FIFTEENTH BUSINESS MEETING Fifty-eighth General Conference Session St. Louis, Missouri July 8, 2005, 2:00 p.m.

IAD/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM/410-02GS/03AC/414-03GS/414-04GS/05GCS to AM

421-05GS EXPIRED CREDENTIALS - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 10, Ministers and Workers in Relation to the Church, page 140, Expired Credentials, to read as follows:

Expired Credentials

Credentials are granted for the duration of the conference/mission/field term, either annually, triennially, or quinquennially. term as provided for by the constitution and bylaws or operating policy of the conference/mission/field. The credentials are renewed by a vote of the conference/mission in session. session or by the executive committee. If for any reason it is deemed inadvisable to renew credentials to any minister, he ceases to function as a worker in the conference/mission/field. The possession of out-of-date or expired credentials does not authorize him to function in any of the offices of a minister. In such a case he has no more authority or standing than any other laymember in the church.

ChManSub/421-02GE/ChMan/418-03GE/ADCOM/04AC/418-04GS/05GCS to AM

424-05GS GOSPEL FINANCE - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 12, Gospel Finance, page 155, Offerings, to read as follows:

Offerings

In addition to the tithe, the Scriptures emphasize our obligation to bring offerings to the Lord. The withholding of offerings is classed with the withholding of tithe and is called robbery (Mal. 3:8). The Seventh-day Adventist Church has from its early days followed the practice of giving liberal offerings to the cause of God. Great prosperity and blessing have attended the work as a result. People of wealth, professional people with larger incomes, farmers, laborers, ministers and workers, including the converts in other lands where wages are small, have all united in generously supporting the cause by giving offerings in proportion to their incomes.

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God's people have united in generously supporting the cause by giving offerings in proportion to their incomes.

ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM/405-02GS/03AC/419-03GS/419-04GS/05GCS to AM

425-05GS OFFERINGS - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 12, Gospel Finance, pages 156 and 157, Offerings, Sample Budget, to read as follows:

Sample <u>Annual</u> Budget—The following budget will serve as an example. It can be adapted to meet the needs of a church of any size.

Church Proposed Operating Budget

Estimated Receipts-

\$ 1,500.00 375.00 27,055.00 <u>300.00</u>	\$29,230.00
2,250.00 2,350.00 1,475.00 750.00 1,450.00 1,250.00 2,000.00 3,220.00 360.00 550.00	
500.00	
8,000.00 1,000.00 <u>4,000.00</u>	
	$\begin{array}{c} 375.00\\ 27,055.00\\ 300.00\\ \hline \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{c} 2,250.00\\ 2,350.00\\ 1,475.00\\ 750.00\\ 1,475.00\\ 1,250.00\\ 2,000.00\\ 3,220.00\\ 360.00\\ 550.00\\ 550.00\\ 550.00\\ 550.00\\ 8,000.00\\ 1,000.00\\ \end{array}$

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Total Proposed Expenses	<u>\$29,230.00</u>
Balance	_00,000.00

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427-05GS REASONS FOR WHICH MEMBERS SHALL BE DISCIPLINED - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 14, Church Discipline, pages 184 and 185, Reasons for Which Members Shall be Disciplined, to read as follows:

Reasons for Which Members Shall be Disciplined

Among the grievous sins for which members shall be subject to church discipline are the following: Reasons for which members shall be subject to discipline are as follows:

1. Denial of faith in the fundamentals of the gospel and in the cardinal doctrines of the church or teaching doctrines contrary to the same.

2. Violation of the law of God, such as worship of idols, murder, stealing, profanity, gambling, Sabbathbreaking, and willful and habitual falsehood.

3. 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. Such violations as fornication, promiscuity, incest, homosexual practice, sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults, and other sexual perversions, and the remarriage of a divorced person, except of the spouse who has remained faithful to the marriage vow in a divorce for adultery or for sexual perversions.

5. Physical violence, including violence within the family.

6. Fraud or willful misrepresentation in business.

7. Disorderly conduct which brings reproach upon the cause. <u>church.</u>

8. Adhering to or taking part in a divisive or disloyal movement or organization. (See p. 182.)

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9. Persistent refusal to recognize properly constituted church authority or to submit to the order and discipline of the church.

10. The use, manufacture, or sale of alcoholic beverages.

11. The use, manufacture, or sale of tobacco in any of its forms for human consumption.

12. The misuse of, or trafficking in, narcotics or other drugs.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church recognizes the need of exercising great care to protect the highest spiritual interests of its members, to ensure fair treatment, and to safeguard the name of the church.

In a case of transgression of the commandments of God where there is deep repentance and full and free confession, giving evidence that genuine conversion has taken place, the church may administer discipline by placing the transgressor under censure for a stated period of time. However, in a case of flagrant violations of the law of God which have brought public reproach upon the cause, <u>church</u>, the church may deem it necessary, even though a sincere confession has been made, to remove an individual from church membership to protect its name and its Christian standards. Later, when it is evident that the individual's life is consistent with church standards, the offender may be received back into the fold <u>church</u> after rebaptism. The church cannot afford to deal lightly with such sins nor permit personal considerations to affect its actions. It must register its decisive and emphatic disapproval of the sins of fornication, adultery, all acts of moral indiscretion, and other grievous sins; at the same time it must do everything to restore and reclaim the erring ones. As the world continually grows more lax in moral matters, the church must not lower the standards set by God.

ChMan/ChManSub/ChMan/421-03GS/ADCOM/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO04AC/04AC/ 425-04GS/05GCS to AM

423-05GS NOMINATING COMMITTEE - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 11, The Church Election, pages 143 and 148, Nominating Committee, to read as follows:

Nominating Committee

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church, officers are elected every one or two years (see

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p. 49) through an appointed nominating committee. This committee brings its report to the church, which then acts on the names presented. This procedure enables the church to give careful study to each name prior to election, and avoids the public competitive element that may arise when nominations are made from the floor.

The nominating committee shall study the needs of the church and make careful inquiry into the fitness of members to serve in the different offices. For this reason officers shall not be nominated from the floor or by general ballot.

The *Church Manual* does not determine the size of the nominating committee. It will range from five members in a small church to a larger number in a large church. The exact number to be chosen is left to the discretion of each church. This matter should be studied by the church board prior to presentation to the church. A suitable recommendation may then be brought to the church, using a minimum of time in the Sabbath worship hour.

When the Nominating Committee Is Appointed—The nominating committee should be appointed early in the closing quarter of the church year and report at least three weeks before the final Sabbath of the church year.

How the Nominating Committee Is Appointed—The minister pastor or district leader or, in the absence of a minister, the pastor or district leader, the church elder should bring the matter to the attention of the church. The church shall then appoint a special committee that will be responsible to nominate the nominating committee. This special committee may be chosen in one of two ways:

1. By nominations, verbal or written, from the floor. If verbal nominations are made from the floor, it must be understood that no member may nominate more than one person. The effort of one individual or a small group to dictate to the entire membership of the church is disapproved. Every effort should be made to ensure fair representation in the composition of the special committee. Everything of a political nature should be avoided. The pastor or district leader shall serve as chair of this special committee. In the event that a pastor or district leader has not yet been appointed to serve as leader of the church, the chair of this special committee shall be appointed by the church board from among the members of the special committee. The size of the special committee shall usually be equal to the size of the church board with an additional five to seven people.

2. By the church's authorizing the church board, together with five to seven additional persons chosen by the church, in accordance with paragraph 1. above, to function as the special committee. If this method is adopted, the chair of the church board shall normally serve as chair of this special committee (see p. 137).

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year.

The sequential steps are as follows:

a. The church appoints by vote a special committee by either of the two methods listed above.

b. The special committee recommends to the church names for the nominating committee, with suggestions for chairperson and <u>a</u> secretary. <u>Every effort should be</u> made to ensure fair representation in the composition of the nominating committee.

c. The church appoints by vote the nominating committee, naming the chairperson and secretary.

d. <u>The pastor or district leader is an ex officio member and serves as</u> chairperson of the nominating committee. Should the pastor or district leader choose not to serve as chairperson, or if a pastor or district leader has not been appointed to the church, the special committee shall recommend the name of a local member to serve as chairperson of the nominating committee.

 $d. \underline{e.}$ The nominating committee meets to prepare the list of church officers, which will be presented to the church for approval.

e. <u>f.</u> The church appoints by vote the various church officers for the ensuing

Who Should be Members of the Nominating Committee—Only members who are in regular standing should be chosen to serve on the nominating committee. They should be persons of good judgment and, above all, have the welfare and prosperity of the church at heart. There are no ex officio members of the nominating committee, except the pastor or district leader who serves as the chair of the committee. Should the pastor or district leader choose not to chair the committee, or in case the conference/mission/field has not yet appointed a pastor or district leader to the church, the special committee appointed by the church to nominate the nominating committee should recommend to the church the name of a local member to serve as chair of the nominating committee.

Work of the Nominating Committee—As soon as possible after its election, the nominating committee should be called together by the one chosen to act as chairperson. With earnest prayer for guidance the committee should begin its work of preparing a list of names to submit to the church for officers and assistants comprised of members in regular standing on the roll of the church making the appointments. These will be placed in nomination for office and presented to the church at a Sabbath service or at a specially called business meeting of the church. In making their selections, the committee may counsel with others who are well

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informed. This committee does not nominate either the pastor or the assistant pastor(s). These appointments are made by the executive committee of the conference/mission/field.

Nominating Committee to Consult Prospective Officers - No change

Members May Appear Before the Nominating Committee - No change

Nominating Committee Discussions Are Confidential - No change

Reporting to the Church—This report is rendered to the church as a whole and not to the church board. The board has no jurisdiction in these matters. The report of this committee may be presented at the Sabbath service or at a specially called business meeting of the church.

When the nominating committee is ready to render its report, the minister or elder should give the chairperson of the nominating committee shall be given opportunity to make appropriate remarks to the church. A copy of the report should be placed in the hands of members, or it should be read aloud by the secretary of the nominating committee.

Objecting to the Report of the Nominating Committee - No change

Vacancies - No change

Eugene Hsu, Chairman Agustin Galicia, Secretary Larry R Evans, Actions Editor Janet C Upson, Recording Secretary 05-1104 July 8, 2005, p.m. General Conference Session

FIFTY-SEVENTH GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION GENERAL CONFERENCE/DIVISION OFFICERS GENERAL CONFERENCE DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS Elected to Serve 2005 to 2010 (Consolidated Report)

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