

FIFTH BUSINESS MEETING
Fifty-ninth General Conference Session
Atlanta, Georgia
June 27, 2010, 2:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Consequently, we express our gratitude to God for His gracious gift in the prophetic ministry of Ellen G White. We call upon Seventh-day Adventists everywhere to prayerfully study her messages and benefit from the inspiration and instruction found there. We encourage the teachers and administrators of our educational institutions and the leaders of our health-care facilities and publishing houses to review her counsels for their areas of service. We urge pastors to make use of these writings in their sermon preparation and in their planning with the members for the mission of their churches. We appeal to Church administrators at every level to exert their influence in affirming the importance of these writings for the Church and to continue efforts to make these writings available to church members at affordable cost. And we affirm our commitment to "believe His prophets" (2 Chronicles 20:20), that we may prosper in fulfilling our mission to the world and thus hasten the coming of Jesus.

10-1026
June 27, 2010, p.m.
General Conference Session

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

WHY A CHURCH MANUAL? - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 1, *Why a Church Manual?*, page 1, 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):

God is a God of order as evidenced in His works of creation and redemption. Consequently, order belongs to the essence of His Church. Order is achieved through principles and regulations that guide the Church in its internal operations and in the fulfillment of its mission to the world. In order for it to be a successful ecclesiastical organization at the service of the Lord and humanity, it needs order, rule, and discipline. Scripture affirms that “all things be done decently and in order” (1 Cor. 14:40).

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta)/10GCS to AM-ChMan10GCS+10GCS

CLARIFYING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MAIN TEXT OF THE *CHURCH MANUAL* AND THE NOTES SECTION (AUTHORITY AND FUNCTION OF THE *CHURCH MANUAL*) - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

VOTED, To refer back to the *Church Manual* Committee of the General Conference Session in Atlanta the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 1 of the *Church Manual* revision, *Why a Church Manual?*, which reads as follows:

Since then, the content of the *Church Manual* is divided into two types of material. The content of each chapter is of worldwide value and is to be followed by every church organization, congregation, and member. Recognizing the need for variations in some sections, additional explanatory material, presented as guidance and examples, appears as Notes at the end of the *Church Manual*. The Notes have subheadings corresponding to chapter subheadings and page numbers of the main text.

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

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

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 1, Why a *Church Manual?*, Authority and Function of the *Church Manual*, pages 2 and 3, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

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

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

ROLE OF THE *CHURCH MANUAL* NOTES (MAKING CHANGES) -
CHURCH MANUAL REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 1, Why a *Church Manual?*, Making Changes, page 3, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

The 2000 General Conference Session authorized the reclassification of some existing *Church Manual* material, into the Notes sections as guidance and examples rather than mandatory material, and approved the process for making changes. Changes in the *Church Manual*, except for the Notes and editorial changes, can be made only by action of a General Conference Session, where delegates of the world Church have voice and vote. If a local church, conference, or union conference/mission wishes to propose a *Church Manual* revision, it should submit its proposal to the next constituent level for counsel and study. If that level approves the proposal, it submits the suggested revision to the next level for additional evaluation. If the various levels approve the proposal, it eventually comes before the General Conference *Church Manual* Committee, which considers all recommendations. If the *Church Manual* Committee

10-1028
June 27, 2010, p.m.
General Conference Session

approves a revision, it prepares it for presentation at an Annual Council and/or General Conference Session.

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

METHOD FOR MAKING NON-SUBSTANTIVE EDITORIAL
CHANGES TO THE *CHURCH MANUAL* (MAKING
CHANGES) - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 1, *Why a Church Manual?*, Making Changes, page 3, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

The *Church Manual* Committee reports proposed non-substantive editorial changes to the main content of the *Church Manual* to an Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee, which may give final approval. However, in the event the Annual Council determines by one-third vote that an editorial change substantively alters the meaning of a passage, the proposed change must go to the General Conference Session.

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

USE OF “CHURCH” IN THE *CHURCH MANUAL* - *CHURCH
MANUAL* REVISION

VOTED, To approve the explanation for the use of “Church” in the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows:

Church—For editorial and printing economy, “Church,” with capital “C,” in these pages is used in place of the full term *Seventh-day Adventist Church* and refers to the overall Church organization rather than to a local church or congregation, with the exception of when it is referred to within a quotation.

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

USE OF “CONFERENCE” IN THE *CHURCH MANUAL* -
CHURCH MANUAL REVISION

VOTED, To approve the explanation for the use of “conference” in the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows:

Conference, mission, section, delegation, field, union of churches—For purposes of editorial and printing economy, “conference” in these pages means “conference, mission, field, section, delegation, or union of churches,” as the administrative context indicates. Generally, each congregation is a member of the sisterhood of churches known as a conference, but until the local organization achieves conference status, under General Conference *Working Policy* it may be identified as a mission, section, delegation, or field. In some world divisions, unions of churches in a particular country function as a conference for local-church purposes and as a union for other Church organizational purposes. (See Chapter XX, Church Organization.)

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

USE OF “PASTOR” IN THE *CHURCH MANUAL* - *CHURCH MANUAL*
REVISION

VOTED, To approve the explanation for the use of “pastor” in the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows:

Pastor and minister—Most areas of the world Church use “pastor” to identify a member of the clergy, so that term is used in these pages rather than “minister,” regardless of the responsibilities assigned by the local conference. Use of the term here is not intended to mandate that usage where the custom is to use “minister.” Pastors referred to in this manual are those who have been appointed by the conference to oversee the affairs of the local church or district.

10-1030
June 27, 2010, p.m.
General Conference Session

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

USE OF ABBREVIATIONS REFERENCING THE SPIRIT OF
PROPHECY IN THE *CHURCH MANUAL - CHURCH
MANUAL REVISION*

VOTED, To approve the explanation for the use of abbreviations referencing the Spirit of Prophecy in the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows:

Abbreviations of Ellen G. White's books follow the "Key to Abbreviations" found in the front of most of her books and are listed in the Spirit of Prophecy Index on p. XX.

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

NEW KING JAMES VERSION AND THE *CHURCH MANUAL -
CHURCH MANUAL REVISION*

VOTED, To approve the explanation for the use of the New King James Version in the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows:

Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated, with the exception of when referred to within a Spirit of Prophecy quotation.

10GCS to AM

CHAPTER 1 OF THE *CHURCH MANUAL - CHURCH MANUAL REVISION*

VOTED, To approve Chapter 1 of the revised *Church Manual* as presented except for the one item referred back to the *Church Manual* Committee of the General Conference Session in Atlanta.

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

SUPREME OBJECT OF CHRIST'S REGARD - *CHURCH*
MANUAL REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 2, Church of the Living God, Supreme Object of Christ's Regard, page 7, 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 apostle Peter writes, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Pet. 2:9).

10GCS to AM

CHAPTER 2 OF THE *CHURCH MANUAL* - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

VOTED, To approve Chapter 2 of the revised *Church Manual* as presented.

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

CHURCH ORGANIZATION TODAY - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 3, Organization and Authority, Church Organization Today, page 11, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

There are several organizational levels within the Church leading from the individual believer to the worldwide organization of the work. Membership units in each of these levels periodically convene formal business sessions known as constituency meetings or sessions. (The constituency meeting or session of a local church is generally referred to as a business meeting.) 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.

10-1032
June 27, 2010, p.m.
General Conference Session

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

LOCAL CONFERENCE (OUTLINE OF DENOMINATIONAL
ORGANIZATION) - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 3, Organization and Authority, Outline of Denominational Organization, page 11, 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):

Local Conference—A group of local churches, within a defined geographical area, that has been granted by action of a division executive committee at midyear, yearend, or division council meeting, official status as a Seventh-day Adventist local conference/mission/field and subsequently accepted, at a union constituency meeting, into the sisterhood of conferences/missions. (See p. XX.)

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

UNION OF CHURCHES (OUTLINE OF DENOMINATIONAL
ORGANIZATION) - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

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

Union of Churches—A group of churches, within a defined geographical area, that has been granted, by a General Conference Session, official status as a union of churches with either conference or mission status.

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

UNION CONFERENCE/MISSION (OUTLINE OF DENOMINATIONAL
ORGANIZATION) - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

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

Union Conference/Mission—A group of conferences, within a defined geographical area, that has been granted by a General Conference Session official status as a union conference/mission.

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

GENERAL CONFERENCE AND ITS DIVISIONS (OUTLINE OF
DENOMINATIONAL ORGANIZATION) - *CHURCH MANUAL*
REVISION

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

General Conference and its Divisions—The General Conference represents the worldwide expression of the Church. Its constituent membership is defined in its Constitution. To facilitate its worldwide activity, the General Conference has established regional offices, known as divisions of the General Conference, which have been assigned, by action of the General Conference Executive Committee at Annual Councils, general administrative oversight for designated groups of unions and other Church units within specific geographical areas.

10-1034
June 27, 2010, p.m.
General Conference Session

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta)/10GCS to AM-ChMan10GCS+10GCS

ROLE OF GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION AND THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (OUTLINE OF
DENOMINATIONAL ORGANIZATION) - *CHURCH MANUAL*
REVISION

VOTED, To refer back to the *Church Manual* Committee of the General Conference Session in Atlanta the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 3 of the *Church Manual* revision, Organization and Authority, which reads as follows:

The General Conference in Session determines the fundamental beliefs of the Church, authorizes establishment of unions and the attachment of field units, revises the *Church Manual*, elects General Conference and division leadership, performs other functions as outlined in its Constitution and Bylaws, and considers items referred to it by its Executive Committee. The General Conference Executive Committee between Sessions is empowered by the Constitution and Bylaws to act on behalf of the constituents. Thus Church organizations around the world recognize the General Conference as the voice of the Church.

08AC/ChMan/09AC/GCC(Atlanta)/10GCS to AM-ChMan10GCS+10GCS

ROLE OF INSTITUTIONS - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

VOTED, To refer back to the *Church Manual* Committee of the General Conference Session in Atlanta the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 3, Organization and Authority, Role of Institutions, page 12, of the *Church Manual* revision, to read as follows (see 400GS *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual - Church Manual* Revision, as attached to the official copy of the minutes):

No Church organization or institution assumes responsibility for the liabilities, debts, acts, or omissions of any other Church organization simply because of its Church affiliation.

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

GENERAL CONFERENCE THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY - *CHURCH*
MANUAL REVISION

VOTED, To approve the inclusion of the following paragraph in Chapter 3, Organization and Authority, General Conference the Highest Authority, page 13, 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):

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 organizations review decisions of other organizations, they do not assume responsibility for the liabilities of any other organization.

10GCS to AM

CHAPTER 3 OF THE *CHURCH MANUAL* - *CHURCH MANUAL* REVISION

VOTED, To approve Chapter 3 of the revised *Church Manual* as presented except for the two items referred back to the *Church Manual* Committee of the General Conference Session in Atlanta.

NomCom10GCS/10GCS to GTN

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT #3

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

General Conference

General Vice Presidents:

Delbert W Baker
Lowell C Cooper
Geoffrey G Mbwana
Armando Miranda

10-1036

June 27, 2010, p.m.

General Conference Session

Pardon K Mwansa
Michael L Ryan
Benjamin D Schoun
Ella S Simmons
Artur A Stele

Undersecretary:

Homer W Trecartin

Associate Secretaries:

Rosa T Banks
Robert S Folkenberg Jr
Agustin Galicia
John Thomas
Harald Wollan

Undertreasurer:

Juan R Prestol

Associate Treasurers

George O Egwakhe
Daisy J Orion
Roy E Ryan
J Raymond Wahlen II

Gerry D Karst, Chair
Claude Sabot, Secretary
Larry R Evans, Actions Editor
Rowena J Moore, Recording Secretary