

TENTH BUSINESS MEETING  
Fifty-eighth General Conference Session  
St. Louis, Missouri  
July 5, 2005, 3:20 p.m.

05GCS to GDK

106-05GS GROWING IN CHRIST—ADDITION TO THE  
STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS

VOTED, To withdraw the previous action to rescind Growing in Christ—Addition to the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs made during the morning business session.

05GCS to GDK

106-05GS GROWING IN CHRIST—ADDITION TO THE  
STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS

VOTED, To reconsider Growing in Christ—Addition to the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs.

05GCS to GDK

106-05GS GROWING IN CHRIST—ADDITION TO THE  
STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS

VOTED, To refer Growing in Christ—Addition to the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs back to the writing committee.

05GCS to GDK

ITEM DISCUSSION—LIMITED TO FIFTEEN MINUTES

VOTED, To accept the following motion from the floor:

Floor discussion of an item after its introduction shall be entertained in fifteen-minute segments, thus authorizing the Chair to determine the will of the body as to whether or not discussion should be continued for another fifteen-minute segment. A vote to close discussion must have a two-thirds majority.

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05GCS to GDK

#### STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MISSION - REPORT

Michael L Ryan reported on a five-year strategic plan for mission and showed a DVD entitled *Tell the World*.

SEC/Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC/564-04GS/05GCS to LRE

#### 202-05GS OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES - CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution, Article IX—Officers and Their Duties, to read as follows:

#### ARTICLE IX—OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Sec. 3. President: The President is the first officer of the General Conference, and shall report to the Executive Committee in consultation with the secretary and the treasurer. He or his designee shall preside at the sessions of the General Conference, act as chairperson of the Executive Committee, serve in the general interests of the General Conference as the Executive Committee shall determine, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to such office. The General Conference President shall be an ordained minister of experience.

SEC/Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC/552-04GS/05GCS to LRE

#### 203-05GS TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION - CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

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

#### ARTICLE I—TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 1. The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, hereinafter referred to as the General Conference, normally shall conduct its worldwide work through its divisions, each division to operate within a specified territory in harmony with General Conference policies.

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

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

Sec. 3. If a territorial adjustment is made at an annual council, it shall be made only provided each division and other territory affected is represented at the council by at least one of its officers, or in the case of an unorganized territory, by a senior church leader from that territory. An exception to the requirement of such representation shall be made in a condition of emergency. In such a case, the Executive Committee shall make whatever adjustments are necessary for the conduct of the work in the territories affected.

Sec. 4. Union conferences and union missions, together with all other organizations and institutions within a division's territory, shall be responsible to that division's executive committee, or in the case of General Conference institutions and fields without divisional affiliation, to the General Conference Executive Committee.

Con&By/ADCOM/GCDO05GCS/GCC(St. Louis)/05GCS to LRE

222-05GS STANDING COMMITTEES - CONSTITUTION AND  
BYLAWS AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws,  
Article II—Standing Committees, Sec 1, to read as follows:

~~ARTICLE II—STANDING COMMITTEES~~  
ARTICLE II—SESSION COMMITTEES

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

a. Session Church Manual Committee

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- b. Session Constitution and Bylaws Committee
- c. Session Nominating Committee
- d. Session Plans Committee

05GCS to MLR

225-05GS TERM OF OFFICE FOR PRESIDENT - GENERAL CONFERENCE  
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT - REQUEST

A motion was made to table this item until later, as all the delegates were not in possession of the backup material.

ChManSub/ChMan/423-03GS/ADCOM/04AC/423-04GS/05GCS to AM

400-05GS USE OF THE TERM CONFERENCE, ETC -  
*CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Introduction, page xxii, Use of the Term Conference, etc, to read as follows:

~~Use of the Term Conference, etc~~  
Use of Terms in the *Church Manual*

Each organized Seventh-day Adventist church is a member of the sisterhood of churches known as a conference, which is a united organized body of churches in a state, country, or territory. Until full conference status is achieved (see General Conference *Working Policy*), other terminology such as mission, section, delegation, or field may be used to describe the collective organization of local churches. In the *Church Manual* the term *conference* or *union conference* may also apply to a mission or a union mission.

In the *Church Manual* the word *minister* refers to a clergy person who may or may not serve as pastor of a local church; and the word *pastor* refers to a minister who is assigned pastoral responsibilities by a conference/mission/field for a congregation or a number of congregations.\*

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\*This definition of the words *minister* and *pastor* refers only to their usage in the *Church Manual* and is not intended to refer to the title used when addressing a clergy person. It is understood that use of these terms varies throughout the world divisions.

ChManSub/413-02G/ChMan/401-03GS/ADCOM/04AC/401-04GS/05GCS to AM

403-05GS METHOD OF GRANTING LETTERS OF TRANSFER -  
*CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT*

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Membership, page 36, Method of Granting Letters of Transfer, to read as follows:

Method of Granting Letters of Transfer—Application for a letter should be made to the clerk of the church with which the member desires to unite. The clerk then sends the request to the clerk of the church from which the member desires to be transferred. On receiving this, the clerk brings the request to the ~~pastor~~ pastor, ~~if he is an ordained minister~~, or to the church elder, who in turn lays the request before the church board. After due consideration the board recommends to the church, favorably or otherwise, concerning the application. (See p. 36 below and pp. 37-42, 59, 192, 204.) The pastor or elder then brings the recommendation to the attention of the church, announcing that this is the first reading. Final action is taken the following week, when the request is again presented and a vote of the church is taken. The purpose of allowing one week's interval is to give any member opportunity to object to the granting of the letter for any valid reason. This objection should not ordinarily be publicly stated, but be lodged with the pastor or elder, whose duty it is to call the church board to consider the objection. The objector should be given opportunity to appear before the board to present the objections. If they are not based on valid grounds, the person raising objection should be admonished to withdraw them. On the other hand, if they are based on valid grounds, it is the duty of the church board to institute such investigation as may be needed. In such case the final action on granting the letter by the church is deferred until the matter has been satisfactorily settled.

If the difficulties involve - No change

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ChManSub/414-02G/ChMan/403-03GS/ADCOM/04AC/403-04GS/05GCS to AM

405-05GS BAPTISMAL SERVICE, THE - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 7, Church Officers and Their Duties, page 50, The Baptismal Service, to read as follows:

The Baptismal Service—In the absence of an ordained ~~pastor~~, minister, the elder shall request the president of the conference/mission/field to arrange for the administration of the rite of baptism to those desiring to unite with the church. (See pp. 32-35.) A local church elder should not officiate in the baptismal service without first obtaining permission from the conference/mission/field president.

ChManSub/415-02G/ChMan/404-03GS/ADCOM/04AC/404-04GS/05GCS to AM

406-05GS CHURCH LEADERS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 7, Church Officers and Their Duties, page 52, Church Leaders, to read as follows:

Church Leaders

Occasionally in newly organized churches, and sometimes in older ones, there is no one possessing the necessary experience and qualifications to serve as elder. Under such circumstances the church should elect a person to be known as “leader.” In the absence of a ~~minister~~ the pastor or a conference/mission/field assigned minister, the leader is responsible for the services of the church, including the business meetings. The leader must either conduct these or arrange for someone else to do so. A church 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/mission/field president for an ordained minister to preside at such meetings.

ChManSub/416-02G/ChMan/407-03GS/ADCOM/04AC/407-04GS/05GCS to AM

410-05GS SELECTING CHOIR LEADERS - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, The Services and Meetings of the Church, page 71, Selecting Choir Leaders, to read as follows:

Selecting Choir Leaders—Great care - No change

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

ChManSub/418-02G/ChMan/413-03GS/ADCOM/04AC/413-04GS/05GCS to AM

420-05GS LICENSED MINISTERS - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 10, Ministers and Workers, pages 137 and 138, Licensed Ministers, to read as follows:

Licensed Ministers

To give young men - No change

In its actions the conference/mission/field committee shall not go beyond that which the division committee authorizes. It shall not authorize a licensed minister to go from church to church outside the church or group of churches of which he is a local elder, performing church rites which pertain to the functions of an ordained minister. A conference/mission/field committee action cannot be substituted for church election or ~~ministerial ordination~~. ordination to gospel ministry.

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Gerry D Karst, Michael L Ryan, Chairmen  
Agustin Galicia, Secretary  
Larry R Evans, Actions Editor  
Janet C Upson, Recording Secretary