

SIXTH BUSINESS MEETING

*Sixty-first General Conference Session, June 7, 2022, 7:00 p.m.*

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: I will invite Dr. Luis Mario de Souza Pinto from the South American Division to offer the opening prayer for us. And he will be praying from microphone number 1. So please, let's all participate in the prayer of Pastor Luis Mario de Souza Pinto. Let's pray, pastor.

[Prayer by Luis Mario de Souza Pinto.]

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Amen. Thank you very much, pastor. As I said previously, we intend to continue with the item from the *Church Manual* and Pastor Gerson Santos is ready. The parliamentarian tells me that we left with a point of order from Enoch Navarro Valles from the Inter-European Division. If our brother is here, I will invite him to come to microphone number 2 or any other. He will have to be at microphone number 2. We will wait for a few seconds, like five. And if he's not, Brother Parliamentarian, do we have anybody else on the list? The list will be displayed here briefly. We beg your indulgence. We just want to be sure that the chair can see the list of names as they appear.

Now, let me tell you that we hope to make some progress on the *Church Manual* items tonight. You have heard, we have said more than once, that the *Church Manual* Committee will meet on Thursday over lunchtime, and all these items that you have seen here when you said we refer to the *Church Manual* Committee. So, this is when the committee will meet and Brother Gerson and the team, we will ponder on all the comments that you've made, and we will study them thoroughly. So, we have on microphone number 4 someone from the Inter-American Division, Brother Osman. Is Brother Osman from the Inter-American Division present? If he is, I would like to invite him to go to microphone number 4. We will wait for five seconds, and if he cannot join us, we will move to the next name. Brother Osman from IAD? Brother Parliamentarian, let's go to the next name, please. Microphone number 4, someone from the ECD, Brother David Kikwai. Is brother David from the ECD present? And if he is, I would like to

invite him to come to microphone number 4. We'll wait for five seconds. If not, we will go to the next one. Microphone number 8 we had Brother Mario Veloso. Please, Brother Mario, I can see you from here. Proceed.

MARIO VELOSO: Thank you, Brother Chairman. It is to just notice and give our kind appreciation to the committee for showing in the document the intention to follow the Scriptures. There are many texts quoted in the document. I congratulate the committee because after all, we are a Church. We may have many opinions, but in reality, we should ask God what He wants us to do. We have been hearing a lot of different ideas, but nobody has the right, other than to speak, nobody has the right to put his opinion in place of God's revelation. I'm not saying put this or that idea in the document. Just follow the Scriptures, please follow the Scripture. Please follow the Scripture. Thank you very much.

HENSLEY MOOROVEN: Thank you very much, Brother Mario. We have registered your words of affirmation, of congratulation, and appreciation to the committee. Thank you kindly. Let's go to microphone number 7. We have on our list Dan Searns. He's from the North American Division. If Dan is here, please proceed to microphone number 7. We will wait for Brother Dan for the next five seconds. If you just joined us, we are continuing on item 408 where we left off this afternoon and we had a few names lined up. We were going to do justice to these delegates who have signed up and whose names appear on our screen. And we are scrolling down, and we are giving everyone a chance to express themselves. Brother Dan is not here. Let's go to microphone number 5. We have pastor Matonzi from the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. Pastor Matonzi, please proceed.

PASTOR MATONZI: Thank you, Elder Chair. I want to speak in favor of the motion because I have questions in my mind that, is the Bible silent about the issues of gender? Is the Bible gender neutral? Because I'm quite concerned now that it looks like we are shifting from a theological base to a cultural base where we are saying, no, where I'm coming from, you know, people, what will people say when I'm coming back? I have not heard anyone who says, who is advocating for a gender-neutral stance saying,

the Bible says so, or even the writings of Ellen White. And I'm thinking that it is right for the committee to toe a very cautious line into making the Bible gender neutral as it were.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much, Brother Matonzi. We have heard you and the committee also has heard you. Let's go to Brother David Trim on microphone number 7. David Trim, please, proceed.

DAVID TRIM: Thank you, Brother Chairman. I move to call the previous question.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Okay. Is this seconded? Thank you very much. We need to go to a vote. We don't debate this. We will go to a vote. And I see my colleague, the parliamentarian, busy preparing a ballot for you. It should appear very, very soon on your screen. We will use ElectionBuddy. It will require a two-thirds majority vote. And we will see what is the pleasure of the house. Brother Parliamentarian, let us know when you are ready. Thank you.

TODD MCFARLAND: Mr. Chairman, we are opening it up now. It is now available. People can vote.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you. Please. Cast your vote. We will take the regular three minutes, but if we can do it before the three minutes end, we will try that. Thank you.

So just a word of clarification for you as you cast your vote, what is on the screen here, the motion is to stop debate. It was seconded, we have opened it for a vote, we will see what the pleasure of the house is. Thank you.

TODD MCFARLAND: Mr. Chairman, we are at 531 votes. Just as a reminder, we had agreed this was going back. So, this is to stop the debate. If it passes, then we will go on to the next agenda item the *Church Manual* has. If it doesn't then we will continue to debate it with the speakers we have but it will not be voted tonight. It's going back to the committee. So, Mr. Chairman, we now have 698 people voting.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you. We are left with more than one minute. We will allow you to cast your vote. Please. We don't have the music tonight. Do we expect the parliamentarian to be doing...

TODD MCFARLAND: That would be a very poor expectation. But what I can tell you is we have 761 votes so far. Which given how few in number we are right after supper I think it's a pretty good number. And Mr. Chairman, we're now up to 785.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you kindly. Maybe we can attract some more delegates by telling them that sometime later we will have a report from the Nominating Committee. So maybe that's information that will encourage others to join us. We will have a report from the Nominating Committee a little later, but for now we are still waiting for you to cast your vote. Do you want us to close the vote?

TODD MCFARLAND: Mr. Chairman, we only have 830 ballots, given the number of people we have that's not too bad but why don't we give them extra 30 seconds to make sure?

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Do we have a few people who are yet to cast their vote?

TODD MCFARLAND: Only a handful. Oh, there we have some music. So, Mr. Chairman, 20 seconds left, and we're good here, with 855 ballots.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you.

Yes, let's close, please.

TODD MCFARLAND: All right, Mr. Chairman, we are closing the ballot here on the motion to previous question to stop debate.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: So, this will require two-thirds majority; right?

TODD MCFARLAND: Yes.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: And what is on the screen is clear. The pleasure of the house is that we stop debating. Thank you very much. We will, therefore, stop debate as it was previously said item 408 of the *Church Manual* agenda was discussed, and the trend was that this item should be referred to the

*Church Manual* committee. Let us proceed, Brother Gerson Santos, if you are ready. We are ready to go to item 409, please.

GERSON P SANTOS: Thank you, Pastor Chair. I want to inform you that, well, I have good news and better news. As you said, this is item 409, which means that we have only 26 to go.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: That's the good news or the bad news?

GERSON P SANTOS: No, better news I said. Because we start with number 37. We are doing all right. The item number 409 is also, I'd like to have that on the screen, if it's possible. It is reference number 422-22. It's about the board of elders. Thank you. I appreciate that. The rationale behind this recommendation is that the *Church Manual* makes references to the board of elders.

But there has been no additional information or definition, what is board of elders? How often do they meet? Who chairs that? And so on. So, this new section explains the organization and purpose of this board. So, it is recommended to add a new section for the Board of Elders on chapter 8, page 73 of the *Church Manual* to read as follows: "Board of Elders—Where a church has a number of elders, it should organize a board of elders chaired by the pastor or his/her designee and with the first elder or another elder serving as secretary. Such a body provides a way to distribute responsibility and coordinate their contributions for the well-being of the congregation. It also provides a training ground where elderly people are instructed in their duties. The board of elders is accountable to the church board." I move, Pastor Chair.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. It has been moved. Any second? It has been seconded as well. Thank you very much, Brother Gerson. So, this is a new section that we want to include in the *Church Manual*. I see on the screen at microphone number 5 Pastor Brother Ngoy from Quebec Conference from the North American Division. Please proceed brother Ngoy.

PASTOR NGOY KYALA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to speak to this motion and to vote down for two reasons. First, I'm seeing that in our Church we are increasing the number of votes. And we

normally have in our local churches an advisory which serves as a council for pastor and elders together, and this is not a body to decide in the administrative way. So, I'm seeing that we are creating another body to decide which is probably bringing more problems. And secondly, I've been serving as a local pastor and now as a conference president. But I think that in our procedures it will be good before bringing these kinds of changes to the local conferences for studies, and I have asked my previous president, and he said he was not aware of these changes. So, I'd like to recommend voting it down because I think such an exchange must come from the local church or from local conferences before we have those changes. Thank you.

HENSLEY MOOROVEN: Thank you very much, Brother, Pastor Ngoy. Let me tell you that it will not be possible for the secretary of the *Church Manual* to send this item to all the conference presidents in the world. This is the place where you hear of these items. This is the place at the General Conference Session where we study these items together. Your point is well taken. You believe that we do not require at this stage another body in the structure of the local church. We have heard from you.

I can see here at microphone number 5 brother Mathonsi from the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. Please proceed.

BROTHER MATHONSI: Elder Chair, I'm speaking in favor of the motion. However, I do not know, I'm not an English major, would the terminology make a difference? Because I think in my mind "board" is a big word. Why not Elders' Council, in my understanding?

HENSLEY MOOROVEN: So, let me be sure that I have properly understood your recommendation. The recording secretary has noted this, and it looks like this is something which is in line with the English language. You are an English major, then. Thank you. I can see at microphone number 7 Brother Anthony Kent. Please proceed.

ANTHONY KENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to speak in favor of this motion, please. I think the board of elders is something that is in widespread use. And to include it as part of the manual

to formalize what's in practice in many parts of the world would be invaluable. It provides an opportunity for training elders and for specialized pastoral care of the membership, follow-up of interests within the Church. And earlier today in the secretary's report we, some of us, grieved about the losses. This is an excellent means of caring for the nurture and retention of particularly new disciples in the Church. So, Mr. Chairman, without prolonging the conversation, I'd like to advocate for this with great enthusiasm.

HENSLEY MOOROVEN: Thank you very much. This is coming straight from the Ministerial Association of the General Conference. And I hear Brother Kent say that this section has had broad exposure. So, this comes after being exposed to several levels of the Church structure. Elder, we have heard you. You speak in favor of that motion. We have registered that.

I see a few delegates joining the line now. We have someone at microphone number 3; I presume it is Brother Musa. Microphone number 3. Please proceed. Oh, you are just in front of me. Indeed, you are a brother. Please, Brother Musa.

BROTHER MUSA: Thank you, Pastor Chair. I would like to concur with the proposal due to the fact that we have some churches in most cases in Africa, for instance, from my local conference, we can have one pastor with almost 17 churches. And now, to administer them at once is very difficult. So, to have this body of elders will simplify the work of their local pastor because we have almost 52, maybe, Sabbath for the whole year; so, the pastor cannot go to every church, you know, for every Sabbath. So, the elders can assist. And some of the churches have almost five elders, some of them have ten elders, some of them have even 15 elders. So, having this board will assist the administration of the local church. Maybe you can check the other perspective of the area on how frequently this board meets. Maybe that can be there to add some more emphasis. But I concur, Mr. Chair, that this one can have a good alternative. Thank you very much.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much, Brother Musa, that was feedback coming straight from the grassroots, from the local church. There is a need to have this body. We are going to microphone number 2, Sister Neto Silva, from the Inter-European Division. Please proceed.

NETO SILVA: Thank you. I just have a doubt and I'm asking for clarifying. What is the quorum of this Session?

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Mr. Parliamentarian, can you kindly explain to us how the quorum works and when it was established and when we can proceed with the matter of business. Thank you for your question. We will go straight to the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Conference, and we will answer you on what our governing document says on the establishment of a quorum. Thank you.

TODD MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, though I would know this is directly in your wheelhouse so maybe I should have deferred but it is found in the Constitution. Article 5, Section 3 says it gives the quorum requirement which is one-third of the delegates, and it says once the Session is declared open, the delegates remaining present shall constitute a quorum. So those of you that remain are the quorum.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Is that clear? We want our sister to be clear on that. Once the quorum has been established when we begin, whatever remains constitutes the quorum. This is coming straight from our governing document. But thank you for the question. It gave us an opportunity to clarify, to educate, because we want you to know how your Church is run. Thank you, Sister Neto Silva. Let's go to microphone number 2. We are going to Sister Nina from the Trans-European Division. Please proceed.

SISTER NINA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not speaking against the idea of an elders' counsel or an elders' board. I think that's a good idea. But I think it should be flexible when it comes to how it's organized. Maybe you have elders there who have served for 40 years and then you have a new pastor or maybe this council works in a culture where there is a very flat structure. So, I think the wording is too strict. I think it should be more flexible.



HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. We are hearing you. But I think there is an intentionality here of giving the broad strokes. But thank you, Sister Nina. We have heard from you. There are a couple more speakers who are lined up here. We will go to microphone number 8, from the West-Central Africa Division, Brother Emmanuel Dike. Please proceed.

EMMANUEL DIKE: Okay. I speak in favor of the motion, but I'm of the opinion that it should be called "council of elders" because you have a lot of elders and then "church board" again. To remove that ambiguity, let's have it council of elders, and it should be established in the church to help in the administration of the churches. Like somebody said here, in some areas back there in Africa, a pastor may pastor ten churches. So, if you have a council of elders, it will help in easing the burden of administration. So, I say that we uphold that motion, and it should go through. Thank you.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. We are hearing from the delegates. The house is speaking. Thank you. Let's go to microphone number 6. We have microphone 6, yes, I see you there, Brother Damsteegt. Please, Brother Gerard, thank you; from the General Conference.

GERARD DAMSTEEGT: Mr. Chairman, I would simply move that this section be referred back because my problem is with the board of elders is accountable to the church board, line 17. The problem is that the church board is made up of up to 30 people including the Religious Liberty secretary, the interest coordinator, the Adventure leaders, and social committee chair. Should these unordained members have a vote superseding the ordained elders? Should a final authority of the church be the board of elders who are ordained to be the spiritual leaders of the church or the church board who needs only to be church members in, quote, good or regular standing?

In the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy the elders are intended to be the leaders of the church, First and Second Timothy and Titus. So, the action is now, make the church board accountable to the board of elders to make the church structure to be more in harmony with the Bible. I present this because this was the case until the death of Ellen White, then the new *Church Manual* in 1932 was

introduced, they had the board of elders submission to the church board. And so, you get here a shift of authority. And I think that before we accept this, we should reflect upon what this means. Is the Church going to be guided by the spiritual leadership of the Church or simply by the church board? And if you have divorced two or three times, you still have the same vote as an elder.

HENSLEY MOOROVEN: Thank you very much. We have heard from you. Now, let me plead with the body. Let me plead with you first. If we keep on referring all these items to the *Church Manual* Committee, we will not make much progress. And as we have explained to you earlier on, we have only four business days to conduct the business of the Church, of the Constitution and Bylaws and the *Church Manual*. Brother, my dear brother, since we have heard that this is something that can be helpful for other parts of the world, the intention of the chair is to ultimately bring this to a vote so that if you don't want it, you can vote it down. But if you vote it up, then we will see. So may I plead with you, Doc, that we continue, we hear the others, we have heard you respectfully. Is it something that you will allow the Chair to do, please? Thank you. Thank you very much. We will therefore listen to microphone number 2. We will hear Stefan. We have four more speakers. And it would be good if at a certain stage we determine that we will not hear from others, and we would like to bring these to a vote. Thank you very much, Brother Stefan. Please proceed.

BROTHER STEFAN: Well, let's do that now. I move the previous question.

HENSLEY MOOROVEN: It has been moved. Any second? Thank you very much. It has been seconded. We will now go to a vote. Brother Parliamentarian, we will go now to a vote, ElectionBuddy. So, what we are voting for now is that we cease debate on this item and then we will see what the pleasure of the house is. Brother Parliamentarian, please, talk to us.

TODD MCFARLAND: Mr. Chairman, we are getting quite good at these votes and we are opening up the previous question here. It should be appearing shortly, Mr. Chairman. It is live, Mr. Chairman. People can vote now. So just as a recollection, this is a motion to cease debate. If this passes, we will

move immediately to voting on the main motion. It appears more of you are back from supper. We're already up to 556.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: It's either back from supper or the announcement made that we will have a report from the Nominating Committee a little later.

TODD MCFARLAND: Mr. Chairman, we got 1,290 votes and we'll be displaying results here momentarily.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: So obviously this is clear that we will stop debating now. Let's go on to the main motion. It has been seconded. We have discussed it. Now I believe Brother Secretary of the *Church Manual*, I believe we can proceed to vote this. Brother Parliamentarian, if ElectionBuddy is ready, we can send this ballot. We are voting on the main motion, which on your agenda item is item 409, this new section. Brother Parliamentarian, please.

TODD MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are opening that up now, and it should be ready briefly. It does take ElectionBuddy just a second. There we are, Mr. Chairman. It is open now. Individuals may vote.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. And as you vote, I will maybe ask you if you think we should keep this still to three minutes or if you believe that we could decrease it, two minutes will suffice. But we will test that in a few minutes because I think you have the feel of how ElectionBuddy works now. I want to believe that internet connection is also strong in the few pockets in the dome, but let's see. We will decide on that together.

TODD MCFARLAND: All right, Mr. Chairman. With a minute 30 expired, we are at 1200 ballots right now.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Let's close the vote then, Mr. Parliamentarian. We will close the vote. Thank you.

TODD MCFARLAND: All right, Mr. Chairman, we are closing the ballot now, and we are at 1261, and it will be displayed here momentarily.

HENSLEY MOOROVEN: Thank you very much. This is a simple majority, and it passes. Thank you very much. Brother Secretary, let's proceed please. Which item are we at?

GERSON P SANTOS: Number 410. The reference number is 433, if I can have that back on the screen again. Thank you. I still don't, thank you.

So, the agenda number is 410. The reference number is 433.

HENSLEY MOOROVEN: That's the one. Thank you.

GERSON P SANTOS: The title is, "To Foster Bible Study, Prayer, and a Relationship with Jesus." And the section is in regard to the elders. So, the rationale behind this recommendation is that this amendment encourages elders to focus on the nurture and spiritual growth of members, which I believe is very convenient at this time because this has been discussed for a while, and this is our priority. So, it is recommended to include in this section called, "To Foster Bible Study, Prayer," we are adding "Nurture, and the Spiritual Growth of Members." As you heard this morning from the Secretariat report, this is a major need we have in our church, to attend, provide pastoral care, and to promote retention and spiritual growth in our church. So, it is recommended to add it, the title, and then add the lines that are in the agenda page 68, lines 17, 18, 19, and I will read the whole sentence. "Elders should model a commitment to Bible study . . ." And now we're adding " and prayer and should support all ministries and promote programs of the local church and the local conference. They should also be committed to nurture and to inspire the spiritual growth of church members." And then we have a deletion because we added those lines. And we finish with the sentence, "Elders may ask the board to appoint a council to assist in this role of development and encouragement." which we referred to this morning when we spoke about nurture and retention. So, Pastor Chair, I move we accept the recommendation.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: It has been moved; it has been seconded. Let's hear from you. I see microphone number 7, Brother David Trim from the General Conference. Brother Trim, please proceed.

DAVID TRIM: Thank you, Brother Chairman. I want to enthusiastically support this amendment. As we heard this morning, our loss rates are atrocious. We have a hemorrhage, not just a flow of Church members. We have done research in the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research on why members leave. And there are a number of relatively straightforward measures that could be adopted which would make a major difference, but it requires a group within the local church to be empowered to act on this matter, and the elders are the logical group. So, I strongly support this.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much, Brother Trim. In addition to what you have rightly said, this is perfectly in line with our strategic plan, Brother David, am I right? This is totally in line with the vision, with the North Star of the General Conference. And this morning we have heard comments made about what the Church is doing to retain new members. And the idea, I remember clearly the speakers, this morning was about discipleship, about retaining new members and spiritual growth. We have someone at microphone number 5, Brother Ellsworth Baxen from the Mauritius Conference in the SID. Please, proceed.

ELLSWORTH BAXEN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I do support this particular proposal. However, for it to be practical, there are some churches that have a membership of possibly 300, 400. If you have a small team of elders, it is very difficult to implement on the ground unless we change paradigm and add more elders in those local churches, following the model that is given to us in Exodus, Chapter 18 where you had teams of 20 more elders, that means training more elders so that they supervise smaller groups where they are able to nurture—because you cannot nurture with a church of 300 members, and I know this, with 300 members where you have a team of even five elders. I don't know how many churches there are here that size, that have a larger team of elders. So, the point I'm making once again, as I summarize, is how it can be practically applied. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much, my colleague, Brother Gerson indicated that he would like to give some element of answer to your question. Please proceed.

GERSON P SANTOS: Thank you, Pastor Chair. I really appreciate the observation which I think is extremely relevant. We need to empower more people, we need to have more leaders in place, and increase the number of elders in order to address the issue. But I don't think that this will solve the whole issue because I believe pastoral care is not just the responsibility of the pastor and the elders but should be taken in action by all the members and not just the pastor taking care of the congregation. In other words, you're going to see some of the items that are coming, recommendations from the *Church Manual*, that looks for, empowers, and equips the membership as a whole, to be part of this team offering pastoral care. So, the pastor will increasingly assume the leadership and equipping aspect and empowering the elders to organize the church to provide pastoral care. Summarizing, I support the idea to increase the number of leaders and elders, but besides that, we need also to train the members to engage in offering support for each other and pastoral care.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much, Brother Gerson Santos. That's the challenge we have when we are writing a document that will blanket the whole world. You can appreciate the challenge that we have but we are hearing from you and thank you for this explanation. I believe, well my screen says that no one is at any microphone. This means that we are ready to vote on this item. Brother Parliamentarian, let us know when you are ready. Thank you.

TODD MCFARLAND: All right, Mr. Chairman, it is being opened up here momentarily.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: We encourage our Zoom attendees also to vote.

TODD MCFARLAND: Mr. Chairman, it is open and ready for voting.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you.

TODD MCFARLAND: Mr. Chairman I asked earlier, and you wanted to delay it; so why are you chairing that? We love having you here.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Well, let me tell you what happened. Currently all the division caucuses are meeting. And normally these are chaired by representatives from the General Conference, and it so happens that all the the general vice presidents are chairing these caucuses. So, it looks like the lot fell on me. And I'm very happy to be with you. So, I think I'm still the undersecretary, until the next report. And we will see. So that's how I am here.

TODD MCFARLAND: Well, and Mr. Undersecretary, I will advise you, according to our Bylaws and Constitution, individuals continue their role in Session, throughout Session, regardless of the vote, right? So just as a reminder. But, Mr. Chairman, I will tell you we are at 1,152 ballots cast so far.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you. Thank you very much, dear delegates, esteemed delegates. I think we are using ElectionBuddy the way it should be used, and I would like us to close the vote, please. Thank you.

TODD MCFARLAND: Mr. Chairman, it is being closed, and it will be displayed here momentarily.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. It passes. This is a simple majority. Thank you very much, Brother Gerson. We may proceed, and I think we are going to item 411.

GERSON P SANTOS: That's correct. And it is, according to your agenda, it is 411 and the reference number is 441-22. As you can see on the screen this is the rationale behind this recommendation. This amendment clarifies the process by which an elder can chair the church board. As we just heard from several comments this afternoon and even tonight, the importance of the role of the elder, especially when you have areas where a pastor oversees a district of churches and has several churches under his or her leadership. In those cases, the elderly especially needs to take more responsibility. So, the relationship to the pastor is the recommendation to be included in pages 73 and 74. I'm going to read just a section where you have the amendment. In the middle of the paragraph, you can see the pastor should not assume all lines of responsibility; so, we are deleting "responsibility" followed by a comma, and replacing it with "responsibility" without the comma. So, I will read it again.

“The pastor should not assume all lines of responsibility but should share these with the elders and other officers.” Just editorial. Reading the next sentence. “The pastor regularly serving the church acts as the chairperson of the board. There may be circumstances, however, like we mentioned before, when it would be advisable for an elder to act as chairperson, with the approval of the pastor or, if the church is without a pastor, the conference president. The pastoral work of the church should be shared by the pastor and the elders.” I move, Pastor Chair.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: It has been moved. It has been seconded. Let's hear from you. I think it is very clear this amendment, which is here before us, clarifies the process by which an elder can chair the church board. We have microphone number 2. Brother Jaanus, please, from the Trans-European Division. Yes, please proceed.

BROTHER JAANUS: Thank you, Chair. I do support this recommendation, but I would like to talk about lines 26 and 27 of this page 69.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Pardon me. Just for us to follow you.

BROTHER JAANUS: Yes.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: And we have line 26, the line that our brother is alluding to, is this possible? I knew that Sherri would make that happen. Please proceed. Can you kindly give us the page and the line?

BROTHER JAANUS: 69. Yes. It is on...

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Page 69 and line...?

BROTHER JAANUS: 26 and 27.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Oh, we have a little challenge then, because lines 26 and 27 are identical, I mean, they are intact. We are not changing these; so, it is not on the floor to be discussed. What is on the floor to be discussed, Brother Jaanus, is the sections that have been deleted or underlined. So, your comments should limit themselves to these portions, please.



BROTHER JAANUS: Yes. Thank you. Then I will rethink my...

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you. Thank you very much. Do we have someone else? Do we have other delegates who would like to express their views?

Please, Brother Gerson.

GERSON P SANTOS: Just a brief comment. And you are totally right the way you handled it. I just want to say for all of us, education opportunity. If one of the delegates or a church or a conference wants to call a proceeding or make a recommendation, just follow the proper procedure and eventually this item can come to the *Church Manual* Committee.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. So ultimately if our brother would like to further the process and there is one that exists, we encourage him to do that. Seeing no one at the microphone, I think the house is ready to vote. Mr. Parliamentarian, please, begin the process for us.

TODD MCFARLAND: All right, Mr. Chairman. We are opening up the ballot here, it'll be number 411. And it will be ready for voting here momentarily.

Mr. Chairman, it is open for balloting. Individuals should be able to vote via ElectionBuddy now.

TODD MCFARLAND: Mr. Chairman, we are at 1,411 ballots cast.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. Delegates, I think we will now close. Thank you.

TODD MCFARLAND: All right, Mr. Chairman. We're in the process of closing the ballot. We will display it here momentarily.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you. You have the result on the screen. This passes too. Thank you. Let's go to the next item, Brother Gerson.

GERSON P SANTOS: Let's move forward to another section that's related to church officers and different departments. And this is item 412. Item 436-A. You will see that some items are related to others. If one of them is not voted, we cannot proceed because they are interrelated. So, let's see 436-A. The title is, "Nominating Committee and the Election Process."

The rationale of this amendment provides for a Standing Nominating Committee. And what's the reason for that? Well, this has been practiced in many parts of the world. And the main reason is that it gives an opportunity for people that join the church, newly converts or leaders that transfer from another church, gives them opportunity to engage in ministry and leadership positions. And so let me read the first paragraph. Nominating Committee and the Election Process. First paragraph. "Officers are elected every one or two years through an appointed nominating committee. In exceptional circumstances—,"and this is what we are adding, and you can see underlined—"In exceptional circumstances and in consultation with the conference, the term of office may be extended an additional year."

We received this request from one of our divisions. In some places they are facing unique situations, and they request permission to allow for this to happen if it's necessary—of course, under the advice of the conference.

The next paragraph. "The church may decide based on its needs that it would be best served with a standing nominating committee. As such, it may appoint such a committee which would function year-round to make nominations for vacancies or to fill regular positions identified in the *Church Manual*." So, as I said before, you could have a standing nominating committee to provide opportunities for new leaders to take responsibility if there are some openings to be filled.

The next paragraph is about quorum. "The quorum for the nominating committee may be determined by the church at the same time the committee is elected." The reason we are adding this, again, is because it came from another division asking for clarification about the quorum, and as you can see in the sentence there, the quorum for the nominating committee may be determined by the church at the same time. In other words, when the committee is elected, the church should also recommend the quorum.

The end of the next paragraph, you can see there, reads, "The nominating committee should be appointed early in the closing quarter of the church year and should report at least three weeks before the final Sabbath of the church year, except in the case of a standing nominating committee which functions year-round." If we accept that recommendation, we could have new leaders taking responsibility all year-round.

Then if you're following in your agenda book, it's page 71, I'm reading number 3, page 71, number 3, which is in line 17 of page 71. "In the case of a standing nominating committee, the board may fill any vacancies in their membership, or the organizing committee may choose to nominate a new list of members for the nominating committee."

Let's move forward. We have a couple of slides on this. How the process works. The steps of the nominating process are, number 1, there is no change. Number 2, "The organizing committee recommends names to the church for the nominating committee with a recommendation for secretary. Every effort should be made to ensure fair representation in the composition of the nominating committee representing a range of age groups and both genders and limiting familial representation to one or two members from the same family."

These things are common practice, but we never spelled them out, and so we have recommendations from another division that this should be included. And the committee considered that this is a valuable contribution.

Then on the next page, page 72, on the top of page 72, number 6. "By vote, the church appoints its officers for the ensuing year(s) who continue to serve until their resignation, replacement, or the beginning of the new term." And then we delete "year" because we may have places where the person will serve two and eventually maybe even three.

The last paragraph, Filling Vacancies Between Elections. I'm reading page 72. And you can see the last paragraph on the slides that you see on the screen, or if you're following in your agenda, page

72, last paragraph, Filling Vacancies Between Elections. "If an office of the church becomes vacant during the term of office because of death, removal, resignation, or any other reason and there is no standing nominating committee to fill the nominations, the board may nominate a successor to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term of office that submits the nomination to the church for election."

So, basically there is no change, but if we have a standing nominating committee, the church will receive this recommendation from the standing nominating committee, rather than the board. Pastor Chair, I recommend we accept these recommendations, and this is item 412 as presented. I move it.

HENSLEY MOOROVEN: It has been moved. That's item 412. I need a second. Seconded. Thank you very much. We have a few delegates, first of all, on my screen we have Passmore Mulambo, microphone number 5, and then we go to microphone number 2. But let's go to Passmore Mulambo, Pastor Passmore Mulambo from the SID. Please, proceed.

PASSMORE MULAMBO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I stand to agree with a number of points that have been suggested. However, the idea of having a standing nominating committee for the whole year, that one, it would seem like this would be the only nominating committee which would be a standing committee, for the whole year in the local church. Such a committee may in some cases be abused. The church board has, over the years, functioned so very well that after the period of the nominating committee, the subsequent officers that need to be replaced or such issues are taken care of by the church board. And I think that seems to be better and has worked so very well.

As a matter of fact, we have just taken one action right now, voted, that we provide a council of elders to help the pastor, to look at those issues. So, I am saying the idea of a standing nominating committee, that one, I don't know how to put it since it's coming in a block over the whole recommendation. Say that to send it back if it cannot be edited, removed, and then we proceed in that direction. I'm just seeking the best way to proceed. But what I'm really saying is "no" to the idea of one year standing nominating committee in a local church.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. So, what I hear you saying is that you are okay with the idea broadly, but there is at least one new concept in what we are proposing, and it is that of the Standing Committee for a whole year. I think I have heard you properly. Let's go to microphone number 2, brother Jaanus. Please, it's your turn.

BROTHER JAANUS: Thank you, Chair. This time I'm talking about amendment. And my concern is that current wording does not limit the length of the term of the standing nominating committee. It gives an impression that once the standing nominating committee's elected, it stands until Christ's return. And whenever somebody falls out from that committee, then the church board will replace the member of the standing nominating committee. So, therefore, I would like to refer it back to the committee to include the term of how long the standing nominating committee is going to be elected and how it is going to be reelected by the church in a business meeting. Because otherwise we will take away the right of the church in a business meeting to eventually elect any of the officers. Thank you.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. You need some clarity on the duration of this committee. Okay. We have heard from you. I see my colleague here taking notes. We have a few speakers lined up, and I have been reliably informed that we should expect a report at any time. So, let's see how we can make good use of this time together. I think we can disagree constructively. It's possible. Let's go to microphone number 5, Brother Marc Woodson. Please, Brother Marc.

MARC WOODSON: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. On page 71 and then item line number 29 where it talks about familial representation, that's probably a little unclear when you say one or two members from the same family. Is it possible that what you're trying to say is no more than two or three members from the same family? Or does one mean two and two mean three? That seems a little unclear, one or two members from the same family.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: The sentence is here in front of us. Oh, it disappeared. It reappeared. Thank you. So, our brother Marc is asking for clarity on this sentence. And limiting familial

representation to one or two members from the same family. With my knowledge of English, Brother Marc, I think we are saying to one or two members. That's what I hear. Do you want to expand a little more? We just want to grasp clearly.

MARC WOODSON: Familial representation to one, are you then saying that means there's one other person who's a family member on the committee? Because if you're limiting it to one, that means it's not another person on the committee. So does one mean two, and then two mean three? Do you understand?

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Okay. Yeah. I think...

MARC WOODSON: Otherwise maybe it should say no more than two members from the same family on a committee. That's probably what you're trying to say there.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: We can improve that, and I see both the recording secretary and the secretary are taking notes, but I think Brother Gerson wants to say something. We still have a few more speakers lined up. Brother Marc, your point was well received. Thank you. Brother Gerson, please, briefly.

GERSON P SANTOS: Of course. Yes, I want to agree with the previous speaker, and that's exactly the spirit, the way he stated it at the end. That's the purpose.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: So not more than two. Thank you very much, Brother Marc. You have just helped us clarify what we want to do. We appreciate that. Thank you.

Let's go to microphone number 8. We have Sister Alida from WAD. Sister Alida, please proceed. We need a French to English translator. I can do that, but I think I will have to have double pay. But please, proceed.

SISTER ALIDA: I'd like to comment on number 2, on the procedure of approbation. Is representation of gender and I was wondering if it was representation of women or is that going to be confusing or not. Can you bring some enlightenment on that?

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much, both for Sister Alida and for our translator. Thank you. Our sister's concern is about representativity. She wants this to be as balanced as possible and that we have genders, age represented. Brother Gerson, do you have a brief response to Sister Alida's point? Brief, please.

GERSON P SANTOS: Extremely brief. That's exactly the purpose of this paragraph, to make sure that the committee will have representation from the families, different families of the congregation and representations from different age groups and also both genders. That's exactly the purpose of that.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you, Sister Alida. [Speaking French.] Thank you. Let's go to microphone number 1. We have our sister; I will refrain from pronouncing all the syllables in your name. Please. You are the one. How do I pronounce your name? I want to pronounce it the right way.

SISTER STEINUNN: Steinunn.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Steinunn. That will suffice. Steinunn, please proceed Sister.

SISTER STEINUNN: Mr. Chairman, first I don't understand the need for a standing nominating committee, and my question also is, it doesn't say how long. Is it forever? And then my third question is, what do you mean by familial representation? Are we talking about my birth family and the family I'm married to? Are we talking about great, from the-great-great grandparents and all that family? We have that situation in Iceland. The church is just a few families.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you. So, our sister is asking what's the need for that. And if there is a need, let's explain what we want to do. Thank you very much, friends. I have been informed that I think we are ready for a report from the Nominating Committee, but I want to be sure that as they appear here because I will have to surrender the chair to the appropriate chair. However, we do have a few names on the screen here speaking on this item. What will happen to these names, Brother Parliamentarian? Can you explain it to us? If we end this item here. Brother Todd?

TODD MCFARLAND: They will be saved like in the Book of Life. No, they will be saved and will resume this item where they will be in the queue.

HENSLEY MOOROVEN: So, it means that the next time we will talk about this item, we will go back to the question of our sister, and we will answer her on the need to have this new section in our policy. My sister, are we okay? We won't be able to address everything tonight, but the next time we address this item, we will answer your question. Is that okay with you? Thank you. Thank you very much.

Well, it was a pleasure having you.

TODD MCFARLAND: We have a new chair for you, Mr. Chairman. I think you'll recognize him.

HENSLEY MOOROVEN: Very good. Well, it was a pleasure having you, and I hope that I will see you tomorrow, but on this other podium to present some Constitution and Bylaws items. Thank you very much. Thank you.

ERTON C KOHLER: Good evening, brothers and sisters. We are just reorganizing our structure on the platform because the leaders of the Nominating Committee are here to present another partial report. And the report they will present includes the name of the person that has been chairing this business session. So, for this reason, I am replacing him for a few moments while they read the report and later, he will be back to continue chairing this session. I would like to invite the chair and the secretary of the Nominating Committee to present the report.

LOWELL COOPER: Thank you very much, Brother Chair and delegates to the General Conference Session. The Nominating Committee has put in a long day and has done a lot of work tonight. We have possibly 40 or more names to present. Some of that report will come in a group, and some will come as individual clusters. We will first bring a Nominating Committee report on the General Conference Secretariat team, and I've asked our Secretary, Magdiel Perez Schulz, to bring our recommendations for consideration by this body.



MAGDIEL PEREZ SCHULZ: Thank you, Pastor Cooper. The Nominating Committee has met today and we have report number 5 to present to you.

For the position of Undersecretary of the General Conference, Moise Hensley Mooroven, the incumbent.

[Applause.]

For the position of Associate Secretary, the incumbent Pastor Gerson Santos.

For the position of Associate Secretary, the incumbent Claude Richli.

For the position of Associate Secretary for Adventist Mission, the incumbent Pastor Gary Krause.

For the position of Associate Secretary for Adventist Volunteer Service, the incumbent Pastor Elbert Kuhn.

For the position of Associate Secretary for IPRS, the incumbent, Mrs. Karen Porter.

And for the position of Associate Secretary, Pastor Saw Samuel, who is currently serving as the president of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. I move this report, Pastor Chair.

ERTON C KOHLER: Thank you. It's moved. Any second? It's seconded. Thank you. Well, now we will open the time for any question, comment, or observation. We'll vote on all the names together, but this is your opportunity to say something if needed about all the names that the Nominating Committee is recommending for us. I can't see anyone asking for the opportunity to say something. Our parliamentarian, I think that we can move forward and open the voting process.

TODD MCFARLAND: All right, Mr. Chairman. We will open the election voting process that will happen. You will see each name and the position on your ballot. It is also there on the screen in front of you. So, we know they read those, but you'll see them on your ballot. Mr. Chairman, it will be open here momentarily.

Mr. Chairman, it is open and individuals may begin casting ballots.

ERTON C KOHLER: Thank you very much. We will wait three minutes for your participation. As you have heard many times here, this is your sacred opportunity to participate in the election of some people that will be very, very strategic for the leadership of the Church.

It's important for you to take this time to vote because during the evening, the silence and this sound behind you is something very complicated. It's important to do something, and your participation is very, very important now. Well, we can close the voting process at this moment.

TODD MCFARLAND: All right, Mr. Chairman. It is closed. It looks like 1,647 individuals were able to vote and we will display the results momentarily.

ERTON C KOHLER: Excellent. We have a clear support from the floor for the names that are represented here. Thank you, thank you very much for your participation and on behalf of Secretariat, thank you for your confidence to this team. They are very prepared people, very experienced people, very technically prepared, and I'm very confident that they will follow doing a great work for the Church, especially Pastor Saw Samuel that right now will be part of this team.

LOWELL COOPER: Brother Chair, this may be the first time at this General Conference Session when the Secretariat team is all within touching distance of each other. They have so many diverse responsibilities, it's been a challenge to get them together but if you would wish we could invite them onto the platform for the picture.

ERTON C KOHLER: Please.

LOWELL COOPER: Thank you. [Applause.]

TODD MCFARLAND: Mr. Chairman, do we need a timer for the photographers or...

ERTON C KOHLER: Yes. Thank you very much to all the photographers. We have other partial reports to present to you, and I'd like to invite Pastor Mooroven, now that he's the new undersecretary of the General Conference, to come back to this table, and he will continue chairing this business session. Thank you, and congratulations, Pastor Mooroven. [Applause.]

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: I am now back. Thank you for the support. Thank you very much. We are very pleased and happy to serve you and to serve the Church and to serve the Lord.

LOWELL COOPER: Thank you, Brother Chair. The next portion of the Nominating Committee report deals with the treasury team. And we'll ask our secretary to present these recommendations.

MAGDIEL PEREZ SCHULZ: Thank you, Pastor Cooper. We have report number 6.

For the position of General Conference undertreasurer, Pastor Ray Wahlen as the incumbent.

For the position of Associate Treasurer for investments, Timothy Hiroki Aka who is the incumbent.

For the position of Associate Treasurer, the incumbent, George Egwakhe.

For the position of General Conference Associate Treasurer for IPRS, the incumbent German Lust.

For the position of General Conference Associate Treasurer, the incumbent Daisy Orion.

For the position of General Conference Associate Treasurer, Josue Pierre currently serving as Associate General Counsel of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

For the position of General Conference Associate Treasurer for Technology Operations and Strategy, Richard Stephenson, who's currently serving as a Director of IT Services at the North American Division.

So, I move it, Pastor Chair.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. It has been moved. Any second, please? It has been seconded. If you have a question or a comment you can come to the microphone. We'll give you a few seconds to do that. Oh, you are sitting down. Thank you. I think we are ready to vote for this report. Let's proceed with ElectionBuddy. Thank you, Brother Parliamentarian.

TODD MCFARLAND: All right, Mr. Chairman. It is being opened up here. Individuals will be able to vote here momentarily.

Mr. Chairman, it is open for voting. Individuals may now cast their ballots.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: We will close the vote now. Thank you.

TODD MCFARLAND: All right, Mr. Chairman. We are in the process of closing. All right, Mr. Chairman. The balloting is closed. 1,647 cast. There are the results.

HENSLEY MOOROVEN: Thank you very much. It passes. Thank you. Thank you.

LOWELL COOPER: Chair, at your pleasure I believe we have the treasury team assembled backstage, and if you would like we could invite them.

HENSLEY MOOROVEN: Please. We all want to see them. Please proceed, Elder Cooper.

[Applause.]

LOWELL COOPER: I believe, Brother Chair, that one of the individuals whose name we read was not part of this group. It is Ray Wahlen, and his picture should be on the screen.

HENSLEY MOOROVEN: Thank you. I think we had seen his picture when his name was being recommended. Thank you. You may proceed, Elder Cooper.

LOWELL COOPER: Thank you very much, Brother Chair. The next portion of the Nominating Committee report deals with the General Conference Auditing Service Board and a second part of that, the General Conference Auditing Service staff. I would point out for the benefit of the delegates here that the General Conference Auditing Service Board is primarily composed of lay professionals who have financial business auditing experience and expertise, probably—I'm not sure—probably all of them have CPA or CA qualifications. They serve as laypersons. And they give oversight to the General Conference Auditing Service program around the world and the policies that are developed for the Auditing Service program. After we hear the presentation of nominees for the General Conference Auditing Service Board, and our assistant secretary will read the name of each division and that division's representative on the Auditing Service Board, then we will hear a presentation again from our assistant associate secretary, a member of the General Conference Auditing Service. And it is our proposal that we will deal with the voting as one block of voting on both categories. So, we'll ask Cheryl to bring us the names that have been recommended.

CHERYL: Mr. Chair, the Nominating Committee would like to submit to you report number 7 for the General Conference Auditing Board Members.

ECD lay representative Patrick Bob Ojera.

ESD lay representative to be announced.

EUD lay representative Ventislav Bosev.

IAD lay representative Hyden Gittens.

NAD lay representative John Satelmajer.

NSD lay representative Masao Yanaga.

SAD lay representative Ailton Dor.

SID lay representative Phillip Ndlovu.

SPD lay representative Jeffrey Eman.

SUD lay representative, Victor Singh.

SPD lay representative Anette Barlow.

TED lay representative Frensley Panneflek.

WAD lay representative Kwaku Dansu-Abeam.

Ex-officio Members:

GC President Ted NC Wilson.

GC Secretary Erton Kohler.

GC Treasurer Paul H Douglas.

GC Vice President Thomas L. Lemon.

GC Auditing Services Director, Robin Kajiura.

GC Auditing Service leadership,

Director, Robin Kajiura.

Associate Director, Gary Blood.

Associate Director, Boris Cardenas.

Associate Director, Daniel Herzel.

Associate Director, Guillermo Leal.

Associate Director, C Maureen Wahlen.

Associate Director North America, Jo Jean Birth

Associate Director TransAfrica, Furaha Mpozembizi

Associate Director Transamerica, Rogelio Cortez

Associate Director TransAsia-Pacific, Jeremy Smith.

Mr. Chair, I so move this report.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. It has been moved. Any second, please? It has been seconded too. If you have any questions, any comments, you may approach a microphone. I see two individuals scanning.

We have a point of order from brother Jaanus on microphone number 2. Please proceed.

BROTHER JAANUS: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do believe that one name was not read from the report which was on the screen, last name for GCAS Trans-Euro-Asia, Assistant Director. Thanks.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: We might have inadvertently skipped the name. Was it also your comment?

BROTHER JAANUS: Exactly the same.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you kindly. This happens because this program is live. If it were prerecorded, then we would have caught it. So, this is life. It happens. These things happen inadvertently left out. So can we just read the last name, it looks like it was not read, according to our two colleagues. So...

LOWELL COOPER: Last name on which...

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Last name on the list is the associate director for the TransEuro-Asia Sandra Grice. I think that's the name that was inadvertently not read, according to our two delegates. Looking at the body language of the group and their nod, it looks like indeed this is the name that was inadvertently skipped, Elder Cooper.

LOWELL COOPER: We apologize for that, Brother Chair. The paper copies of the list we have been given go down to the bottom of the page and perhaps the last name was printed on a subsequent page. We apologize.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: These things happen too. So, you have it on your screen. Can you see the names on your two screens? Will that suffice for you? Thank you kindly. So, I think, no one appears on the screen yet; but I see someone at microphone number 1.

BRADLEY KEMP: Thank you, Pastor.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Not yet. I have not seen you appearing on my screen. Give us a few seconds. Please, brother Bradley Kemp from microphone number 1, proceed.

BRADLEY KEMP: Yes, thanks, Mr. Chair. I just want to address Lyle. I do remember this name being "to be advised" because of issues in that particular area of the world. Is that correct?

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Is this a question to the chairman of the Nominating Committee?

BRADLEY KEMP: Correct.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Through me? Please answer through me, please, thank you.

LOWELL COOPER: Thank you, Brother Chair. I'm trying to recall that conversation earlier in the day. And I don't have my notes here with me.

BRADLEY KEMP: It was a name that was left as a TBA.

LOWELL COOPER: I'm sorry I'm unable to hear what the individual is saying, brother chair.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Okay. Kindly repeat and our friends who are the AV, it's microphone number 1. Neither could I hear so can you repeat your comment or your question, please, brother Kemp, South Pacific Division (SPD).

BRADLEY KEMP: When we were dealing with this item on the agenda, I do recall that one of the division names was left vacant and it was said that it would be dealt with at a later time because of a particular conflict in that area.

LOWELL COOPER: Thank you, Brother Chair. The person who has spoken to us is a Nominating Committee member and is quite correct. He is referring to a position in the General Conference Auditing Service Board, and it was read that this would be the ESD lay representative and to be announced that we do not have a name for that position at the present time. When consideration of a candidate from that area of the world is determined, it would probably be brought to the Annual Council for appointment and election by the Executive Committee.

The other question about the absence from our list of the name Sandra Grice is a matter of printing and space on the page. So, thank you to both of the questioners about the absence of names from one of the divisions on the General Conference Auditing Service Board and the completion of the list of the GCAS staff.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. I think the explanation is clearly received. Just to be sure that I heard, the assistant secretary mention to be announced. She did say that. Thank you. I heard it properly.

Let's go to the vote. I don't see anybody at the microphone or at least on the screen. Let's vote. Brother Parliamentarian, please.

TODD MCFARLAND: Mr. Chairman, we are now in the process of opening that up. And it will appear on the screen momentarily for people to vote. Again, I would like to stress, all of these names will appear, Mr. Chairman, it is open for balloting. You may need to scroll down on ElectionBuddy to get



to the voting screen at the bottom because we want to list all the names so, please scroll down. I hope everyone knows how to scroll on their phone, Mr. Chairman, and you can see all the names there as listed.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you. The ballot has been sent. If you are at the right screen, you should have seen it. Thank you.

TODD MCFARLAND: Okay, Mr. Chairman, with just about a minute left, we are now right at 1,600.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: We will, therefore, close the ballot, please, Brother Parliamentarian. Let's close the vote.

TODD MCFARLAND: All right, Mr. Chairman, we will close the ballot with 1,600 ballots cast. You can see the results on the screen momentarily.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: You can see the results on your screen, it passes. Thank you.

LOWELL COOPER: Thank you, Brother Chair, with your invitation we would like to represent the General Conference auditing team. I'm not sure if everyone is here but those who are, we can invite them to the stage.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Yes, please, to those who are present, we would like to see them.

[Applause.]

We give our photographers five more seconds, please. That was the official one. Thank you.

LOWELL COOPER: Thank you, Brother Chair. Perhaps you can tell there may need to be some Photoshopping to add a person or two to that group.

Brother Chair, the last portion of the Nominating Committee report tonight presents the recommendations for the names of department directors, only the directors. We still have additional work to do with associates, and that is on the agenda for tomorrow. We'll ask our secretary to present the nominations from the Nominating Committee.

MAGDIEL PEREZ SCHULZ: Thank you brother Cooper we have report number 8 to present to you.

For the Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries Director, pastor Ivan Omana, currently serving as an associate director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries at the General Conference.

For the position of General Conference Adventist Communication Director, we have the incumbent, pastor William Costa, Jr.

For the position of General Conference Children's Ministries Director, we have Orathai Chureson, currently serving as Children's Ministries Director for the Southern Asia-Pacific Division.

For the position of General Conference Education Department Director, the incumbent Dr. Lisa Beardsley-Hardy.

For the position of General Conference Family Ministries Director, the incumbent Pastor Willie Oliver.

For the position of General Conference and Family Ministries Associate Director, and in this case, we nominated them both together as a couple, we have the incumbent Mrs. Elaine Oliver.

For the position of General Conference Health Ministries Director, we have the incumbent Dr. Peter Landless.

For the position of General Conference Ministerial Association Ministerial Secretary, Pastor Ramon Canals currently serving as director of the Sabbath School and personal ministries of the General Conference.

For the position of General Conference Ministerial Association Associate Secretary, pastoral spouses and family, Aurora Canals, currently serving as the under treasurer of the Chesapeake Conference of the North American Division.

For the position of PARL, we have Dr. Ganoune Diop as incumbent.

For the position of General Conference Publishing Ministries Director, we have the incumbent pastor Almir Marroni.

For the position of General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Director, we have pastor James Howard, currently serving as the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Associate Director.

For the position of General Conference Planned Giving and Trust Services Director, we have the incumbent Dennis Carlson.

For the position of General Conference Stewardship Ministries Director, we have the incumbent Dr. Marcos Fayot Bomfim.

For the position of General Conference Women's Ministries Director, we have the incumbent Heather-Dawn Small.

For the position of General Conference Youth Ministries Director, we have pastor Busi Khumalo currently serving as the division youth director for the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

So, I move it, Pastor Chair.

HENSLEY MOOROVEN: It has been moved, it has been seconded, we are ready for any question, any comment. And on my screen, I see at mic number 8 there is a comment from Brother Jonathan Zirkle. Please proceed.

JONATHAN ZIRKLE: Yes. I have, I guess, a parliamentary inquiry. I'd like to refer Ganoune Diop back to the Nominating Committee.

HENSLEY MOOROVEN: We would like to invite you, Brother Jonathan, to meet with the chairperson of the Nominating Committee. You can meet with Elder Lowell Cooper where the baptistry was and he will gladly listen to you. Thank you kindly. I have on my screen microphone number 2, Sister Nina Myrdal. Please proceed.

NINA MYRDAL: Thank you. We just saw and heard a wonderful list of names, but I wonder how the committee has worked to get as much diversity as possible into the group. Have you had any principles you have worked by in the committee?

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. It will be a little challenging now because the chairperson is listening to Brother Jonathan. But having been involved in that process myself once I was a member of the GC Session Nominating Committee, I can assure you, sister Nina, that there is some intentionality that is brought in ensuring wide representativity from the global Church, and I believe that this principle hasn't changed, and it was still a guiding principle for the Nominating Committee that met.

NINA MYRDAL: Also, I'm wondering about gender. I understand that you can't talk about age here in the US because you're never too old to do anything here, but you could probably talk about maybe having a diversity when it comes to total number of years having served, you know, some having served a little, or served a little time and somebody having served for a long time.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you. I see that the secretary and the assistant secretary are taking note of this, at least mentally, and we will be sure that the chairperson is aware of those. But thank you. Thank you very much, Sister Nina. We have someone at microphone number 5, Debbie Jackson, Sister Debbie, microphone number 5. Please proceed.

DEBBIE JACKSON: Mr. Chairman, may I just make the observation that except for this last group that was presented, there was only one woman in each of the other groups. And I am requesting that the Nominating Committee look at females that are qualified. I'm sure there's several of those in the Church for some of these positions. Thank you.

[Applause.]

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. We have heard from you. They too have heard. Thank you very much, sister. Let's go to the individual on the English Zoom, from the South Pacific

Division. This person is already on Wednesday, if I'm not mistaken. This person comes from the South Pacific Division.

BRETT GOODS: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Just a simple comment. I note that there is, as a first-time delegate, that there is not much renewal in each of the panels that have been put forward that may...it's simply a comment. I have no historical knowledge of how this normally works, but just an observation. Thank you.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. We have heard from you. We appreciate the comment. There is a point of order for microphone number 2. I see the chairperson is still busy talking, but please. Please proceed, Brother Johannes.

JOHANNES BOCHMANN: Thank you, Brother Chair. On a point of order may I suggest that the sister that spoke before the brother that just spoke, if I understood her correctly, was making a motion to refer back to the Nominating Committee this report on the grounds that it is obviously not inclusive enough. I guess that's what the sister the saying. So, I read in the General Conference Rules of Order that this is a motion that would generally be followed; so, might I suggest, Brother Chair, that you follow this and refer the report back to the Nominating Committee. Thank you.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. Yours is a suggestion. And you know that it is hard for the chair to act on a suggestion. If I remember what Sister Nina said, and I think I remember, I did not hear sister Nina allude to any referral to the Nominating Committee. And I'm getting confirmation here that was not the case. I can see sister Nina proceeding to the scanning station. We have someone at microphone number 8. It is Joel Hernandez from the South Colombian Union in the IAD. Please proceed, Brother Joel.

JOEL HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Make your sentences very short please so that the translator can do justice to everything that you will say. Please proceed. We have a translator already here. Thank you

kindly. Thank you very much, Brother. We have a secondary translator here next to microphone number 3. Please proceed.

JOEL HERNANDEZ: Now that we are speaking about the positions of the Church. I would like to ask why a report has not been done on what the department heads have done during this period, so that we can rejoice in what they've done in the past five years. Thank you.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. As for the structure of the Church, departmental directors report to the president of the organization. And if you remember in the report of the president, he touched on all of the work, the accomplishment, and the blessings of the Lord through all the departments. That is why you did not have single departments reporting. It was all present in the report of the president. Thank you very much, Brother Joel. Your question was well received, and this is what we have given. Thank you. I see you acknowledge that this satisfies your question. Thank you. We have Sister Nina please microphone number 2.

NINA MYRDAL: Thank you. If it's possible, I would very much like to refer the list back to the committee to enhance the diversity of the group. So, what do I say to test if that's possible?

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Well, if I were to guide you, I would guide you to something that will make my life easy, right? Sister Nina, you can make a motion to refer this to the Nominating Committee.

NINA MYRDAL: I do.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: And if you were to make that, know that the chair would encourage you to meet with the chairperson of the Nominating Committee at that same spot, and based on the outcome of your discussion, then we will take it from there. Is it something that we can work with, Sister Nina?

NINA MYRDAL: Okay.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you kindly. Thank you. So, I invite you to meet with the chairperson. I hope that the chairperson of the Nominating Committee is available for you now. Can one of the officers of the Nominating Committee confirm that, please? Thank you.

I have microphone number 5, my sister Debbie Jackson. We have heard from you before.

DEBBIE JACKSON: Yes. I was wondering if I, too, could have a conversation with the chair. I'm very concerned about the lack of women in the committees that were coming forth.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Then we will have to quickly organize a waiting room next to the chair's office. I have not heard a strong motion or request to speak to the chair. Can you reiterate that please, Sister Debbie?

DEBBIE JACKSON: I'd like to make a motion to be able to send it back, and in lieu of that, if you would prefer, I would speak to the chair, if that's acceptable also.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. We will go for the second one. You will join our Sister Nina and we will encourage you to meet with the chairperson, Pastor Cooper. We have two points of order, one on microphone number 2, and one on microphone number 1. I will give the floor to microphone number 2 just in a few seconds, please.

Okay. So, let's go to microphone number 2 please.

CHALMER GEVIESO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Actually, I was supposed to raise a point of order because earlier there was no motion, but the lady was already referred to the chairman and there was no motion that was seconded yet. I was supposed to raise a point of order earlier. But later on, there was a lady over there who made the motion and it was duly seconded so I'm withdrawing my comment and my point of order. Thank you.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you for withdrawing your point of order. It is in order. Let's go to microphone number 1. I have Brother Oliveiros Pinto Ferreira Junior from the SAD. Please proceed.

OLIVEROS PINTO FERREIRA JUNIOR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that any referral back to the Nominating Committee has to be made on the grounds of a name and a specific reason why a name cannot be led into office. I'm afraid that if we keep referring back for personal reasons, then I also have so many things I would like to include and to be dealt with by the Nominating Committee rather than a name. So, we need to be objective on the matters that are being treated here. We saw our good sister show her aptitude for a theme. I have aptitude for some themes as well, but I think the Church only refers back to the Nominating Committees on the grounds of a name and specific reasons. If we do not have a name and specific reasons, I don't know if we can refer it back to the Nominating Committee.

HENSLEY MOOROVEN: Thank you very much. We have heard from you.

[Applause.]

We have heard from you, and indeed you are right. We don't discuss names here on the floor. It is an opportune time whilst we are waiting for the chairperson of the Nominating Committee to come for our parliamentarian to clarify the process that we are following here tonight? Please, Brother Todd, parliamentarian, clarify this process for us. Thank you.

TODD MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, under our rules, we don't debate names; so, there was reference here before that there has to be a specific name, and that is not the case. You refer the whole report back. I don't want to call the gentleman out, but when the person mentioned a name before, that wasn't appropriate. You're not supposed to mention names, only the report. There are two options when a person objects to a report. The first is that they may request that the chair refer it back. That's a request. The chair can either accept that or not accept it. The second is they can make a motion. If they make a motion to refer to it, then that has to be seconded, it is nondebatable, and it's either referred back or it's not.



The process that we have been following is, you know, and I understand people don't understand the ins and outs, is that we treated the request, the chair in his discretion, as to those individuals, to meet with the Nominating Committee Chair to help make a determination about whether or not to accept that request. Because obviously the chair was not in the Nominating Committee, the chair is entitled to rely upon the Nominating Committee Chair in making that determination. So that's the process that was being followed with these requests.

Now, all of these individuals, if it is not accepted, have the right to make a motion for referral. I will point out that's a single motion. If it goes up or down, it can't be renewed and then we go from there. So that is the process we're following, the distinction between the request for referral and a motion. And many of the times the comments were unclear. So, Mr. Chairman, I hope that brings some clarity. I see that while I was talking some people have requested to speak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. Thank you for confirming that we are abiding by the right process here tonight. We have at microphone number 8, Brother Jonathan. I think you're coming for a second time on this report opinion, Brother Jonathan.

JONATHAN ZIRKLE: Is it proper to discuss a specific person at this time?

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: I think it was made abundantly clear that we will refrain from making any comments or observation of names here on the floor. That was the understanding, Brother Jonathan.

JONATHAN ZIRKLE: Okay.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: To your question, the answer is "no."

JONATHAN ZIRKLE: So, all comments should be regarding the entire panel?

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: You were given a chance to speak to the chairperson of the Nominating Committee, and it looks like this did not take care of your concern. You're coming back to microphone number 8, and you would like to speak about a name. Unfortunately, this is not possible.

JONATHAN ZIRKLE: Can I make a motion to have a name removed from the panel?

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: This is not possible because we are voting for this the way it was presented, Brother Jonathan.

JONATHAN ZIRKLE: Then I would like to speak about the panel in general.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: You are allowed to speak about the panel in general as long as you refrain from identifying any department or any individual. Thank you.

JONATHAN ZIRKLE: Okay. Can I have my time reset?

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Let's reset the time for brother Jonathan, please, two minutes.

JONATHAN ZIRKLE: I'm very concerned about this panel. Over the years our emphasis on religious liberty has changed substantially. We started out defending Adventists and the problems they had and those problems went away. As those problems went away, we started to defend other minorities and those problems. As those problems went away, we now have entered into social justice issues. And now we do things such as correct amicus curiae briefs on behalf of the Open Societies International which is a George Soros organization which has nothing to do with religious liberty and this also sets the tone for the entire religious liberty.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Pardon me, brother Jonathan, we have agreed that we will not allude to any department which would clearly identify a name. We had agreed upon that, hadn't we? And you have mentioned at least three times that you are talking about religious liberty. If we can agree to continue as long as we abide by this, Brother Jonathan.

JONATHAN ZIRKLE: I would just ask this body to think very, very carefully about the challenges that we are facing today and the challenges that divide us. And I think we need to consider very strongly the possibility of rejecting this panel, even if it's only because of one or two names on the panel and that the Nominating Committee needs to go back and do its work and get us people who will respect our

traditional Adventist values. We have been leaders in the world on many of these issues and now we're not.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you. We have heard from you. We will go now to microphone number 5. There is one Prince Ng'andu, I think it's Brother Prince, who would like to make a comment.

PRINCE NG'ANDU: Mr. Chair, I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity. Mine is just an observation and probably a comment. You realize that many of the people are talking about involving young people. In the policy you talk about retirement age. Some areas you are asking people to retire at 65, in some areas we are keeping quiet and just leave it. Maybe, as a change let us remove the item of retirement so that it remains open. Because in some areas, this is not considered, in some areas it is considered. And in some divisions this thing is going to bring a problem because when they start referring to certain things they're looking at, it becomes a problem. So, this issue of retirement should be looked into very, very carefully. Thank you so much.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you very much. This was a comment. We will not entertain any question on this item. Suffice to say that if we need to revisit this, it will have to be at another body, not this one. But thank you, Brother Prince. We have heard from you. Again, it's a question of representativity. I don't see anybody on the screen. I will wait to hear from the chairperson of the Nominating Committee or from any other officer. Meanwhile, we can hear some nice music, can't we?

I will complement my response to the question regarding reports from departments by telling you that in one of the issues of *Adventist Review* you have a comprehensive report from each of the departments of the General Conference, apart from featuring in the president's report, these departments also publish something in the *Adventist Review*. Thank you.

We have someone at microphone number 1, brother Nicardo. We just want to hear what you have to say as we wait for this consultation to take place with the chairman. Brother Nicardo, proceed.

NICARDO DELAHAYE: Mr. Chairman, we have been praying for the Holy Spirit and I believe the Holy Spirit has been leading us, as evidenced in the percentages of approval from this body. And so, I would like to expedite this process, and if you would allow, I'd like to move the previous question.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: At this point we have pending motions on the floor. I will refrain from entertaining that. Is it okay, Brother Nicardo? Let us follow the process. I will consult with the chairperson in a few minutes, and I promise you, we will abide about the right process to be sure that we are out of here in the next few minutes and we will see how the Holy Spirit leads us as well. Thank you kindly.

Sister Nina, now I know your name.

NINA MYRDAL: That's a good thing. Thank you. I move that the list was referred back to the Nominating Committee.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: I have heard the motion. Did I hear a second? Did I hear a second? It has been seconded. Therefore, we will not discuss this. We will go straight to the vote. Brother Parliamentarian, can you please send the ballot? We are discussing now whether this will be referred to the Nominating Committee or not. Whenever you are ready, let us know.

TODD MCFARLAND: Sure, Mr. Chairman. It will take just a second here. And we will have that up momentarily, Mr. Chairman. Sorry. It takes us just a second here. All right, Mr. Chairman, it should be open here momentarily.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Is it ready?

TODD MCFARLAND: It is now, Mr. Chairman.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: So please, we are voting on whether we refer this report back to the Nominating Committee. Just read carefully what you're voting for, and I believe we will leave this open for a few minutes. Thank you, Brother.

TODD MCFARLAND: Mr. Chairman, with a minute and 38 seconds expired and left we're just right at about 1,500 ballots cast on the motion to refer.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: 1,500. I see a few delegates here trying to vote. We will give them a few more seconds. We are still within our three-minute time frame that we have agreed on. So, we will give you a few more seconds. Brother Parliamentarian? From what I'm seeing, I think we can close the vote. Please close it.

TODD MCFARLAND: Very well, Mr. Chairman. All right, Mr. Chairman, the ballot is being closed as we speak. It looks like 1,575 people were able to vote, and it will be displayed here on the screen momentarily. There we go. No, it's failed.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: So, as you can see here the motion fails. It is not referred to the Nominating Committee. The body has spoken. We will abide by what the body has chosen to do. Chairman of the Nominating Committee?

TODD MCFARLAND: It's all right—Mr. Chairman, it's already been moved and seconded. We're ready to vote immediately now.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Very good. So, we are together. Now we will vote on the report. It was moved, it was seconded, it was discussed, now we are ready to vote. ElectionBuddy, whenever you are ready, let us vote on this report coming from the Nominating Committee. Please proceed.

TODD MCFARLAND: Mr. Chairman, the report on number 8 is open for balloting now.

TODD MCFARLAND: Mr. Chairman, with about 40 seconds remaining we're at 1,557 ballots cast.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: We will therefore close the ballot here. Thank you.

TODD MCFARLAND: All right. Mr. Chairman. We are in the process of closing that now. 1,566 were able to vote and we will display the results here momentarily.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: As you can see, it passes.

[Applause.]

LOWELL COOPER: Thank you Brother Chair and with your permission we invite the departmental director team to come to the platform.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Please. We would like to see them. Thank you.

[Applause.]

LOWELL COOPER: Thank you, Brother Chair. This then completes this portion of the report from the Nominating Committee. Thank you very much.

HENSLEY MOOROOVEN: Thank you. Thank you very much. I need to say that you have worked extremely hard and diligently. Can we give a hand to the Nominating Committee? I believe they have worked hard. Thank you very much. Thank you.

[Applause.]

For tonight, you will have the privilege of having your own personal devotion just before you retire, just before you go to bed. We would encourage you to read a portion of the scripture, to read something to go through the day and thank the Lord for all his blessings. Because it will be a personal devotion. We will go straight to ending our business session, please, please, don't leave yet. We are going to have a prayer by pastor Jerry Page, and there will be the prayer for the end of this Business Session and the end of the day

[Prayer by Jerry Page]

[End of Business Meeting]