutions, unions/conferences/missions/fields/regions/mission stations and their institutions, local conferences/missions and their educational institutions at the secondary level or higher, and Adventist Development and Relief Agency country offices and projects not audited by external auditors. ~~denomination's preferred provider of auditing services for world divisions; unions; conferences; missions; affiliated services, organizations, and institutions of the General Conference and every other administrative level; Adventist Development and Relief Agency country and regional administrations and projects (not audited by external auditors); and special funds.~~ Exceptions to the above global requirements shall be by specific action of the General Conference Executive Committee.

GCDO13AC/13AC/101-13Gd/ADCOM/GCDO14AC/14AC to BDS(DIV)

101-14Gd CALENDAR OF SPECIAL DAYS AND EVENTS—
WORLD 2015

VOTED, To approve the Calendar of Special Days and Events—World 2015, to read as follows:

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		<u>OFFERING</u>	<u>MATERIALS</u>
<u>January</u>			
3	Day of Fasting and Prayer and Spiritual Commitment	---	GC-MIN
7-17	Ten Days of Prayer	---	GC-MIN
10	#Health Ministries	---	Divisions
17			
24	Religious Liberty Day	Liberty	GC-PARL
31			
<u>February</u>			
7	<i>Tell the World</i> : Personal Outreach	---	GC-SSPM
7-14	Christian Home and Marriage Week	---	GC-FM
21	Outreach Literature	---	GC-PUB
28			
<u>March</u>			
7	Women's Day of Prayer	---	GC-WM
14	Adventist World Radio	Adventist World Radio*	GC-AWR
21-28	Youth Week of Prayer	---	GC-YOU
21	Global Youth Day	---	GC-YOU
28	#Christian Education	---	Divisions
<u>April</u>			
4	Day of Fasting and Prayer	---	GC-MIN
4	#Youth Spiritual Commitment Celebration (Northern Hemisphere)	---	Divisions
11	Friends of Hope Day (Visitor's Day)	---	GC-SSPM
11	Mission Promotion	World Mission	GC-AM
18-24	#Literature Evangelism Rally Week	---	Divisions

*For divisions not on the Combined Offering Plan

#Divisions to prepare materials

Promotional materials for events sponsored by General Conference departments can be found at
<http://www.adventist.org/information/special-days>

		<u>OFFERING</u>	<u>MATERIALS</u>
<u>April</u> contd			
18	World Mass Distribution Day for Missionary Book	---	Divisions
25	Special Needs Awareness Day	---	GC-SSPM
<u>May</u>			
2-31	Drug Awareness Month	---	GC-HM
2	<i>Tell the World: Internet Outreach</i>	---	GC-COM
9	<i>Tell the World: In the Community</i>	#Disaster/Famine Relief*	GC-PM/DIV
16			
23	World Day of Prayer for Children at Risk	---	GC-CHM
<u>June</u>			
6	Bible Study: Sabbath School and Correspondence Courses	---	GC-SSPM
13	Women's Ministries Emphasis Day	---	GC-WM
20	<i>Tell the World - Reach Across: Nurture and Reclaiming</i>	---	GC-SSPM
27			
<u>July</u>			
4	Day of Prayer and Fasting	---	GC-MIN
11	Missions Promotion	GC Session Offering	GC-AM
18	<i>Tell the World: Media Ministry</i>	---	GC-COM
25	Children's Sabbath	---	GC-CHM
<u>August</u>			
1	#Global Mission Evangelism	---	Divisions
8	<i>Tell the World: Church Planting</i>	---	GC-AM
15	#Lay Evangelism	---	Divisions
22	enditnow Day	---	GC-WM
29	Education Day	---	GC-EDU

*For divisions not on the Combined Offering Plan
 #Divisions to prepare materials

Promotional materials for events sponsored by General Conference departments can be found at <http://www.adventist.org/information/special-days>

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		<u>OFFERING</u>	<u>MATERIALS</u>
<u>September</u>			
5	#Youth Spiritual Commitment Celebration (Southern Hemisphere)	---	Divisions
6-12	Family Togetherness Week	---	GC-FM
12	Mission Promotion	Unusual Opportunity*	GC-AM
19	Pathfinder Day	---	GC-YOU
26	#Sabbath School Guest Day	---	Divisions
<u>October</u>			
3	Day of Prayer and Fasting	---	GC-MIN
3	<i>Adventist Review</i> Subscription Promotion	---	GC-AR
10	Pastor Appreciation Day	---	GC-MIN
17	Spirit of Prophecy and Adventist Heritage	---	GC-White Estate
24	Creation Sabbath	---	GC-FSC
<u>November</u>			
7-14	Week of Prayer	---	GC-AR
7		Annual Sacrifice*	GC-AM
14			
21			
28			
<u>December</u>			
5	#Stewardship	---	Divisions
12	#Health Emphasis	---	Divisions
19			
26			

*For divisions not on the Combined Offering Plan
#Divisions to prepare materials

Promotional materials for events sponsored by General Conference departments can be found at
<http://www.adventist.org/information/special-days>

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ADCOM/GCDO11SM/11SM/ADCOM/GCDO11AC/11AC/ADCOM/102-11Gd/ADCOM/
GCDO12SM/12SM/ADCOM/GCDO12AC/12AC/102-12Gc/ADCOM/GCDO13SM/13SM/
ADCOM/GCDO13AC/13AC/ADCOM/102-13Gb/ADCOM/GCDO14SM/14SM/ADCOM/
GCDO14AC/14AC to HW(DIV)

102-14Ga AUTHORIZED MEETINGS 2014

VOTED, To approve the updated list of Authorized Meetings 2014, 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>October 2014</u>			
16-19	Thu	Global Healthcare Conference	Loma Linda CA
19-20	Sun	Oakwood University Board of Trustees	Huntsville AL
20-21	Mon	Biblical Research Institute Committee	Berrien Springs MI
21(am)	Tue	Loma Linda University Executive Committee	Loma Linda CA
22-23	Wed	Faith and Science Council	Berrien Springs MI
26(eve)	Sun	Andrews University Governance Committee	Berrien Springs MI
27(pm)	Mon	Andrews University Seminary Exec Committee	Berrien Springs MI
27	Mon	Andrews University Subcommittees	Berrien Springs MI
28	Tue	Andrews University Board	Berrien Springs MI
<u>November 2014</u>			
<u>December 2014</u>			
3(pm)	Wed	Adventist Risk Management Board Committees	Silver Spring MD
4(am)	Thu	Adventist Risk Management Board of Directors	Silver Spring MD
9-10	Tue	Loma Linda University Board and Committees	Loma Linda CA
11(am)	Thu	Adventist Health International Services Board	Loma Linda CA

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ADCOM/GCDO11SM/11SM/ADCOM/GCDO11AC/11AC/ADCOM/102-11Ge/ADCOM/
GCDO12SM/12SM/ADCOM/GCDO12AC/12AC/102-12Gd/GCDO13SM/13SM/ADCOM/
GCDO13AC/13AC/102-13Gc/ADCOM/GCDO14SM/14SM/ADCOM/GCDO14AC/14AC to
HW(DIV)

102-14Gb AUTHORIZED MEETINGS 2015

VOTED, To approve the updated list of Authorized Meetings 2015, 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 2015</u>			
12-31	Mon	IWM Mission Institute	Chiang Mai THAILAND
13-17	Tue	GC Executive Officers Meeting/PREXAD	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
27-29	Tue	Global Leadership Summit	Istanbul TURKEY
<u>February 2015</u>			
9	Mon	Membership Software Advisory Committee	Silver Spring MD
11-15	Wed	Global Adventist Internet Network Conference-Online	Silver Spring MD
22(pm)	Sun	Loma Linda University Board Education	Loma Linda CA
23-24	Mon	Loma Linda University Board and Committees	Loma Linda CA
25(am)	Wed	Adventist Health International Board	Loma Linda CA
25(pm)	Wed	Geoscience Research Institute Board	Loma Linda CA
<u>March 2015</u>			
1(eve)	Sun	Andrews University Governance Committee	Berrien Springs MI
2(pm)	Mon	Andrews University Seminary Exec Committee	Berrien Springs MI
4-8	Wed	Public Campus Ministries Summit	
3	Tue	Andrews University Board	Berrien Springs MI
17(am)	Tue	Loma Linda University Executive Committee	Loma Linda CA
23-26	Mon	Prime Time	Silver Spring MD
24(pm)	Tue	Institute for the Prevention of Addictions Board	Silver Spring MD
26(pm)	Thu	General Conference Leadership Council	Silver Spring MD
<u>April 2015</u>			
5(am)	Sun	IBE Programs Review Committee	Silver Spring MD
6-7(am)	Mon	Global Mission Issues Committee	Silver Spring MD
6(eve)	Mon	International Board of Education	Silver Spring MD

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>April 2015 contd</u>			
6(eve)	Mon	International Board of Min & Theol Ed (IBMTE)	Silver Spring MD
7(pm)	Tue	General Conference Mission Board	Silver Spring MD
7(eve)	Tue	Accred Assoc of SDA Sch, Coll, & Univ	Silver Spring MD
8	Wed	Presidents Council	Silver Spring MD
8	Wed	Treasurers Council	Silver Spring MD
8	Wed	Secretaries Council	Silver Spring MD
9(am)	Thu	GC & Division Officers	Silver Spring MD
9(pm)	Thu	Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee	Silver Spring MD
10(am)	Fri	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
12	Sun	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
12(eve)	Sun	Africa HIV/AIDS Office Board	Silver Spring MD
13(am)	Mon	ADRA International Board	Silver Spring MD
13(pm)	Mon	IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD
13(pm)	Mon	Adventist World Radio Board	Silver Spring MD
13(eve)	Mon	Hope Channel, Inc Board	Silver Spring MD
14-15	Tue	Spring Meeting	Silver Spring MD
19-20	Sun	Oakwood University Board of Trustees	Huntsville AL
20-May 9	Mon	IWM Mission Institute	
20-21	Mon	Biblical Research Institute Committee	Loma Linda CA
22-23	Wed	Faith and Science Council	Loma Linda CA
28-29	Tue	Adventist University of Africa Board	Nairobi KENYA
<u>May 2015</u>			
5	Tue	AIIAS Constituency Meeting	Silang Cavite PHILIPPINES
7	Thu	AIIAS Board Meeting	Silang Cavite PHILIPPINES
19-20	Tue	Loma Linda University Board and Committees	Loma Linda CA
21(am)	Thu	Adventist Health International Services Board	Loma Linda CA
27(pm)	Wed	Adventist Risk Management Board Committees	Silver Spring MD
28	Thu	Adventist Risk Management Board of Directors	Silver Spring MD
31(eve)	Sun	Andrews University Board Dinner/Info Items	Berrien Springs MI
<u>June 2015</u>			
1	Mon	Andrews University Board	Berrien Springs MI
1(am)	Mon	Andrews University Subcommittees	Berrien Springs MI
8-27	Mon	IWM Mission Institute	Berrien Springs MI
8-11	Mon	Prime Time	Silver Spring MD
9(pm)	Tue	PREXAD	Silver Spring MD
11(am)	Thu	General Conference Mission Board	Silver Spring MD

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>June 2015 contd</u>			
30	Tue	Presidents Council	San Antonio TX
30	Tue	Secretaries Council	San Antonio TX
30	Tue	Treasurers Council	San Antonio TX
<u>July 2015</u>			
2-11	Thu	General Conference Session	San Antonio TX
20-26	Mon	IWM Re-Entry Seminars Family/Teen	Berrien Springs MI
<u>August 2015</u>			
17-Sept 5	Mon	General Conference Mission Institute	MEXICO
24-25	Mon	Loma Linda University Board and Committees	Loma Linda CA
26(am)	Wed	Adventist Health International Services Board	Loma Linda CA
<u>September 2015</u>			
9-12	Wed	Global Mission Center Directors Meeting	Paris FRANCE
14-17	Mon	Prime Time	Silver Spring MD
17(pm)	Thu	General Conference Leadership Council	Silver Spring MD
25-27	Fri	PREXAD	MARYLAND
28-29	Mon	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
30(am)	Wed	General Conference Mission Board	Silver Spring MD
30(pm)	Wed	IBE Programs Review Committee	Silver Spring MD
30(eve)	Wed	Africa HIV/AIDS Office Board	Silver Spring MD
<u>October 2015</u>			
1	Thu	Presidents Council	Silver Spring MD
1	Thu	Secretaries Council	Silver Spring MD
1	Thu	Treasurers Council	Silver Spring MD
2(am)	Fri	ADRA International Board	Silver Spring MD
4(am)	Sun	GC & Division Officers	Silver Spring MD
4(pm)	Sun	Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee	Silver Spring MD
4(eve)	Sun	International Board of Education	Silver Spring MD
4(eve)	Sun	International Board of Min and Theol Ed (IBMTE)	Silver Spring MD
5(am)	Mon	Hope Channel, Inc Board	Silver Spring MD
5(pm)	Mon	IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD
5(pm)	Mon	Adventist World Radio Board	Silver Spring MD
5(pm)	Mon	Accred Association of SDA Sch, Coll, & Univ	Silver Spring MD
5(eve)-6	Mon	General Conference Auditing Service Board	Silver Spring MD
6(am)	Tue	Adventist University of Africa Board	Silver Spring MD

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>October 2015 contd</u>			
6(pm)	Tue	AIIAS Board	Silver Spring MD
7(am)-9(am)	Wed	LEAD Conference	Silver Spring MD
7(eve)-14	Wed	Annual Council	Silver Spring MD
18-19	Sun	Oakwood University Board of Trustees	Huntsville AL
19-20	Mon	Biblical Research Institute Committee	Berrien Springs MI
20(am)	Tue	Loma Linda University Executive Committee	Loma Linda CA
21-22	Wed	Faith and Science Council	Berrien Springs MI
25(eve)	Sun	Andrews University Governance Committee	Berrien Springs MI
26(pm)	Mon	Andrews University Seminary Executive Committee	Berrien Springs MI
26	Mon	Andrews University Subcommittees	Berrien Springs MI
27	Tue	Andrews University Board	Berrien Springs MI

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2(pm)	Wed	Adventist Risk Management Board Committees	Silver Spring MD
3(am)	Thu	Adventist Risk Management Board of Directors	Silver Spring MD
7-12	Mon	Global Mission Study Center Directors Meeting	_____
8-9	Tue	Loma Linda University Board and Committees	Loma Linda CA
10(am)	Thu	Adventist Health International Services Board	Loma Linda CA

SEC/ADCOM/GCDO14SM/14SM/ADCOM/GCDO14AC/14AC to HW(DIV)

102-14Gc AUTHORIZED MEETINGS 2016

VOTED, To approve the updated list of Authorized Meetings 2016, 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 2016</u>			
5	Tue	GC Executive Officers Meeting	FLORIDA
6-9	Wed	PREXAD	FLORIDA
22-30	Fri	Cross Cultural Symposium (GCLC)	_____

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February 2016

22-23	Mon	Loma Linda University Board and Committees	Loma Linda CA
28-Mar 18	Sun	General Conference Department Advisories	Silver Spring MD
28(eve)	Sun	Andrews University Governance Committee	Berrien Springs MI
29	Mon	Andrews University Subcommittees	Berrien Springs MI
29(pm)	Mon	Andrews University Seminary Exec Committee	Berrien Springs MI

March 2016

1	Tue	Andrews University Board	Berrien Springs MI
21-24	Mon	Prime Time	Silver Spring MD
22(am)	Tue	Loma Linda University Executive Committee	Loma Linda CA
24(pm)	Thu	General Conference Leadership Council	Silver Spring MD

April 2016

3(am)	Sun	IBE Programs Review Committee	Silver Spring MD
4-5(am)	Mon	Global Mission Issues Committee	Silver Spring MD
4(eve)	Mon	International Board of Education	Silver Spring MD
4(eve)	Mon	International Board of Min and Theol Ed (IBMTE)	Silver Spring MD
5(pm)	Tue	General Conference Mission Board	Silver Spring MD
5(eve)	Tue	Accred Association of SDA Sch, Coll, & Univ	Silver Spring MD
6	Wed	Presidents Council	Silver Spring MD
6	Wed	Secretaries Council	Silver Spring MD
6	Wed	Treasurers Council	Silver Spring MD
7(am)	Thu	GC & Division Officers	Silver Spring MD
7(pm)	Thu	Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee	Silver Spring MD
8(am)	Fri	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
10	Sun	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
10(eve)	Sun	Africa HIV/AIDS Office Board	Silver Spring MD
11(am)	Mon	ADRA International Board	Silver Spring MD
11(pm)	Mon	IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD
11(pm)	Mon	Adventist World Radio Board	Silver Spring MD
11(eve)	Mon	Hope Channel, Inc Board	Silver Spring MD
12-13	Tue	Spring Meeting	Silver Spring MD
14(am)	Thu	Loma Linda University Constituency Meeting	Loma Linda CA
14(pm)	Thu	Loma Linda University Organizing Boards	Loma Linda CA
26	Tue	Adventist University of Africa Board	Nairobi KENYA

May 2016

3	Tue	AIIAS Constituency Meeting	Silang Cavite PHILIPPINES
5	Thu	AIIAS Board Meeting	Silang Cavite PHILIPPINES
23-24	Mon	Loma Linda University Board and Committees	Loma Linda CA

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>June 2016</u>			
1(pm)	Wed	Adventist Risk Management Committees	Burlington VT
2(am)	Thu	Adventist Risk Management Board	Burlington VT
6-9	Mon	Prime Time	Silver Spring MD
<u>July 2016</u>			
<u>August 2016</u>			
29-30	Mon	Loma Linda University Board and Committees	Loma Linda CA
<u>September 2016</u>			
7-10	Wed	Global Mission Study Center Directors Meeting	
19-22	Mon	Prime Time	Silver Spring MD
22(pm)	Thu	General Conference Leadership Council	Silver Spring MD
27	Tue	Presidential Advisory	Silver Spring MD
28-29	Wed	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
30(am)	Fri	General Conference Mission Board	Silver Spring MD
<u>October 2016</u>			
2(am)	Sun	ADRA International Board	Silver Spring MD
2(pm)	Sun	<i>Church Manual</i> Committee	Silver Spring MD
3	Mon	Presidents Council	Silver Spring MD
3	Mon	Secretaries Council	Silver Spring MD
3	Mon	Treasurers Council	Silver Spring MD
3(am)	Mon	IBE Programs Review Committee	Silver Spring MD
3(eve)	Mon	Africa HIV/AIDS Office Board	Silver Spring MD
4(am)	Tue	GC & Division Officers	Silver Spring MD
4(pm)	Tue	Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee	Silver Spring MD
4(eve)	Tue	International Board of Education	Silver Spring MD
4(eve)	Tue	International Board of Min and Theol Ed (IBMTE)	Silver Spring MD
5(am)	Wed	Hope Channel, Inc Board	Silver Spring MD
5(pm)	Wed	IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD
5(pm)	Wed	Adventist World Radio Board	Silver Spring MD
5(pm)	Wed	Accred Association of SDA Sch, Coll, & Univ	Silver Spring MD
5(eve)-6	Wed	General Conference Auditing Service Board	Silver Spring MD
6(am)	Thu	Adventist University of Africa Board	Silver Spring MD
6(pm)	Thu	AIAS Board	Silver Spring MD
6(eve)-7(am)	Thu	LEAD Conference	Silver Spring MD
6(eve)-12	Thu	Annual Council	Silver Spring MD

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>October 2016 contd</u>			
18(am)	Tue	Loma Linda University Executive Committee	Loma Linda CA
23(eve)	Sun	Andrews University Governance Committee	Berrien Springs MI
24	Mon	Andrews University Subcommittees	Berrien Springs MI
24(pm)	Mon	Andrews University Seminary Exec Committee	Berrien Springs MI
25	Tue	Andrews University Board	Berrien Springs MI
<u>November 2016</u>			
30(pm)	Wed	Adventist Risk Management Committees	Silver Spring MD
<u>December 2016</u>			
1(am)	Thu	Adventist Risk Management Board	Silver Spring MD
12-13	Mon	Loma Linda University Board and Committees	Loma Linda CA

SEC/ADCOM/GCDO14SM/14SM/ADCOM/GCDO14AC/14AC to HW(DIV)

102-14Gd AUTHORIZED MEETINGS 2017

VOTED, To approve the updated list of Authorized Meetings 2017, 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 2017</u>			
3	Tue	GC Executive Officers Meeting	FLORIDA
4-7	Wed	PREXAD	FLORIDA
<u>February 2017</u>			
24(eve)-27(am)	Fri	Loma Linda University Board Retreat	CALIFORNIA
27(pm)-28	Mon	Loma Linda University Board and Committees	Loma Linda CA
<u>March 2017</u>			
20-23	Mon	Prime Time	Silver Spring MD
21(am)	Tue	Loma Linda University Executive Committee	Loma Linda CA
23(pm)	Thu	General Conference Leadership Council	Silver Spring MD

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>April 2017</u>			
2(am)	Sun	IBE Programs Review Committee	Silver Spring MD
3-4(am)	Mon	Global Mission Issues Committee	Silver Spring MD
3(eve)	Mon	International Board of Education	Silver Spring MD
3(eve)	Mon	International Board of Min and Theol Ed (IBMTE)	Silver Spring MD
4(pm)	Tue	General Conference Mission Board	Silver Spring MD
4(eve)	Tue	Accred Association of SDA Sch, Coll, & Univ	Silver Spring MD
5	Wed	Presidents Council	Silver Spring MD
5	Wed	Secretaries Council	Silver Spring MD
5	Wed	Treasurers Council	Silver Spring MD
6(am)	Thu	GC & Division Officers	Silver Spring MD
6(pm)	Thu	Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee	Silver Spring MD
7(am)	Fri	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
9	Sun	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
9(eve)	Sun	Africa HIV/AIDS Office Board	Silver Spring MD
10(am)	Mon	ADRA International Board	Silver Spring MD
10(pm)	Mon	IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD
10(pm)	Mon	Adventist World Radio Board	Silver Spring MD
10(eve)	Mon	Hope Channel, Inc Board	Silver Spring MD
11-12	Tue	Spring Meeting	Silver Spring MD
25	Tue	Adventist University of Africa Board	Nairobi KENYA
<u>May 2017</u>			
22-23	Mon	Loma Linda University Board and Committees	Loma Linda CA
31(pm)	Wed	Adventist Risk Management Board Committees	Burlington VT
<u>June 2017</u>			
1(am)	Thu	Adventist Risk Management Board	Burlington VT
5-8	Mon	Prime Time	Silver Spring MD
<u>July 2017</u>			
<u>August 2017</u>			
22-26	Tue	8th IRLA World Congress and Festival	Orlando FL
28-29	Mon	Loma Linda University Board and Committees	Loma Linda CA
<u>September 2017</u>			
18-21	Mon	Prime Time	Silver Spring MD
21(pm)	Thu	General Conference Leadership Council	Silver Spring MD

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>September 2017 contd</u>			
26	Tue	Presidential Advisory	Silver Spring MD
27-28	Wed	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
29(am)	Fri	General Conference Mission Board	Silver Spring MD
<u>October 2017</u>			
1(am)	Sun	ADRA International Board	Silver Spring MD
1(pm)	Sun	<i>Church Manual</i> Committee	Silver Spring MD
2	Mon	Presidents Council	Silver Spring MD
2	Mon	Secretaries Council	Silver Spring MD
2	Mon	Treasurers Council	Silver Spring MD
2(am)	Mon	IBE Programs Review Committee	Silver Spring MD
2(eve)	Mon	Africa HIV/AIDS Office Board	Silver Spring MD
3(am)	Tue	GC & Division Officers	Silver Spring MD
3(pm)	Tue	Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee	Silver Spring MD
3(eve)	Tue	International Board of Education	Silver Spring MD
3(eve)	Tue	International Board of Min and Theol Ed (IBMTE)	Silver Spring MD
4(am)	Wed	Hope Channel, Inc Board	Silver Spring MD
4(pm)	Wed	IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD
4(pm)	Wed	Adventist World Radio Board	Silver Spring MD
4(pm)	Wed	Accred Association of SDA Sch, Coll, & Univ	Silver Spring MD
4(eve)-5	Wed	General Conference Auditing Service Board	Silver Spring MD
5(am)	Thu	Adventist University of Africa Board	Silver Spring MD
5(pm)	Thu	AIAS Board	Silver Spring MD
5(eve)-6(am)	Thu	LEAD Conference	Silver Spring MD
5(eve)-11	Thu	Annual Council	Silver Spring MD
24(am)	Tue	Loma Linda University Executive Committee	Loma Linda CA
<u>November 2017</u>			
29(pm)	Wed	Adventist Risk Management Board Committees	Silver Spring MD
30(am)	Thu	Adventist Risk Management Board	Silver Spring MD
<u>December 2017</u>			
11-12	Mon	Loma Linda University Board and Committees	Loma Linda CA

SEC/ADCOM/14AC to MAI

ADVENTIST-LAYMEN'S SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES (ASI)
COORDINATING COMMITTEE (GCC-S)—MEMBERSHIP
ADJUSTMENT

VOTED, To adjust the membership of the Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) Coordinating Committee (ASICoordCom) (GCC-S), as follows:

Add	Kamal, Raafat A, TED President
Delete	Wiklander, Bertil A, TED President

SEC/ADCOM/14AC to MAI

GENERAL CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE (GCC-S)—
MEMBERSHIP ADJUSTMENT

VOTED, To adjust the membership of the General Conference Administrative Committee (ADCOM) (GCC-S), as follows:

Add	Aka, Timothy H Lamoreaux, Nancy A
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SEC/ADCOM/14AC to MAI

GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (GCC)—
MEMBERSHIP ADJUSTMENT

VOTED, To adjust the membership of the General Conference Executive Committee (GCC), as follows:

Add	Aka, Timothy H, Associate Treasurer Heinrich, Kerry, 40 Members At Large (Employee/Retiree) Lamoreaux, Nancy A, Chief Information Officer/Field Secretary Madanat, Imad, Invitee Nzungu Pungu, Hortense, Frontline Worker Osuri, Melanie, 40 Members At Large-Laity
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Delete Anderson, Eric, Additional Pastor/Frontline Worker
Fike, Ruthita, 40 Members At Large (Employee/Retiree)
Okinyi, Lydia, 40 Members At Large-Laity
Thomas, Mark B, President of Review and Herald Publishing
Association

SEC/ADCOM/14AC to MAI

GENERAL CONFERENCE MISSION BOARD (GCC-B)—MEMBERSHIP
ADJUSTMENT

VOTED, To adjust the membership of the General Conference Mission Board (GCMB)
(GCC-B), as follows:

Add Aka, Timothy H
Lamoreaux, Nancy A
Owusu-Antwi, Brempong

SEC/ADCOM/14AC to MAI

GENERAL CONFERENCE, SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION COMMITTEE
(GCC-S)—MEMBERSHIP ADJUSTMENT

VOTED, To adjust the membership of the General Conference, Southern Asia Division
Committee (GENCOSUD) (GCC-S), as follows:

Add Bergmann, Jason D, Invitee
Korff, Eugene

Delete Erntson, Verland V
Greenough, Denise, Invitee

SEC/ADCOM/14AC to MAI

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

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

Add	Kamal, Raafat A, TED President
Delete	Wiklander, Bertil A, TED President

SEC/ADCOM/14AC to MAI

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

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

Add	Kamal, Raafat A, TED President
Delete	Wiklander, Bertil A, TED President

SEC/ADCOM/14AC to MAI

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

VOTED, To adjust the membership of the Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee (SP&B) (GCC-S), as follows:

Add	Greenough, Denise, Invitee Korff, Eugene, Invitee Lamoreaux, Nancy A Porter, Karen J, Member
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Delete Erntson, Verland V, Invitee
Porter, Karen J, Invitee

SEC/ADCOM/14AC to MAI

GENERAL CONFERENCE MISSION BOARD (GCC-B)—TERMS
OF REFERENCE ADJUSTMENT

VOTED, To add an additional term of reference for the General Conference Mission Board (GCMB) (GCC-S), to read as follows:

TERMS OF REFERENCE

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

5. Approve new policies and policy amendments for inclusion in the *Interdivision Employee Handbook*.

5. Power to act.

SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/401-12GS/ChManSub/401-13GS/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC/ChMan/14AC to AM-15GCS

401-14GS UNAUTHORIZED SPEAKERS - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, page 116, Unauthorized Speakers, to read as follows:

~~Unauthorized Speakers—Under no circumstances should a pastor, elder, or other officer invite strangers or any unauthorized persons to conduct services. Individuals who have been removed from the ministry or who have been removed from membership in other places, or designing persons who have no authority from the church, should not be given access to the pulpit. Those worthy of confidence will be able to identify themselves by producing proper credentials.~~

Authorizing Speakers—Only speakers worthy of confidence will be invited to the pulpit by the church in harmony with guidelines given by the conference. Individuals who have been removed from membership or designing persons who have no authority from the church, should not be given access to the pulpit.

At times it is acceptable for government officials or civic leaders to address a congregation, but all others should be excluded from the pulpit unless permission is granted by the conference. Every pastor, elder, and conference president must enforce this rule. (See pp. 35, 114, 115.)

SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/401-12GS/ChManSub/402-13GS/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC/ChMan/14AC to AM15GCS

402-14GS CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 4, Pastors and Other Church Employees, pages 35 and 36, Credentials and Licenses, to read as follows:

Credentials and Licenses

God's work is to be jealously safeguarded by responsible leaders from the local church to the General Conference. Official credentials and licenses are issued to all authorized full-time Church employees and are granted by controlling committees for limited periods.

In a local conference, the committee confers authority upon individuals to represent the Church as pastors and gospel workers. This authority is represented by the granting of credentials and licenses, which are written commissions, properly dated and signed by the officers of the conference. The authority thus conveyed is not personal or inherent in the individual but is inherent in the granting body, which may recall the credentials for cause at any time. Credentials and licenses granted employees are not their personal property and must be returned when employment is terminated or at the request of the organization that issued them.

~~In order that enemies of the Church may not gain access to our pulpits, no~~ No one should be allowed to speak to any congregation unless he/she has been invited by the church in harmony with guidelines given by the conference. ~~presents a current denominational credential or license.~~ It is recognized, however, that there are times when congregations may be addressed by government officials or civic leaders; but all unauthorized persons ~~should be excluded from~~ shall not be given access to the pulpit. (See pp. 114-116.)

Expired Credentials and Licenses—Credentials and licenses are granted - No change

Retired Employees—Retired employees deserve honor and consideration - No change

Former Pastors Without Credentials—Individuals previously ordained as - No change

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SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC/ChMan/14AC to AM15GCS

416-14GS MARRIAGE - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 13, Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage, pages 148 to 150, Marriage, to read as follows:

Marriage

Marriage is a divine institution established by God Himself before the Fall, when everything, including marriage, was “very good” (Gen. 1:31). “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). “God celebrated the first marriage. Thus the institution has for its originator the Creator of the universe. ‘Marriage is honourable’; it was one of the first gifts of God to man, and it is one of the two institutions that, after the fall, Adam brought with him beyond the gates of Paradise.”—AH 25, 26.

God intended the marriage of Adam and Eve to be the pattern for all future marriages, and Christ endorsed this original concept: “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate” (Matt. 19:4-6). Marriage, thus instituted by God, is a monogamous, heterosexual relationship between one male and one female.

~~Marriage is a lifelong commitment of husband and wife~~ As such, marriage is a public, lawfully binding lifelong commitment of a man and a woman to each other and between the couple and God (Mark 10:2-9; Rom. 7:2). Paul indicates that the commitment that Christ has for the church is a model of the relationship between husband and wife (Eph. 5:31, 32). God intended marriage to be as permanent as Christ’s relationship with the church.

Sexual intimacy within marriage is a sacred gift from God to the human family. It is an integral part of marriage, reserved for marriage only (Gen. 2:24; Prov. 5:5-20). Such intimacy, designed to be shared exclusively between husband and wife, promotes ever-increasing closeness, happiness, and security, and provides for the perpetuation of the human race.

Unity in marriage is achieved by mutual respect and love. No one is superior (Eph. 5:21-28). “Marriage, a union for life, is a symbol of the union between Christ and His church. The spirit that Christ manifests toward the church is the spirit that husband and wife are to manifest toward each other.”—7T 46. God’s Word condemns violence in personal relationships (Gen. 6:11, 13; Ps. 11:5; Isa. 58:4, 5; Rom. 13:10; Gal. 5:19-21). It is the spirit of Christ to love and

accept, to seek to affirm and build others up, rather than to abuse or demean them (Rom. 12:10; 14:19; Eph. 4:26; 5:28, 29; Col. 3:8-14; 1 Thess. 5:11). There is no room among Christ's followers for tyrannical control and the abuse of power (Matt. 20:25-28; Eph. 6:4). Violence in the setting of marriage and family is abhorrent (see AH 343).

“Neither husband nor wife is to make a plea for rulership. The Lord has laid down the principle that is to guide in this matter. The husband is to cherish his wife as Christ cherishes the church. And the wife is to respect and love her husband. Both are to cultivate the spirit of kindness, being determined never to grieve or injure the other.”—7T 47.

The entrance of sin adversely affected marriage. When Adam and Eve sinned, they lost the oneness that they had known with God and with each other (Gen. 3:6-24). Their relationship became marked with guilt, shame, blame, and pain. Wherever sin reigns, its sad effects on marriage include alienation, unfaithfulness, neglect, abuse, sexual perversion, domination of one partner by the other, violence, separation, desertion, and divorce.

Marriages involving more than one husband and one wife are also an expression of the effects of sin on the institution of marriage. Such marriages, though practiced in Old Testament times, are not in harmony with the divine design. God's plan for marriage requires His people to transcend the mores of popular culture that conflict with the biblical view.

The Christian concept of marriage includes the following:

1. Divine Ideal to Be Restored in Christ—In redeeming the world from - No change
2. Oneness and Equality to Be Restored in Christ—The gospel - No change
3. Grace Available for All—God seeks to restore to wholeness - No change
4. Role of the Church—Moses in the Old Testament and Paul - No change

SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/14AC/ChMan/14AC to AM-15GCS

426-14GS REASONS FOR DISCIPLINE - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 7, Discipline, pages 61 and 62, Reasons for Discipline, to read as follows:

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Reasons for Discipline

The reasons for which members shall be subject to discipline are:

1. Denial of faith in the fundamentals of the gospel and in the - No change
2. Violation of the law of God, such as worship of - No change
3. Violation of the commandment of the law of God, which reads, "You shall not commit adultery" (Ex. 20:14, Matt. 5:28), as it relates to the marriage institution and the Christian home, biblical standards of moral conduct, and any act of sexual intimacy outside of a marriage relationship and/or non-consensual acts of sexual conduct within a marriage whether those acts are legal or illegal. Such acts include but are not limited to child sexual abuse, including abuse of the vulnerable. Marriage is defined as a public, lawfully binding, monogamous, heterosexual relationship between one man and one woman. Violation of the seventh commandment of the law of God as it relates to the marriage institution, the Christian home, and biblical standards of moral conduct.
4. ~~Sexual abuse of children, youth, and vulnerable adults, fornication, promiscuity, incest, homosexual practice, the~~ The production, use, or distribution of pornography, and other sexual perversions.
5. Remarriage of a divorced person, except the spouse who has - No change
6. Physical violence, including violence within the - No change
7. Fraud or willful misrepresentation in - No change
8. Disorderly conduct which brings reproach upon the - No change
9. ~~Adhering~~ Adherence to or taking part in a divisive or disloyal movement or organization. (See p. 59.)
10. Persistent refusal to recognize properly constituted church authority - No change
11. The use, manufacture, or sale of alcoholic - No change
12. The use, manufacture, or sale of tobacco in any of its forms - No change
13. The use or manufacture of illicit drugs or the misuse - No change

SABBATH SCHOOL CURRICULA REPORT

Ella S Simmons, General Vice-President, presented the GraceLink Progress Report for 2015. There have been revisions to content including more emphasis on stories about creation, the early church, Jesus' death and resurrection, the Second Coming and heaven. Two fundamental beliefs, Christ's ministry in the heavenly sanctuary and the Millennium and the End of Sin, were not addressed adequately in the original. A curriculum audit was performed to strengthen these beliefs and to replace the artwork for the Junior level of the curriculum. There has been development of resources to facilitate Sabbath School study in congregations with multi-age Sabbath School classes, provision for language translation and contextual adaptation (pending), and evaluation of curriculum outcomes. The projected completion dates are as follows: Juniors, 2016; Beginners, 2017; Kindergarten, 2017; Primary, 2019.

VOTED, To accept the report on the Sabbath School Curricula.

SABBATH SCHOOL APP

Falvo Fowler, Web Master for Sabbath School and Personal Ministries, and Italo Osorio, Senior Web Manager for Information Systems Services, presented a new free app called Sabbath School 4, which provides material for Sabbath School at all levels. Coming features include multiple languages, more resources, synchronization with multiple devices, more interactive experience, and support groups to share comments.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAITH AND SCIENCE

Lisa M Beardsley-Hardy, Director of the General Conference Education department, presented a report on the Faith and Science Conference held in July 2014. Participants included academics, scientists, administrators, church leaders, select graduate students and laymen from all 13 divisions. The target population was academic deans, deans of science/biology and deans of religion/theology. Conference topics included Biblical principles for interpreting Scripture, the knowledge of God in nature, philosophy of science, genetics and molecular biology, Paleontology, creationism in a world of evolutionism, environmentalism, academic freedom, faculty selection & development, the role of the Geoscience Research Institute, the purpose of Seventh-day Adventist education, creation and our role in the Great Controversy. The statement voted at the conference reads as follows:

RESOLUTION: We accept our responsibility as Seventh-day Adventist educators to affirm and publicly promote the Church's fundamental beliefs on Creation and the worldwide flood as an

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integral part of our professional, ethical, and spiritual commitments. We commit ourselves to the Creator God and the redemptive task of education entrusted to us for restoring His image in all.

VOTED, To accept the report on the International Conference on Faith and Science.

TECHNOLOGICAL REPORT ON RECENT WORLDWIDE STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE ONLINE

Andre Brink, Associate Director of General Conference Communication department, reported on the recent online Stewardship Conference, streamed live from the GC headquarters September 19-21. The conference produced 24 half-hour presentations representing the Inter-American Division, the North American Division, the General Conference and Andrews University. The goal was to provide wholistic stewardship education for educators, pastors and church members. The conference resulted in 2,400 registered sites, many with multiple viewers, with a total of more than 5,000 views, in 83 countries.

VOTED, To receive the report on the Worldwide Online Stewardship Conference

PRE/ADCOM/GCDO14AC/14AC to AAS-15GCS

150-14GS 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 2015 General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, we reaffirm our commitment to the authority of the Bible as the infallible revelation of God and His will. In them, God revealed His plan to redeem the world through the incarnation, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and mediation of Jesus Christ. As a trustworthy record of God's acts in history from creation to new creation and framed with doctrinal and ethical instructions, the Scriptures shape the intellectual and practical experience of believers.

We recognize that the Scriptures offer a divine perspective to evaluate the intellectual and ethical challenges of the contemporary world. Given current redefinitions of God-given institutions, such as marriage for example, commitment to God's written revelation remains necessary more than ever. Only the biblical worldview of a loving God battling to redeem creation from sin and evil provides believers with a coherent framework to understand reality and obey God's law.

We reaffirm that amidst the hopelessness and relativism of the contemporary world, the Bible presents a message of hope and certainty that transcends time and culture. The Bible gives certainty that in Jesus our sins have been forgiven and death has been defeated. The Scriptures also announce that He will soon return to put an end to sin and to recreate the world. While waiting for the consummation of all things, the Bible calls us to live a holy life and become heralds of the everlasting gospel, taking every opportunity and means to announce the good news by word and deed.

Given the importance of the Scriptures, the benefits of their study to the Church, and the challenges posed by the contemporary world, the delegates of the General Conference in Session appeal to all Seventh-day Adventist believers to read and study the Bible daily and prayerfully. Moreover, because of the special challenges faced by new converts and young people, we urge every believer to seek ways to share the Bible with these groups in a special way and foster their confidence in the authority of the Scriptures. We also urge pastors and preachers to base their sermons on the biblical text and to make of every sermon an occasion to uphold the authority and relevance of God's word.

Let us show the beauty, love, and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ revealed in the Scriptures. Let us think and act in accordance with the biblical hope of the soon return of Jesus, our Lord.

PRE/ADCOM/GCDO14AC/14AC to AAS-15GCS

151-14GS STATEMENT OF CONFIDENCE IN THE WRITINGS
OF ELLEN G WHITE

RECOMMENDED, To approve the Statement of Confidence in the Writings of Ellen G White, which reads as follows:

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENCE IN THE
WRITINGS OF ELLEN G WHITE

As delegates to the 2015 General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, we express our deep gratitude to God for the continuing presence of the various spiritual gifts among His people (1 Cor 12:4-11; Eph 4:11-14), and particularly for the prophetic guidance we have received through the life and ministry of Ellen G White (1827-1915).

On the centennial of her death, we rejoice that her writings have been made available around the globe in many languages and in a variety of printed and electronic formats.

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GCC Annual Council

We reaffirm our conviction that her writings are divinely inspired, truly Christ-centered, and Bible-based. Rather than replacing the Bible, they uplift the normative character of Scripture and correct inaccurate interpretations of it derived from tradition, human reason, personal experience, and modern culture.

We commit ourselves to study the writings of Ellen G White prayerfully and with hearts willing to follow the counsels and instructions we find there. Whether individually, in the family, in small groups, in the classroom, or in the church, a combined study of the Bible and her writings provide a transforming and faith-uplifting experience.

We encourage the continued development of both worldwide and local strategies to foster the circulation of her writings inside and outside the church. The study of these writings is a powerful means to strengthen and prepare His people for the glorious appearing of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

NURTURE AND RETENTION SUMMIT

David Trim, Director of Archives, Statistics, and Research, presented a summary of the research done for the Nurture and Retention Summit held at the General Conference in November 2013. The Summit had over 110 attendees, including two delegates from every Division, plus around 60 Seventh-day Adventist scholars, and 30 officers and departmental directors from the General Conference and the North American Division. The keynote address was given by G N Ng, Executive Secretary of the General Conference. The presentation addressed the issue of retention and loss in the church between 1964 and 2013, and featured the results of surveys done involving former members about why they left the church and what factors influenced their actions.

VOTED, To accept the report on the Nurture and Retention Summit.

RESTING BY AND BY

William A Fagal, Associate Director of the Ellen G White Estate, shared a story about how early Adventist pioneers negotiated conflict and differences of opinion, and led the assembly in singing the hymn "Resting By and By."

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154-14Gb ANNUAL COUNCIL COMMITMENT

VOTED, To adopt the Annual Council Commitment statement, which reads as follows:

We affirm that, in spite of differing views respecting the practice of ministerial ordination, the members of the General Conference Executive Committee are individually and collectively committed to the lordship of Jesus Christ, to His Word, to His Church, and to the Advent Movement. Under the unifying power of the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to fulfilling the Church's unique prophetic mission of living and communicating the gospel message in the context of the three angels' messages heralding Christ's soon coming.

Prayer was requested for healing for Warren Judd; for James M Golay President of the West African Union Mission and for his territory as they cope with the Ebola crisis; for our members in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Prayer was offered by Elaine Oliver, Associate Director of General Conference Family Ministries, and Moisei I Ostrovski, President of Belarus Union of Churches Conference.

The meeting concluded with the members singing "We Have This Hope."

Ted N C Wilson, Chair
Gary D Krause, Secretary
Myron A Iseminger, Editorial Secretary
Wendy B Trim, Recording Secretary