

NINTH BUSINESS MEETING  
Fifty-ninth General Conference Session  
Atlanta, Georgia  
June 29, 2010, 2:00 p.m.

Prayer was offered by Theodore Benson of the North American Division.

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

BUSINESS MEETINGS HELD ONCE A YEAR (BUSINESS MEETINGS) - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, Business Meetings, page 95, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

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.

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

AUTHORITY OF THE BUSINESS MEETING (BUSINESS MEETINGS) - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraphs in Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, Business Meetings, page 95, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

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 p. XX.)

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

UNION OFFICERS MAY ATTEND BUSINESS MEETINGS AND  
CONFERENCE AND UNION OFFICERS MAY VOTE AS  
MEMBERS OF THEIR LOCAL CHURCH (BUSINESS  
MEETINGS) - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, Business Meetings, page 95, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

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.

Frederick M Kinsey and Michael Tucker gave a presentation on Faith for Today and the Voice of Prophecy.

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

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

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, Board and Its Meetings, Definition and Function, page 95, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

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

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

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

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, Board and Its Meetings, Membership, pages 96-97, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

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

- Elders
- Head deacon
- Head deaconess
- Treasurer
- Clerk
- Interest coordinator
- Adventist Men's coordinator
- Adventist Youth Society leader
- Adventurer Club director
- Bible School coordinator
- Children's ministries leader
- Church music coordinator
- Communication Committee chairperson or communication secretary
- Community services and/or Dorcas Society leader
- Education secretary
- Family ministries leader
- Health ministries leader
- Home and School Association leader
- Pathfinder Club leader
- Personal ministries leader and secretary
- Publishing ministries coordinator
- Religious liberty leader
- Sabbath School superintendent
- Stewardship ministries leader
- Women's ministries leader

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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.

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

OFFICERS (BOARD AND ITS MEETINGS) - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, Board and Its Meetings, Officers, page 97, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

The clerk serves as secretary of the board and is responsible for recording, presenting, and preserving the minutes of the meetings.

10GCS to AM

CHAPTER 10 OF THE *CHURCH MANUAL* - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
REVISION

VOTED, To approve Chapter 10 of the revised *Church Manual* as presented.

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

TITHE - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 11, Finance, Tithe, page 101, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

Tithe shall not be used in any way by the local church but held in trust and remitted to the conference treasurer. Thus tithe from all the churches flows into the conference treasury and percentages are forwarded to the next higher level in accordance with General Conference and division working policies to meet the expenses of conducting the work of God in their respective spheres of responsibility and activity.

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

SYSTEMATIC BENEVOLENCE AND UNITY - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 11, Finance, Tithes, Systematic Benevolence and Unity, page 102, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

Systematic Benevolence and Unity—The financial plan of the Church serves a larger purpose than appears in its financial and statistical reports. The system of sharing the funds with the world fields, as outlined by General Conference *Working Policy*, serves a wonderful purpose of unifying the Church's spiritual work throughout the world.

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

HOW TITHE IS TO BE USED - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 11, Finance, Tithes, How Tithe is to be Used, page 102, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

How Tithe Is to Be Used—Tithe is held sacred for the work of the ministry, for Bible teaching, and for the support of conference administration in the care of the churches and of field outreach (missionary) endeavors. Tithe shall not be spent on other work, on paying church or institutional debts, or on building programs, except as approved under General Conference *Working Policy*. For more information on the use of tithe, see Notes #X p. XX.

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OFFERINGS - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 11, Finance, Offerings, page 102, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

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

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

CHURCH BUDGET FOR LOCAL EXPENSES - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 11, Finance, Offerings, Church Budget for Local Expenses, page 103, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes) and move the sample budget to the notes:

Church Budget for Local Expenses—The most satisfactory method of providing for church expenses is the budget plan. Before the beginning of the new budget year, the board should prepare a budget of expenses for church activities during the next year. The budget should include all income and expenses, including those related to all departments. It should provide for such projected costs as utilities, insurance, maintenance, janitor service, funds for the poor and needy, and church school expense. (See Notes, #X, p. XX, for sample budget.)

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

SAMPLE ANNUAL BUDGET - *CHURCH MANUAL* NOTES REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in the Chapter 11 Notes, paragraph 1, Sample Annual Budget, pages 142 and 143, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

Sample Annual Budget\*—(See p. XX.)

Church Proposed Operating Budget

Estimated Receipts—		
Sabbath School Expense Collections	1,500.00	
Church Fund for the Needy	375.00	
Combined (Church) Budget Giving	27,055.00	
Welfare Fund	<u>300.00</u>	
Total Receipts		<u>29,230.00</u>
Estimated Expenses—		
Repairs and Painting Church Building	2,250.00	
Fuel	2,350.00	
Janitor and Supplies	1,475.00	
Insurance on Building and Furnishings	750.00	
Church Fund for the Needy	1,450.00	
Sabbath School Supplies	1,250.00	
Emergency Expense	2,000.00	
Light	3,220.00	
Water	360.00	
Gas	550.00	
Stationery and Supplies	500.00	
Laundry	75.00	
Church School Subsidy	8,000.00	
Welfare Expense	1,000.00	
Evangelism and Church Planting	<u>4,000.00</u>	
Total Proposed Expenses		<u>29,230.00</u>
Balance		<u>00,000.00</u>

\* Additional columns (such as Last Year's Budget and Last Year's Actual) should be included for comparison, but have been left out of this sample due to space constraints.

10GCS to AM

CHAPTER 11 OF THE *CHURCH MANUAL* - *CHURCH MANUAL*  
REVISION

VOTED, To approve Chapter 11 of the revised *Church Manual* as presented.

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#### BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 12, Standards of Christian Living, Bible Study and Prayer, pages 106 and 107, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

Spiritual life is maintained by spiritual food. We must maintain the habit of devotional Bible study and prayer if we are to perfect holiness. In a time when a flood of communication pours forth from the printed page, radio, television, the internet, and other modern mass media, when thousands of voices plead for a hearing, we must close our eyes and our ears to much that seeks entrance to our minds and devote ourselves to God's Book, the Book of all books, the Book of Life—the Bible. If we cease to be the people of the Book, we are lost, and our mission has failed. Only as we daily talk to God in prayer and listen to His voice can we hope to live the life that is “hidden with Christ in God” (Col. 3:3) and finish His work.

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

#### MODERN MEDIA - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraphs in Chapter 12, Standards of Christian Living, Modern Media, pages 111 and 112, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

Like our bodies, our inner beings need wholesome nourishment for renewal and strengthening (2 Cor. 4:6). Our minds are the measure of our persons. Food for our minds is of the utmost importance in developing character and in carrying out our life's purposes. For this reason we should carefully evaluate our mental habits. What we choose to read, hear, and watch, whether by book or magazine, radio or television, the internet, or other modern media shapes and impacts our character.

Books and other literature are among the most valuable means of education and culture, but these must be well chosen and rightly used. There is a wealth of good literature, but equally there is a flood of literature, often in most attractive guise, that damages minds and morals. The tales of wild adventure and of moral laxness, whether fact or fiction, however presented, are unfit for Christians of any age.



“Those who indulge the habit of racing through an exciting story are simply crippling their mental strength, and disqualifying their minds for vigorous thought and research.”—CT 135. Along with other evil results from the habit of reading fiction, we are told that “it unfits the soul to contemplate the great problems of duty and destiny” and “creates a distaste for life’s practical duties.”—CT 383.

Radio, television, and the internet have changed the whole atmosphere of our modern world and have brought us within easy contact with the life, thought, and activities of the entire globe. They can be great educational agencies through which we can enlarge our knowledge of world events and enjoy important discussions and the best in music.

Unfortunately, however, modern mass media also can bring to their audiences almost continuous theatrical and other performances with influences that are neither wholesome nor uplifting. If we are not discriminating, they will bring sordid programs right into our homes.

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

#### SABBATHKEEPING - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraphs in Chapter 12, Standards of Christian Living, Sabbathkeeping, page 108, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

“The Sabbath—oh!—make it the sweetest, the most blessed day of the whole week.”—FLB 36.

“The Sabbath . . . is God’s time, not ours; when we trespass upon it we are stealing from God . . . God has given us the whole of six days in which to do our work, and has reserved only one to Himself. This should be a day of blessing to us—a day when we should lay aside all our secular matters and center our thoughts upon God and heaven.”—HP 152.

“We are not to teach our children that they must not be happy on the Sabbath, that it is wrong to walk out of doors. Oh, no. Christ led His disciples out by the lakeside on the Sabbath day and taught them. His sermons on the Sabbath were not always preached within enclosed walls.”—HP 152.

10-1078  
June 29, 2010, p.m.  
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NomCom10GCS/10GCS to GTN

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT #7

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

General Conference

Communication

Director: Williams S Costa, Jr

Gerry D Karst, Chair  
Agustin Galicia, Secretary  
Larry R Evans, Actions Editor  
Tamara K Boward, Recording Secretary