

ANNUAL COUNCIL

October 8 to 14, 2004

ANNUAL COUNCIL OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 10, 2004, 9:00 a. m.

PRESENT

Roy Adams, Patrick L Allen, Lucio Altin, Niels-Erik A Andreasen, John R Andrianasoa, Lucio Aranda, Jose Alfredo Argueta, Delbert W Baker, Trevor H C Baker, K J Balaji, John T Banks, Harold W Baptiste, Maurice T Battle, Bert B Beach, Enrique Becerra, Mathew A Bediako, Wesley Moonga Beene, B Lyn Behrens, Jannie Bekker, Guillermo E Biaggi, Branko Bistrovic, Arthur F Blinci, Violeto F Bocala, Adrian Bocaneanu, Rodney G Brady, Mario A Brito, Benjamin P Browne, Herbert Brugger, Reinder Bruinsma, Eliseo Bustamante,

Marta Caceres, Mario Augusto Calderon, Jose Luis Campos, Izeas dos Santos Cardoso, Dennis N Carlson, Walter E Carson, Stephen Chavez, Pyung-Duk Chun, Douglas Clayville, Joan C Coggin, Lalchansanga Colney, Lowell C Cooper, Nevanka Cop, Ken Crawford, James A Cress, Sharon M Cress, Rajmund Dabrowski, David Y Dambali, Luka T Daniel, Thomas Davai, Nestor D Dayson, Marino F de Oliveira, Wandyr Mendes De Oliveira, Belzazar Denila, Karnik Doukmetzian, C Garland Dulan,

George O Egwakhe, Willmore D Eva, Larry R Evans, Laurie J Evans, George W Fafale, Howard F Faigao, Nicodemos Falcao, Mumtaz A Fargo, Martin W Feldbush, Teofilo V Ferreira, Sergie B Ferrer, Mark A Finley, Karen M Flowers, Ronald M Flowers, John M Fowler, Ulrich W Frikart, Agustin Galicia, Jonathan Gallagher, Jay Gallimore, Alfredo A Garcia-Marenko, L James Gibson, Carlo Giliberti, Clifford Goldstein, Cesar Gomez, Raul Gomez, Luis Gonzalez, Leonardo Grant, Gordon Gray, John Graz, Rodney Grove, Alberto F Guaita, Alberto C Gulfan Jr, Sendra Gunawan, Joseph E Gurubatham, Patricia J Gustin,

Erkki Haapasalo, Uzziel Habingabwa, Bert Haloviak, Allan R Handysides, Dallian Haokip, Richard H Hart, Ceazar J Hechanova, Atte Helminen, Eric Hepburn, Claritza O Heyaime De Jimenez, Robert W Holbrook, Roscoe J Howard III, King-Yi Eugene Hsu, C Lee Huff, Daniel R Jackson, Michael R Jamieson, Johann E Johannsson, Choudampalli John, M C John, Delbert L Johnson, William G Johnsson, Theodore T Jones,

Ignacio Kalbermatter, Bukasa Kalombo, Michael F Kaminsky, Gerry D Karst, Dennis C Keith Sr, Ole Kendel, Donald G King, Robert J Kloosterhuis, William Knott, Lorinda Knowlton, Linda Mei Lin Koh, Eric A Korff, Viktor Alexandrovich Kozakov, Gary Krause, Vladimir A Krupsky, P Daniel Kunjachan, Jonathan Kuntaraf, Kathleen Kuntaraf, Peter R Kunze, Thundiyl Parambil Pothen Kurian, Kwame Boakye Kwanin, Saw Muller Kyaw, Robert E Kyte,

Peter N Landless, Kevin Lang, Pawel Lazar, Harold L Lee, Jairyong Lee, Paulo Leitao, Israel Leito, Robert E Lemon, Nikola T Levterov, Jean-Luc Lezeau, Pavel Ivanovich Liberansky, Jose R Lizardo, Andrea Luxton, Guenther Machel, Louis Musasya Makulambizia, Solomon Maphosa, Kimberly Luste Maran, Japheth S Maranga, Dalbir Masih, Cornelius Mulenga Matandiko, Gabriel E Maurer, Benjamin C Maxson, Siegfried G Mayr, Geoffrey G Mbwana, Joseph W McCoy, Duane McKey, Denzil McNeilus, Carlos Medley, Julian Melgosa, Peter O Mensah, Saustin Kazgeba Mfune, Armando Miranda, Eric P Monnier, R Martin Moores, Rennie Elid Moreira, Kalapala J Moses, Thomas J Mostert Jr, John Moyer, Musyoka Paul Muasya, Ekkehardt Mueller, Baraka G Muganda, Pardon Kandanga Mwansa, Nina Myrdal,

Ruy H Nagel, Sikhumbuzo Ndlovu, Bradford Newton, G T Ng, August de Clerc M Ngalamulume, Victor Niconde, James R Nix, John S Nixon, Robert W Nixon, Karel Nowak, Jethron Nsabiyaremye, Etzer Obas, Sal Nwachi Okwubunka, Joseph A Ola, Barry D Oliver, Daisy J Flores Orion, Richard C Osborn, Rubin R Ott, Bjorn Ottesen, Daniel Padmaraj, Orville D Parchment, Ruth E Parish, Vernon B Parmenter, Jere D Patzer, Jan Paulsen, David Javier Perez, Juan O Perla, Cecil R Perry, Gerhard Pfandl, Sally Lam Phoon, Larry J Pitcher, Don L Platt, Rolf Poehler, Timothy L Poirier, Alex Rajkumar Ponniah, T Michael Porter, Juan R Prestol, Peter J Prime, Stoy E Proctor,

Geovani Souto de Queiroz, Guido Rodolfo Quinteros, Ted L Ramirez, Miguel Ramos, Leo Ranzolin, Bruno Raso, John Rathinaraj, Paul S Ratsara, Robert L Rawson, Nils Rechter, Gordon L Retzer, Samuel Lawrence Reuben, R Bruce Roberts, Donald E Robinson, Angel Manuel Rodriguez, Guy F Roger, Walter Romero, Denis P Rosat, Steven G Rose, Stan Rouse, Iouliia Roussina, Amon K Rugelinyange, Lucas Nzungu Rugemalila, Blasious M Ruguri, Flavia Rwabuhoro, Michael L Ryan, Roy E Ryan,

Claude Sabot, Charles C Sandefur Jr, Nikolaus Satelmajer, Byron Scheuneman, Don C Schneider, Marti Schneider, Benjamin D Schoun, Gregory Dwight Scott, Bobby Joutjc Sepang, Mozart Simon Serrant, Gibeon Ebenezaar Sharon, Bonita J Shields, Helder Roger C Silva, Pavel Simek, Ella Simmons, Houtman Elysha Sinaga, Dolores E Slikkers, Heather-Dawn Small, Robert S Smith, Reger C Smith Jr, Chester G Stanley, Ken Stanton, Artur A Stele, Ardis D Stenbakken, Vassili D Stoliar, Robert L Sweezey,

Remelito Aguilar Tabingo, Jean-Marie Tchoualeu, Halvard B Thomsen, Brad Thorp, Alayne D Thorpe, Tor Tjeransen, Frank Tochtermann, Jemuel M Toledanes, Athal H Tolhurst, Ronald W Townend, Max A Trevino, John P Trimarchi, Jansen E Trotman, Arnold Trujillo, Grigol G Tsamalashvili, Cindy Tutsch, Don Upson, Klaus-Juergen van Treeck, Gilbert Vega, Filiberto M Verduzco, Javier E Villegas

Velile S Wakaba, Alan R Walshe, John Luga Wani, Ivan Leigh Warden, Gilbert Wari, D Ronald Watts, Youke Welan, Bertil A Wiklander, Jeffrey K Wilson, Neal C Wilson, Ted N C Wilson, Harald Wollan, Kenneth H Wood, James S F Wu, Lori Yingling, James W Zackrisson, Rita U Zirimwabagabo, Joel Zukovski.

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DEVOTIONAL

The devotional message entitled “The Witness of Truth: The Time of Trouble” was presented by Frank M Gonzales, Speaker/Director and Correspondence School of *La Voz de la Esperanza*. Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version unless noted otherwise.

In August 2003, North America suffered the most disastrous electrical blackout in history. In a matter of minutes, the northeastern part of the continent was suddenly transported to life the way it might have been in the 17th century. The only difference was that people in 2003 were less prepared. The change was sudden. For example, in the great modern airports, weary travelers went into the bathrooms but could not get any water to wash their hands because the electronic eyes were not working. Thousands of people living in skyscrapers could not get a drink of water.

The Wall Street Journal reported, “The electronic age blew a fuse. When you are unplugged, even very simple tasks become impossible.” That is an interesting statement. That is also a theological statement. Hotels were made useless for many because the door locks to the rooms were all electronic. Cordless phones, of course, were unusable. One lady found a neighborhood grocery store that used an old-fashioned cash register, but she could not buy the potatoes she wanted because the scales were electronic.

Cell phones were useless because the networks were jammed. You could not buy gasoline for your car because the pumps in the filling stations needed electricity. Fortunately, the great blackout ended in a day or two as the grid operators managed to piece together the grid connections needed for the great generator engines to begin running again. By the way, a CNN reporter said, “But for the lucid intervention of someone, who unfortunately was unnamed but who should have gotten a lot of credit, the blackout could have been national.” Thoughtful people began to wonder, “What would happen if such a blackout were to last for a long time. What would happen if the sophisticated terrorism network of Osama Bin Laden could find a way to paralyze America?”

Such a tragedy would have been impossible in the 17th century because most people lived in a simple way—out in the country. They lacked our modern conveniences, but at least they had water. They had food. Ladies and gentlemen, the Bible tells us the greatest blackout is coming.

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You cannot read many pages in the Bible without running into warnings of a time of trouble coming on this earth such as never has been in all history. For example, you read the gospel of Matthew that tells of the most happy days of all time, when the Son of God walked the paths of this earth with us: Emmanuel—God with us—healing the sick, comforting the sorrowing, feeding the hungry, and lifting heavy burdens with His good news. He raised the dead. Children loved Him and crowded around Him to hear His stories. It was heaven on earth. Then, like a sudden explosion on a calm sunny day, here are Jesus' solemn warnings of something to come. "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."—Matthew 24:37-39

The flood in the days of Noah was a world disaster so terrible that it is unimaginable to us. A world blackout would also be unimaginable. But what happened in August 2003, made people begin to think that anything could happen. The only human survivors of the flood in Noah's day were the eight souls that went into the ark that Noah had spent one hundred and twenty years building. True, there will never be another flood to destroy all life on earth and the rainbow is God's sign to support His vow. But the Bible tells of the great time of trouble that is coming, of which the August 2003 blackout was a faint premonition. ". . . and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time. . . ."—Daniel 12:1.

Jesus spoke of it also, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time. . . ."—Matthew 24:21 He said also in Luke 21:22-27, "For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. . . and there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity. . . Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." To prepare for an electrical blackout, you need matches, candles, and bottles of water. But to prepare for this time of trouble coming, you need more than matches, candles, and bottles of water.

The Bible tells us that God is love, and in this coming time of trouble, God will not forget His character of love. He will still love the people who will be in great distress. In Amos, chapter 8, verses 12 and 13 we read, "And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it. In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst." As an evangelist, this is the most incredible passage to me in all of Scripture because I spend all my time running after these people trying to find them, trying to give them the word of God. All in this room are trying to do that, and someday this evangelistic paradigm is going to be turned around completely, and the people are going to be seeking you. Imagine people lining up at your house, at your door, knocking and saying, "Please share with me the word of the Lord. Do you have a word from

God for me?" That would be wonderful, except for that phrase there that says "and shall not find it."

God will still love those people running to and fro in great distress. I think many will be people who have listened to *La Voz de la Esperanza* broadcasts, but they will have waited too long to respond. The great, massive door in the ark of safety will have been closed by angel hands again, "as it was in the days of Noah so shall it be again."

The discomforts of a sudden electrical blackout, gasoline shortages, lack of police protection, the horrors of violence, will be minor events compared to the real trouble of that time. The word of the Lord, so long despised and neglected, will be unattainable. This may not mean that Bibles will be unavailable. A person can read the Bible for twenty-four hours a day and get nothing out of it unless the Holy Spirit is present to make its message come alive. The presence of the Holy Spirit is to a human soul what a CD player is to a CD. A stack of CD's as big as a house is useless unless one has the equipment to play them. The point of these warnings from Jesus and the prophet Amos is this: The Holy Spirit is a gift from God. He is a person who can be grieved, and if He is grieved, He can take His departure never to return. That is what happened when Jesus; on the last day in Jerusalem, took one last lingering look at the beautiful temple of the Jews and then said sadly, "Behold your house is left unto you desolate."—Matthew 23:38

In these last days, just before the coming time of trouble, the Holy Spirit again will be forced to do something He does not like to do—depart. He will have no choice, just as Jesus had no choice when the people cried out, "Crucify Him!" The world rejected Christ at that time, and now in these last days we are coming to the time, soon, when at last and forever the world will again reject the Holy Spirit. It is not that He wants to leave, it is that He is being driven away.

Matches and flashlights are not sufficient preparation for the last great blackout. We need to stock up on our supply of the Holy Spirit. By the way, if you want a clear illustration of this, go to the parable of the ten virgins which for me, does not only represent the Church, I believe it represents the world. If I am correct, then our work will have been finished, because Jesus said, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached to every nation," every single person, every single individual, on this earth's globe. There is going to come a time, soon, when everyone will have heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. And may I add, the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ. That is wonderful news!

The virgins all had what? They all had lamps. What is the lamp? Thy word is what? A lamp unto my feet. They all will have the word of God. But, not all will have what? The oil. And what does the oil represent? The Holy Spirit. What are we doing with the Holy Spirit?

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The book of Proverbs is where to look for the knowledge we need. The word frequently used there is wisdom. It is a name for the Holy Spirit. "Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the opening of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words saying, 'How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity?' and the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you."—Proverbs 1:20-23 Notice, who makes known the words of God to us? The Holy Spirit.

The frequent use of the words "city" and "street" mean that in today's crowded cities and skyscrapers, the Holy Spirit is indeed crying out for attention. While you are riding the street car or driving in traffic, or shopping, the Holy Spirit is crying to you, "This world is not your home. Stop trying to find your happiness in material things. Plead with God to save you from the selfishness that is everywhere. Prepare for the return of Jesus which He has promised." The Holy Spirit is active today, because Jesus is in the Most Holy Place. The doors of grace are open. The Holy Spirit is in the cities and skyscrapers. He has promised, I will make known my words unto you. You have the Bible in your hands: now the Holy Spirit has promised to make known to you its message—He is your CD Player—but the only way you can listen is to read the Word and study it, but you need to first confess your need of a Teacher. Before you open the sacred pages of the Bible, pause in simple but earnest prayer, "Lord I do not know how to read this book. My mind wonders. I keep thinking of things I have seen on television, or I think of business deals that perplex me, or I think of some silly tune that plays in my head. Please save me from myself, even now as I open this book. Please teach me, I am starving for the Bread of Life, I do not even know it. Please save me before it is too late." If you pray that prayer, He will hear you.

The other thing we need to do is to respond to His convictions. The Holy Spirit is speaking to you about some conviction. Something you need to do, or maybe you have been putting it off. The mother of Jesus said something very wise—the only sermon we have from her in the Bible—at the wedding feast in the Canaan of Galilee. She gave instructions to the servant about the wine: "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it." What is He saying to you?

At present, *La Voz de la Esperanza* is on radio in 35 countries. In fact, you will be pleased to know that La Voz is heard even in Stockholm, Sweden. There are hundreds of thousands of Hispanics in the Scandinavian countries. Two weeks after the program was broadcasted, someone called a pastor expressing a desire to be baptized. He had been listening to La Voz for forty years in Chile, and had been struggling and holding back. Now the Spirit was talking to him. He had the conviction, but had not made a decision. After two weeks of listening to the program in a different country, something happened. Feeling alone, having a need to have a family, he came to the Lord. The pastor sent me a picture of the baptism.

I conducted an evangelistic crusade last year in Karlsruhe, Germany where there was a little Spanish church—the only Spanish church in Germany. It had eighteen members and had been an eighteen-member church for a long time. The members decided to knock on doors and find Hispanic people. Because the program could not be placed on the air waves, they decided to take the program on a CD to the community. When I went there for the opening night, there were thirty-eight visitors. When I made the final call to baptism, twenty-four people came forward. The interesting thing to me is that some of those who responded were Germans. They were married to Hispanics, and the Hispanic spouse would translate the presentations.

In April, I led out in a crusade in London, England where twenty-seven people came to the Lord. At present, *La Voz de la Esperanza*, on the station called Spectrum, is the only Spanish Christian radio program in London, England.

God is doing wonderful things. The Holy Spirit is moving. Ten years ago, I said to myself, *La Voz* not only needs to be on radio, it also needs to be on television. Believe it or not, on October 15 to 23, 2004 we are taping our first eighteen television programs. God can do anything! Do you believe it?

You may want to take a look at that conviction that has been gathering dust in the basement of your mind's soul. God is telling you that He wants to do something through you. It may seem impossible but those are the things that God delights in doing. The more impossible the better, because when it is impossible, we can give Him the credit. You can be sure the Lord Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, wants to prepare you for what is coming on the earth. He is not going to zap His people and take them out of the world before the time of trouble. But He will be with them when in trouble to save them.

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Surely, he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at the noon day.”—Psalm 91:1, 3-6. Sounds like a blackout to me.

Recently, I was in Bucaramanga, Colombia. I was preaching the Sabbath before the evangelistic meetings were to begin. An elderly lady grabbed me as I was leaving the church. She hung onto me, and said, “I want to talk for three minutes.” She had many testimonies of people who were martyred for their faith decades ago. She told me her own story. “You know Pastor, when they took me to prison, they burned all of my possessions. But within a few weeks they had to let me go. I did not want leave but they said, ‘Lady you are a bad influence in this prison because you are turning everybody to your religion. Please leave.’” The last thing she said to me was, “Pastor Frank, you will have a successful evangelistic effort. You know why?”

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Because we who went through the time of trial here, we who were tested by fire, are praying for you. A time has come for the Holy Spirit to have his day in Bucaramanga." And so a large facility was rented. Not only was the facility filled with seven thousand people, but a screen had to be placed in the back so that another thousand chairs could be added for additional people who wanted to attend.

As I was making my call one evening, a young man pushed his way through the crowd. Hundreds of people were coming forward but as he came, he kept saying, "I am sorry, I am sorry." Sometimes he would say, "I am sorry" before he would push. He came all the way to where I was on the platform. As the people came around the platform the young man managed to get even closer to me. For security there was a platoon of soldiers there every night to protect us. The soldiers would whisk me away and take me to the hotel and go a different route each day. This young man said something to me that I had never heard in all my years as a preacher. He looked up to me and said, "Pastor Frank, help me. I am a terrorist." "You are what?" I looked down at him very carefully, like my uncle used to look at his patients. I wondered where my soldiers were—they were nowhere to be seen. I had nothing to worry about because I had stopped looking at what he had with him and I looked right into his eyes. There was anguish and hunger in the words, "Help me. I am a terrorist."

As I was trying to have a conversation with this individual, the security guards started pulling me away. They did not realize, surrounded by so many people, that I was having a conversation with one man. As I was being pulled away, the young man said to me, "What do I do?" I said, "Leave that life, there is something better for you." As we were getting further apart, I heard him say faintly, "How?" Now I had to cry at the top of my lungs, "Jesus! Jesus! Cling to Jesus!" Then I was gone.

People must have wondered why each night the preacher looked intently at the audience. As I preached, I was searching for this young man. Sometimes I would find him in the audience and my heart would rejoice. Other nights I could not find him, however, I knew he was there, I just could not find him.

Then it happened—it was the last day of the meetings. Coming forward he was pushing people out of the way again, and he came to the exact place next to me. He looked up at me, and before he said a word, I knew his life had changed. There was a sparkle in the eyes, the kind that only the Holy Spirit can put there. There was hope on his face. There was peace in his heart. He said, "Pastor Frank, pray for me. I am getting baptized."

The Holy Spirit, my friend, is still crying in the cities. The Holy Spirit is still working. Remember, He does not work alone. He works with you. He works with me. Christ is still interceding. The Holy Spirit does not work separately from Christ's ministry. The Holy Spirit comes to bring to us the result of Christ's ministry, the fruit of Christ's ministry in heaven. One

day soon, Christ will stop interceding. I cringe to think of those who will also come pushing and saying, "Help me." But there will be no help forthcoming. This is the time to work. This is the time to do the things that we have put aside. Napoleon said there is a time in the battle when the general that risks more, wins. We have to risk everything. We have to put our necks on the line. We cannot worry about positions; we cannot worry about our future. Let us give ourselves fully, completely, to the Holy Spirit and let us do what we had thought was impossible.

OPENING

Alfredo Garcia-Marenko, Associate Director of the General Conference Youth Department, and his wife, Raquel Garcia-Marenko, led the song service.

The congregation sang the opening hymn, "What A Wonderful Savior."

Jean-Marie Tchoualeu, President of the Central African Union Mission, opened the meeting with prayer.

Andrea Luxton, Associate Director of the General Conference Department of Education, welcomed the attendees to the 2004 Annual Council and introduced the platform participants.

WORSHIP IN MUSIC

Worship in music was provided by Marifel Sigue singing "In the Garden." Her husband Mark Sigue, an office assistant of the General Conference Secretariat, accompanied her on the tenor saxophone.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jan Paulsen, President of the General Conference, presented the keynote address, Living in Anticipation, on Sabbath morning, October 9, as part of the Takoma Park Church Centennial Anniversary. Scripture quotations are taken from the New International Version.

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God

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and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”—Titus 2:11-14

I invite you to look at the two main support pillars on which the future of humanity rests. These are events in time; and God has determined that they will carry the future for all of God’s creation—not just humanity—for on these pillars rests God’s solution to a more comprehensive cosmic challenge. God’s intent is to make the future secure for all. Paul hints at these pillars in Titus 2:11-14. They are, quite simply, the first and the second coming of Christ. One is past: The Bible tells us to get the other one in focus and to live in anticipation of it. Arising out of the first comes our longing for, as well as the power to live in anticipation of, His Second Coming.

The scenario which the New Testament presents of human history is that it is moving rapidly toward a climax at which everything that is evil, hurtful, and destructive will be overcome and wiped out by the forces of good. If the messages of the book of Revelation tell us little else with absolute clarity, this is one message which is unequivocal and clear. Christ is and will be the Victor, and His cause will be vindicated. The age-old battle between Christ and Satan is moving rapidly towards an inevitable and certain conclusion. Our world is coming apart! Just look at what has happened since our last General Conference Session in 2000. At the moment of His most intense suffering, the Redeemer says: “Behold, I make all things new.” And in that new order Christ promises that, “There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”—Rev. 21:3-5, NIV And that is the climax towards which our world is moving relentlessly and unstopably. And we live in anticipation of that moment.

We know it is coming, but we do not know “when”; and we probably should not ask. The more important question for me to ask is: How does the certainty of this scenario affect me and how do I prepare for it? And that is a very personal question, but it is also a corporate one. You will answer for your life, I for mine. But collectively we shall also have to answer for the directions, choices, and values of the community for which you and I have been entrusted with some responsibility.

What can we do and how should we prepare for what is coming? I suggest we look at it in three segments:

1. Personal—This is private and has to do with me as an individual. Paul, writing to Titus, says that the reality of Christ’s Second Coming compels us individually and personally to “. . .say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives.”—Titus 2:12 What does that mean? So many of us find it so difficult to say “No” to anything.

There are very few passages in the New Testament which so vividly set out the moral power of Jesus Christ—the power to change lives—as does this text. This is the moral power both to say “No” and to say “Yes.” Isaiah, similarly, appealed to his people to “. . . Stop doing wrong, learn to do right!”—Isa. 1:16,17, and Paul elsewhere writes: “. . . Hate what is evil, cling to what is good.”—Rom. 12:9 It is an appeal to give up pursuing that which you know to be destructive, debilitating, and degrading to both yourself and those who surround you. Instead, there is so much good that can be done. Basically, what God says to us is: Be a force for good! You know what is good! Ignorance is not the problem of God’s people; disobedience is. Well, use your energy to pursue that which is good.

I am sometimes asked—particularly in conversation with youth: “How do you know whether you should or should not do something? Everyone does it. It is expected. So, what is wrong with it?”—It has to do with what we eat and drink, how we entertain ourselves, and what is moral. It has to do with living life!

There are two kinds of answers for us to consider: First—sometimes, but not always, the Bible gives and objective an absolute standard. The Bible draws the line—there is a clear “Yes” or “No”; it is a “black-and-white” answer—and it is important to know what that is. But many will find that very arbitrary, very cold, very clinical, and, yes, very legalistic. But there is a second kind of answer you also have to look for: As a young person in particular you have to ask yourself: “What is becoming of me as a person? What is happening to me? Is doing what I am considering good for me? Am I going to like myself better afterwards? Will others respect me more? Or, am I in fact doing damage to myself and to my own future, and to those who love me?” In other words, you need to weigh what is happening to your own life, what you are doing to yourself as a person—for as a person you are of inestimable value to our Lord.

What did Paul mean by “worldly passions?” One of the early Fathers, Chrysostom, said that “worldly things” are the things which do not pass over with us into heaven, but are dissolved together with the present world. Surely, one is very short-sighted if one sets all one’s heart and spends all one’s time and energy on that which has to be left behind. But there is an even more basic meaning to the phrase “worldly passions.” These are the things or values of which we are not very proud and would rather not show to God. It is the work of Christ to cleanse us from that which we are ashamed of that God should see. It is the work of Christ to make us presentable! Only He can do it, and He will do it caringly, lovingly, and protectively. He will make you and me fit for God to see. Living in anticipation means inviting Him to “work on me” and get me ready. In describing what it means to live as “Children of light” in anticipation of Christ’s coming, Paul says some very pointed things: “. . . put off falsehood and speak truthfully . . . do not let the sun go down while you are still angry; watch your language; get rid of bitterness, anger, brawling, slander, and malice. Try to be nice, to be kind and compassionate; and try to forgive for you have been forgiven so much.”—Eph. 4: 25-32

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Again, linking it specifically to the Second Coming of Christ, Peter writes: "Since everything will be destroyed . . . make every effort to be found blameless and at peace with him."—2 Peter 3:11,14 The moral power of Christ—the power of His resurrection (which is why we will not let go of the "first pillar")—is not just the power to say "No", but also every bit as much the power to say "Yes"—"Yes" to prudence, to moral goodness, to justice, to reverence before God, and to allowing the fruits of the spirit to develop. It is living in anticipation of Christ's Second Coming which is the reality that drives this. A royal visit is expected; things are to be set in order; house-cleaning is done and made ready for the king to see.

It is important that we note that living in Anticipation of Christ's return is not a negative life style, although clearly there are things we will say "No" to. It is a positive, constructive, and creative life full of energy which reaches out to do good for others and for yourself. A life style which is essentially an exercise in saying "No" to a range of issues is not only a drab, dull, and dark form of living, but is ultimately also unsuccessful. God wants our lives, I believe, to be proactive in search of the good rather than to live negative lives focused on denials. How can one be a happy Christian if all you can focus on is what you have to say "No" to? Paul hints at something more positive when he writes that his deepest longing is to "know Christ and the power of his resurrection" (Philippians 3:10), which is power over death and decay. It means not to be destructive of yourselves or of others. It means to be so united with Christ day by day that we let the values be modeled, be lifted high in our lives, and be seen in the choices we make. His physical resurrection will then assure our bodily resurrection when He returns.

2. As a Community of Faith – Living in anticipation of His Coming—How is life to be experienced within the church between individuals who share the same values and the same hopes? This has a lot to do with relationships—with people treating people. (2 Cor. 2:15) It has to do with people being the "fragrance of Christ." Reflect with me for a few moments on this:

1 Peter 3:8 "live in harmony with one another . . . be sympathetic, compassionate and humble." In my words: Be nice to each other.

The value of courtesy is too little appreciated. Many who are kind at heart lack kindness of manner. Many who command respect by their sincerity and uprightness are sadly deficient in geniality. (Ed. p. 240)

You may be true to principle, you may be just, honest, and religious; but with it all you must cultivate true tenderness of heart, kindness, and courtesy. If a person is in error, be the more kind to him; if you are not courteous, you may drive him away from Christ. (TM p. 151)

James 4:11 “Do not slander one another.” This refers to the habit of making destructive comments about someone else in that person’s absence when he is not there to defend himself. This, a common habit, is condemned throughout Scripture. (See Titus 3:1.)

“Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret, him will I put to silence.” Ps. 101:5 Paul lists slanderers among the evil of the pagan (Rom. 1:30), similarly 1 Peter 2:1 says “Rid yourselves of . . . slander of every kind.”

“He who takes it upon himself to correct others, is likely to cultivate a habit of faultfinding, and soon his whole interest will be in picking flaws and finding defects.”—CD 464 “Cultivate the habit of speaking well of others.”—MH, 492

A statement from Sons and Daughters of God, page 348: “The truly converted man has no inclination to think or talk of the faults of others. His lips are sanctified, and as God’s witness he testifies that the grace of Christ has transformed his heart . . . Those only will enter heaven who have overcome the temptation to think and speak evil.”

To judge another person is to take to ourselves a right to do that which God alone has the right to do; and he/she is a reckless man/woman who deliberately infringes on the prerogatives of God.

“Bear with each other and forgive grievances you may have against one another.”—Col. 3:13

This statement comes in the midst of a list of qualities which God’s chosen people are expected to display. They all have to do with relationships between people. This is the positive side to the “not slandering.”

“So chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. This is your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.”

Jesus, at the moment of his most extreme physical suffering, set the standard for forgiveness when He said: “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” Is there then anything which the follower of Christ should or cannot forgive?

Come together and “encourage one another—and all the more so as you see the day approaching” (Heb. 10:25); and when you do, remember to pray for and support your leaders (Heb. 13: 17,18).

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One of the noblest of human duties is to speak encouragement to each other. It is easy to pour cold water on someone's enthusiasm; it is easy to discourage others. The world is full of discouragers. We have a Christian duty to encourage each other. The going ahead of us is tough. Let us help each other. And when you do that, please, remember your leaders. Life on the podium of leadership can get lonely and chilly. When your leaders make mistakes, just remember that you chose them from among yourselves, and they are not "translated" yet.

3. Outwardly as a Witness to the World which is not of Faith—How is my church as a community, and I as a part of it, we who live in anticipation of His Coming, how are we to relate to those who do not know Christ and do not share His values? The church exists for mission.

a. Jesus taught that there is a work to be done. Time is running out. "Night comes when no one can work."—John 9:4 With an eye to our role as the community of believers, Jesus said we are to be witnesses, and we are to make disciples. And the two are not the same. Being a "witness" is a primary function of telling it as it is—sharing what you have found. Whatever happens next may flow from the witness, but there is the role of witnessing even when we do not have influence on what happens next. In terms of the mission of the Church in the 10/40 Window, this is pretty much where we are. In so many places all we can do is deliver a witness. The human interaction by which we can influence the response is in many places difficult or impossible to have. The Lord and the Spirit are at work, but we may not be able to be part of it and we may not be able to measure what happens. Living in anticipation will always mean to live in mission.

b. Be known in your community as men/women of peace. (Heb. 12:14)
What is he talking about?

First, there is the kind of peace of mind which comes from knowing that you are doing the right thing, you are acting to the best of your knowledge in harmony with what God wants and expects of you. Obedience to God gives peace of mind. It is important to be at peace with yourself.

Second, live in peace with the people you meet and with whom you associate. We remember the well-known injunction of the Lord: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." The word "peace" in the Bible is never a negative word to denote the absence of trouble; it also means to be positively driven to seek man's highest good; not just freedom from trouble, but enjoyment of all that is good, and a sense of being safe.

Peacemakers seek to make this world a better place for all. A statement attributed to Abraham Lincoln says: "Die when I may, I would like it to be said of me, that I always pulled up a weed and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow."

There are people who always seem to be acrimonious, cantankerous, and mean-spirited. There is always a storm center brewing around them. They either quarrel themselves or they cause quarrels between others. They make trouble; they do not solve anything. They are, in fact, doing the devil's work. Then there are those who somehow can bridge the gulf which is there; they heal breaches; they bring sweetness to that which is bitter. They do a God-like work.

We have both kinds in the church.

So, I say to you, a people living in anticipation of Christ's Return: I would so much want those who do not know Christ to know us as kind, caring, and good people.

I take you back to the verse with which we started these thoughts: Titus 2:11-13: "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared . . . It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and savior, Jesus Christ." We are called to live in anticipation of His coming.

Therefore, my prayer is found in 1 Thessalonians 5:23-25 "May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it."

Pardon Kandanga Mwansa, President of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division, opened the business session with prayer.

CALL TO ORDER

Jan Paulsen, President of the General Conference, welcomed the Annual Council invitees.

Matthew A Bediako, Secretary of the General Conference, read Article XIII, Section 2. a. and Article XIII, Section 4. of the General Conference Bylaws which state the constitutional provisions for convening the Annual Council. All conditions had been met. Jan Paulsen then declared the 2004 Annual Council open for the consideration of business.

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AGENDA NOTEBOOK DISTRIBUTION

Agenda notebooks were distributed prior to the meeting.

04AC to MAB

DAILY PROGRAM

VOTED, To adopt the daily program for the 2004 Annual Council, as follows:

6:45 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.	Steering Committee
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Devotional
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Business Session

Lunch

2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Business Session
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SEC/ADCOM/04AC to LRE

152-04G ANNUAL COUNCIL 2004—STANDING COMMITTEES

VOTED, To approve standing committees for the 2004 Annual Council, as follows:

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL TO STANDING COMMITTEES

Ted N C Wilson, Chairman
Vernon B Parmenter, Secretary

Members: James A Cress, Roscoe J Howard III, Dennis C Keith Sr, Orville D Parchment.

NOMINATING

Jan Paulsen, Chairman
Matthew A Bediako, Secretary

Members: Niels-Erik Andreasen, John Andrianasoa, Harold W Baptiste, Reinder Bruinsma, Marta Caceres, Jose Martinho Cagelo, Mario Augusto Calderon, Douglas Clayville, Lowell C Cooper, Luka T Daniel, Wandyr Mendes De Oliveira, C Garland Dulan, Larry R Evans, Laurie J Evans, R Danforth Francis, Ulrich Frikart, Agustin Galicia, Doris C Gratz, Alberto C Gulfan Jr, Sendra Gunawan,

Eric Hepburn, Roscoe J Howard III, Eugene Hsu, Yutaka Inada, Theodore T Jones, Gerry D Karst, Dennis C Keith Sr, Linda Koh, Jairyong Lee, Israel Leito, Robert E Lemon, Jose R Lizardo, Guenther Machel, Geoffrey G Mbwana, Armando Miranda, Jose Moyano, Pardon Mwansa, Nina K H Myrdal, Ruy H Nagel, Vernon B Parmenter, Alex Rajakumar Ponniah, Juan R Prestol,

John Rathineraj, Donald E Robinson, Angel M Rodriguez, Steven G Rose, Amon K Rugelinyange, Flavia Rwabuhoro, Michael L Ryan, Roy E Ryan, Claude Sabot, Charles C Sandefur Jr, Anna A Savchenko, Don C Schneider, Benjamin D Schoun, Mozart Simon Serrant, Houtman E Sinaga, Chester G Stanley, Ken Stanton, Artur A Stele, Vassili D Stoliar, Max A Trevino, Velili S Wakaba, D Ronald Watts, Bertil Wiklander, Ted N C Wilson, Rita U Zirmwabagabo.

STEERING

Jan Paulsen, Chairman
Larry R Evans, Secretary

Members: Harold W Baptiste, Matthew A Bediako, Jose L Campos, Douglas Clayville, Sheri Clemmer, Lowell C Cooper, Rajmund Dabrowski, Mark A Finley, Agustin Galicia, Joseph E Gurubatham, Roscoe J Howard III, Eugene Hsu, William G Johnsson, Theodore T Jones, Gerry D Karst, Howard T Karst, Dennis C Keith Sr, Gary D Krause, Robert E Lemon, Jose R Lizardo,

Armando Miranda, Robert W Nixon, Orville D Parchment, Ruth E Parish, Vernon B Parmenter, Juan R Prestol, Donald E Robinson, Elaine A Robinson, Angel M Rodriguez, Steven G Rose, Michael L Ryan, Roy E Ryan, Claude Sabot, Charles C Sandefur Jr, Don C Schneider, Benjamin D Schoun, Ardis D Stenbakken, Robert L Sweezey, Ted N C Wilson.

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04AC to MAB

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

VOTED, To adopt the agenda as listed in the agenda notebook.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

The mission statement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church was read by the Secretary of the business session.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION—STATEMENT OF ACCEPTANCE

All General Conference Executive Committee members were asked to read the policy, review the foundation statement of ethics, and then sign and return the conflict of interest statement of acceptance.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR MISSION

Michael L Ryan, General Vice President of the General Conference, shared a DVD presentation on Strategic Planning for Mission which underscored the central role leadership must play in the rapidly growing and changing world Church. It is estimated that the Seventh-day Adventist community will number 50 million in 2020 with only 12 percent having been Seventh-day Adventists in 2000. Another major concern facing the Church is the large non-Christian population living in the 10/40 Window.

PRE/PREXAD/ADCOM/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE

140-04G MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH - AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC A 05 05, Mission Statement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, to read as follows:

A 05 05 Our Mission—The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to ~~proclaim~~ communicate to all peoples the everlasting gospel of God's love in the context of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12, and as revealed in the life, death, resurrection, and high priestly ministry of Jesus Christ, leading them to accept Jesus as personal Saviour and Lord and to unite with His remnant church; and ~~nurturing~~ to nurture believers as disciples in preparation for His soon return.

PRE/PREXAD/ADCOM/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE

149-04G VALUES STATEMENT OF THE SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST CHURCH

VOTED, To approve the Values Statement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which reads as follows:

A 10 Values Statement of the
Seventh-day Adventist Church

A 10 05 Our Values—Seventh-day Adventist values are rooted in the revelation of God provided through the Bible and the life of Jesus Christ. Our sense of identity and calling grows from an understanding of Bible prophecies, especially those concerning the time immediately preceding the return of Jesus. Consequently, all of life becomes a growing experience and demonstration of involvement with God and His kingdom.

Our sense of mission is driven by the realization that every person, regardless of circumstances, is of infinite value to God and thus deserving of respect and dignity. Through God's grace every person is gifted for and needed in the diverse activities of the Church family.

Our respect for diversity, individuality, and freedom is balanced by regard for community. We are one—a worldwide family of faith engaged in representing the reign of God in our world through ethical conduct, mutual regard, and loving service. Our faithfulness to God involves commitment to and support of His body, the Church.

GLOBAL EVANGELISM – ELIJAH PROJECT

Mark Finley, Field Secretary of the General Conference, presented a report on the Elijah Project.

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The Elijah Project is a collaborative effort of the Center for Global Evangelism, the General Conference Youth Department, the General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department, and Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) to involve Seventh-day Adventist youth in the presentation of a full-scale, Christ-centered, doctrinal evangelistic series. Thousands of Seventh-day Adventists are now involved in a variety of outstanding service, witness, volunteer, and student missionary projects. It is the desire of those leading the Elijah Project to provide motivation, training, materials, and funding to involve more than 100,000 youth in 7,000 to 10,000 evangelistic teams.

StratPIC/04AC to MLR

155-04G VISION STATEMENT 2005-2010

VOTED, To approve the Vision Statement 2005-2010, which reads as follows:

Vision Statement 2005-2010

To invite each person in the world to respond to the good news about Jesus and His soon coming.

GO 1 MILLION

James W Zackrison, Director of the General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department, reported on the *Go 1 Million* initiative.

When *Go 1 Million* was launched, the goal was to get at least one million members involved in soul-winning activities. The reception of this project in our churches has been overwhelming with over two million members participating.

The *Go 1 Million* Initiative has generated enthusiasm around the world for three reasons: it focuses on *participation* rather than results; it allows the use of existing material already contextualized to local situations, and it offers an easy-to-read kit of materials.

SOW 1 BILLION

Harold W Baptiste, General Vice President of the General Conference, reported on *Sow 1 Billion* initiatives.

Just over twelve months ago, the Church around the world officially embarked on an extraordinary initiative—a plan to blanket the world with invitations to study the Bible.

In the year that has passed, each division has taken up the *Sow 1 Billion* challenge. Many thousands of lives are being changed; not just the lives of those who respond to the invitation to study God's word, but also the lives of church members who are experiencing—many for the first time—the joy of sharing their faith.

It has been wonderful to see how each part of the world Church has taken this simple *Sow 1 Billion* plan and made it their own—adapting it in ways that both reflect the identity of the Church in that region, and fits with the culture in which they are operating.

We praise God for the stories that are flowing in of people who have responded to this invitation to study the Bible.

- The Church in Korea has reported that after handing out two million *Sow 1 Billion* brochures, 40,000 new Bible studies have been requested. They plan to distribute 28 million more invitations!
- The West-Central Africa Division has reported that 122,000 Bible studies have been given so far, with almost 15,000 people making a decision to be baptized.
- A report received recently from the Euro-Asia Division, indicates that it is working toward its goal of distributing 50 million invitations. In the Ukrainian city of Chernovtsy, 150 people—mainly young people—were baptized in June 2004 as a result of responding to a *Sow 1 Billion* invitation to study the Bible.
- In the East-Central Africa Division, more than 4.5 million tracts have been distributed—about a third of their goal. Of those who have received Bible study invitations, about 15 percent have responded positively—almost 700,000.
- As North America continues to distribute its 26 million brochures, the Voice of Prophecy Bible School is reporting a total of almost 20,000 responses so far, with about 2,000 more arriving each month.

My purpose this morning is not to provide a division-by-division report. The story of *Sow 1 Billion* is still unfolding. Its eventual impact is still to be measured.

The original timeline of *Sow 1 Billion* called for a comprehensive report to this Annual Council. However, it has become clear, in communication with division coordinators, that we must allow more time for the distribution phase of *Sow 1 Billion*. For this reason, a more

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comprehensive report will be presented at the 2005 Spring Meeting, and an additional report will also be given at the General Conference Session in St. Louis.

In keeping with the theme of this morning, I have been asked to reflect on the impact of *Sow 1 Billion* on the way the Church approaches outreach. As we look toward the future, what can we learn from this initiative? What have we gained as a Church? What can we build on for the future?

1. Bible Schools—I believe one of the lasting legacies of *Sow 1 Billion* will be a renewed appreciation for our Bible Correspondence Schools around the world. There are 140 Bible Schools in 130 countries, with Bible lessons in more than 70 languages. These schools are an integral—and very effective—part of our Church’s outreach ministry. *Sow 1 Billion* has made it abundantly clear that we need to support and maintain this vital worldwide network.

Sow 1 Billion has also helped prompt the expansion of local church-based Bible Schools. In the planning phase of *Sow 1 Billion*, division Sabbath School and Personal Ministries directors met to determine a goal for setting up Bible Schools in one third of all churches in their regions. And they have made progress. In North America, for instance, there have been more than 300 new church-based Bible Schools added over the past year.

Sow 1 Billion is also a reminder that Bible Correspondence Schools cannot do it all—especially in those areas of the world where the correspondence approach is not cost effective. We need to do more to prepare laypeople for personal, one-on-one witness. We need to continue with efforts such as *Go 1 Million* to equip and train our lay people for outreach.

2. Cooperation between entities—Another legacy of *Sow 1 Billion* is a new spirit of cooperation—a new dynamic—that has been forged between different church entities. *Sow 1 Billion* may have been a simple plan to print and distribute Bible study invitations, but it is a plan that has mobilized an extraordinary range of people, ministries, and institutions worldwide to work together toward this common goal.

Just one example is *Hopetalk*—an international Bible study Web site that was developed to help provide online Bible studies for *Sow 1 Billion*. *Hopetalk* relied on the active support of hundreds of Bible Schools around the world, along with the involvement of many, many lay internet ministries.

3. Innovative approaches to outreach—*Sow 1 Billion* has also sparked new and creative approaches to extending invitations to study the Bible—creative approaches that we should now develop and further explore.

I think of the *Adventist Review*, which produced an electronic version of the *Sow 1 Billion* brochure to be distributed by e-mail; and Adventist World Radio, which produced *Sow 1 Billion* radio advertisements.

In Japan, Seventh-day Adventists ran *Sow 1 Billion* Bible study invitations in 14 national newspapers, including two that were exclusively for children and teens. This was the first time in Japan that a potential reading audience of 35 million had ever seen a message from the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The 15,000 church members in Japan are also hand-distributing 5 million brochures. The union's 140 church-based Bible Schools are reporting an 800 percent increase in requests for Bible lessons over this time last year.

In the South Pacific, the distribution of *Sow 1 Billion* invitations was combined, in some areas, with television advertising, along with a special free video offer. This multi-layered approach has been effective, and the Bible Correspondence School in Sydney is reporting an increase in requests for Bible studies.

The Church in Poland took an innovative approach to designing their brochure. It printed five million invitations featuring short testimonies from two nationally known people from the entertainment industry, who are also church members. It is an approach that's catching the attention of people who would never usually respond to a Bible study invitation. The local *Sow 1 Billion* coordinator is reporting that enthusiasm among church members is running high.

In Norway a Bible study invitation was placed in a book of advertisements and special offers that is delivered to nearly every home in the country—an approach which has resulted in a significant increase in requests for Bible lessons.

4. Emphasis on lay participation—I believe that another lasting legacy of *Sow 1 Billion* will be its emphasis on lay involvement—its invitation to all church member, no matter what their age or background—to become involved in sharing their faith.

This aspect of *Sow 1 Billion* is demonstrated by a story we received recently from Japan. Mr Onaka is a member of a church in Tokyo. He is elderly, and has been battling an illness for some time. He says: "For many years I studied my Bible and helped out at church, and thought that is all I could do for God. But then *Sow 1 Billion* came along. I am so glad that God has given me something more to do." Onaka's hands shake constantly from his illness. Yet, over the past four months he has personally handed out more than 10,000 *Sow 1 Billion* brochures—and he plans to hand out even more!

The dedication of laypeople such as Onaka is being repeated around the world. In South America, where some quarter of a million laypeople are involved in handing out invitations; in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, where in one union, 500,000 brochures were distributed in

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one week; or in The Netherlands, where secondary school students are helping to hand out *Sow 1 Billion* invitations; or in Mongolia, where the 600 church members—all relatively new Seventh-day Adventists—have started their goal of placing a Bible study invitation in every Gur—or traditional round canvas-covered house, in that country.

Let us keep sowing the seeds of the Gospel and by the grace of God we are sure to reap a bountiful harvest of souls for His Kingdom.

DISCIPLESHIP INITIATIVE

Martin W Feldbush, Director of the General Conference Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, reported on the Discipleship Initiative plan of action, along with James W Zackrison, Director of the General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department, and James A Cress, Secretary of the General Conference Ministerial Association.

Part of the strategic planning process of the General Conference is in the process of developing a discipleship initiative. This involves a systematic way to consolidate new members into the church and to devise ways and means of systematic revival for all church members.

The initiative is based on two findings of the various surveys that have recently been carried out. One finding points out that currently only twenty percent of the world Church membership has any Seventh-day Adventist heritage. This indicates a need for an orientation system that will instruct these new converts in the doctrines, organization, history, and lifestyle of a Seventh-day Adventist.

The other finding indicates a need to deepen the spiritual life of all church members regarding prayer life, Bible study, and participation in outreach activities. The discipleship initiative will also address these issues with some practical ideas and resources.

Various entities are working on the development of the initiative at the present time. The final product will probably take the form of a curriculum system that can be contextualized and organized to meet local realities. It will include printed and audio-visual elements.

GLOBAL MISSION

Michael L Ryan, General Vice President of the General Conference, reported on Global Mission.

“Global Strategy of the Seventh-day Adventist Church” proposed to establish by the year 2000 a Seventh-day Adventist presence in every population segment of 1 million.

At this time, there are more than 30 thousand trained Global Mission pioneers worldwide focused on people that must be reached with God’s love. These pioneers have started more than half of the new Seventh-day Adventist congregations around the world since 1990, in cooperation with other church departments and services. Working through these departments and institutions of the world Church and with the supporting ministries of Adventist Laypersons in Services and Industries, the pioneers have turned despair to hope, hate to love, sick have been healed, broken families mended, hungry people fed, and possessed people released.

In 1990, one new member was added to the Seventh-day Adventist Church every sixty-six seconds; in 2002 one new member was added every fifty-five seconds. In 1990, one new Seventh-day Adventist church was planted every 9.30 hours and in 2002, one new church was planted every 1.71 hours.

Global Mission focuses on difficult unentered areas. Projects are funded that nurture, teach, and establish new believers in faith. The Global Mission pioneers work within their own culture, speak the language, eat the same food, live in similar housing, and blend in with the local people. They live there for an extended period of time to help build community and belonging among the new group of believers.

The Christian church spends most of its resources in Christian areas. It has virtually ignored areas of the world—such as the 10/40 Window—where most people have never even heard the name of Jesus. Through Global Mission, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been focusing on the needs of the people in Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, North Korea, Yemen, Syria, Iran, Turkey, Morocco, Somalia, and Algeria.

The vision for the Seventh-day Adventist Church through 2010 is that every person in the world will be invited to respond to the good news about Jesus and His soon coming. Plans and programs are in progress for interdivision employee budgets, mission awareness, material development, leadership training, *Hope for Big Cities*, *Sow 1 Billion*, *Go 1 Million*, Council on Witness and Evangelism, and Discipleship.

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”—Matt 9:36 NIV

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OFFICE OF MISSION AWARENESS

Gary D Krause was introduced as the Director of the General Conference Office of Mission Awareness.

The wide range of ministries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church could not function effectively if it were not for the mission offering. It is the common foundation for mission work of the Church.

Krause stated that the new Office of Mission Awareness will initially focus on three key areas:

1. A Clear Vision for Mission Offering—This is what it does, this is why it does it, and these are the tangible results.
2. Clear Communication—For most Seventh-day Adventists, the mission offering is something of a “black hole.” “A face” needs to be placed on the offering and clearly communicated to church members.

This involves building a culture among church leaders to join together in promoting this offering from which all ministries will benefit.

3. Setting a Financial Goal for Church Members—Seventh-day Adventists must be made aware of the Church’s need to accomplish its goals.

Directors of key communication channels of the Church are currently preparing proposals for promoting the Mission Offering.

The Office of Mission Awareness is working on a statistically significant analysis on current mission offering promotion tools such as the Mission Quarterly.

The Office of Mission Awareness is also developing a broader range by which people can give to the mission offering—beyond just collecting it during Sabbath School. As a first step, the Web site www.adventistmission.org will offer secure online giving by credit card.

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GCDO04AC/04AC to JP

157-04G *ADVENTIST WORLD*

William G Johnson, Editor of the *Adventist Review*, presented a proposal to produce a new monthly global English edition of the *Adventist Review* called *Adventist World* which would reach approximately five million members in the ten divisions where English is a major language. The *Adventist World* would be designed to foster the unity of the world Adventist family. It would be inspiring and energizing to Seventh-day Adventists around the world, and so create a sense of identity and solidarity in the message and mission entrusted to the Church. The estimated cost ranges are from \$2,200,000 to \$2,400,000 annually. The target launch date would be September or October 2005. It was,

VOTED, To approve a new monthly global English edition of the *Adventist Review* called the *Adventist World*.

Jan Paulsen, Chairman
Agustin Galicia, Secretary
Larry R Evans, Editorial Secretary
Janet C Upson, Recording Secretary

ANNUAL COUNCIL
GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 10, 2004, 2:00 p.m.

Gerry D Karst, Chairman, called to order the second session of the 2004 Annual Council.

Prayer was offered by Blasious M Ruguri, Secretary of the East-Central Africa Division.

04AC to GDK

ANALYSIS OF STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES,
AND THREATS (SWOT) SURVEY - REPORT

VOTED, To accept the Analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats, (SWOT) Survey – Report, presented by Roger Dudley, Director of the Institute of Church Ministry for Andrews University, which reads as follows:

In the spring of 2003, the Strategic Planning Commission employed the Institute of Church Ministry of the Theological Seminary at Andrews University to conduct a SWOT analysis among leaders of the Church in the world field. The plan was to request the presidents, executive secretaries, and treasurers of each of the world divisions and of each of the world unions—as well as the presidents of major colleges and universities and the chief executives of selected Seventh-day Adventist hospitals—to complete a questionnaire that would reveal their views on the state of the Church. Given their positions of responsibility and the global nature of the sample, it was presumed that their combined views would represent a fair picture of the present condition of the Church.

Surveys were sent to 408 individuals all over the world, and the leaders were instructed that if they wished some of their departmental directors to complete the survey, they could make copies and have these individuals return the completed surveys to the Institute of Church Ministry. The surveys received from this group totaled 132.

By April of 2004, 294 individuals had returned usable surveys. This represents a 72 percent return rate from the 408 sent out; a remarkable response in a project this wide-spread and complicated. The additional surveys completed brought the total to 426 surveys received or 104 percent return.

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Most responses received were from secretaries, followed by presidents. The response from medical centers was not as it was hoped.

A summary of each area from the survey follows:

Strengths

The two items rated as most important strengths were: *Doctrines Seen by Members as Biblically Based* and *The Overall Message of the Church is One of Hope*. Both of these were rated high by over 90 percent of the respondents. A break of seven points occurs until the next set where eleven items were rated high by 80 to 85 percent. Chief among these were: *A Multi-Cultural Church*, *Sabbath School Study Guides for Various Age Levels*, and *The Tithe-Sharing Plan*.

Eight items were emphasized by 71 to 78 percent. Four more fell in the 60 percent range. Though lower, two items, *Lay Members Who Operate Supportive Ministries and Service Opportunities for International Workers*, were still rated as important or most important by over half of the respondents. Considerably less important was: *Provides Job Opportunities for Some Members* at 38 percent.

An unfortunate typographical error in the survey resulted in the *Adventist Review* being rated as important by only 21 percent. The numbers of the choices were omitted so those completing the survey had to write in the number rather than simply circle a printed number. Only 90 people out of the 426 who answered noticed this. The list of means reveals that the average rating on a five-point scale was 3.83, placing it in the twenty-fifth place rather than last.

Weaknesses

In general, weaknesses were not rated as serious to the extent that strengths were rated as important. Leading the way: *Great Loss of Young People to the Church* was seen as crucial by 82 percent. Other items of concern to approximately three-fourths of the respondents were: *Minimal Growth in Post-Modern, Secular, Affluent Societies*, *Only 50 Percent of Membership Involved in Bible Study and Prayer* (findings in world survey), *Limited Financial Resources in Areas of Rapid Church Growth* (forecasting the future document), *Poor Retention Rates of New Converts*, and *Lack of Programs of Stability in New-Growth Areas*.

The greatest perceived weakness: *Great Loss of Young People to the Church*, seems appropriate given the findings of the ten-year longitudinal study of youth retention in the North American Division that 40 to 50 percent of baptized teenagers leave the church or become inactive by the time they are in their mid-twenties. Apparently, other divisions are experiencing similar problems.

Only two items were considered serious by less than 50 percent: Difficulty to Communicate to Church Hierarchies and Off-Shoot or Fringe Movements each at 47 percent. Of some interest, given the history of recent struggles: Few Women in Leadership was rated a serious problem by 56, placing 17th among the 28 items ahead of such problems as Growing Spirit of Congregationalism, Failure to Produce Materials in Many Languages, and Spirit of Independence without Concern for the Larger Body.

Opportunities

All opportunities were rated "important" or "most important" by the majority of respondents. At the top of the list was: New Openness to the Message in Many Places, rated high by 80 percent. Four others: Wider Access to Technology for Rapid Communication, People in Transition more Susceptible to the Gospel, Reach Closed Areas Through Radio, and Enter New-People Groups were chosen as important by 72 to 76 percent.

Unfilled Service Opportunities in the World drew the fewest important ratings but was still rated by 59 percent.

Threats

How serious are threats from the outside world? Of the 12 suggested possibilities, 78 percent rated Strong Press for Materialism and Secularism in the World as most crucial. Another two-thirds saw: World Population Grows Faster than the Adventist Membership, Increasing Poverty Worldwide as especially serious.

Rated most serious by only a minority of respondents were: The General Social Turmoil Caused by AIDS (46 percent), World Prejudice to Christianity (46 percent), and Church Viewed as a North American Church (45 percent).

Conclusion

World leaders tended to rate most strengths and opportunities as "important" or "most important" and most weaknesses and threats as "serious" or "most serious." Out of the 81 items covering all four categories, 72 of them were given top ratings by a majority of the respondents. This suggests that the world Church has a very large agenda to engage. Yet, in spite of the tendency to see most things as important, enough variation was discovered to allow the church to set priorities. The church faces large challenges in retaining its youth, speaking to the secular mind, dealing with population growth, and encouraging members to remain faithful by maintaining a rich devotional life.

Following the presentation of the report, discussion followed from various individuals.

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04AC to MAB

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Matthew A Bediako, Secretary of the General Conference, presented the following report:

Welcome! It is my privilege to welcome you to the last Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee of the quinquennium.

A special welcome goes to the presidents of Botswana Union Mission and the Central Brazil Union Conference. These two new unions were inaugurated on January 15, 2004 and May 4, 2004 respectively.

We also want to congratulate the Zambia Union Conference for a change in status—from union mission to union conference.

Since this is the last Annual Council before the 58th General Conference Session at St Louis, Missouri, we will be discussing many items that will become the agenda for the Session.

Attendance—Again, let me remind you of the importance of attending ALL the business sessions of this Annual Council.

It is our hope that we will have 100 percent attendance at the 2005 General Conference Session. This will avoid the embarrassment we had at the last Session. To achieve this goal, the General Conference Administrative Committee has recommended that no business session convene during the afternoon of Wednesday, July 6, 2005. This will enable all delegates to visit the General Conference Session Exhibit area. We have sent word to all the divisions and organizations not to assign any accredited delegate to be in charge of any booth.

Visas—As you are aware, the United States Immigration Service's regulations and requirements have significantly changed since September 11, 2001 (9/11). Some of you have written to indicate that it may be impossible for accredited delegates to secure a visa in order to attend the Session.

I want to thank the division secretaries for their work in getting the names of the appointed delegates to us on time. We have found some incomplete information and irregularities and have asked the divisions concerned to help us get all the information needed as soon as possible.

Our plan is to send the approved list to each consulate where you will apply for the visas.

It is our hope that by November 1, invitation letters will be at your division offices. We were planning to give them to you by the end of these meetings, but we have been advised that these letters are to be signed personally and notarized. We will do our best to get them out as soon as possible.

Growth—The Lord has been good to His Church and has blessed growth initiatives, namely—*Go 1 Million, Sow 1 Billion, and Year of Evangelism*. The initial results of these activities are very encouraging.

For the second time in the history of the Church, we are reporting that over one million have joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in a single year. The number for this past year is 1,006,492. On the average, 2,756 souls are baptized daily. This brings the world membership to 13,663,497.

The members of the Millennia Club are:

Inter-America	2,504,422
South America	2,345,555
East-Central Africa	2,068,322
Southern Africa-Indian Ocean	1,765,578
Southern Asia Pacific	1,120,163

At the end of the second quarter, June 30, the North American Division's membership was 998,450. This is only 1,550 short of a million. I am happy to announce to you that the North American Division's membership has now reached the one million mark!

Membership Retention—I would like to call your attention to the high number of church members who are reported as lost or dropped. For example, at the 2003 Annual Council, 958,804 joined the church through baptism or by profession of faith. The net growth was 561,524 which means 397,280 left. This year 1,006,492 have joined the church, but the net membership is 508,259. That means 498,233 have already left.

It is true that some of the divisions have had a membership audit, but the total membership is still high. The statistical report will give us the gains and losses for the past five years for each division. You will see that our average retention rate is about 70 percent.

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Although we would like to see the retention rate increase, we need to make sure our figures are accurate. I am appealing to the divisions who have not done a membership audit to do so as soon as possible. Remember, the conservation of the harvest is as important as the reaping of the harvest. Let us go and look for those who have left us and bring them back to the fold.

Northern Asia-Pacific Division

This division continues to advance the cause of God throughout its territory.

Mongolia - Under the leadership of Dale Tunnell, the field is growing by leaps and bounds. As of June 20, 2004, the membership stands at 607 with 20 congregations. Most of these have been established through the efforts of Global Mission, 1,000 Missionary Movement, and Gospel Outreach volunteers. The plan is to organize a total of three churches and four companies by the end of 2004.

ADRA - Mongolia continues to support development and relief in the country. Some innovative projects include well restoration, adventure-based learning, chicken farming, reintegration of school drop-outs, and teaching sign language to the deaf.

Japan - Seventh-day Adventists in Japan are experiencing phenomenal results after taking a unique approach to *Sow 1 Billion*. Based on studies indicating that the Japanese are the most prolific newspaper readers in the world, a plan emerged to print in newspapers the *Sow 1 Billion* invitation to study the Bible. The advertisement ran in 14 newspapers, including two that are exclusively for children and teens. This was the first time in Japan that a potential reading audience of 35 million had ever seen a message from the Church. As a result, the number of Bible study requests has increased from 135 in 2003 to 1,100 in 2004.

The 140 church-based Bible schools in the Japan Union are doing everything possible to meet the rising demand. In May 2004, the first printing of Bibles at Japan Publishing Press took place. Three thousand copies were sold out immediately. The Union also printed five million *Sow 1 Billion* brochures for personal distribution by members.

Korea - The Korean Union centennial celebration will be held on November 5 and 6, 2004. As a monument to the commemoration, the Korea Publishing House is printing the 12-volume set of the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* in the Korean language.

The Korean Union continues to send pastors and their families to Japan as intradivision workers to plant churches. The plan is to send another five families to Taiwan.

ADRA - Korea sent 26,000 garments to North Korean victims of the train explosion which occurred on April 22, 2004. About 100,000 units of soybean drink valued at \$28,300 were sent to the victims near the northern border of China. This was sponsored by church members in Korea.

The Seventh-day Adventist language schools continue to grow. This year there are 37 schools with 44,000 students and about 700 teachers—both expatriate and national. During the past year 1,000 people have been baptized through this program.

Taiwan - The fire of evangelism has been ignited in this mission. Under Robert S Folkenberg, Jr., 51 evangelistic meetings will be conducted before the end of the year.

A conference candidacy survey team has made a recommendation to the division for the mission to become a conference.

East-Central Africa Division

In spite of the challenges of political instabilities, wars, drought, illiteracy, and economic declines, God's mighty hand has not been short in His work.

The membership of the East-Central Africa Division stands at 2,044,567. That is an increase of 37,023 during the first two quarters of 2004. Officers and departmental personnel on every level of the church have either finished or are still conducting, evangelistic meetings.

Sow 1 Billion - The program was launched in Tanzania by the General Conference president last November and since then our members have been knocking on doors with materials to pass out. To date, five million tracts have been distributed throughout the division. Over 150,000 Bible studies are being conducted.

Over 3,000 baptisms have been recorded by the six institutions of higher learning within the division. These are the results of Week of Spiritual Emphasis and outreach programs.

The women in the East-Central Africa Division are heavily engaged in public evangelism, which has resulted in 700 baptisms.

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Ethiopia - The Lord continues to work miracles in Ethiopia. Evangelistic campaigns and revival meetings are going on. There are now thirteen churches in Addis Ababa. This is a new day in Ethiopia.

Rwanda - Two mission fields in Rwanda have applied for conference status.

Division Office - The East-Central Africa Division office building project is progressing well and it is hoped the contractor will be able to meet the March 2005 deadline.

Southern Asia-Pacific Division

We have received the following report from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division.

Philippines - Evangelism and church growth continue to figure prominently in the three Philippine unions. Membership of the three unions is about 900,000 and comprises 75 percent of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division membership of 1.2 million. Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of the beginning of Adventist work in the Philippines. Preparations are underway to mark the special occasion—notably the series of simultaneous evangelistic meetings to be held throughout the country.

The centennial celebration of the three Philippine unions highlights the imbalanced distribution of membership in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. The two Indonesian unions have about 200,000 members and the rest of the division membership is scattered among the remaining 16 countries. In other words, 92 percent of membership is concentrated in only two countries and about 8 percent are found in 16 countries. The lopsided membership distribution is a cause of concern and demands rethinking of our current strategic plan. We feel that more of our resources, both human and financial, should be directed to these 16 countries, most of which are located in the 10/40 Window.

Vietnam - Vietnam has remained a Communist country since the unification between north and south Vietnam in 1975. The government acknowledges the presence of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the country but official recognition has yet to be given. The membership in Vietnam numbers about 7,000. Since the country “turned red” some 30 years ago, ministerial training has not been permitted. Outsiders are also not allowed to teach or conduct training classes to pastors or ministerial students in the country. Recently, however, the government has given permission to the church for limited ministerial training in Ho Chi Min City. We praise the Lord for this new development which will undoubtedly infuse much needed new blood to the ailing ministerial work force in Vietnam.

Bangladesh - This country has been a major subject of prayers in August when monsoon rains and unprecedented flooding ravaged the country. Two thirds of the country was under

water and 30 million people were displaced. Our college was not spared either. The school's income-generating projects such as the vegetable gardens, rice plantation, orange orchard, and fish ponds were wiped out.

Thailand - Thailand, a predominantly Buddhist country, has been resistant to the gospel. Unbeknown to us, however, the Lord has quietly worked in the background—moving upon the hearts of the Thais. Last year a group of Sunday-keeping churches decided to become Seventh-day Adventists after about ten of their pastors were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This year another 85 Sunday churches are poised to convert to Adventism as well!

Euro-Africa Division

At the end of the second quarter, the membership of the Euro-Africa Division was 171,076. This represents many faithful brothers and sisters living and hoping for the second coming of Christ. It is a joy to realize for the first time that all the unions recorded a net increase in membership.

For the Year of Evangelism, some countries within the division have held nationwide evangelistic meetings.

Romania had 136 guest evangelists from the western world. One hundred fifty Romanian young people conducted evangelistic series with great success. In Bulgaria, over 20 evangelistic meetings were held.

These activities within the division also attracted more of our young people to participate in mission outreach in the three Africa divisions and in Inter-America.

Theological schools in Europe have included in their curriculum, Practical Evangelism for both abroad and at home.

In Portugal, the town authorities of Loule invited the Seventh-day Adventist Church to come with its youth and young adults to deliver programs for the town's 11th missionary summer youth camp. With a health expo, youth actions, and an hourly children's program in the town square, people were attracted and new friends were made. In the evening, those interested were invited to attend evangelistic meetings.

An increasing number of young people and adults are looking for opportunities to serve as volunteers. During 2004, many have volunteered for ADRA, community education, as well as evangelistic missionary services.

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Finally, a great challenge in the Euro-Africa Division is to be able to keep up with the possibilities opening in the Muslim countries. There are needs for trained personnel who can communicate with these people and for suitable materials to be distributed. New ways are needed to be able to respond promptly to requests to study the Bible.

West-Central Africa Division

The quinquennium evangelistic program of the division, called *Blow the Trumpet*, is sounding loudly in the 10/40 Window countries of the West-Central Africa Division territory.

Niger - Niger is a country with 95 percent of the population being Muslims. In 1994, Elie Weick went to the capital city of Niamey to hold an evangelistic meeting. He was attacked by the people and was almost killed. Today, with the help of ADRA, God has opened the door and a company has been established in Niamey with a church building and 14 precious souls.

Chad - Chad is located in the 10/40 Window area. The division staff selected the country as a targeted project. The first group has already finished its meetings and the Lord blessed with 138 souls. The second group is conducting meetings right now, and the third group will have meetings in November. It is anticipated that many souls will be won for the kingdom of God.

Benin - The country of Benin is known as the world-wide kingdom of voodoo. Gabriel Boakye-Dankwa, the division evangelist, conducted meetings in Cotonou, the capital city, last December. Two hundred and fifty-seven souls were won for the kingdom of God.

Nigeria - Luka Daniel, the division president, chose to blow his trumpet in the city of Kaduna, North Nigeria. This is the city where Christians and Muslims clash almost every day and many lives have been lost. In spite of the threat to kill him, the Lord protected and at the end of the meetings, 115 precious souls were baptized.

In November last year, Don Schneider, president of the North American Division, conducted a successful satellite campaign in Aba, East Nigeria. More than 12,000 souls were baptized.

Ghana - With the help of guest evangelists, students and staff of universities and colleges from North America, 70 evangelistic campaigns were conducted in the months of August and September, resulting in the baptism of more than 7,600 souls.

South Pacific Division

The division leaders have met their own challenge to participate in at least one evangelistic program this year. The leaders issued the challenge to church members during the launching of the Year of Evangelism last November.

Solomon Islands - Laurie Evans, president of the division, joined the division ministerial secretary to present a three-week evangelistic series in the capital of the Solomon Islands. The governor-general of the island opened and closed the meetings. Over 4,000 people attended each meeting and 1,500 responded to a call for baptism.

Papua New Guinea - The division executive secretary, Barry Oliver, returned to New Britain New Ireland Mission in Papua New Guinea, where he had previously served as president of the mission. His meetings drew about 4,000 people to each meeting. The powerful public address system enabled the inmates of a correctional service center, located about a kilometer away, to hear the messages. Thirty of the inmates joined 1,200 others in making a decision to be baptized at the conclusion of these meetings.

The number of Seventh-day Adventists in Papua New Guinea may increase dramatically this year, thanks to members of the Church's Institute of Public Evangelism.

Australia and New Zealand - The Australian and New Zealand based ministers accepted invitations to conduct meetings. More than 2,000 people have requested baptism as a result of these meetings. In line with the 2003 Annual Council action, these pastors took more than 1,500 Bibles with them. These were donated by their home churches. They are also providing financial support to 15 church members who are doing a follow-up meeting for these interests.

Kids Light Up Your World - This is an initiative to enable children to have an opportunity to make a commitment to Jesus Christ during the Year of Evangelism. The children have a program to reach other children in their communities. *Kids Light Up Your World* aims to encourage local churches to pray for unchurched children, revitalize children's Bible study, and organize evangelistic programs for the children.

Light Up Australia - This is another initiative for the church members in Australia. It is a challenge to conduct 1,000 Prophecy Seminars across the nation this year. *Light Up Australia* is to challenge members to run seminars in their homes and work places.

The Church is also challenging each Seventh-day Adventist school to run seminars for over 4,000 non-Adventist students who attend our schools. The first Sabbath of every month is a focus on prayer for the success of the program. CDs containing Power Point slides of the Prophecy Seminar are being offered free to members.

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About 150 indigenous Australians have attended Prophecy Seminar training sessions. The goal is for the indigenous Seventh-day Adventist to conduct 50 Prophecy Seminars this year.

Adventists in the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea have taken the Year of Evangelism very seriously. Their goal is to conduct 1,000 evangelistic meetings this year. The first three months of this year were set aside for prayer. They have already conducted about 700.

The Adventist Professionals Association is sponsoring 109 missionaries to previously unentered areas. More than 340 people have been baptized as a result of this initiative.

South American Division

The ten South American Division unions have worked, and continue to work, under the motto *Integrated Evangelism*. The objective of this program is to integrate all the Church's effort and resources to fulfill the mission of the Church in a three-stage process:

1. **Planting:** During this period, the churches are to pray for their family members, neighbors, and friends through the plan of intercessory prayer; asking the Lord to touch the hearts of these individuals. They are also to share the truth with them through the Bible study plan.
2. **Cultivating:** During this period, the small groups, Bible instructors, and the church in general work with their interested individuals, using Bible study courses covering the doctrines for about three to four months.
3. **Reaping:** This is a special week in which the churches prepare for a week of reaping. Individuals who have already made a decision are invited to the local church, stadium, or big hall for a reaping program.

Following are some of the results:

Peru Union - The Union's reaping campaign was held from July 4 to 18, with the involvement of all the fields within the union under the theme *Caravan of Hope*. This massive mobilization included more than 1,000 preaching centers where the message of Jesus was heard by thousands of people. At the end of the meetings, 37,300 souls were baptized. There are more people getting ready for another mass baptism. Alejandro Bullon participated in four of the nine union fields.

Bolivia Union - Under the theme *Hope is Jesus*, the Bolivia Union held its reaping campaign at a national level from September 11 to 18 in a stadium. Nightly attendance was about 35,000. The program was directed by Alejandro Bullon. His messages were broadcast

live via satellite to the entire Bolivian country. It is expected that about 17,000 people will be baptized.

Chile Union - The union is preparing a reaping campaign on a national level next quarter. This massive mobilization will be unprecedented for the country. The message will be broadcast on an open TV channel. In addition, 260 preaching sites will receive the broadcast.

The rest of the unions are preparing to hold their meetings.

Southern Asia Division

God has abundantly blessed the labors of pastors, evangelists, hundreds of lay members, and Global Mission pioneers. A total of 114,863 new believers joined the remnant church through baptism during the year under review. We praise God for the marvelous increase in the growth of the Church in the Southern Asia Division.

East Central India Union - With financial assistance by the McNeilus family, ASI, and Maranatha Volunteers, the tuition-free school for the blind in Bobbili has new facilities. The school has 100 students now, but it is expected to reach 300 soon.

After the dedication service, one could see the expression and smiles of these children as they entered their rooms and touched their first bed, mattress, and pillow. They had never had these before. The school provides computer courses for the blind children.

A complete Baptist Church Joins Adventist Church in Northeast India Union – Two years ago two Global Mission pioneers and the area pastor visited a village in the Northeast India Union. They had heard that there were some Christians in this village. During the visit, they went from house to house, meeting the people and praying for the families. Three families showed great interest in their visit and asked them to come back. They indicated that it had been a long time since they had a visit from their Baptist pastor. They expressed the desire to have Bible studies. The Global Mission pioneers went back to the village and started Bible studies with the people. When they found out the truth about Sabbath from the Bible, they decided to keep the Bible Sabbath. As a result, about 14 people are ready for baptism.

Church Growth in Gujarat - The state of Gujarat is one of the well-developed areas in India. However, the people of the state experienced the worst disturbance in 2002. Thousands of innocent people fell victim to the command to kill. This was a setback to the gospel work. However, the division has chosen Gujarat as one of the priority places where it hopes Maranatha will be able to help build churches. The doors are wide open in Gujarat today, in spite of much

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opposition. It is believed that nothing will stabilize the work in Gujarat more than to see a simple church built in each of the villages where there are new members. In fact, as is usually the case, the membership increases as soon as the church is built and this brings calls from many surrounding villages for gospel workers to teach our message. The division appreciates what Maranatha has done in building hundreds of churches in other parts of India, thus putting the work in those areas on a very solid foundation.

During the past four years, membership in Gujarat has reached 15,000 of which nearly two thirds are members worshipping in new congregations where churches are badly needed. In order to capitalize on the opportunities in Gujarat, a new region is being formed this year to open up work in the Sarashtra area.

Euro-Asia Division

Ukrainian Union Conference - The Euro-Asia Division midyear meetings were held in the city of Chernovtsy from May 14 to 22. It was planned to have business meetings during the day. In the evenings, all the leaders attending the midyear meetings conducted revival programs in 36 churches. Before these meetings started, the church members had conducted Bible studies and prepared the people for the reaping meetings. Over 150 souls were baptized as a result.

Southern Union Conference - On May 27, 2004, the pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Turkmenistan received a telephone call from the Ministry of Justice requesting the submission of documents for the registration of the church. A certificate has already been issued.

Moldova Union Conference - Five years ago there were only nine Pathfinders in Moldova, but there are now 100 Master Guides. Each one has a number of Pathfinder groups. Because of great interest in the churches, a Pathfinder Congress was held in Moldova. Many seminars were conducted to prepare the youth to work for other young people.

East Russian Union - Evangelistic meetings conducted in the city of Barnaul resulted in establishing two new churches—one with 100 members and the other with 130 members. The first church, which was organized a long time ago, has only 70 members.

A miracle took place to enable a couple to hear the Seventh-day Adventist message. The family was from a town not far away from Barnaul. Their car broke down and they could not find the parts to repair the vehicle. While they were at the mechanic's garage, they heard about the meetings. They attended the first meeting and became interested. It would be three weeks until the car would be ready. They attended the meeting every night until the end of the campaign. The family was baptized and now they have gone to their town as missionaries.

The members of the church prayed for a musician to join the church so they could have music. Four days before the close of the meetings, a lady who was a member of a charismatic group came to the meetings. The message she heard reminded her of a book she had bought some years back. She decided to be baptized and now the church has a musician.

Trans-European Division

The Trans-European Division focuses on evangelism, discipleship, and church planting through all available avenues. This division is one of the most diverse divisions in the world and the Church is implementing various approaches in its effort to make a difference in all the fields. The effort has resulted in a net growth of its membership by 5.32 percent since last Annual Council.

British Union - As part of the evangelistic strategy of the union, the LIFEdevelopment.info was launched with cooperation from the division. It is a program intended to create a "lifestyle" that results in friendship evangelism, targeting the post-modern mindset. Accompanying the LIFEdevelopment.info program is the LIFE.info magazine. It has been enthusiastically received by the public. The manager of a well-known hotel in England purchased 200 copies to place them in rooms and lounges of the hotel. A London church ordered 4,000 copies to distribute in their immediate community.

On January 1, a commercial satellite started to beam the Seventh-day Adventist message to European homes alongside BBC World and Europe News.

Hope Channel is now available on the Hotbird Satellite with a potential audience of over 30 million in Europe, Middle East, and North Africa.

Sudan - One thousand people join the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sudan every year. That is 2.75 per day. Until recently, there was only one trained Sudanese pastor to serve 6,000 church members.

On January 30, 2004, a new pastoral training center was opened at Arua, Uganda for the Church in South Sudan. The center is situated just 45 minutes from the southern Sudanese border and is strategically located on the compound for the regional headquarters of the South Sudan Mission. The goal for the training center is to provide a structured education for the pastors. It is a six- to eight-year program which combines intensive instruction and still allows the pastors to continue their work in the field.

On June 14, an aircraft, loaded with 35 metric tons of relief items, including blankets, food, tents and medicine, arrived at Makjar Refugee Camp in Darfur. The aid was provided by ADRA and nine other organizations.

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The escalating humanitarian and security crises in Darfur has resulted in the destruction of several of our churches and Global Mission Centers.

In spite of their difficulties and constant threat to personal security, our members are eagerly gathering for worship services in the evenings when the sun goes down.

Pakistan Union - Through ADRA funding, Karachi Adventist Hospital has been able to refurbish part of the hospital as well as the hostel for the nursing students.

The first Youth Congress in Pakistan since 1967 was held at the Adventist Seminary in Farooqabad, February 20-22, 2004. More than 500 Adventist youth attended.

Iraq - In the midst of continual lawlessness and a degree of ambiguity about what the future holds for all religious minorities in Iraq, a new church was dedicated on November 1, 2003 in Mosul. This town is considered the cradle of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Iraq, as it was here the first church was established in March 1923. Because of civil conflict in the area, the membership moved to Baghdad. The leadership of the church is anxious to open more churches in the area as opportunities arise.

On September 10, a car bomb exploded outside the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Baghdad. As there were no services in progress at the time, nobody was injured. Unfortunately, it appears to have been a deliberate attack. This is the second time the church has sustained bomb damage within a year.

European Youth Congress - More than 3,000 youth took part in the European Youth Congress held in Poland, August 4 to 8, 2004. The theme *Time 4 Action*, was a call for young people to commit themselves to the Lord. The youth came from 30 different countries, representing a variety of cultures and languages of Europe—yet they were unified in both purpose and action.

Mission Camp in Hungary - Over 1,000 people participated in this year's mission camp held in Hungary. It is the sixth year this major training and spiritual event has been conducted. One of the main emphases this year was church planting. The participants attended a wide range of workshops to develop skills in sharing their faith.

North American Division

The next of the division's series of Net Evangelism programs is the Net 2004, *Experience the Power* thrust. It began on October 2, and is being broadcast live to more than 500 locations throughout the division from Miracle Temple in Baltimore. The evangelist is Walter Pearson, speaker-director of the Breath of Life Television Ministries.

The Faith on Fire North American Division Pathfinder Camporee attracted more than 30,000 attendees—twice the population of its host city Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Don Schneider, the division president, was in attendance. He made an offer to the Pathfinders: “Pray with a stranger, and I’ll offer you a trading pin.” He was mobbed frequently by praying Pathfinders.

Pacific Union Youth Rush Megabook Program - The Pacific Union Youth Rush is one of the fastest growing youth ministries in the Union. When the ministry started seven years ago, there were a handful of students involved. Today, there are 250 to 300 students placing over 100,000 truth-filled books in homes during summer and winter. Sixty-five to seventy percent of their sales of over a million dollars is available for Christian education. But this is only the beginning. Students survey customers for Bible study interests. After that, student Bible workers follow up with Bible studies. This has resulted in many baptisms.

Arizona Project - Exciting things continue to happen in the Arizona Conference. All the Spanish churches are involved in Mega-Arizona, a thrust to baptize hundreds of people. These dedicated pastors and enthusiastic lay people are holding 900 DVD meetings in homes. On October 16 to 23, there will be a large reaping campaign held in the gymnasium of a local community college.

Northwest Native America Breakthrough - Years of prayerful dreams, thousands of volunteer hours, and a \$20,000 appropriation from the division are beginning to pay off in a cutting edge Adventist ministry to the Native Americans. A new nature-themed church and multipurpose center has been completed. It houses a vibrant church body with weekly services. It has quickly become a center of focus for the Native people on the reservation.

Missions Abroad Program - The ten hospitals in the Columbia Union have, through the union’s Mission Abroad program, reached out to help other Adventist hospitals around the world. Physicians, nurses, and hospital administrators have donated their skills and knowledge to strengthen delivery of medical care and improve hospital managements. Hospitals in India, Trinidad, Guyana, Venezuela, Tanzania, Nigeria, and Lesotho have been assisted.

Special Evangelistic Efforts and Initiatives - Special evangelistic efforts and initiatives are being planned by the Greater New York Conference to reach the diverse ethnic groups in New York City. Beyond reaching those who speak English, Spanish, and French, international evangelistic efforts are being employed to reach Jews, Muslims, Filipinos, Indian-Pakistanis, and Russians. Let us continue to pray for these initiatives.

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Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division

Organizational Growth - The division officially organized its eighth union on January 15, when the Botswana Union Mission was established with headquarters in Gaborone, the capital of the country. The union is comprised of the North and South Fields, with a total membership of 23,805. It covers a vast territory, but with a relatively small population of 1,600,000, among whom are the bushmen of the arid Kalahari region.

During August 12 to 15, the Zambia Union was officially organized as a union conference. It is the third union conference in the division and the fourth on the continent of Africa. It is also the largest union in the division with a membership of 441,746 and a growth rate of 7.25 percent. According to the 2003 statistics, baptisms and accessions through profession of faith were up by 15.12 percent over the previous year. One out of 22.6 Zambians is a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In January of this year, Angola's North-East Mission was established, since the North Mission membership was too large for adequate care and proper management. The headquarters office is located in the port city of Nampula.

Division Advisories - Three departments have successfully completed their advisories.

The Health Ministries Advisory was held in Bloemfontein, South Africa. The theme was *Our Health Message: Empowered to Accomplish Its Mission*. One of the main outcomes was the proposal to establish a new Division Health System Governance and Management Structure.

The Public Affairs and Religions Liberty Department conducted a highly successful and well-attended advisory from March 9 to 12. The advisory brought together a number of Seventh-day Adventists serving in high profile positions in all the countries of the division:

1. From Angola, the third vice president of the National Assembly is a dedicated Sabbath School teacher.
2. From the country of Botswana, a number of Cabinet members and 10 members of Parliament are Seventh-day Adventists.
3. In Malawi, the country's chief justice and two judges are staunch Seventh-day Adventists.

More than 80 educational administrators came together on May 19 and 20 for the Education Advisory, under the theme *Independent, Invaluable, Indispensable*. Uppermost in the discussions was the need for the schools to operate independently of state funding and control

wherever possible, and to foster a division-wide move towards greater self-reliance and self-support among educational institutions.

Festival of the Laity - A highlight of the division calendar for 2004 was the Festival of the Laity held in Zambia. Five hundred delegates attended. The goal was to provide training in various methods of personal and public evangelism. Progress reports were given on initiatives such as *Go 1 Million, Sow 1 Billion*, and the *Year of Evangelism 2004*. During these meetings, the elected staff of the division made a personal commitment to conduct a campaign this year. Already a number of the staff has finished their meetings and the Lord has blessed with many baptisms.

Inter-American Division

With the theme, *Living His Life*, 1,500 youth, laity and pastors from the Inter-American Division met in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from June 22 to 26 to participate in the "First Evangeliving Symposium."

The objectives reached were:

1. To consult, inspire, integrate, and train the youth and laity attending the symposium to live and share the gospel in a permanent Christian climate.
2. To compile the impressions of the people attending in relation to their vision for the contemporary Seventh-day Adventist Church.
3. To introduce innovative methods to evangelize and consolidate the new believers.
4. To facilitate the reproduction of this symposium and its objectives in each union of the Inter-American Division territory.

The program was made up of inspiring messages by youth, laity, and pastors; interactive seminars; reports from all the unions on "Evangeliving"; time for praise, musical groups; feedback forum; service projects for the community and a model as a replica of this event.

On Sabbath, June 26, Jan Paulsen, General Conference President, invited more than 12,000 Seventh-day Adventist members who met at the Palacio de los Deportes (Sports Arena), to let their light so shine and to live their faith—projecting the transforming power of the gospel in their lives and actions.

God is providing the necessary means for the preaching of the Word in a shocking way and with the speed needed for these times in which we are living.

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The Venezuela-Antilles Union was blessed with a miracle from the Lord. The Venezuelan government granted the Seventh-day Adventist Church five regional television channels through which the preaching of the Word is done 24 hours a day. A great part of the Venezuelan territory is being covered through these television channels with the preaching of the Third Angel's Message.

The union administrators have signed a contract to present the message through an inter-cable channel. In this manner, 80 percent of the Venezuelan territory is being reached through television in the Venezuela-Antilles Union.

Interdivision Personnel Departures

In your agenda book, you will find the statistics regarding interdivision employees, appointees, and volunteers.

1. Current Calls as of September 1, 2004

You will notice the sections titled, Conference and Mission Organizations, Educational Organizations, Medical Organizations, and Publishing. Beside each division in these categories listed, you will find the number of current calls adding to a total of 71 for employees and 311 for volunteers.

2. Departure for Interdivision Service Around the World – 2003

Out of a total of 684, there were 142 new appointees and 542 furlougees and optional annual leaves.

3. Division Source for Interdivision Personnel – December 31, 2003

This table tells from which division they have come or from which division they have gone to work.

4. Current Interdivision Employees from Divisions Other Than North America – December 31, 2003

The records indicate that 577 interdivision employees came from divisions other than North America.

5. Current Interdivision Employees from North America

The table gives a figure of 447 interdivision employees from North America who are serving in other divisions. I am happy to report that the North American Division also has 111 employees from other divisions. This means that all the divisions are making contributions in the interdivision venture and today we can actually say “from everywhere to everywhere.”

6. Division Source for Adventist Volunteers - December 31, 2003

This table reveals that 1,863 volunteers went out to serve the world Church. Three divisions—South Pacific Division, North American Division, and the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division—are the major contributors.

04AC to MAB

ARCHIVES AND STATISTICS - REPORT

Bert B Haloviak, Director of the General Conference Archives and Statistics Department, presented the following report:

Baptisms Surpass One Million

For the second time in its Annual Council reporting history, the world divisions reported baptisms that surpassed one million. The 1,006,492 baptisms during the past four quarters meant that on the average, every day within that period 2,756 believers accepted the everlasting gospel and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The resulting total of 13,663,497 baptized members means that there are currently 468 people populating our planet for every baptized Seventh-day Adventist. That ratio only a decade ago was 669 to one. Indeed, if current projections hold, a decade from now there will be a ratio of 301 general population for every Seventh-day Adventist. (See insert “World Population and Membership—History and Projections.”)

Population to Member Ratios of the Divisions

Seven of our 13 world divisions now have a population to member ratio less than the 468 worldwide average. Indeed, two have less than 100: Southern Africa-Indian Ocean with 80 and South Pacific with 88. Five other divisions have ratios that fall below the world average: Inter-American (103), East-Central Africa (123), South American (125), North American (326), and West-Central Africa (421).

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Six divisions have more challenging population to member ratios: Southern Asia-Pacific (633), Southern Asia (1,310), Euro-Asia (1,943), Northern Asia-Pacific (2,926), Euro-Africa (3,341), and Trans-European (6,040).

Several individual countries having over 100,000 baptized Seventh-day Adventist members have amazingly low population to member ratios: Jamaica (13), Rwanda (23), and Haiti (28).

Countries with over 100,000 baptized members and the most challenging population to member ratios are Indonesia (1,082), India (1,362), and China (4,027).

Major Church Membership Audits

A majority of the world divisions during the past five years have undertaken the painful responsibility of church membership audits. The resulting careful look at local church membership records has evidenced a decrease in the verifiable baptized church membership of approximately three-quarters million in the quinquennium. The recent audit conducted within the Southern Asia-Pacific Division reduced that division's membership by almost 154,000 during the past four quarters and reduced the world growth rate to 3.86 percent these past four quarters. Not since 1955 has an annual growth rate been lower. If, however, the growth rate was calculated without the Southern Asia-Pacific Division audit reductions, the world rate for the past four quarters would be slightly over 5 percent.

Poised for Major Growth

The end result of the membership audits suggests that Seventh-day Adventists are poised for a period of major growth. That growth is already evidenced in this Annual Council report. The South American Division had reduced its membership rolls through major audits during the past five years and yet has experienced a very high growth rate of 8.35 percent during the past four quarters. It likewise reported a very high growth the previous four quarters. After major audits within the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division, that division showed a 6.38 percent growth these past four quarters and the Trans-European Division, after having conducted major audits, exhibits a four-quarter growth rate of 5.32 percent, its highest since the 1994 Annual Council report. These results hopefully point toward a period of unprecedented growth for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the near future.

PRE/PreC/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to GDK-05SM

154-04G GENERAL CONFERENCE MINISTRIES AND SERVICES
REVIEW COMMISSION

Rationale:

The worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church currently has a membership of 13 million and represents a faith community of more than 20 million. With a fast-growing membership in over 200 countries, the Seventh-day Adventist Church continues to focus on increasing growth and nurturing its members, while maintaining its worldwide unity.

The history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church now spans approximately 150 years. From its small beginning in the mid-1800's, it is now a global organization with congregations, administrative offices, schools, hospitals, publishing houses, and other institutions in all parts of the world. The first major organizational restructuring occurred in 1901 when the church membership was 75,767 meeting in 1,892 churches and returned a total tithe of \$510,259. The leading ministries of the denomination at that time such as Education, Medical Missionary, Sabbath School, Religious Liberty, and Publishing became departments of the church to train members, to provide resources, and to nurture the members for ministry. The General Conference Executive Committee in 1901 consisted of 25 members.

Today the Seventh-day Adventist world organization consists of 13 world divisions, 101 unions, and 521 conferences/missions/fields around the world. Questions repeatedly arise—Do the ministries and services performed by the General Conference in 2004 adequately meet the needs of the world field in the best way possible? Is the Church being efficient and cost effective? Might there be alternative ways of accomplishing the ministries and services which would better serve the needs of a rapidly growing and changing world Church?

Prior to 1901 the Church was centrally organized. Through the inspired counsel of Ellen G White, coupled with growing needs, organizational decentralization was implemented with the establishment of world divisions and unions. Membership needs are best served when administrative units are located closer to congregational life. What was adequate for the membership of 600,000 may not be adequate when the membership reaches 20 million. Services provided from the world headquarters 75 years ago may not represent the best way to accomplish ministry today and in the immediate future.

VOTED, To establish a General Conference Ministries and Services Review Commission which would consist of a broad representation of individuals from around the world, for the purpose of critically examining the ministries and services provided from the

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General Conference, and to determine the best and most effective way to serve the needs of the rapidly expanding global Church. Terms of reference and membership are as follows:

TERMS OF REFERENCE

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Review all the ministries and services of the General Conference in consultation with the Strategic Planning office and world divisions to determine the most effective means of assisting the world Church to fulfill her mission. | 1. Power to act. |
| 2. Conduct surveys, gather information, and collect data as necessary regarding the Church's ministries and services. | 2. Power to act. |
| 3. Report on findings with accompanying recommendations to the 2005 Spring Meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee. | 3. Recommend to the General Conference Executive Committee through the General Conference Administrative Committee. |

MEMBERS

Appointed by General Conference President, Chairman	1
Appointed by General Conference President, Vice-chairman	1
Appointed by General Conference Secretary, Secretary	1
General Conference Treasury representative	1
General Conference Vice President for Strategic Planning	1
From the world divisions	<u>32</u>
Pastors (5) (at least 4 pastors/laypersons from the divisions not listed below)	
Laypersons (5)	
Division presidents (13)	
Union administration (9)	
East-Central Division (1)	
Euro-Africa Division (1)	

Inter-American Division (1)	
North American Division (1)	
South American Division (1)	
Euro-Asia Division (1)	
Southern African-Indian Ocean Division (1)	
Southern Asia Division (1)	
Southern Asia-Pacific Division (1)	
Total	37

PRE/ADCOM/04AC to HWB-05GCS

151-04GS NIGERIA UNION MISSION - REORGANIZATION

RECOMMENDED, To reorganize the Nigeria Union Mission in West-Central Africa Division into two Union Missions: The Eastern Nigerian Union Mission consisting of Anambra/Imo Conference, East Central Conference, East Nigeria Conference, Rivers Conference, South East Conference and the North-Western Nigeria Union Mission consisting of Edo-Delta Conference, North East Nigeria Conference, North West Nigeria Conference, South West Nigeria Conference, West Nigeria Conference, effective December 18, 2004.

TRE/PolRev&Dev/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

601-04Ga ADHERENCE TO POLICY REQUIRED -
POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC B 10 10, Adherence to Policy Required, to read as follows:

B 10 10 Adherence to Policy ~~Required~~—~~The Required~~—1. The General Conference *Working Policy* shall be strictly adhered to by all organizations in every part of the world field. The work in every organization shall be administered in full harmony with the policies of the General Conference and of the divisions respectively. No departure from these policies shall be made without prior approval from the General Conference Executive Committee, except as stated below. The division committee is the authorized body which acts for the General Conference Executive Committee in the respective divisions. All conference, mission, or institutional administrators shall cooperate in maintaining these policies as they affect the work in their respective organizations. Only thus can a spirit of close cooperation and unity be maintained in the work of the Church in all parts of the world field. In the event laws/changes in the laws governing a country seem to render compliance with denominational policies a violation of the law, the organization shall act in harmony with the law, provided the following:

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~~1. a.~~ Counsel has been sought from the General Conference, and it is established that denominational policies do indeed violate the law.

~~2. b.~~ Compliance with the law does not constitute a violation of scriptural principles.

2. General Conference institutions shall adhere to the remuneration policies of the host division (Y 05 05, paragraph 6.) with any exceptions approved by the General Conference Executive Committee at a Spring Meeting or by an Annual Council. For all other policies, the General Conference Working Policy shall apply except where the General Conference Executive Committee votes that the host division policies shall be followed.

GCDO04AC/04AC to SGR

601-04Gb GENERAL CONFERENCE ENTITIES—BENEFIT
POLICIES

VOTED, To authorize the General Conference entities at the General Conference headquarters office to apply the following employee benefit policies adapted from the North American Division *Working Policy* as voted by the 2003 Spring Meeting and subsequent modifications:

Travel Allowances for Spouse
Mortgage Program
Housing Assistance Programs
Duplicate Housing Expense
Luggage Assistance

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

588-04G ELLEN G WHITE—SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
RESEARCH CENTERS - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC GE 20 10, Ellen G White—Seventh-day Adventist Research Centers, to read as follows:

GE 20 10 Ellen G White—Seventh-day Adventist Research Centers—Each division of the General Conference where there is not a Branch Office is authorized to establish one Ellen G

White Seventh-day Adventist Research Center in an educational institution located within its territory, subject to the approval of the Ellen G White Estate Board and the General Conference Executive Committee. Research Centers serve the division where they are located as a resource regarding the writings and ministry of Ellen G White. Unlike Branch Offices, Research Centers are encouraged to preserve the broader history of Adventism within their territory. In addition, the Ellen G White Estate and the General Conference share oversight of the Research Center with the division involved. Any relocation of the center will require approval by the division and the White Estate Board.

The director of the Research Center is to be recommended every five years by the division in counsel with the institution where the Center is located, and appointed by the White Estate Board as soon as possible after the General Conference Session. Unlike a Branch Office, 50 percent of the director's time is devoted to the Center and 50 percent to the educational institution in which the Center is located. The designated employing organization of the Research Center director will be determined by the division and the host educational institution in consultation with the White Estate. In the event of a vacancy during the quinquennium, the division is to recommend a new director to the White Estate Board for appointment.

Each division where there is an authorized Research Center ~~may send each year a debit to~~ will receive annually, an appropriation from the General Conference equivalent to 75 percent of the division's basic wage factor for the territory where the Center is located. An appropriate travel budget is to be provided by the division for the director's field services. The General Conference also may provide annual supplemental travel assistance. All other operating expenses, such as secretarial services, office supplies, maintenance, etc, as well as the physical facilities, such as the vault, office space, and general furnishings, are to be provided by the division with the cooperation of the educational institution involved. The General Conference provides the specialized equipment and research materials necessary for the establishment of the Center, as specified by the Ellen G White Estate. All White Estate files, including copies of the Ellen G White letters and manuscripts, are provided on a loan basis and remain the property of the Ellen G White Estate. Should it become necessary to close an Ellen G White Seventh-day Adventist Research Center, all White Estate files, including the Ellen G White letters and manuscripts, are to be returned to the Ellen G White Estate.

A supervisory committee of seven to nine members, including the division Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator, is responsible for management of the Center, including preparation of the center's annual budget. Its members are recommended by the division after each General Conference Session, and appointed at the first subsequent meeting of the White Estate Board. The director of the Center is the secretary of the committee. The director of the White Estate, or a person who officially represents the director, is an ex officio member of the committee. The supervisory committee is to meet at least once a year and keep records of its actions. A copy of the committee's minutes is to be forwarded to the White Estate. An in-house committee of three,

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including the director of the Center, is appointed every five years by the division, for consultation as needed in regard to day-by-day decisions in the Center.

DWM&IWM&SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

594-04G SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST INSTITUTE OF WORLD
MISSION - POLICY REVISION

VOTED, To revise GC N 15 05, Purpose, to read as follows:

N 15 05 Purpose—The Institute of World Mission, under the direction of the General Conference Secretariat and in collaboration with other General Conference offices

1. Clarifies, reviews, and reaffirms the meaning of mission in the Church today for interdivision employees and volunteers and explains the interdivision employee's role in the fulfillment of that mission.
2. Conducts regular training programs and prepares appropriate training materials to accomplish the above.
3. Acquaints interdivision employees and volunteers with the conditions and challenges they may meet in their respective locations and prepares and equips them to relate to these conditions and challenges in a tactful and Christ-like manner.
4. Acquaints local leaders with some of the special challenges they may face in dealing with employees coming from many different cultures and backgrounds, and familiarizes them with ways in which they can deal with these challenges in a tactful and Christ-like manner.
5. Informs interdivision employees and volunteers regarding general policies and procedures under which they will serve.
6. Informs interdivision employees, volunteers, and world leaders regarding current issues and strategies in mission and how to relate to them successfully.
7. Assists in providing an on-going "flow of care" for interdivision employee and volunteer families that will nurture and affirm them and enhance their service as well as their long-term relationship as employees of the Church.
8. Assists in developing and maintaining mission consciousness in the world Church.

9. Develops leaders with intercultural leadership skills who can effectively deal with the global identity and needs of the Church with sensitivity, while at the same time giving attention to local needs.
10. Conducts research activities which can prove to be beneficial to the missionary program of the Church.
11. Provides cross-cultural training for church employees, volunteers, and others from church-related organizations which may choose to receive training at the Institute of World Missions sessions. (See T 55.)

DWM&IWM&SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

597-04G ATTENDANCE (SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST INSTITUTE
OF WORLD MISSION) - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC N 15 30, Attendance, to read as follows:

N 15 30 Attendance—1. All appointees to interdivision service shall be required to attend the Mission Institute. ~~service, including former interdivision employees who are reappointed but have never attended a session of the Institute, shall be required to attend. This includes former interdivision employees who have never attended a session of the Institute or those who have been reappointed but absent from interdivision service for ten or more years.~~ Any interdivision appointee or reappointee who has been in service for ten or more years may request authorization to attend the Institute. The period spent in attendance at the Institute shall be in addition to the regular preembarkation month.

2. Employees in interdivision service who have not attended an Institute are required to do so in connection with a furlough or optional annual leave with the approval of their host division, the base division, and the General Conference Secretariat. The period spent in attendance at the Institute shall be in addition to the regular furlough or optional annual leave period.

3. Spouses and children of appointees/interdivision employees ~~who are authorized to attend who will be going with the family~~ are also required to be present at the Institute and to attend all classes. Care for younger children is provided to make this possible.

4. Divisions are encouraged to arrange attendance at the Institute for selected employees. Divisions shall be responsible for the expenses of such individuals who are authorized to attend, unless they are interdivision appointees/employees. (See T 55.)

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SEC/PolRev&De/ADCOM/SecC/TreC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

312-04G SALARY ARRANGEMENTS (ARRANGEMENT WITH
INTERDIVISION APPOINTEES) - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC N 05 15, Salary Arrangements, to reads as follows:

N 05 15 Salary Arrangements—1. ~~One~~ Up to one month of preembarkation salary is granted to appointees and interdivision employed spouses to provide time to prepare for departure and to care for family visitation. This salary provision shall apply for a new appointment and shall not be taken in connection with a furlough or an optional annual leave. ~~Any exceptions shall be considered for approval by the General Conference Interdivision Employee Remuneration and Allowances Committee on a case by case basis.~~ A call to interdivision service is contingent on receiving the necessary visas and/or work permits for the host division country. For most countries this is cared for quickly, but in some cases it takes several months; on rare occasions, it proves impossible and the call has to be canceled. Because of this, it is imperative that the appointee and spouse not disconnect from current employment before being instructed to do so by the treasury of the base division, or, in the case of North American Division-based individuals, the General Conference Transportation and International Personnel Services. The normal procedure is for treasury to work with the appointee and spouse, the current employer(s), and the host division to establish the date for disconnecting from current employment and beginning interdivision preembarkation salary. This date is normally arrived at by working backwards from the desired date for beginning service in the host division country, including the time for attendance at the Institute of World Mission, and estimating the length of time required to obtain visas and work permits for the host division country involved.

2. The preembarkation salary is paid at the base division country rate based on the amount an individual would receive on the regular denominational wage scale with similar job responsibility and experience. The expense of salary and the employer portion of payroll taxes during this period are borne by the General Conference for those on Code 1, 2, 3, and 6 budgets, and by the employing organization in the host division for those on Code 4 budgets. ~~Locally employed spouses~~ Spouses employed locally in the host division assigned to Code 5 budgets are not eligible for salary during the preembarkation period, but might qualify for compensation for ~~lost~~ loss of income during this period under N 05 20. If a spouse qualified, under the provisions of this policy, for salary and also for compensation for ~~lost~~ loss of income under N 05 20, the higher of the two rates shall apply, with the amount provided under this policy being charged to the entity bearing the expense of the salary for the spouse and the excess being charged to the entity bearing the expense for the appointee.

3. Base division country allowances also apply - No change
4. Preembarkation salary and allowances - No change
5. The month of preembarkation salary (see paragraph 1. above) is not a cash entitlement, but rather a salary provision to allow individuals sufficient time to prepare for interdivision service and to care for family visitation. There is no cash settlement paid to individuals who continue to work and are on salary from the previous employer during this period.

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

313-04G COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF INCOME DURING
PREEMBARKATION PERIOD (ARRANGEMENT WITH
INTERDIVISION APPOINTEES) - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC N 05 20, Compensation for Loss of Income During
Preembarkation Period, to reads as follows:

N 05 20 Compensation for Loss of Income During Preembarkation Period—An interdivision appointee's spouse who discontinues local employment, denominational or otherwise, in order to prepare for departure shall be entitled to receive compensation for loss of income for the month preceding departure. This salary provision shall apply for a new appointment and shall not be taken in connection with a furlough or an optional annual leave. The rate of this compensation shall be equal to that of the last drawn salary for a spouse who has discontinued denominational employment in order to prepare for departure (assuming payment is in accordance with the regular denominational wage scale). The amount of this compensation for a spouse who discontinues nondenominational employment, or denominational employment at higher than the regular denominational wage scale, in order to prepare for departure shall be based on the rate of the last drawn salary but not to exceed the regular denominational salary equivalent for a period with similar job responsibility and experience. The expense of this benefit to the spouse of the appointee shall be born by the General Conference if the appointees are called on Code 1, 2, 3, and 6 budgets, but by the employment organization in the hose division for those on Code 4 budgets.

This provision is not a cash settlement, but compensation for time off taken without salary during the preembarkation period to prepare for interdivision service and to care for

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family visitation. There is no settlement if the spouse continues to work and does not take time off without pay. ~~There may be occasions where, because of urgent needs in the host division country, it is impossible for the appointee and spouse to take the full preembarkation month provided by policy. In such cases, arrangements may be made by the base division treasury, to in the case of North American Division-based individuals, the General Conference Transportation and International Personnel Services, to authorize adding the unused time to the first furlough or optional annual leave. Compensation for lost income during such a period shall be at the same rate as would have been paid if the time had been taken before leaving for interdivision service. Any special arrangements shall be made in consultation with the host division and the General Conference Secretariat and the General Conference Transportation and International Personnel Services. Both the length of time and the rate of pay shall be recorded in the minutes of the General Conference Interdivision Remuneration and Allowances Committee.~~

Individuals who discontinue denominational employment in order to prepare for departure, or individuals whose denominational employment begins upon arrival in the host division country, may have this one month preembarkation period, during which they received compensation for ~~lost~~ loss of income, added to their service record. Service credit, if any, for retirement benefits shall be calculated by the base division in harmony with its retirement policy.

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

314-04G VISITS TO PARENTS/CHILDREN (ARRANGEMENT WITH INTERDIVISION APPOINTEES) - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC N 05 25, Visits to Parents/Children, to read as follows:

N 05 25 Visits to Parents/Children—Appointees whose parents are living in the base division from which the employee is called shall be entitled to visit them before entering upon interdivision service. Transportation expense of the family to visit the parents of both the appointee and spouse shall be allowed. Appointees with grown children residing in the base division shall be allowed the expense to visit them on the same basis as visits to parents. The time for visits to parents and children, as detailed above, shall be included in the one month preembarkation ~~period~~ period, up to one month granted for preparation and visitation prior to departure. The expenses of visits to parents and children shall be borne by the General Conference if the appointees are called on Code 1, 2, 3, or 6 budgets, and by the employment organization in the host division for those on Code 4 budgets.

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Closing prayer was offered by Bobby Joutjc Sepang, President, East Indonesia Union Mission.

Gerry D Karst, Chairman
Theodore T Jones, Secretary
Larry R Evans, Editorial Secretary
Lissy Park, Recording Secretary

ANNUAL COUNCIL OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 11, 2004, 9:00 a.m.

DEVOTIONAL

The devotional message entitled "The Witness of Truth: An Unanswered Prayer" was presented by Walter L Pearson, Jr, Speaker/Director, Breath of Life.

This morning, I want to share with you what may seem to be quite naive. But if it is naive, it is also the Spirit of Jesus Christ. My text is selected from John chapter 17. We know what the chapter stands for. I only need one verse to launch us and that is verse 21, "That they all may be one; as thou Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou has sent me."

Jesus prays a prayer that is divided in three parts. It is a beautiful prayer. It is according to some, His last public prayer. Some would say it is His longest prayer. In verses 1 to 5, He first prays about Himself. If I were to put the truth in street clothes, Jesus was saying: "Honor me Father, for the work I have done, for the whole human race has been under My care. Bring Me back to Our home; let Me once again share the glory that was mine before I came to this earth."

The second part of this prayer found in verses 6 to 19, He prays for His disciples. Jesus says, "I showed them Your character." It actually says, "I showed them Your name," but we understand that. "I am leaving but they are remaining. Protect them. I have protected them. I have watched over them, but now that I leave them I ask You to protect them. Put them under Your care."

And then the third and final part of the prayer, verses 20 to 26, Jesus prays for all believers and you will forgive me if I understand that Jesus prayed for you and for me. He says, "Those who will hear these whom I send. Those who will establish credibility for your name or lose credibility for your name, I pray now for them that they will reflect who We really are and that they will show themselves to the world in such a way, that the world will come to know who We really are and that You sent Me and I sent them. They need the same spirit of unity that We have. They need to be like the vine and the branches," and so Jesus prayed that we might show to the world that we are one.

I do not want to offend anyone. I would like to be your friend when I leave here. But I must say to you that this prayer has not been answered. I must suggest to you that there is a conspiracy against the answer to this prayer. I have traveled to other denominational

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headquarters, I have mingled with people, I am happy for friendships that I share, and these have been powerful friendships. I have friends who are pastors of other denominations with whom I have never had a discussion about theology or our doctrines. I have seen my friends change their behavior to become like the remnant church without a discussion. I have seen people change the way they baptize.

One of my closest friends stood up in the fastest growing church in the United States for that time and said to the people, "Walter Pearson and the Seventh-day Adventists are right. Saturday is the Sabbath." And just to show that it was no mistake, he got up in the second service and said the very same words. These are powerful connections and I thank God for them.

I must tell you that when I visit other places I become aware that Satan is not pressing them as he presses us. They are allowed to be seen as though they love each other and I have been close enough to some of them to find out that it is at times cosmetic. I have discovered that for some denominations, it seems to be easier for them to profess love for each other and to show a certain kind of love for each other, nevertheless, I stand here today convinced that we are God's remnant people. I do not say it with pride that puts anybody else down. I just simply believe that we have decided to follow everything that God has said and that makes us unique.

I also believe that it makes us a target. In *Testimonies*, volume six, page 151 we read, "Satan works to make the prayer of Christ of none effect . . . All who shall aid the enemies of God by bringing weakness and sorrow and discouragement upon any of God's people, through their own perverse ways and tempers, are working directly against the prayer of Christ." What I want to say today is not to encourage you to make more changes in the formulation of our Church. In fact, what I am about to say will sound more utopian than that. But if you accuse me of being utopian, you must also accuse Jesus, because Jesus dared to say that in the last days of earth's history, His Church ought to reflect the unity that is between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And I believe, that Satan knows the potential power that we have.

We ought to have a certain sound and I hope you understand that in my evangelism I am trying to put forth in a positive way what God has told us to tell to our neighbors and to tell to our friends. I do not want to say it apologetically. I do not want to say it by putting a candy coating on it because I believe that the truth as it is in Jesus is magnetic!

Our challenge is to simply tell what we ought to tell, it will draw people to Jesus Christ. I believe that Satan cannot shake our message—he believes and he trembles. I also believe that the way he attacks is not by trying to shake what is in the word of God, but by trying to mold us to be at cross purposes with the love that we share with others. In other words, when we say that God is love, when we say that God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten son, when we say that Jesus having left sent another Comforter like He was, we teach a message of love. I

preached on the Second Coming of Jesus the other night. I did not *warn* the people that Jesus was coming. I *assured* them that He was coming. I was happy to say it is the greatest event for Christians—nothing could be better than that.

Let us change the paradigm. For too long we have claimed that Jesus is a loving God and then we have warned people that He is coming back. One of those has to be untrue. If He is loving, why do you warn me that He is coming? If He is kind, should not it be a blessing? I purport to you today that it is a blessing, but our weakness is not in what we preach. Our weakness is in the way we live with each other.

In fact, if you will allow, let me be so simplistic as to say that what the devil's charge against us is that we say we have love, but if you look at how we treat each other, if you look at the way we govern not in our polity but in our actual relationships, we probably have gone back to the moment in our history when we thought those relationships were fairly unimportant. As we read Ellen G White, we see that she was convinced that we would go immediately home to be with Jesus. We see that her emphases was on getting right to meet Him. Who would know that we would still be here and that our love for each other would be the testimony of how close we are to Jesus? And it is.

I know that we have meetings and the meetings last all day long. In fact, we meet and meet and meet and meet and meet. We take a break for a little food; just enough sustenance to keep us sitting up straight—and then we come to meet again. We barely have enough time in the hallways to smile at each other, so we spend the time with our small circle of friends. Then we come back with our list of issues to stand up for.

I believe that it is time for somebody, somewhere, to plan a time for us to get to know each other. I am not sure that at first we will like each other when we get to know each other. However, I believe that if we preach to the world that we represent Jesus and we do it, it will be important to set aside some time for getting to know each other. It is my conviction that we are sent to this time. I believe that our message is calculated. I said to a few ministerial students the other day that post-modern times have finally conformed themselves to a moment when the simple teachings of Ellen G White are the perfect way to share our doctrine.

One of the greatest preachers on the face of the earth, Harvard trained, educated and is still alive today, came to a Seventh-day Adventist meeting. He saw people reading red books. He said: "Look, what are these books?" They said: "Well this is our messenger." He said: "Well let me have one. Let me read something before I go to sleep." The next morning when he came he stood up to preach and said: "I could not sleep last night because I was reading your messenger's words." And he said: "I declare that Seventh-day Adventists have an unfair advantage." I have heard him preach since then and I can tell you that he quotes heavily from Ellen G White. He has fallen in love with what we are sometimes a little ashamed of.

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We are perfectly matched to these times, but here is the challenge. I believe that we have lost the very thing that testifies that we are sent by Jesus. In *Acts of the Apostles*, we read that just after the descent of the Holy Spirit there was a time when the church cared only about sharing the truth with others. It should have stayed that way. They should have kept their first love. We should have kept our first love. We sometimes are so tempted by the corporate model. I think that we are sometimes so enamored by the corporate model that we forget that it has loaded within it, sometimes imperceptibly, the hierarchical model that separates us. We get so cold and corporate that we barely know each other, and others when they come among us can tell that we do not really love each other. We know each other. They know we know each other because we fight over things. You cannot fight effectively unless you know your opponent. So they are aware that we know each other. But it is difficult to detect that there is that old-fashioned love for one another.

I tell you what it has done for me. When I became a part of the family of God, I could no longer afford to separate myself from people based on culture. I think we sometimes load our message with so much culture that we separate ourselves on issues not based on a "thus saith the Lord." God says we must at this time press together. In fact, let me tell you what happened to those people right after they had the Holy Spirit fall upon them. Number one, and the change came gradually, the believers began to look for defects in others. Number two, dwelling upon mistakes and giving place to unkind criticism, they lost sight of the Saviour and His love. Number three, they became more strict in regard to outward ceremonies and more particular about theory than the practice of faith. Number four, in their zeal to condemn others, they overlooked their own errors. Number five, they lost brotherly love, the brotherly love that Christ had enjoined them and saddest of all, they were unconscious of their loss. Number six, they did not realize that happiness and joy were going out of their lives. Number seven, having shut the love of God out of their hearts they would soon walk in darkness.

When I was pastoring in Atlanta, Georgia, health officials conducted a study. I loved the headline. It read: "Seventh-day Adventists live longer than anybody else." I got up in the pulpit before I read the whole article and I bragged on it. Then that week I read the rest of the article. The article said that we do live longer, we have few of the diseases that shorten lives dramatically. But down in the lower part of the article it says, "While they have fewer of those diseases, they do have gastrointestinal problems that suggests that they may not be as happy as they seem."

I wish I could have gotten up the next Sabbath and refuted that article, but I must tell you that I believe it. I think we are living longer and enjoying it less. I think we have more Church members but we know them less. We are not really comfortable with how fast this thing is growing. People are coming in who do not share our cultural ideas. And the fact is, it will happen more and more. The growth of this Church is exploding exponentially and it will continue to do so. At this point we cannot stop it! The truth is drawing people by itself. We

have made disciples and these disciples come in all shapes, forms, backgrounds, and colors, and even if we were to shut up now, it would still go forward. We would simply be on the outside looking in.

The Holy Spirit's power is turned loose in this land. My question is, "What will we do to keep unity and love among those who come?" The followers tend to model what they see in leadership. Nobody has decided to be disunited. Nobody voted, "Let us not be friendly." But if I were to guide you through some of our denominational offices where I have visited, you would almost become weary of people speaking to you about relationship problems. People who do not know where we live, do not understand the impact of the problem, but let me tell you something, I do not travel only in the United States of America. God has been kind to me and I have been enabled by this Church to travel thus far to 60 countries including the island nations of the sea. I have been in your headquarters when you did not know I was there. I do not look like a big official, so I can go under the radar. I know that there are times when we are of so much heavenly worth that we are of no earthly good.

There are times when we do not even express the basic courtesies that you would expect of Christians. I do not come today to ask you to rearrange some union, or put together some different conferences. I believe that we ought to wait on that. Let us do the things by the power of the Holy Spirit that cannot be legislated. Let us make room for the power of the Holy Spirit to weld our hearts together in love. Let us open our hearts so that we do not require of others some cultural necessity that is nowhere between the covers of the Word of God. Let us stop making requirements of people that have nothing to do with spirituality. Let us look in others for the beauty of Jesus Christ as expressed in their culture. Let us see it not as it is in us, but as it is expressed in those who are different from us. In *Testimonies*, volume 9, page 221 we read: "If Christians were to act in concert, moving forward as one, under the direction of one Power, for the accomplishment of one purpose, they would move the world."

Friends of mine, we have come to a time when people are weary of the world. In the United States of America we all understand that we can trace our discomfort back to September 11, 2001, but that event did not only shake America—it shook the world. Be very careful to understand that things will never be the same. A cultural clash has ensued that will not end, I believe, until we see Jesus coming in the clouds of glory. It has the elements, those disturbing elements that let us know that it will never be as it was. Some people see this as a calamity. I see it as a grand opportunity because I believe that if at this moment, people need to be able to look at us and not only hear what we say, but what we do. They need to hear those inspired words of our messenger. We have beautiful things to say. The question is, "Do we resemble what we say? Are we the people we describe?"

I believe that we are about to bring in another wonderful group of Seventh-day Adventist Christians. Sometimes in the middle of the night, I wake up with a start and wonder, "Where

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have I invited them to come?" We have to set aside differences. The Bible says we need to take this message to the world. I do not believe we can take it to the world and leave things as they are. I believe that the same gospel that endears us to Christ must give us the Spirit of Christ. I believe that we have to be intentional about loving each other. Let me say it this way, and I hate to take an ominous tone, but here it is in *Testimonies*, volume 5, page 236: "The world is against us, the popular churches are against us, the laws of the land will soon be against us. If there was ever a time when the people of God should press together, it is now. God has committed to us the special truths for this time to make known to the world. The last message of mercy is now going forth. We are dealing with men and women who are judgment bound. How careful should we be in every word and act to follow closely the Pattern, that our example may lead men to Christ?"

This is my plea today. I have met people in the Church who are nothing like me. I have even felt the inclination to pull away. I have said to myself "you can please God without ever interfacing with that kind of person." That thought comes from the devil. If we claim to represent Christ, if we claim that we are His remnant people on earth, we must not only preach Christ and His love, we must model Christ and His love. That means that it will get uncomfortable at times. I may have to stretch a little bit. I may have to meet someone who does not speak my language, or you know what we say, "In heaven they must speak English because Americans can speak nothing else." We are debilitated in that sense but I have to get to the place where the look of a person, the way they move, their body language, where they came from, their physical features cannot turn me off—not as long as they are created by God, not as long as they are souls to save. Every person I meet must be convinced that Jesus has sent me because I have the truth.

While we do have the truth, some of us have fooled ourselves into believing that if you proclaim the truth that is enough. I dare to say to you that we have to do way more than proclaim the truth. We need to live the love that Jesus sent us to live. In fact, John 13:35 says, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples . . ." It says we need to have love and, according to our own commentary, it means that we must keep on having love one for another. Even when we disagree, even when we see things from different vantage points, no matter that we split hairs on theological issues, we must keep on having love for one another. The over arching love of God must be powerful enough to keep us together even when we are not in one accord on some subject matter. Let me quote finally from *Testimonies*, volume 8, page 239: "The instruction given me by One of authority is that we are to learn to answer the prayer recorded in the seventeenth chapter of John. We are to make this prayer our first study."

My brothers and my sisters, we cannot ignore this. If we are going to be an international Church we have to develop international love. We have to stop being stumped by small differences. We cannot let music separate us. I have to learn how to like Bluegrass because they may play it in heaven from time to time. All I ask is that we have a gospel choir once in a while.

I know with all of the things that you have before you, this may seem something that can be brushed aside. I believe we must recognize it is not. Not many people know what decisions we make in this room. Not many people care. They may never understand the wonderful things that you shed blood to stand up for in these meetings, but they will know whether you love them or whether you do not. God bless you.

Jan Paulsen, Chairman, called to order the third session of the 2004 Annual Council.

Prayer was offered by Benjamin P Browne, President of the Ethiopian Union Mission.

MAXSON, BENJAMIN C - APPRECIATION

Appreciation was expressed to Benjamin C Maxson, former Director of the General Conference Stewardship Department, for his years of service at the General Conference, and flowers were presented to Mary, his wife.

STENBAKKEN, ARDIS D - APPRECIATION

Appreciation was also expressed and flowers were given to Ardis D Stenbakken, Director of the General Conference Women's Ministries Department, for her years of service at the General Conference. Stenbakken will be retiring as of January 1, 2005.

PRE/ADCOM/GCDO04AC/04AC to LCC

147-04Ga AN AFFIRMATION OF CREATION—REPORT OF THE
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

VOTED, To record the presentation of An Affirmation of Creation—Report of the Organization Committee, which reads as follows:

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An Affirmation of Creation

The International Faith and Science Conferences 2002-2004 report of the Organizing Committee to the General Conference Executive Committee through the office of the General Conference President, September 10, 2004.

Introduction

The very first words of the Bible provide the foundation for all that follows. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. . .”—Gen 1:1 Throughout Scripture the Creation is celebrated as coming from the hand of God who is praised and adored as Maker and Sustainer of all that is. “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”—Ps 19:1 NIV

From this view of the world flows a series of interlocking doctrines that lie at the core of the Seventh-day Adventist message to the world: a perfect world without sin and death created not long ago; the Sabbath; the fall of our first parents; the spread of sin, decay and death to the whole creation; the coming of Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, to live among us and rescue us from sin by His death and resurrection; the Second Coming of Jesus, our Creator and Redeemer; and the ultimate restoration of all that was lost by the Fall.

As Christians who take the Bible seriously and seek to live by its precepts Seventh-day Adventists have a high view of nature. We believe that even in its present fallen state nature reveals the eternal power of God (Rom 1:20), that “‘God is love’ is written upon every opening bud, upon every spire of springing grass.”—Ellen G White, *Steps to Christ*, p 10

For us, all Scripture is inspired and tests all the other ways, including nature, through which God reveals Himself. We have great respect for science, and applaud the prominence of science departments in our institutions of higher learning and healthcare. We also value the work of Seventh-day Adventist scientists and researchers not employed by the Church. We train students at our colleges and universities how to employ the scientific method rigorously. At the same time, we refuse to restrict our quest for truth to the constraints imposed by the scientific method alone.

The Question of Origins

For centuries, at least in the Christian world, the Bible story of creation was the standard explanation for questions about origins. During the 18th and 19th centuries the methodologies of science resulted in a growing understanding of how things worked. Today no one can deny that science has made a remarkable impact on our lives through advances in the areas of agriculture, communication, ecology, engineering, genetics, health, and space exploration.

In many areas of life, knowledge derived from nature and knowledge from divine revelation in Scripture appear to be in harmony. Advances in scientific knowledge often confirm and validate the views of faith. However, in regard to the origin of the universe, of the earth, and of life and its history, we encounter contradictory worldviews. Assertions based on a study of Scripture often stand in stark contrast to those arising from the scientific assumptions and methodologies used in the study of nature. This tension has a direct impact on the life of the Church, its message, and witness.

We celebrate the life of faith. We advocate a life of learning. Both in the study of Scripture and in the orderly processes of nature we see indicators of the Creator's marvelous mind. Since its earliest days the Seventh-day Adventist Church has encouraged the development of mind and understanding through the disciplines of worship, education, and observation.

In earlier decades the discussion of theories on origins primarily occurred in academic settings. However, philosophical naturalism (wholly natural, random and undirected processes over the course of time) has gained wide acceptance in education and forms the basic assumption for much that is taught in the natural and social sciences. Seventh-day Adventist members and students encounter this view and its implications in many areas of daily life.

In its statement of fundamental beliefs the Seventh-day Adventist Church affirms a divine creation as described in the biblical narrative of Genesis 1. "God is Creator of all things, and has revealed in Scripture the authentic account of His creative activity. In six days the Lord made 'the heaven and the earth' and all living things upon the earth, and rested on the seventh day of that first week. Thus He established the Sabbath as a perpetual memorial of His completed creative work. The first man and woman were made in the image of God as the crowning work of Creation, given dominion over the world, and charged with responsibility to care for it. When the world was finished it was 'very good,' declaring the glory of God."—Gen 1; 2; Ex 20:8-11; Ps 19:1-6; 33:6, 9; Ps 104; Heb 11:3

Reasons for the Faith and Science Conferences

Because of the pervasive and growing influence of the theory of evolution, the General Conference Executive Committee (2001 Annual Council) authorized a three-year series of Faith and Science conferences. These conferences were not called to modify the Church's long-held position on creation but to review the contributions and limitations that both faith and science bring to our understanding of origins.

The principal reasons that led to the convening of these conferences involved:

1. Philosophical questions: An ever-present challenge exists in defining the relationship between theology and science, between that of faith and reason. Are these two

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streams of knowledge in partnership or in conflict? Should they be viewed as interactive or are they independent, nonoverlapping spheres of knowledge? The dominant worldview in most modern societies interprets life, physical reality, and behavior in ways that are markedly different from the Christian worldview. How should a Christian relate to these things?

2. Theological questions: How is the Bible to be interpreted? What does a plain reading of the text require of a believer? To what extent should knowledge from science inform or shape our understanding of Scripture and vice-versa?

3. Scientific questions: The same data from nature are available to all observers. What do the data say or mean? How shall we arrive at correct interpretations and conclusions? Is science a tool or a philosophy? How do we differentiate between good and bad science?

4. The issue of nurture and education for Church members: How is a Church member to deal with the variety of interpretations of the Genesis record? What does the Church have to say to those who find in their educational curriculum ideas that conflict with their faith? Maintaining silence concerning such issues sends mixed signals; it creates uncertainty and provides fertile ground for unwarranted and dogmatic views.

5. Development of living faith: Clarification and reaffirmation of a Bible-based theology of origins will equip members with a framework for dealing with challenges on this topic. The Faith and Science Conferences were not convened simply for the intellectual stimulation of attendees, but as an opportunity to provide orientation and practical guidance for Church members. The Church cannot pretend to keep its beliefs in a safe place, secure from all challenge. In doing so they will soon become relics. Church teachings must engage and connect with the issues of the day so that they remain a living faith; otherwise they will amount to nothing more than dead dogma.

The Faith and Science Conferences

Two International Faith and Science Conferences were held—in Ogden, Utah 2002 and in Denver, Colorado 2004—with widespread international representation from theologians, scientists, and Church administrators. In addition seven¹ of the Church's thirteen divisions conducted division-wide or regional conferences dealing with the interaction of faith and science in explanations about origins. The Organizing Committee expresses appreciation to the participants at these conferences for their contributions to this report.

The Ogden conference agenda was designed to acquaint attendees with the range of ways in which both theology and science offer explanations for the origin of the earth and life. The

¹ East-Central Africa Division, Euro-Africa Division, North American Division, South Pacific Division, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division, Southern Asia Division, West-Central Africa Division.

agendas for conferences in divisions were determined by the various organizers, although most included several of the topics dealt with in Ogden. The recent conference in Denver was the concluding conference of the three-year series. Its agenda began with summaries of the issues in theology and science, then moved on to several questions regarding faith-science issues in Church life. These questions included:

- The on-going place of scholarship in the Church. How does the Church maintain the confessional nature of its teachings while being open to further development in its understanding of truth?
- Educational models for dealing with controversial subjects and the ethical issues involved for teachers and Church leaders. How shall we teach science courses in our schools in a way that enriches, rather than erodes, faith?
- What ethical considerations come into focus when private conviction differs from denominational teaching? How does personal freedom of belief interface with one's public role as a leader in the Church? In other words, what are the principles of personal accountability and the ethics of dissent?
- What are the administrative responsibilities and processes in dealing with variations in, or re-expressions of, doctrinal views?

Scholarly papers by theologians, scientists, and educators were presented and discussed in all the conferences. (The Geoscience Research Institute maintains a file of all papers presented at the conferences.) The Ogden and Denver conferences involved at least some representation from every division of the world field. Well over 200 persons participated in the conferences during the three-year period. More than 130 attended the Denver meeting, most of whom had attended at least one other of the Faith and Science Conferences.

General Observations

1. We applaud the seriousness and dignity that characterized the conferences.
2. We noted the strong sense of dedication and loyalty to the Church that prevailed.
3. We experienced that even though tensions surfaced at times, cordial relations were maintained among the attendees, with fellowship transcending differences in viewpoint.
4. We witnessed in these conferences a high level of concurrence on basic understandings, especially the normative role of Scripture, buttressed by the writings of Ellen G White, and the belief by all in God as beneficent Creator.

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5. We found no support for, nor advocacy of, philosophical naturalism, the idea that the universe came into existence without the action of a Creator.

6. We acknowledge that the conflict between the biblical and contemporary worldviews impacts both scientists and theologians.

7. We recognize that tension between faith and understanding is an element of life with which the believer must learn to live.

8. We observe that rejecting contemporary scientific interpretations of origins in conflict with the biblical account does not imply depreciation of either science or the scientist.

9. While we found widespread affirmation of the Church's understanding of life on earth, we recognize that some among us interpret the biblical record in ways that lead to sharply different conclusions.

10. We accept that both theology and science contribute to our understanding of reality.

Findings

1. The degree to which tension exists regarding our understanding of origins varies around the world. In those areas where science has made its greatest progress in society, the questions among Church members are more widespread. With the advance of science across all societies and educational systems, there will be a corresponding increase in members wondering how to reconcile Church teaching with natural theories of origin. Large numbers of Seventh-day Adventist students attend public schools where evolution is taught and promoted in the classroom without corresponding materials and arguments in favor of the biblical account of origins.

2. Reaffirmation of the Church's Fundamental Belief regarding creation is strongly supported. Seventh-day Adventist belief in a literal and historical six-day creation is theologically sound and consistent with the teaching of the whole Bible.

3. Creation is a foundational pillar in the entire system of Seventh-day Adventist doctrine—it bears direct relationship to many if not all other fundamental beliefs. Any alternative interpretation of the creation story needs to be examined in light of its impact on all other beliefs. Several of the Faith and Science Conferences reviewed alternative interpretations of Genesis 1, including the idea of theistic evolution. These other interpretations lack theological coherence with the whole of Scripture and reveal areas of inconsistency with the rest of Seventh-

day Adventist doctrine. They are, therefore, unacceptable substitutes for the biblical doctrine of creation held by the Church.

4. Concern has been expressed regarding what some see as ambiguity in the phrase “In six days” found in the Church’s statement of belief on creation. It is felt that the intended meaning (that the six-day creation described in Genesis was accomplished in a literal and historical week) is unmentioned. This situation allows for uncertainty about what the Church actually believes. Further, it provides room for other explanations of creation to be accommodated in the text. There is a desire for the voice of the Church to be heard in bringing added clarity to what is really meant in Fundamental Belief #6, Creation.

5. Although some data from science can be interpreted in ways consistent with the biblical concept of creation, we also reviewed data interpreted in ways that challenge the Church’s belief in a recent creation. The strength of these interpretations cannot be dismissed lightly. We respect the claims of science, study them, and hope for a resolution. This does not preclude a re-examination of Scripture to make sure it is being properly understood. However, when an interpretation harmonious with the findings of science is not possible, we do not allow science a privileged position in which it automatically determines the outcome. Rather, we recognize that it is not justifiable to hold clear teachings of Scripture hostage to current scientific interpretations of data.

6. We recognize that there are different theological interpretations among us regarding Genesis 1-11. In view of the various interpretations we sensed a high degree of concern that those involved in the Seventh-day Adventist teaching ministry conduct their work ethically and with integrity—by standards of their profession, the teachings of Scripture, and the basic understanding held by the body of believers. Since Seventh-day Adventists recognize their comprehension of truth is a growing experience, there is an ever-present need to continue the study of Scripture, theology, and science in order that the truths we hold constitute a living faith able to address the theories and philosophies of the day.

7. We appreciate and endorse the significant value of ongoing international and interdisciplinary dialog among Seventh-day Adventist theologians, scientists, educators, and administrators.

Affirmations

As a result of the two international conferences and the seven division conferences, the Organizing Committee reports the following affirmations:

1. We affirm the primacy of Scripture in the Seventh-day Adventist understanding of origins.

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2. We affirm the historic Seventh-day Adventist understanding of Genesis 1 that life on earth was created in six literal days and is of recent origin.
3. We affirm the biblical account of the Fall resulting in death and evil.
4. We affirm the biblical account of a catastrophic Flood, an act of God's judgment that affected the whole planet, as an important key to understanding earth history.
5. We affirm that our limited understanding of origins calls for humility and that further exploration into these questions brings us closer to deep and wonderful mysteries.
6. We affirm the interlocking nature of the doctrine of creation with other Seventh-day Adventist doctrines.
7. We affirm that in spite of its fallenness nature is a witness to the Creator.
8. We affirm Seventh-day Adventist scientists in their endeavors to understand the Creator's handiwork through the methodologies of their disciplines.
9. We affirm Seventh-day Adventist theologians in their efforts to explore and articulate the content of revelation.
10. We affirm Seventh-day Adventist educators in their pivotal ministry to the children and youth of the Church.
11. We affirm that the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church identified in Revelation 14:6, 7 includes a call to worship God as Creator of all.

Recommendations

The Organizing Committee for the International Faith and Science Conferences recommends that:

1. In order to address what some interpret as a lack of clarity in Fundamental Belief #6, Creation, the historic Seventh-day Adventist understanding of the Genesis narrative be affirmed more explicitly.
2. Church leaders at all levels be encouraged to assess and monitor the effectiveness with which denominational systems and programs succeed in preparing young people, including those attending non-Adventist schools, with a biblical understanding of origins and an awareness of the challenges they may face in respect to this understanding.

3. Increased opportunity be provided for interdisciplinary dialog and research, in a safe environment, among Seventh-day Adventist scholars from around the world.

Conclusion

The Bible opens with the story of creation; the Bible closes with the story of re-creation. All that was lost by the Fall of our first parents is restored. The One who made all things by the Word of His mouth at the beginning brings the long struggle with sin, evil, and death to a triumphant and glorious conclusion. He is the One who dwelt among us and died in our stead on Calvary. As the heavenly beings sang for joy at the first creation, so the redeemed from earth proclaim: "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created. . . . Worthy is the Lamb who was slain. . ."—Rev 4:11; 5:12 NKJV

04AC to LCC-04AC

RESPONSE TO AN AFFIRMATION OF CREATION - SMALL COMMITTEE APPOINTED

After the presentation of An Affirmation of Creation—Report of the Organizing Committee was read, there were many comments and suggestions made from the floor. Due to time constraints, it was

VOTED, To appoint a small committee of four people, who attended one or more of the International Faith and Science Conferences, to take the suggestions and comments made from the floor and that these be brought back, in two days, in a more organized manner, along with any recommendations it may have.

BIBLICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - REPORT

Angel M Rodriguez, Director of Biblical Research Institute, and his colleagues Ekkehardt Muller and Gerhard Pfandl, Associate Directors, presented a report on the Biblical Research Institute.

The Biblical Research Institute is a service department of the General Conference that promotes the study and practice of Adventist doctrines, theology and lifestyles as biblically understood by the world Church. It consists of four theologians whose main functions are:

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1. To be consultants to Church leaders on theological and doctrinal issues facing the Church.
2. To develop and distribute biblical and theological studies that contribute to a better understanding and a deepening of Seventh-day Adventist doctrines, theology, and life style.
3. To prepare responses to critics of the message and mission of the Church.
4. To encourage and facilitate dialogue within the Seventh-day Adventist community of theologians to foster doctrinal and theological unity in the world Church.

WHT/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

603-04G ADDITIONAL ELLEN G WHITE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
RESEARCH CENTERS IN A DIVISION - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC GE 20 15, Additional Ellen G White Seventh-day Adventists Research Centers in a Division, to read as follows:

GE 20 15 Additional Ellen G White Seventh-day Adventist Research Centers in a Division—The General Conference and the Ellen G White Estate Board provide funds for only one Research Center per division. Additional Research Centers in a division ~~that~~ where centers already have been established with the authorization of the White Estate Board and the General Conference, follow the policies stated under GE 20 10 except for the financial arrangements which are the following:

All operating expenses of the additional Research Center, including setup costs, 100 percent of the salary and allowances of the director, secretarial services, and travel budget, are the responsibility of the ~~division~~ division/union in cooperation with the educational institution where the Research Center is located.

The division may choose to divide the its annual appropriation received from the General Conference between the initial Center and additional Centers, but the total amount received will not exceed what was provided to the initial Center. Dividing the General Conference subsidy should not result in the reduction of any services or resources at any of the Research Centers in the territory. If an additional Center should close, all White Estate files are to be returned to the Ellen G White Estate, as stated in GE 20 10.

Colleges and universities owned and operated by unions may also elect to establish a Research Center with authorization of the union, division, and White Estate Board. All setup and operating expenses are the responsibility of the educational institution and/or its union. The director of the Research Center is to be recommended every five years by the employing organization, in counsel with the union/division, and appointed by the White Estate Board as soon as possible after the General Conference Session. A supervisory committee of no fewer than five, nominated by the college/university board, and appointed by the White Estate Board, is responsible for management of the Center. The division Spirit of Prophecy Coordinator, director of the White Estate, or persons who officially represent them, shall be ex-officio members of the committee. All other policies follow those stated under GE 20 10.

GCDO04AC/04AC to SGR

156-04G ANNUAL COUNCIL—2007 - LOCATION

VOTED, To approve the location for the 2007 Annual Council as Kiev, Ukraine in the Euro-Asia Division.

Jan Paulsen, Chairman
Vernon B Parmenter, Secretary
Larry R Evans, Editorial Secretary
Janet C Upson, Recording Secretary

E G WHITE BOOKS DISTRIBUTION COSTS

DIV	UNION	2003	Union%	Div %	\$1,000,000	UNION	\$1,000,000	DIVISION	\$2,000,000	GENERAL	FUND	
		Membership	of Total	of Total	4 YRS	YRLY	4 YRS	YRLY	MEMBERS	CONF	DONORS	RAISING
ECD	ATTACHED - Burundi	79,902	0.60%		5,960	1,490						
ECD	ATTACHED - Eritrea	498	0.00%		37	9						
ECD	ATTACHED - Northeast Congo Att Terr	164,321	1.23%		12,257	3,064						
ECD	EAST AFRICAN UNION MISSION	573,277	4.28%		42,761	10,690						
ECD	EAST CONGO UNION MISSION	72,689	0.54%		5,422	1,355						
ECD	ETHIOPIAN UNION MISSION	129,544	0.97%		9,663	2,416						
ECD	RWANDA UNION MISSION	361,416	2.70%		26,958	6,740						
ECD	TANZANIA UNION MISSION	307,604	2.29%		22,944	5,736						
ECD	UGANDA UNION MISSION	134,750	1.01%		10,051	2,513						
ECD	WEST CONGO UNION MISSION	240,560	1.79%		17,943	4,486						
	ECD - TOTAL	2,064,561		15.40%	153,996	38,499	153,996	38,499	307,993			
ESD	ATTACHED - Belarus	4,633	0.03%		346	86						
ESD	CAUCASUS UNION MISSION	9,861	0.07%		736	184						
ESD	EAST RUSSIAN UNION MISSION	15,059	0.11%		1,123	281						
ESD	MOLDOVA UNION CONFERENCE	11,413	0.09%		851	213						
ESD	SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE	7,026	0.05%		524	131						
ESD	UKRAINIAN UNION CONFERENCE	61,124	0.46%		4,559	1,140						
ESD	WEST RUSSIAN UNION CONFERENCE	35,644	0.27%		2,659	665						
	ESD - TOTAL	144,760		1.08%	10,798	2,699	10,798	2,699	21,595			
EUD	ATTACHED - EUD	203	0.00%		15	4						
EUD	AUSTRIAN UNION OF CHURCHES	3,657	0.03%		273	68						
EUD	BULGARIAN UNION OF CHURCHES	7,747	0.06%		578	144						
EUD	CZECHO-SLOVAKIAN UNION CONFERENCE	9,809	0.07%		732	183						
EUD	FRANCO-BELGIAN UNION CONFERENCE	12,272	0.09%		915	229						
EUD	ITALIAN UNION OF CHURCHES	6,662	0.05%		497	124						
EUD	NORTH GERMAN UNION CONFERENCE	20,821	0.16%		1,553	388						
EUD	PORTUGUESE UNION OF CHURCHES	8,391	0.06%		626	156						
EUD	ROMANIAN UNION CONFERENCE	70,960	0.53%		5,293	1,323						
EUD	SOUTH GERMAN UNION CONFERENCE	15,169	0.11%		1,131	283						
EUD	SPANISH UNION OF CHURCHES	10,402	0.08%		776	194						
EUD	SWISS UNION CONFERENCE	4,171	0.03%		311	78						
	EUD - TOTAL	170,264		1.27%	12,700	3,175	12,700	3,175	25,400			
IAD	ATTACHED - IAD	111	0.00%		8	2						
IAD	CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE	185,950	1.39%		13,870	3,468						
IAD	COLOMBIAN UNION CONFERENCE	210,441	1.57%		15,697	3,924						
IAD	CUBAN UNION CONFERENCE	23,325	0.17%		1,740	435						
IAD	DOMINICAN UNION MISSION	200,056	1.49%		14,922	3,731						
IAD	FRENCH ANTILLES-GUIANA UNION MISSION	26,739	0.20%		1,994	499						
IAD	HAITIAN UNION MISSION	273,586	2.04%		20,407	5,102						
IAD	INTER-OCEANIC MEXICAN UNION MISSION	152,372	1.14%		11,365	2,841						
IAD	MID-CENTRAL AMERICAN UNION MISSION	266,370	1.99%		19,869	4,967						
IAD	NORTH CENTRAL AMERICAN UNION MISSION	167,351	1.25%		12,483	3,121						
IAD	NORTH MEXICAN UNION CONFERENCE	138,912	1.04%		10,361	2,590						
IAD	PUERTO RICAN UNION CONFERENCE	34,414	0.26%		2,567	642						
IAD	SOUTH CENTRAL AMERICAN UNION MISSION	153,494	1.14%		11,449	2,862						
IAD	SOUTH MEXICAN UNION CONFERENCE	245,051	1.83%		18,278	4,570						
IAD	VENEZUELA-ANTILLES UNION MISSION	127,989	0.95%		9,547	2,387						
IAD	WEST INDIES UNION CONFERENCE	215,889	1.61%		16,103	4,026						
	IAD - TOTAL	2,422,050		18.07%	180,662	45,165	180,662	45,165	361,323			
NAD	ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE	95,563	0.71%		7,128	1,782						

E G WHITE BOOKS DISTRIBUTION COSTS

DIV	UNION	2003	Union%	Div %	\$1,000,000	UNION	\$1,000,000	DIVISION	\$2,000,000	GENERAL		FUND
		Membership	of Total	of Total	4 YRS	YRLY	4 YRS	YRLY	MEMBERS	CONF	DONORS	RAISING
NAD	CANADA, SDA CHURCH IN	52,955	0.39%		3,950	987						
NAD	COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE	115,175	0.86%		8,591	2,148						
NAD	LAKE UNION CONFERENCE	77,418	0.58%		5,775	1,444						
NAD	MID-AMERICA UNION CONFERENCE	58,546	0.44%		4,367	1,092						
NAD	NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE	88,361	0.66%		6,591	1,648						
NAD	PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE	208,918	1.56%		15,583	3,896						
NAD	SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE	213,956	1.60%		15,959	3,990						
NAD	SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE	81,154	0.61%		6,053	1,513						
	NAD - TOTAL	992,046		7.40%	73,997	18,499	73,997	18,499	147,994			
NSD	ATTACHED - Mongolia Mission	531	0.00%		40	10						
NSD	CHINESE UNION MISSION [EAA+SCIU]	328,765	2.45%		24,523	6,131						
NSD	JAPAN UNION CONFERENCE	14,974	0.11%		1,117	279						
NSD	KOREAN UNION CONFERENCE	176,344	1.32%		13,154	3,288						
	NSD - TOTAL	520,614		3.88%	38,833	9,708	38,833	9,708	77,666			
SAD	AUSTRAL UNION CONFERENCE	105,714	0.79%		7,885	1,971						
SAD	BOLIVIA UNION MISSION	125,625	0.94%		9,370	2,343						
SAD	CENTRAL BRAZIL UNION CONFERENCE	243,503	1.82%		18,163	4,541						
SAD	CHILE UNION MISSION	111,759	0.83%		8,336	2,084						
SAD	EAST BRAZIL UNION CONFERENCE	142,950	1.07%		10,663	2,666						
SAD	ECUADOR UNION MISSION	48,949	0.37%		3,651	913						
SAD	NORTH BRAZIL UNION MISSION	503,383	3.75%		37,548	9,387						
SAD	NORTHEAST BRAZIL UNION MISSION	223,253	1.67%		16,653	4,163						
SAD	PERU UNION MISSION	614,153	4.58%		45,810	11,452						
SAD	SOUTH BRAZIL UNION CONFERENCE	153,926	1.15%		11,481	2,870						
	SAD - TOTAL	2,273,215		16.96%	169,560	42,390	169,560	42,390	339,120			
SID	ATTACHED - North Botswana Field	12,264	0.09%		915	229						
SID	ATTACHED - South Botswana Field	12,021	0.09%		897	224						
SID	ANGOLA UNION MISSION	246,929	1.84%		18,419	4,605						
SID	INDIAN OCEAN UNION MISSION	85,547	0.64%		6,381	1,595						
SID	MALAWI UNION MISSION	233,860	1.74%		17,444	4,361						
SID	MOZAMBIQUE UNION MISSION	181,936	1.36%		13,571	3,393						
SID	SOUTHERN AFRICA UNION CONFERENCE	93,343	0.70%		6,962	1,741						
SID	ZAMBIA UNION MISSION	437,527	3.26%		32,635	8,159						
SID	ZIMBABWE UNION MISSION	410,341	3.06%		30,607	7,652						
	SID - TOTAL	1,713,768		12.78%	127,831	31,958	127,831	31,958	255,661			
SPD	AUSTRALIAN UNION CONFERENCE	51,350	0.38%		3,830	958						
SPD	NEW ZEALAND-PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE	17,161	0.13%		1,280	320						
SPD	PAPUA NEW GUINEA UNION MISSION	216,282	1.61%		16,133	4,033						
SPD	TRANS-PACIFIC UNION MISSION	81,879	0.61%		6,107	1,527						
	SPD - TOTAL	366,672		2.74%	27,350	6,838	27,350	6,838	54,700			
SSD	ATTACHED - SSD	24	0.00%		2	0						
SSD	ATTACHED - Guam-Micronesia Mission	3,506	0.03%		262	65						
SSD	ATTACHED - Sri Lanka Mission	3,544	0.03%		264	66						
SSD	BANGLADESH UNION MISSION	19,367	0.14%		1,445	361						
SSD	CENTRAL PHILIPPINE UNION CONFERENCE	134,209	1.00%		10,011	2,503						
SSD	EAST INDONESIA UNION MISSION	99,761	0.74%		7,441	1,860						
SSD	MYANMAR UNION MISSION	24,563	0.18%		1,832	458						
SSD	NORTH PHILIPPINE UNION MISSION	239,872	1.79%		17,892	4,473						
SSD	SOUTH PHILIPPINE UNION CONFERENCE	462,276	3.45%		34,481	8,620						
SSD	SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION MISSION	74,180	0.55%		5,533	1,383						

E G WHITE BOOKS DISTRIBUTION COSTS

DIV	UNION	2003	Union% of Total	Div % of Total	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000		\$2,000,000	GENERAL	DONORS	FUND
		Membership			4 YRS	UNION	DIVISION	MEMBERS	CONF	RAISING		
					YRLY	YRLY	YRLY	YRLY				
SSD	WEST INDONESIA UNION MISSION	104,005	0.78%		7,758	1,939						
	SSD - TOTAL	1,165,307		8.69%	86,921	21,730	86,921	21,730	173,841			
SUD	ATTACHED - Andaman and Nicobar	198	0.00%		15	4						
SUD	ATTACHED - Mumbai Metro Region	7,142	0.05%		533	133						
SUD	ATTACHED - Nepal Field	1,851	0.01%		138	35						
SUD	EAST CENTRAL INDIA UNION SECTIO	412,468	3.08%		30,766	7,692						
SUD	NORTHEAST INDIA UNION SECTION	37,171	0.28%		2,773	693						
SUD	NORTHERN INDIA UNION SECTION	89,465	0.67%		6,673	1,668						
SUD	SOUTH CENTRAL INDIA UNION SECT	55,210	0.41%		4,118	1,030						
SUD	SOUTHEAST INDIA UNION SECTION	79,692	0.59%		5,944	1,486						
SUD	WOUTHWEST INDIA UNION SECTION	31,592	0.24%		2,356	589						
SUD	WESTERN INDIA UNION SECTION	71,760	0.54%		5,353	1,338						
	SUD - TOTAL	786,549		5.87%	58,669	14,667	58,669	14,667	117,338			
TED	ADRIATIC UNION CONFERENCE	3,963	0.03%		296	74						
TED	ATTACHED - Greek Mission	443	0.00%		33	8						
TED	ATTACHED - Iceland Conference	540	0.00%		40	10						
TED	ATTACHED - Israel Field	1,140	0.01%		85	21						
TED	BALTIC UNION CONFERENCE	6,643	0.05%		496	124						
TED	BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE	23,129	0.17%		1,725	431						
TED	DANISH UNION OF CHURCHES	2,694	0.02%		201	50						
TED	FINLAND UNION CONFERENCE	5,350	0.04%		399	100						
TED	HUNGARIAN UNION CONFERENCE	4,535	0.03%		338	85						
TED	MIDDLE EAST UNION MISSION	13,380	0.10%		998	250						
TED	NETHERLANDS UNION CONFERENC	4,472	0.03%		334	83						
TED	NORWEGIAN UNION CONFERENCE	4,759	0.04%		355	89						
TED	PAKISTAN UNION SECTION	8,820	0.07%		658	164						
TED	POLISH UNION CONFERENCE	5,691	0.04%		424	106						
TED	SOUTH-EAST EUROPEAN UNION CO	8,385	0.06%		625	156						
TED	SWEDISH UNION CONFERENCE	2,777	0.02%		207	52						
	TED - TOTAL	96,721		0.72%	7,214	1,804	7,214	1,804	14,429			
WAD	CENTRAL AFRICAN UNION MISSION	118,941	0.89%		8,872	2,218						
WAD	GHANA UNION CONFERENCE	287,379	2.14%		21,436	5,359						
WAD	NIGERIA UNION MISSION	217,683	1.62%		16,237	4,059						
WAD	SAHEL UNION MISSION	31,068	0.23%		2,317	579						
WAD	WEST AFRICAN UNION MISSION	34,956	0.26%		2,607	652						
	WAD - TOTAL	690,027		5.15%	51,469	12,867	51,469	12,867	102,939			
	TOTALS	13,406,554	100.00%	100.00%	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000

ANNUAL COUNCIL

GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 11, 2004, 2:00 p.m.

Harold W Baptiste, Chairman, called to order the fourth session of the 2004 Annual Council.

Prayer was offered by Solomon Maphosa, President of the Zimbabwe Union Mission

SS&PM/FinPl&Bud00AC/00AC/101-00Ga/SS&PM/FinPl&Bud01AC/01AC/101-01Ga/
SS&PM/FinPl&Bud02AC/02AC/101-02Ga/SS&PM/FinPl&Bud03AC/03AC/101-03Ga/
FinPl&Bud04AC/04AC to SGR(DIV)

101-04Ga CALENDAR OF THIRTEENTH SABBATH
OFFERINGS—WORLD 2005 - 2010

VOTED, To revise the Calendar of Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings—World 2005 - 2010,
to read as follows:

2005	First Quarter	Inter-American Division
	Second Quarter	North American Division
	Third Quarter	Northern Asia-Pacific Division
	Fourth Quarter	Southern Asia-Pacific Division
2006	First Quarter	Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division
	Second Quarter	South American Division
	Third Quarter	South Pacific Division
	Fourth Quarter	East-Central Africa Division
2007	First Quarter	Euro-Africa Division
	Second Quarter	Trans-European Division
	Third Quarter	West-Central Africa Division
	Fourth Quarter	Southern Asia Division
2008	First Quarter	Euro-Asia Division
	Second Quarter	Inter-American Division
	Third Quarter	North American Division
	Fourth Quarter	Northern Asia-Pacific Division

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2009	First Quarter	Southern Asia-Pacific Division
	Second Quarter	Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division
	Third Quarter	South American Division
	Fourth Quarter	South Pacific Division
2010	First Quarter	East-Central Africa Division
	Second Quarter	Euro-Africa Division
	Third Quarter	Trans-European Division
	Fourth Quarter	West-Central Africa Division

Distribution summary from 2005 through second quarter 2010 when the cycle begins to repeat itself.

East-Central Africa	2
Euro-Africa	2
Euro-Asia	1
Inter-American	2
North American	2
Northern Asia-Pacific	2
Southern Africa-Indian Ocean	2
South American	2
South Pacific	2
Southern Asia	1
Southern Asia-Pacific	2
Trans-European	2
West-Central Africa	2

TRE/FinPl&Bud04AC/04AC to SGR(DIV)

101-04Gf CALENDAR OF SPECIAL OFFERINGS—WORLD 2007

VOTED, To adopt the Calendar of Special Offerings—World 2007, which reads as follows:

January

6	Outreach/Church Budget
13	Division
20	Church Budget
27	Conference/Union

February

3 Outreach/Church Budget
10 Division
17 Church Budget
24 Conference/Union

March

3 Outreach/Church Budget
10*+ Adventist World Radio
17 Church Budget
24 Conference/Union
31 Church Budget

April

7 Outreach/Church Budget
14*+ World Mission Budget
21 Church Budget
28 Conference/Union

May

5 Outreach/Church Budget
12*+ Disaster and Famine Relief (Program provided for NAD only)
19 Church Budget
26 Conference/Union

June

2 Outreach/Church Budget
9 Division
16 Church Budget
23 Conference/Union
30 Church Budget

July

7 Outreach/Church Budget
14+ World Mission Budget
21 Church Budget
28 Conference/Union

August

4 Outreach/Church Budget
11 Division

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August, contd

18 Church Budget
25 Conference/Union

September

1 Outreach/Church Budget
8+ World Mission Budget (*Go 1 Million*)
15 Church Budget
22 Conference/Union
29 Church Budget

October

6 Outreach/Church Budget
13 Division
20 Church Budget
27 Conference/Union

November

3 Outreach/Church Budget
10*+ Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)
17 Church Budget
24 Conference/Union

December

1 Outreach/Church Budget
8 Division
15 Church Budget
22 Conference/Union
29 Church Budget

Summary of Offerings

General Conference	6
Division	6
Conference/Union	12
Church	28
Total	52

*Program provided by the General Conference
+Worldwide offering

TRE/FinPl&Bud04AC/04AC to SGR(DIV)

101-04Gg CALENDAR OF SPECIAL DAYS AND EVENTS—
WORLD 2007

VOTED, To adopt the Calendar of Special Days and Events—World 2007, which reads as follows:

January

6	Soul-Winning Commitment	Program provided by divisions
13	United in Wonder of His Grace Emphasis	
20	Health Ministries	Program provided by divisions
27	Religious Liberty Day	

February

3	Bible Evangelism	
10-17	Christian Home and Marriage	Program provided by GC
24	Youth Temperance	
24	Health and Temperance Magazines	Program provided by divisions

March

3	Women's Day of Prayer	Program provided by GC
10	Tract Evangelism	
17-24	Youth Week of Prayer	Program provided by GC

April

7	Missionary Magazines	Program provided by publishing houses
14	Youth Spiritual Commitment Celebration (Northern Hemisphere)	
21	Literature Evangelism Rally	Program provided by divisions
28	Christian Education	Program provided by divisions

May

1-31	Drug Awareness Month	Program provided by GC
5	Community Service Evangelism	Program provided by divisions
19	Global Baptism	

June

2	Bible Correspondence School	
9	Women's Ministry	Program provided by GC

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July

7 Home Study International Promotion

August

4 Global Mission Evangelism Program provided by divisions
25 Abuse Prevention Emphasis Program provided by GC

September

1 Lay Evangelism Program provided by divisions
1-8 *Adventist Review*
(Annual subscription promotion)
8 Family Togetherness Program provided by GC
8 Youth Spiritual Commitment
Celebration (Southern Hemisphere)
15 Pathfinder Day
22-27 Health Emphasis Program provided by divisions

October

6 Sabbath School Guest Program provided by divisions
6 Community Relations
13 Spirit of Prophecy Program provided by White Estate
20 Children's Sabbath

November

3-10 Week of Prayer
17 Ingathering
24 Bible Emphasis Program provided by divisions

December

1 Stewardship Program provided by divisions

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/
GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

362-04G MINISTERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS (THE
MINISTRY AND MINISTERIAL TRAINING) - POLICY
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC L 30, Ministers from Other Denominations, to read as follows:

L 30 Ministers from Other Denominations

1. ~~When a minister from another denomination accepts the Adventist message~~ When ministers from other denominations become members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and desires desire to become an Adventist minister, he ministers, they shall, before he becomes becoming involved in a formal study program, be expected to give evidence of his their stability in the message and of his their aptitude as a ~~candidate~~ candidate for the Seventh-day Adventist ministry by being active in a local church. Upon recommendation of the local ~~conference/mission conference/mission/field~~ conference/mission conference/mission/field committee and approval by the union ~~committee~~ committee, they may participate full time in church activities in cooperation with and under the direction of the local pastor for a minimum of six months. An additional six months may be granted if after careful review by the local ~~conference/mission conference/mission/field~~ conference/mission conference/mission/field committee it is deemed necessary. Great care should be given to the selection of the ~~pastor~~ pastors under whose direction ~~he~~ they will work so that ~~he~~ they may be assured of the most sympathetic attention possible during this difficult transition period. Where recommended by the local ~~conference/mission conference/mission/field~~ conference/mission conference/mission/field and approved by the union committee, a subsistence allowance may be given to ~~him~~ them during this period, the amount and source of funds to be in harmony with the division policy.

2. ~~When a minister from another denomination has~~ When ministers from other denominations have met the conditions outlined in paragraph ~~1,~~ 1. above, and ~~has~~ have given evidence of his their stability in the message and aptitude as a ~~candidate~~ candidate for the Seventh-day Adventist ministry, the local and union conferences/missions where ~~he is~~ they are located, in cooperation with the division, shall develop a plan by which ~~he~~ they may attend one of our colleges or the Theological Seminary for a minimum of two semesters or three quarters so as to prepare ~~himself~~ themselves for service in the Seventh-day Adventist ministry. Any allowances given will be in harmony with and shared on the basis outlined by the division policy.

3. The eligibility of such ministers for financial support as outlined in paragraphs 1. and 2. above shall be determined by the division committee on the recommendation of the local and union conference/mission committees concerned.

4. Application for approval of financial support as outlined in paragraphs 1. and 2. above shall be made on a comprehensive application form provided by the division, and submitted by the local and union conferences/missions with their endorsement and acceptance of responsibility.

a. In considering the application, the administrators shall give attention to ~~the~~ each minister's age, family situation, educational and service records, and likelihood of being able to render acceptable service in the Seventh-day Adventist ministry. In case there is any

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question about the applicant's ability to profit by a period of study, the division will consult with the school concerned.

b. When division assistance is ~~expected~~ expected, such a minister shall in no case enter into a study program until financial arrangements have been fully worked out and approved by the division.

5. Upon completion of their study program, ministers who have been on this plan shall look for guidance in their future work to the union and local conferences/missions that recommended them.

6. Ordained or unordained ministers from other denominations who ~~accept the Advent message~~ become members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and continue in the ministry may be issued ministerial licenses or commissioned minister licenses after they have completed their period of study and orientation and have entered upon regular employment in any ~~conference, mission, conference/mission/field~~ conference/mission/field or institution. Ordained ~~ministers men~~ men received thus into denominational work shall be ordained to the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church prior to ~~issuing~~ being issued ministerial credentials. ~~credentials to them.~~

7. ~~Honorary~~ Honorary/Emeritus Ministerial Credentials may be granted, after careful consideration by the union committee concerned, to ordained ~~ministers men~~ men from other denominations residing in ~~their~~ its territory who have become members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and who are retired from active service and therefore do not come under the foregoing provisions. The issuing of such ~~honorary~~ honorary/emmeritus credentials does not carry with it any financial obligation. Such ministers shall exercise ministerial functions only in counsel with their local ~~conference/mission~~ conference/mission/field office or other Seventh-day Adventist ministers in their community, as do other retired ministers holding similar credentials. ~~papers.~~

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

606-04G HONORARY CREDENTIALS (CREDENTIALS AND
LICENSES) - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC E 05 40, Honorary Credentials, to read as follows:

E 05 40 ~~Honorary Credentials~~—Honorary Honorary/Emeritus Credentials—Honorary/Emeritus credentials, corresponding to the credentials they held while in active service, may be granted to retirement beneficiaries who are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. (See E 10 60.)

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

607-04G HONORARY CREDENTIALS (CREDENTIALS AND
LICENSES—METHOD OF ISSUING) - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC E 10 60, Honorary Credentials, to read as follows:

E 10 60 ~~Honorary Credentials~~—1. ~~Honorary~~ Honorary/Emeritus Credentials—1. Honorary/Emeritus credentials shall be issued by union conferences and union missions to retired denominational employees who are entitled to such credentials, and who reside within the territory of their unions, except for those provided for in E 10 65.

2. Retired employees who reside within fields that are attached directly to divisions, and who are entitled to receive ~~honorary~~ honorary/emmeritus credentials, shall be issued their ~~honorary~~ honorary/emmeritus credentials by the divisions in which they reside.

3. Interdivision employees, or those who have been in General Conference employ, who, though in good standing, are without employment in denominational work for a period of one year from the time their employment ceased, shall be referred to the union conference/mission in which they reside. ~~Honorary~~ Honorary/Emeritus credentials may be issued to them by the union conference/mission committee and renewed from time to time at its discretion.

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

608-04G GENERAL CONFERENCE RETIRED PERSONNEL
(CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES—METHOD OF ISSUING) -
POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC E 10 65, General Conference Retired Personnel, to read as follows:

E 10 65 General Conference Retired Personnel—Elected members of the General Conference, including division presidents who end their service with and retire from General Conference employment, shall receive ~~honorary~~ honorary/emmeritus credentials from the General Conference. ~~Honorary~~ Honorary/Emeritus credentials may also be granted to such other employees who end their service with and retire from the General Conference and who in the judgment of the committee should receive such credentials.

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04AC to LCC-ADCOM+GCC

ELECTION PROCESS AT A GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION

A presentation was made to the Annual Council which set forth information that provided a rationale and a need to consider the processes and the timing by which General Conference Officers, especially the General Conference President, are elected at the time of a General Conference Session. The discussion was largely informal in that it came without recommendation or any formal motion. However, it was considered appropriate to bring it to the attention of the Annual Council. After a period of discussion, it was

VOTED, 1. To request that the General Conference Executive Committee consider ways by which the election processes and time frames at a General Conference Session might be amended so as to augment the time and the effectiveness of processes for providing information and adequate time for deliberation to the Nominating Committee.

2. To give consideration to a specific recommendation, referred to as "Option 2." but that motion was tabled indefinitely.

AHI/ADCOM/04AC to LCC

153-04G ADVENTIST HEALTH INTERNATIONAL SERVICES— AUTHORIZATION FOR NEW CORPORATION

VOTED, To authorize the establishment of a new corporation, Adventist Health International Services, for the purpose of assisting various denominational entities in sustaining viable health care institutions and services as an expression of Seventh-day Adventist mission.

LLU/TRE/IDERem&All/IDERem&All/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to
LRE(DIV)

539-04G FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MEDICAL/DENTAL DEFERRED APPOINTEES, LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC N 30 05, Financial Assistance to Medical/Dental Deferred Appointees, Loma Linda University, to read as follows:

~~N 30 05 North American Division Deferred Appointee Program—1. Student enrolled in a Doctor of Dental Surgery or Medical Doctor program at Loma Linda University who, prior to the end of senior academic year, indicates a commitment to serve as interdivision medical/dental employees, and who are recommended by the Loma Linda University Deferred Interdivision Appointee Revolving Loan Fund Committee, may be considered for deferred appointment by the General Conference Appointees Committee. If appointed, they shall be designated as medical/dental deferred appointees. Applications are available at the General Conference representative's Office on the Loma Linda University campus.~~

N 30 05 North American Division Deferred Mission Appointee Program—1. A student enrolled in a Doctor of Dental Surgery or Medical Doctor program at Loma Linda University who, prior to the end of the senior academic year, indicates a commitment to serve as an interdivision medical/dental employee may apply through the General Conference Representative's Office on the Loma Linda University campus. After examining the applications, the Loma Linda University Deferred Mission Appointee Committee will recommend to the General Conference Appointees Committee individuals for deferred mission appointee status positions. The General Conference Appointees Committee will limit its approval to the number of available positions as determined by the General Conference Interdivision Employee Budget Oversight Committee.

2. ~~Student Loans—Medical/Dental Loans—~~A medical/dental deferred mission appointees appointee enrolled at Loma Linda University shall obtain all student loans from government and private student loan sources as arranged by the student finance office. Loans from parents or family members will not be considered amortizable loans under terms of this policy unless such loans were arranged by Loma Linda University under provisions of its loan program and are within the overall ~~maximum~~ total amount for amortizable loans as outlined in this policy.

3. Funding—a. Each medical/dental deferred mission appointee must file a Loma Linda University Financial Aid Application each year.

b. The deferred mission appointee shall be awarded grants and low-interest loans through normal federal and Loma Linda University institutional sources. Additional funds, if required and approved, will be lent from the Loma Linda University Deferred ~~Medical Mission~~ Appointee Endowment Account. The total amount shall not exceed the established living allowance and tuition, ~~tuition~~ plus the cost of books up to US\$1,000 each year and, for dental students, additional loans to cover the cost of instruments and supplies as authorized by the School of Dentistry and approved by the General Conference Interdivision Employee Remuneration and Allowances Committee.

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c. A living allowance, not to exceed the standard Loma Linda University dormitory student ~~budget, rate,~~ which is determined each year, will be provided in the form of a loan from the Loma Linda University Deferred ~~Medical~~ Mission Appointee Endowment Account. This living allowance will start in September of the second year of school. This loan shall be amortized based on interdivision service in accordance with terms set by the Loma Linda University Deferred ~~Medical~~ Mission Appointee ~~Endowment~~ Committee. The amortization shall be funded from interest on the endowment. If the deferred mission appointee does not go into interdivision service, the loaned amount, with interest as outlined in the agreement, shall be repayable to the endowment.

d. The deferred mission appointee shall sign a contract committing himself/herself to interdivision service upon completion of his/her study program. If he/she does not fulfill this obligation, or fails to complete the amortization period, any funds that might have been advanced from General Conference sources, which have not been amortized by service, plus annual interest at the quarterly rate charged on intradenominational loans made by the General Conference (calculated from the date of each advance), will be due and payable immediately. If he/she cannot arrange financing to pay the amount in full, repayment shall be at a rate of not less than what the amortization rate would have been, plus interest at the applicable rate. Funds obtained from federal and Loma Linda University sources will be the responsibility of the deferred mission appointee according to the terms of the individual promissory notes.

e. When the deferred mission appointee begins the term of interdivision service, denominational and other loans obtained under the terms of this policy will be amortized ~~over a six-year period,~~ in accordance with N 35 10.

4. Procedures—The procedures to be followed in the deferred mission appointee plan for medical/dental students at Loma Linda University shall be as follows:

a. The General Conference Interdivision Employee Budget Oversight Committee shall determine limits as to how many individuals may be granted Deferred Mission Appointee status at any given time.

~~a. b.~~ Applicants shall be evaluated by the Loma Linda University ~~Interdivision Deferred Mission Appointee Revolving Loan Fund~~ Committee and recommended to the General Conference Appointees Committee.

~~b. c.~~ Debt management counseling shall be an integral part of the evaluation and appointment procedures, and shall be continued through the years of the study program to ensure ~~compliance with the approved debt ceiling.~~ appropriate loan amounts and rates.

~~e. d.~~ The deferred mission appointee shall be required to attend the Institute of World Mission prior to taking up the appointment. In certain cases attendance may be authorized for another time. ~~The expense of the travel and attendance at the Institute shall be borne by the General Conference. If the deferred appointee is later appointed on a Code 4 budget, the General Conference shall bill the employing organization in the host division for the cost, including travel, to attend the Institute.~~

~~d. e.~~ Close contact shall be maintained between the student and the General Conference Secretariat and Health Ministries Department representatives throughout the years of the ~~study program~~ training program, including and, for medical students, throughout the residency.

~~e. f.~~ The General Conference shall assist in ~~maintaining~~ controlling the approved debt ceiling amount by paying the interest on approved loans that require payment until the deferred mission appointee commences interdivision service. These payments shall be set up by the General Conference as an additional loan. ~~loan with interest added at the quarterly rate charged on intradenominational loans made by the General Conference. This loan will be amortized in accordance with N 25 25. Interest rate on this loan at the General Conference shall be adjusted at the beginning of each calendar quarter at published prime rate in the Wall Street Journal on the first business day of that quarter.~~

~~f.~~ In the junior year, ~~the General Conference Secretariat and Health Ministries Department representatives shall commence counseling the medical student in the selection of a residency program.~~

~~g.~~ The Loma Linda University School Schools of Medicine and Dentistry administration administrations shall arrange a mission elective service for the each medical student appointee during the his/her senior year.

~~h.~~ The deferred medical appointee shall be assigned to a specific ~~interdivision location no later than the commencement of the final year of residency.~~ The deferred mission appointee shall receive a specific interdivision service appointment approximately six months prior to the completion of training. Such appointment shall be based on available budgets and institutional needs at the time. If no interdivision appointment is available, the individual shall be notified approximately six months prior to the completion of training. When the General Conference Appointees Committee has voted a specific appointment and the individual has formally accepted the appointment, the appropriate interdivision employee policies shall apply.

~~i.~~ The General Conference shall make payment on approved loans that must be paid prior to the deferred appointee entering interdivision service. These payments shall be

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~~set up by the General Conference as an additional loan with interest added at the quarterly rate charged on intradenominational loans made by the General Conference. This loan will be amortized in accordance with N 25 25.~~

5. Those receiving assistance under this policy for graduate debts are not eligible for assistance under N 25 05, unless the assistance under this policy is less than US\$6,000. US\$6,000 or is for undergraduate debts. (See N 25 05, paragraph 5.) The spouse, however, if employed on other than a Code 5 budget, ~~budget~~ could still qualify under N 25 05.

LLU/TRE/IDERem&All/IDERem&All/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to
LRE(DIV)

540-04G DEFERRED MEDICAL APPOINTEE APPROVED
RESIDENCY—NORTH AMERICA - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend N 35, Deferred Medical Appointee Approved Residency—North America, to read as follows:

N 35 Deferred Medical Mission Appointee
Approved Residency—North America

~~N 35 05 Approval of Residency—Deferred medical appointees who, upon completion of their basic medical training, elect to take specialty training before proceeding to an interdivision appointment are requested to obtain prior approval for their residency plans from the General Conference Appointees Committee.~~

N 35 05 Eligibility of Residency—A deferred mission appointee discusses specialty training interests with the Loma Linda University Deferred Mission Appointee Committee during his/her senior year.

~~N 35 10 Indebtedness Liquidation Assistance/Repayment—Assistance for Interdivision Service—When actual interdivision service commences immediately after residency training, the deferred appointee/employee shall be granted, for each year of interdivision service given, amortization at the rate of one sixth of the maximum amount allowed under N 25 25 plus one sixth of the past accrued interest until the indebtedness, in harmony with policy, has been liquidated. In addition, current accruing interest will be amortized on an annual basis. For those employed on Code 1, 2, 4, and 6 budgets, the expense shall be shared equally between the General Conference and the host division. For those on Code 3 budgets, the General Conference shall bear the full expense. This policy is not applicable to those on Code 5 budgets.~~

N 35 10 Indebtedness Repayment—Assistance for Interdivision Service—1. A deferred mission appointee who accepts an interdivision appointment and has an educational debt from either undergraduate or graduate studies will be provided amortization of that debt, including interest accrued, by a fixed amount each year. This expense shall be shared equally between the General Conference and the employing organization. As long as this individual remains as an interdivision employee, as defined below, this amortization shall continue until the debt is amortized. The length of interdivision appointment shall continue to follow established policies, and any debt remaining after discontinuing interdivision service shall become the individual's responsibility.

2. The yearly amortization amount is to be calculated annually by the Loma Linda University Financial Aid office based on the formula below and approved by the Interdivision Employee Remuneration and Allowances Committee. This amount is fixed for each deferred mission appointee at the time of beginning interdivision employee service. The projected debt amount while attending Loma Linda University, determined on acceptance as an appointee, divided by ten, will equal the annual amortization amount. Accumulating interest on all loans will be paid yearly. The appointees with the same eligible amounts will receive the same principal amortization yearly. If the debt is low, it will be amortized sooner than ten years but, if the debt exceeds the projected amount, the remaining debt will continue to be amortized as long as he/she remains in interdivision employee service.

3. Each deferred mission appointee from Loma Linda University accepted into this program is required to participate in a debt management plan organized by the Loma Linda University Student Financial Aid office. This shall begin while enrolled at Loma Linda University, be adjusted at the time of graduation, and continue under periodic review through residency. The intent is to consolidate loans and to assure the best interest rates.

4. For those employed on Code 1, 2, 4, and 6 budgets, this expense shall be shared equally between the General Conference and the employing organization. It is required that the individual serving be under the interdivision employee remuneration system in order for the General Conference to participate in the amortization assistance provided in this policy.

5. For those on Code 3 budgets, the funding organization shall bear the full expense.

6. This policy is not applicable to those on Code 5 budgets.

7. Mission institutions unable to amortize their 50 percent share of an appointee's debt may request financial assistance from other sources, including Loma Linda University. All such arrangements for any financial assistance should be approved before a deferred mission appointee is voted a specific interdivision assignment by the General Conference Appointees Committee.

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N 35 15 Expenses for Other Boards—If the General Conference and the division to which the deferred mission appointee is assigned have authorized the deferred mission appointee in a residency program to take the Canadian Medical Board or other similar examinations, the expense incurred for this shall be borne by the division to which the deferred mission appointee is assigned.

N 35 20 Deferred Loans During Residency—Repayment—1. During ~~the approved residency, residency years,~~ the deferred mission appointee should seek forbearance and/or defer as many loans as possible. The General Conference will make the necessary payments on the loans that are not deferrable or for which forbearance is not achievable while in residency, setting these payments up as a loan receivable. When the deferred mission appointee begins the term of interdivision service, this loan, along with accrued interest, would be amortized on a percentage basis of the total indebtedness being ~~amortized over a six year period.~~ amortized.

2. If the interdivision employee returns to the base division before this advance has been settled, he/she shall repay the balance, including accrued interest, at the same rate at which it was being amortized, plus current interest at the rate charged on intradenominational loans made by the General Conference.

04AC to LRE&JRL(DIV)

MEDICAL/DENTAL STUDENTS PRESENTLY PARTICIPATING
IN THE DEFERRED MEDICAL APPOINTEE PROGRAM

VOTED, To encourage those students and residents presently participating in the Deferred Medical Appointee Program on December 31, 2004 to transfer to the new Deferred Mission Appointee Approved Residency—North America Program. All new applicants after January 1, 2005 will automatically be processed under the new policy.

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

322-04G FURLOUGHS/OPTIONAL ANNUAL LEAVES—PARENTS
AND CHILDREN SERVING IN DIFFERENT DIVISIONS -
POLICY DELETION

VOTED, To delete GC P 45 40, Furloughs/Optional Annual Leaves—Parents and Children Serving in Different Divisions, paragraph 5, which reads as follows:

5. Parents Living in Third Division—Provisions are available during a phase-out period of four years from October 31, 1998, to interdivision employees, for their current

uninterrupted period of interdivision service, who are not changing their base division country or family adopted division country status, as follows:

a. Interdivision employees who have parents, whether denominationally employed or not, who live in other than the base division of furloughing employees, may, with the approval of the host division and the General Conference Appointees Committee, be allowed to take, after a minimum of four years in the host division country, a scheduled furlough or optional annual leave in the third division rather than in the base division.

b. The travel costs involved are provided in order to visit the parents in the third division but do not include any destination points in the base division. The interdivision employee may, at personal expense, also visit the base division during the same furlough or optional annual leave, but the authorized travel at denominational expense is only based on travel to the third division. Furlough salary and allowances, other than medical or duplicate housing, remain based on the host division country rate or the base division country rate and not on the rate in the third division being visited. Expenses for these furloughs are borne by the same organization which bears expenses for the interdivision employee's routine furloughs. Other options for visiting parents in a third division may be available as outlined in P 50 25. Under such options all salary, allowances, medical, and duplicate housing are calculated on the base division rate.

PREXAD/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to TNCW+05SM

145-04G CONNECTING WITH JESUS—A SPIRIT OF PROPHECY
GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION PROJECT

VOTED, To approve the concept of the document Connecting with Jesus—Spirit of Prophecy Global Mission Distribution Project, which reads as follows:

Connecting With Jesus
A Spirit of Prophecy Global Distribution Project

Plans and Objectives

The Need

1. Projections suggest that by 2020 the Seventh-day Adventist community will number 50 million adherents.

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2. Only 12.5 percent of those individuals will have been Seventh-day Adventists in 2000.
3. Recent surveys show a decline in readership of the Spirit of Prophecy.
4. However, the same surveys indicate that most members still believe that the Spirit of Prophecy is an authority for the Seventh-day Adventist Church today.
5. Other surveys demonstrate that participation by church members in several areas of the spiritual life and mission of the Church can be measured in direct relation to whether they regularly read the Spirit of Prophecy.
6. It is also widely acknowledged, both within and outside of Adventism, that the Spirit of Prophecy has been—and continues to be—primarily responsible for the Church's remarkable theological and administrative unity worldwide. The Church needs to nurture this historical and ongoing spiritual influence.

The Goal

To develop a plan that will encourage the reading of Ellen G White's writings among church members worldwide, with the following results anticipated:

1. Increase spirituality among members, including lifestyle changes and more involvement with the life and mission of the Church.
2. Enhance Adventist identity; a return to the Church's prophetic roots as a movement (reinforcing the belief that the Seventh-day Adventist movement is the remnant described in Revelation 12).
3. Challenge every member to recapture his or her own personal vision for helping Adventism fulfill its prophetic mission.

The Printing Plan

1. To distribute the following ten Spirit of Prophecy books that have generally been translated into major languages of literate church members worldwide: *Acts of the Apostles*; *Christian Service*; *Counsels for the Church* (A compilation of Spirit of Prophecy writings grouped in 66 chapters covering various topics, including spiritual subjects on Christ and Christian beliefs, Christian missionary activities, publications of the church, the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, marriage and family, child rearing, choices of music and reading and dress, Christian education, temperate living, health reform and activities, church organization, the

Sabbath, Christian stewardship, Christian obligation to suffering and the needy, the medical work, Satan's deceptive work, false science, the crisis of the final days of earth's history, Christ as our High Priest, and the Second coming of Christ); *Counsels on Stewardship*; *Desire of Ages*; *Great Controversy*; *Ministry of Healing*; *Patriarchs and Prophets*; *Prophets and Kings*; and *Steps to Christ*. These books will be bound in seven volumes, with several of the books being combined.

2. To print approximately two million sets of the seven volumes (10 books), sufficient to supply a set to every active Adventist family worldwide. A modest charge for the books is suggested, but it should be affordable for members in each country of the world.

3. To develop study guides, etc., for the above books for use by individual lay members in personal, family, and group settings; pastors in prayer and other meetings; student and youth groups; women's ministries, etc. These materials will include the study guide (12 pp); biography of Ellen G White (20 pp); principles for studying the Spirit of Prophecy (2-3 pp); SDA Fundamental Beliefs (2-3 pp). The full bio article will be in the first volume only. A brief bio will be included in the other books in the set. A Bible reading plan (4-5 pp) will be included in each book.

4. If circumstances warrant, a common printing arrangement may be coordinated by the General Conference. However, printing will generally be the responsibility of the divisions unless some wish to combine printing of languages used in common.

5. To provide for CD ROM availability of the ten books and possibly an internet website with the material for downloading.

The Distribution and Study Plan: Responsibilities of each Division

1. Working in cooperation with the General Conference, each division will decide on the translation needs for its territory. Divisions may target a few main language groups reaching the majority of members. The General Conference, in consultation with each division, will establish the number of sets to be printed. This decision will consider the number of languages needed, the costs of printing locally in Seventh-day Adventist publishing houses, and an average price for commercial printing. This will provide the basis for funding.

2. All requests for translation funding for this project will go to the General Conference Spirit of Prophecy Committee. Translation coordination will be the responsibility of each division.

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3. Divisions will be responsible for overseeing distribution of the sets to churches and church members. Divisions will cover the cost of distribution by a nominal charge to recipients. Divisions may also wish to raise or allocate funds to cover distribution.

4. Divisions will provide overall supervision and coordination to the unions and local conferences/missions/local fields for the study plans of each church or small group using the study guides in each book. Pastors and lay leaders will be trained and encouraged by conferences/missions/local fields to lead in the study of each volume.

The Funding

The cost for the project will be approximately eight million dollars depending on circumstances and how extensively the project is promoted and implemented. Funding for this large project will need a variety of partners and the blessing of the Lord over a five-year period. It is proposed that support will come from the following and other sources:

	Contribution per unit	Total
General Conference	.50	\$1,000,000
Divisions	.50	\$1,000,000
Unions	.50	\$1,000,000
Conferences	Pastor participation	Pastor participation
Donations	1.50	\$3,000,000
Members (charge for books)	1.00	\$2,000,000
Total		\$8,000,000

Distribution Costs—Request church-based service/business organizations (health systems, health food organizations) to assist in distribution costs.

(Special note: It should be understood that all expenditures for the project will be dependent on income received.)

(A copy of the Cost Distribution Chart is attached to the official copy of the minutes.)

The Timetable

January 2004	Report to General Conference PREXAD, including division presidents
October 2004	Conceptual Plan voted at Annual Council
Nov/Dec 2004	Division yearend meetings provide feedback to planning committee
April 2005	Full plan presented at Spring Meeting, including financial aspects
2005-2010	Plans implemented

PRE/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

537-04Gb GENERAL CONFERENCE AND ITS DIVISIONS -
POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC B 05 20, General Conference and its Divisions, to read as follows:

B 05 20 General Conference and its Divisions—1. The General Conference is the largest unit of organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and embraces all church organizational structure in all parts of the world. 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 and supervisory responsibilities for designated groups of unions and other church units within specific geographic areas. (See C 05, Division Territories.) In situations where geopolitical circumstances inhibit a division committee's supervisory role in part of the division territory, the division committee may request from the General Conference Administrative Committee an appropriate arrangement to address the situation.

2. Divisions—As provided by its Constitution and Bylaws, the General Conference conducts its work through the divisions. Each division embraces all the unions and local conferences/missions/fields and institutions (other than General Conference institutions) in its assigned area of the world.

3. Highest Organization—The General Conference is the highest organization in the administration of the worldwide work of the Church, and is authorized by its Constitution to create subordinate organizations to promote specific interests in various sections of the world; it is therefore understood that all subordinate organizations and institutions throughout the world will recognize the General Conference in session as the highest authority under God. When differences arise in or between organizations and institutions on matters not already addressed in the Constitution and Bylaws, in the policies of the General Conference, or in its Executive Committee actions at Annual Councils, appeal to the next higher organization is proper until it reaches the General Conference in session, or the Executive Committee in Annual Council. During the interim between these sessions, the Executive Committee shall constitute the body of final authority on all questions where a difference of viewpoint may develop, whose decisions shall control on such controverted points, but whose decision may be reviewed at a session of the General Conference or an Annual Council of the Executive Committee. (See also B 40 10.)

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PreC03AC/SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/221-03G/IHFABd/PolRev&Dev/PolRev&Dev/
ADCOM/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/TreC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

204-04G INTERNATIONAL HEALTH FOOD ASSOCIATION -
POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC HI, International Health Food Association, to read as follows:

HI 05 Rationale for Seventh-day Adventist
International Health Food Association

HI 05 05 Rationale—The Seventh-day Adventist Church believes that man was made in the image of God. ~~The entrance of sin into the world marred that image and separated man from his Maker, to his physical, mental, and spiritual detriment. The effects of sin ultimately can be eliminated only by the beneficent influence of the Gospel, the principal goal of which is to make man truly whole.~~ The Church believes that its health and food ministry distinctively contributes to the restoration of the whole man. This belief derives from the Bible-based conviction that man, made in the image of God, has a responsibility toward his Creator, recognizing himself to be “the temple of the living God . . . bought with a price,” and that it is incumbent upon him to care for his body as well as his spirit, since both belong to God.

~~These convictions led the Church into a worldwide ministry of healing (sanitariums, hospitals, leprosariums, clinics) and of teaching (health classes, stop smoking clinics, dietary instruction, cookery schools). Its The Church's conviction that a vegetarian diet is near to the ideal planned by the Creator influenced ~~the Church~~ it to establish food industries for the production of plant protein foods. Since 1893 these food industries have supplied specialized types of food that conform to the standards recommended in the Church's teachings.~~

~~This food ministry, by continual research in food processing technology, and by the production of palatable, nourishing, and inexpensive foods, assists men to avoid illnesses caused by disregard of health principles and by those that arise from the high incidence of disease and contaminants in flesh meat.~~

The ~~objectives~~ philosophy of the food ministry of the Church ~~are~~ is in part defined in the writings of Ellen G White, one of the early leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and one who, because of inspired insights, wrote with more than ordinary knowledge.

“The 1. Operations—“The productions which God has supplied are to be made up into healthful foods, which people can prepare for themselves. Then we can appropriately present the principles of health reform, and those who hear will be convinced of the consistency

of these principles, and will accept them. But until we can present health reform foods which are palatable, nourishing, and yet inexpensive, we are not at liberty to present the most advanced phases of health reform in diet.”—CD 272 ~~Ellen G White, Letter 98, 1901.~~

“When conducted in such a manner that the gospel of Christ is brought to the attention of the people, the health-food work can be profitably engaged in. But I lift my voice in warning against efforts that accomplish nothing more than the production of foods to supply the physical needs. It is a serious mistake to employ so much time and so much of the talents of men and women, in manufacturing food, with no special effort being made at the same time to supply the multitudes with the bread of life. Great dangers attend a work that has not for its object the . . . revelation of the way of eternal life.” Ellen G White, CD 277.

~~“The health food business is in need of means and of the active cooperation of our people that it may accomplish the work it ought to do. Its purpose is to supply the people with food that will take the place of flesh meat, and also milk and butter, which on account of the diseases of cattle, are becoming more and more objectionable.” Ellen G White, Ibid., p 350.~~

In fulfillment of such counsels, the health food work operated by the Church is not simply a commercial enterprise, but endeavors to combine its specialized function with the primary purpose of the Church in preaching the gospel. This concept is defined in a further quotation from Ellen G White:

“. . . there should be facilities for the manufacture of inexpensive, necessary health foods. Worldly policy is not to be brought into this work . . . The health food business should be regarded as God’s gift to His people.” Ellen G White, Letter 25, 1902.

In order to maximize the success of the health food companies in fulfilling the goals philosophy as outlined above, the International Health Food Association has been established by which each denominationally owned health food company is encouraged to be accredited. Each health food company shall operate in harmony with the above stated philosophy of the International Health Food Association and with the manufacturing and marketing standards and procedures as set forth in these policies and administered by the International Health Food Association.

~~HI-05-10 Health Education—In 2. Education—~~In association with the health ministry of the Church, Seventh-day Adventist food industries participate in education programs by which the laws of healthful living are presented both to church members and the general public to assist them in relating habits of daily living to these laws.

“There is a great work to be done in bringing the principles of health reform to the notice of the people. Public meetings should be held to introduce the subject, and schools should be

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held in which those who are interested can be told more particularly about our health foods and how a wholesome, nourishing, appetizing diet can be provided without the use of meat, tea, or coffee. Thus we did in the early history of our work. We taught the people by demonstration that we can safely depend for the sustenance of life upon the productions which God gave our first parents in Eden. Let men engage in this work who can speak on the principles of health reform." Ellen G White, Letter 343, 1904.

~~HI 05-15 Motivation—Physical~~ 3. Motivation—Physical facilities in denominational food industries may not differ greatly from those of purely commercial concerns. ~~These food~~ Denominational industries are distinctive because their staffs have distinctive motivation, dedication, and ~~objectives.~~ philosophy. These are the elements which the Church seeks to preserve so that the food industry, as part of the church program, will contribute to the ultimate objective of the denomination, that of preparing a people for the coming of their Lord. This spiritual objective is fostered by encouraging the practice of starting each morning with a ~~by the~~ brief religious devotional service held in all Seventh-day Adventist food production centers. (See GCC minutes, March 15, 1973, 73-1418, and also Total Commitment to God declaration, A 10 45.)

4. Mission Statement—The International Health Food Association is a service of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, dedicated to encouraging the production, distribution, and promotion of foods and meat substitutes that are palatable, nourishing, and affordable, to assist humanity in reaching the goal of healthful living in harmony with the nutritional philosophy promoted by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

HI 10 Philosophy and Objectives
HI 10 Objectives of the
International Health Food Association

~~HI 10 05 Philosophy—1. The overall philosophy of healthful living promulgated by the Church falls into two categories:~~

a. ~~The philosophy of the health ministry through the relief of suffering, treatment of disease, and through education whereby the basic laws of healthful living are better understood and accepted as being essential in preserving health and vitality.~~

b. ~~The philosophy of the food ministry which has as its objective the preparation of nutritious foods from readily available raw materials which are palatable, nourishing, and economical, and through continual research in food technology to improve the quality of such foods.~~

~~“The productions which God has supplied are to be made up into healthful foods which people can prepare for themselves. Then we can appropriately present the principles of health reform and those who hear will be convinced of the consistency of these principles and will accept them. But until we can present health reform foods which are palatable, nourishing, and yet inexpensive we are not at liberty to present the most advanced phases of health reform in diet.” Ellen G. White, Letter 98, June 19, 1901.~~

~~HI 10 10 Purposes and Objectives—The HI 10 05 Objectives of the International Health Food Association—The following objectives bring meaning and definition to HI 05 05. The ultimate objective of the food ministry of the Church is found in the Spirit of Prophecy as outlined in HI 05 05.~~

~~In addition to these basic objectives, there are also other objectives which are related but yet different which require separate definition as follows:~~

~~1. To encourage all business operations and transactions to be a practical demonstration of the principles of Christ’s kingdom.~~

~~1- 2. To establish and maintain principles and objectives regarding the development and operation of the health-food work in harmony with our denominational principles and the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy.~~

~~2- 3. To give counsel and advice as needed to health-food operations in the world divisions.~~

~~3- 4. To coordinate the world resources of the Church in the expansion of current health food operations and development of new interests. This will include assisting health food companies to obtain information regarding the availability of equipment and supplies from denominational and other sources. To coordinate the International Health Food Association resources and assist new and developing health food companies to obtain information regarding the availability of resources such as equipment and supplies from denominational and other sources.~~

~~4- 5. To set standards regarding foods produced and sold consistent with our health principles.~~

~~5- 6. To establish guidelines regarding geographical areas of operation, especially as between divisions.~~

~~6- 7. To encourage the development of appropriate products, especially for the disadvantaged areas of the world.~~

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8. To encourage product research that seeks to support management at all levels to achieve an understanding of market conditions and dietary needs such that the health food work will continue to contribute to the overall health education program of the Church.

~~HI 10-15 Advancement in Product Formulation and Marketing—1. Constant Advances Necessary—Social and economic pressures are bringing about changing conditions. There must be constant advances not only in product quality but also in formulation adapted to the changing conditions if success is to be achieved in maintaining consumer acceptance of foods which are related to our health program. The objectives of the food ministry can be achieved only by communication with and soliciting the support of all associated with the health ministry of the Church which includes division, union, and local conference health department secretaries, dietitians, or food service directors of Seventh-day Adventist institutions, church officers, and church members.~~

~~2. Methods—Methods must therefore be devised to establish contact with a broad spectrum of the market and to become cognizant of its particular dietary needs. It is only through this effort that intelligent product research and improvement can be directed to not only meeting changing conditions but also to participating more significantly in the overall health education program of the Church.~~

HI 15 Organization and Procedures

HI 15 05 International Health Food Association Director—Duties and Responsibilities—The director shall work under the direction of the General Conference Executive Committee and shall serve in an advisory capacity to the world field as follows:

1. Negotiate Counsel, where required, in the exchange of technology and product formulas between authorized manufacturers, with all requests being cleared and given proper security through regular denominational channels.

2. Explore the possibility of developing export markets for food products through denominational facilities or independent agents.

3. Assist in finding adequate solutions to production, marketing, and finance problems. Assist in basic functional areas such as: marketing, production, finances, technology, research, and development of new products or existing ones, administration, physical plant, and strategic planning. This will be provided by the International Health Food Association director, personnel from other International Health Food Association members or other resources arranged by the International Health Food Association.

4. Assist in setting up new industries and to counsel food administrators in areas of research, product development, production, and marketing.
5. Supply information concerning new food processes and packaging as such information becomes available from other firms, through journals, or from exhibitions.
6. Serve as secretary of the International Health Food Association Board.

HI 15 10 International Health Food Association Board—1. Membership—The International Health Food Association Board with appropriate representation from the health food companies and divisions in which they are located shall be established as follows:

General Conference President, or vice president designee, Chairman
Division officer from the division in which the board meeting is held, Vice-Chairman
International Health Food Association Director, Secretary
General Conference Treasurer, or associate treasurer, designee
International Health Food Association Treasurer
One representative as recommended by each division committee

~~One representative from each division~~
~~One representative from each health food company as approved by the respective division~~
~~One additional representative from each health food company for each block of sales equal to 10,000 multiplied by the 100 percent wage factor for that particular country and one additional delegate when the remaining sales, after assigning blocks to delegates, form the major part of one block~~

2. Meetings—The board shall meet annually at times and locations as authorized by the General Conference Executive Committee. ~~Consideration should be given to meeting at different locations which are associated with the health food operation to gain the benefit of studying that operation firsthand.~~

~~HI 15-15 International Health Food Association Executive Committee—1. Membership—The International Health Food Association Executive Committee shall be made up as follows:~~

~~General Conference President, or vice president designee, Chairman~~
~~International Health Food Association Director, Secretary~~
~~General Conference Treasurer, or associate treasurer designee~~
~~One representative recommended by the division committee from each world division where there is a significant health food work~~

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~~These members will be appointed at the first International Health Food Association Board meeting in each quinquennium and will serve until the first board meeting in the next quinquennium.~~

~~2. 3.~~ Terms of Reference—The terms of reference for the International Health Food Association ~~Executive Committee~~ Board shall be as follows:

a. Provide leadership ~~in the implementation of operational actions of the International Health Food Association Board including~~ and coordination of health food interests worldwide.

b. Receive and review annual operational and financial reports from member companies and operations as provided by General Conference Auditing Service. ~~operations.~~

c. Report and/or recommend to relevant boards and division administrations on reviews under b. above.

d. Give direction and oversight to the development of new projects as approved by the International Health Food Association and provide and maintain the terms of reference for its local board.

~~d. e.~~ Implement Maintain an evaluation and accreditation program.

~~e. f.~~ Prepare Approve an expense budget. ~~budget for submission to the International Health Food Association Board.~~

~~f. g.~~ Administer and approve activities within budget provisions.

~~g. h.~~ Administer the International Health Food Association Expansion Fund.

~~h. i.~~ Respond to requests from divisions or food operations for specialist help in areas such as equipment, production, marketing, or financial advice.

~~i. j.~~ Develop protocol to guide in the establishment of proposed joint ventures.

~~j. k.~~ Arrange for and organize meetings of the International Health Food Association Board and seminars. an international conference for the Church's food industries every two to three years for the purpose of fulfilling the philosophy and objectives of the International Health Food Association as stated in HI 10.

HI 15 15 International Conferences—1. Consideration should be given to meeting at different locations which are associated with the health-food operation to gain the benefit of studying that operation first hand.

2. Persons eligible to attend the conferences shall be as follows:

Members of the International Health Food Association Board

One representative from each division

One representative from each health-food company for each block of sales equal to 10,000 multiplied by the 100 percent wage factor for that particular country and one additional delegate when the remaining sales, after assigning blocks to delegates, form the major part of the one block

HI 15 20 International Health Food Association Expansion Fund—1. Source of Income—A fund shall be established to assist in financing new and expanding operations. The source of income for this fund shall be a contribution from all denominationally owned and operated health food companies as recommended by the International Health Food Association Board and approved by the General Conference Executive Committee.

2. Management of Fund—This fund, which shall be a revolving fund, shall be managed by the International Health Food Association ~~Executive Committee.~~ Board.

3. Applications for Assistance—Applications for assistance shall be made as follows:

a. The relevant division committee shall approve the application and underwrite the loan.

b. Requests shall be limited only to buildings and equipment.

~~e. The application shall include a proforma trading statement showing projected viability of the project.~~

~~d. c.~~ The application shall include details and information as specified by the ~~management committee.~~ International Health Food Association Board.

4. Loans—Loans shall be made on a matching basis with the sponsoring division.

5. Terms of Repayment—Repayment shall be on a mid- to long-term basis with interest payable annually on the reducing balance.

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6. Allocations—Allocations from the fund shall be limited to the resources of the fund held in reserve for this purpose.

7. Other Uses—Funds in excess of those allocated for the revolving fund may be used as directed by the board for other food industry projects.

HI 15 25 Food Retailers Merchandise Stock and Promotion Guidelines—1. Primary Objective—The primary objective of denominational food retailers is to operate a program that brings the gospel of Christ to the attention of people through the total health message. The types of merchandise that denominational food retailers stock and promote shall always be in harmony with the spiritual and/or health standards of the Church.

2. Approved Stock—Denominational food retailers shall stock and promote merchandise produced by denominational food factories. Other health-related products not manufactured by denominational factories may also be merchandised except for the following:

a. Products which make unsubstantiated or misleading claims on the labels or packages, which are publicly advertised with misleading claims, or which project an image inconsistent with either denominational doctrines or standards.

b. Products which contain deleterious or questionable properties.

c. Products inconsistent with denominational health standards.

~~3. Questionable Products—If a product or any ingredient of a product is questioned, the product shall not be offered for sale until it has been cleared by the division Retail Merchandise Screening Committee.~~

~~4. Retail Merchandise Screening Committee—In divisions where denominational food retailers are in operation, a Retail Merchandise Screening Committee shall be appointed to determine the suitability of merchandise which will be offered for sale or free distribution. The committee shall be comprised of the following:~~

~~Division president or other officer, Chairman~~

~~Division officer, Vice-Chairman~~

~~Division International Health Food Association Director, Secretary~~

~~Division Health Department Director~~

~~Five additional members, two of whom shall have medical or nutritional training~~

~~5. 3. Periodic Training—Wherever possible, managers and sales persons of denominational food retailers shall receive periodic training in food oriented seminars conducted~~

by qualified personnel in order to assist them to evaluate data, nutritional values, and statements made on the labels or packages of nondenominationally manufactured merchandise.

~~6. Adventist Principles—Products with high nutritional or dietetic value which promote Seventh-day Adventist principles shall receive the major advertising support in store or window displays.~~

~~7. 4. Unsubstantiated Claims—Managers of denominational food retailers shall ensure that no denominational advertising program, or any sales person, shall promote the sale of merchandise by making any unsubstantiated claims for its effectiveness in treating or alleviating any health problem.~~

~~8. Adventist Book Centers—If an Adventist Book Center chooses to have a food section, the above guidelines shall apply.~~

~~9. 5. Publication—Denominational food retailers may, in harmony with division policy, stock and promote publications produced by denominational publishing houses or publications which have been approved for denominational distribution.~~

HI 15 30 Safeguarding Food Products Recipes and Processing Technology—The boards of management of denominational food industries may enter into negotiations with reputable nondenominational food manufacturers for cooperation in food development and production, providing the following guidelines are observed:

1. Development of New Foods—Extreme care shall be exercised in drawing up agreements for the development of new foods so that:

a. The church food industry retains its identity, particularly as an institution of the Church.

b. Areas of cooperation with a nondenominational company are defined in a contract document and limited to laboratory product research and development, test marketing, and evaluation.

c. The church food industry cooperates in using its know-how and expertise in the preparation of new specialized food products. Product recipes and processing technology shall not be released concerning existing products, except as provided in HI 15 25, paragraph 2.

d. Either party shall have the privilege of terminating any agreement within the period of time specified in the agreement.

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2. Licensed Use of Existing Recipes and Technology—Product recipes and processing technology for existing products shall be made available only after:

- a. Thorough investigation of the credentials of the interested corporation.
- b. Safeguarding of denominational interests in the future development of denominational food production in the country concerned.
- c. Approval of the original owner.
- d. Completion of a properly drawn licensing agreement.

HI 15 35 Exchange of Confidential Information—The free exchange of food recipes and processing technology between denominational food industries shall be in harmony with the following procedures and guidelines:

1. Requests—Requests for such information shall be initiated by the requesting company's board of management. ~~Board of Management.~~

2. Authorization to Provide Technology—Authority to provide requested technology shall be by the owning company's board of management.

~~2.~~ 3. Confidentiality to be Maintained—Receiving organizations shall agree in writing, to treat as confidential all information, knowledge, and instructions obtained and shall not make disclosures to any other person, firm, or corporation except to impart necessary information to its employees in the course of pursuing product production.

3. 4. Written Statement—Employees having access to such information shall sign a written statement to the effect that the information will not be divulged to any third party.

4. 5. Special Confidentiality—When a food company feels that information lodged with the International Health Food Association requires a special degree of confidentiality, it may require that this information should not be shared with any other organization until the originating company is satisfied that the sharing of such information will not prejudice its own operations.

HI 20 Export Policy for Marketing
Denominational Food Products

HI 20 05 In harmony with the laws of the countries involved, the governing board of each denominational food company shall be responsible for developing and administering export

policies for marketing their products in consultation with the International Health Food Association.

~~HI 20-05 Philosophy—The philosophy governing policies on the export of products and services produced by denominational food companies is that exports will strengthen the global outreach of the Seventh-day Adventist Church through the marketing of these products and services.~~

~~The rationale for developing brand awareness in the market place on a global level, the training of marketing specialists to distribute products and services, the establishment of factories which will have global outreach, and the promotion of health foods and services which have multicultural appeal, is that these will become a mechanism for the advancement of the gospel. This will be accomplished through direct witness, their support of other denominational institutions, departments and services, the use of food products and services as an initial public contact means, and by appropriations to other denominational programs from the surpluses generated by the food industries.~~

~~Efforts will be made to locate production facilities as close to the market as possible, but where this is not possible due to lack of capital resources, or due to economies of scale, an import process may be established by an existing health food entity. As part of the strategy to develop and enhance the capability of the division where the target market is located, a joint venture, technology transfer, a joint marketing and distribution network, and other joint efforts are to be encouraged. This will assist a division where the health food industry is not well developed to expand its capability and take full advantage of market opportunities.~~

~~HI 20-10 Adherence to Export Policy—Denominational organizations shall adhere to an approved export policy for marketing denominational food products.~~

~~HI 20-15 Denominational Export Policy—1. Priority to Denominational Agents—Union and division controlled manufacturing or marketing organizations shall first offer their exportable products for sale to other denominational marketing organizations and give priority to denominational agents, when they have the necessary competence, regardless of whether an inquiry originates with a denominational organization or a prospective importer.~~

~~2. Determining Market Potential—The marketing organization receiving this offer shall give early study to determine the market potential in its territory and shall within a period of sixty days notify its decision in writing. An annual sales performance shall be agreed upon.~~

~~3. Nondenominational Agents—If the products offered are not accepted, the organization making the offer will be permitted to develop export markets with nondenominational agents or distributors under its own or private label, except for any product~~

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~~which is considered to be comparable in essential characteristics to products already being manufactured and/or marketed in that territory by the a denominationally owned company. Should a problem develop in determining whether a product is similar or not, the question shall be referred to the General Conference International Health Food Association Director for determination by the International Health Food Association Executive Committee.~~

4. ~~Competitive Products—In the case of competitive products, denominational organizations are to be given sole rights to distribute in their division/union territories where they have established distribution centers.~~

5. ~~Noncompetitive Products—Where a division/union does not have any distribution facility within its division/union, the factory or marketing organization wishing to export to an overseas area shall be free to market noncompetitive products and appoint independent agents of their choice who are competent to service the territory in question.~~

6. ~~Export Agreement Notification—The General Conference International Health Food Association Director and the divisions involved will be notified by letter of export activities.~~

7. ~~Development Assistance—Where marketing has commenced in a territory assigned to a division which does not own the food factory exporting the products, and the market volume justifies local manufacturing, the exporter may enter into a memorandum of agreement for factory development which may include provisions for capital investment, personnel and management training, local employment opportunities, and profit sharing.~~

At 4:55 p.m. the meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee was recessed.

INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ASSOCIATION—LEGAL MEETING

At 4:55 p.m. a legal meeting was held of the International Religious Liberty Association.

At 5:30 p.m. the meeting of the International Religious Liberty Association was closed.

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Closing prayer was offered by Lee C Huff

Harold W Baptiste, Chairman
Claude Sabot, Secretary
Larry R Evans, Editorial Secretary
Lissy Park, Recording Secretary

ANNUAL COUNCIL

GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 12, 2004, 9:00 a.m.

DEVOTIONAL

The devotional message entitled "The Witness of Truth: God's Misfits" was presented by Lonnie Melashenko, Speaker and Director, *Voice of Prophecy*. Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version unless noted otherwise.

Would you take your Bibles and turn with me to Judges chapter 11. Before he even stepped up to the plate and stood in the batters box, Jeff had three strikes against him. He was the son of a prostitute and an illegitimate child—strike one. He was a thug and a brute—strike two. He was raised on the wrong side of the tracks as we say in America, in an attitude of hatred and hostilities—strike three. Growing up in an overcrowded cage of half brothers, he was constantly the target of verbal put downs and violent profanity.

In fact, putting it mildly, Jeff was not wanted. He compensated by becoming the meanest kid on the block. Kicked out of his home before he even reached manhood, he became a hood, joined a tough bunch of thugs, and adopted the lifestyle of a rebel. They hobnobbed as the Bible says, down in a place called Tob.

Jeff earned the reputation of being the toughest of the tough. He became the leader of a gang which ripped and rammed their way through villages like a pack of hyenas. If they had motorcycles, they would have been riding around in leather jackets with a Tob Mob insignia—racing around the hills of Gilead outrunning the law. You can read all about it in Judges, chapter 11, verses 1 to 3. He was a society reject. He was a failure. Jephthah was the Charles Manson, Boston strangler, and Al Capone of his day combined in one person. Jephthah was a failure. Jephthah was no good. Jephthah was a misfit.

Jephthah is that man, or woman, in our home church, who on Sabbath morning during the Sabbath School lesson always seems to say the wrong thing, or do the wrong thing, or wear the wrong thing. In terms of talents, he probably does not have any even though he thinks he has twenty, or more. It is during the Sabbath School lesson that he always speaks up and, as soon as he says something, you just cringe and hope nobody really heard. Somehow when the music committee plans the special music, he gets up to sing and when he does, the entire church and the neighbors for two blocks cover their ears.

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Jephthah is that man, or woman, who meets you in the parking lot with a little missile about his study of the angels in Revelation 8 and of the seven trumpets. Do you know this person? I call this person, this special, anonymous person, one of God's spiritual misfits. But you know something? Millions know the feeling of being misfits. They are perhaps the ones that we know among our circle of friends or families who did not make the cut on the Dean's List when it was printed for medial school—the list which shows the ones who get to go on, which ones get into the school of dentistry. They were not quite good enough to get the job that they thought they were trained for. They are the people in our families who could not, for some reason, quite hold their marriages together. Jephthah could not quite make the cut. He was a misfit. He was not good enough and everyone said he was out—three strikes.

My dear wife Jeannie has a precious mother who lives in Paradise, California. This past year she had a character-building experience in which she lived and survived with one of God's special misfits. My mother-in-law, Evelyn Fuller, lives in the same little guest home in Paradise with Cliff. Cliff is an 84-year-old charter member of "Misfits Anonymous International." For twenty-nine years Cliff had been a member of the United States Navy. He did not know anything about God except to take His name in vain. He retired from the Navy, became a tough police officer in Beverly Hills and later in Oakland, California. Somehow in his later years, he worked as a security guard for the Feather River Hospital in Northern California. Cliff was nothing but a godless, conniving, cranky old pagan.

He moved into this little guest home where my mother-in-law lives with four other Adventists in an Adventist retirement home. How he got there we do not know, except it appears God had a plan. Cliff did not like Adventist food. He certainly did not like the music. He did not like the selection of television programs and he did not like the regimen where the television was turned off each Friday night. In fact, he thought everyone's choices were sad, sorry, and stupid. When a misfit like Cliff gets his hands on the remote control it is hard to stand up against him.

Brothers and sisters from all around this planet, friends in this most inner of circles, I want to share a couple of things with you. *Voice of Prophecy* is seventy-five years old this week. We started broadcasting ten days before the Stock Market crashed on October 29, 1929. This makes us the oldest, continuous, religious broadcast of any kind. I am proud of that heritage, but this seventy-five-year-old ministry had the singular purpose of reaching out and loving misfits everywhere. Beloved, God loves them, and so do we. And secondly, in Isaiah there is a promise that God gave to some of the most misdirected, mistreated, misbegotten people that ever walked—His own children of Israel.

Some time ago we studied the book of Isaiah in Sabbath School. You know as well as I do, that the first thirty-nine chapters of Isaiah is one long sigh and wringing of hands on the part of God for these hopeless folks. But when you get over to chapter forty and particularly chapter forty-three verses 1 to 6, notice what God says about these misfits of His. "But, I created you oh Jacob. I formed you Israel, fear not I have redeemed you; I have called you by name. You are mine."

The reality here this morning is that you and I are the halves of this world. We go out there and contribute out of our abundance, we are reaching into the lives and hearts of these people, these misfits. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred we are serving people whose names we do not know, will probably never get to meet, but I will tell you this, God knows those people. Their names are tenderly written in the mind of God, He knows where they come from, He knows their struggles, and He knows the exact avenue for their return back to His family. Whether it is a radio broadcast, whether it is a *Sow 1 Billion Discover Bible* card that ends up in a trash dumpster somewhere, somehow somebody gets it, unwrinkles it, smoothes it out, and sends it in. Baptisms are happening in South America and in Europe right now. Millions of these people are clicking in on the Internet—1.5 million people every single month at *Voice of Prophecy* Headquarters

The reality of this text is that Jesus knows these people out there that we do not know. He knows them by name. He knows where they are. He knows their circumstances. He knows about the San Quinton prisoners who write to me every month. He knows about those Walla Walla inmates who are former Seventh-day Adventist pastors' kids who write to *Voice of Prophecy*. He knows about Diego Rincon who went over to the Gulf war, one of the first of the four Americans that were killed when that taxi driver detonated himself. One of those was Diego Rincon. We baptized his parents as a result of Net 2003. Rincon was baptized before he shipped out.

God knows about two misfits you saw me baptizing in the video, Bea Par and Leslie Wood, who sat about six rows from the front every night during that series of meetings in Columbia, South Carolina. I had never met them before, but Leslie Wood and Bea Par had been married to the same man at different times. He divorced them and eventually married three or four other women. Somehow through that process, they had become friends, best friends. God knew about their desire to know something better because Leslie Wood had a dream about a year before that series of meetings. God spoke to her so clearly that it woke her from her sleep. She was startled and wondered who had spoken. The voice said, "Leslie, you have to get ready. You have to get ready." This was about a year and a half after September 11, 2001 and she wondered if there was going to be another great calamity. "God just spoke to me. I do not believe in God but that must have been something divine."

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Leslie Wood sold her home, bought a motor home and then went out and filled it with all kinds of food and clothes. She could not sleep at night. She saw her doctor but even with sleeping pills, relief did not come. She talked about her problem with her friends and Bea Par. They said, "What you need is church. You need God in your life." She said, "No, it is not that." Five different denominations tried to get her to go to a church and she said, "No." Then she received a *Voice of Prophecy* invitation to the meetings in Columbia, South Carolina. The meetings were about prophecy and end time. Leslie Wood and Bea Par decided to attend. They sat about five rows from the front every night for five nights. On the sixth night, I spoke on the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. They came up afterward with tears streaming down their cheeks and Leslie threw her arms around me and said, "I see it, it is like somebody hit me between the eyes. Now I know what that means. You have to get ready for the coming of Jesus Christ." Both of those individuals were baptized and are now your sisters in Jesus Christ.

God knows about Sandy Wara. I met him a couple of months ago at the White Memorial Church in Southern California. Long hair like an ape, tattoos all over his body, studs in every part of his body you could imagine. He came to the meetings at the White Memorial Church as they showed them on satellite. He and his 14-year-old son were baptized and he is now my brother in Jesus. He cut his hair and many did not recognize him.

God knows about Randy Son in Lake Port, California. During the Net series, Son and his wife put up a little satellite dish in their dental office and said, "Let us invite somebody to come. Who should we invite?"

His wife said, "What if we invite our dental lab technician."

"Oh, but he is an atheist and his wife is a Jehovah's Witness."

Talk about a combination of unlikely misfits. However, they both attended. I stood in the Eel River and baptized Steve and Doris Anderson. That is why in the New Testament we see, over and over again, that Jesus had a penchant for going out to the hoods. He went out to where the gangs and prostitutes made their living and the tax collectors practiced their extortion.

Then there was our experience with twenty-five student evangelists in Zambia. The students were the real heroes. They went out into the bush where no one else ever dared go before and held meetings. They went out into a world of misfits every night, in every neighborhood. And their satellite meetings were held directly adjacent to all kinds of unlikely taverns on skid row. The poor misfits of that great country in Africa swarmed to their meetings. The auditorium held about two thousand people. That was all we could pack into the auditorium. But those twenty-five student evangelists had thirty-six thousand people attending their meetings every night.

In Tanzania miracles happened. One group of laymen bought a little screen. They set it up in the middle of a village square market. Two to three thousand people gathered every night to watch a five-inch screen.

According to our translators in the Congo, thirty thousand people gathered every night in one location and forty thousand people in another and watched the meetings by live satellite every night.

Misfits around this planet are hungry to drink in the gospel message. People that Jesus calls His own. Now, why do we do this? Why have we been in this business for seventy-five years? Because the gospel, beloved, does something for misfits. It does something for rebels and it does something for prostitutes and yes, even for Jephthah and the “Tob Mob” down at Tob. Suddenly you read in Judges, chapter 11, about a change that occurs. How God’s people, time and time again, enter into another new barrage of hostilities. This time it was from the Amorites, the not-so-friendly neighbors to the east by the Jordan. The longer the Jews were waging their battle against this hated enemy, the more obvious it became that Israel was up against the ropes. They had their backs against the wall. Defeat was inevitable.

The Jews needed a leader who could have the courage to stand against their fiery foes. Guess who the Israelites thought of? You are right—Jephthah. They figured that this guy, with his record, would probably qualify for the job. So, they called the man from the mob in Tob. Trembling they said (See Judges 11:6, 8), “Come and be our chief, that we might fight against the sons of Ammon, and you know what? You may become the head of the inhabitants of Gilead.” Well, now that was quite a question, asking a mobster, “will you come and fight?” That is like asking Mohammed Ali if he can box or Seabiscuit if he can race. But you notice in this sequence, found in Judges, chapter 11, verses 7 and 9, that Jephthah did not play easy-to-get.

Jephthah said to them, “Now, did you not hate me and drive me away from my father’s house? Why do you come to me now when you are in trouble?”

“Sir, please, we need you back. We want you back.”

Jephthah says, “Well, suppose you take me back to fight the Ammonites and the Lord gives them to me. Will I really be your head?”

After a little cat-and-mouse exchange here, the mobster signs on the dotted line in verse eleven and goes out and annihilates the Ammonites in short order, according to verses twenty-nine to thirty-three.

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Jephthah the judge. Can you imagine? Fellow gangsters having to call him, “Your Honor.” What a switch. Jephthah had no rightful claim to such a calling. That would have been true except for one thing—God’s amazing grace.

That is the story of the Bible, the story of a God who just overturns the tables, who is an expert at building trophies from the scrap piles of life. Out of the scrap heaps and the garbage of society, our God is able to make the most amazing collage of artist masterpieces. He draws His clay from under the freeway bridges in Southern California. On the streets of Los Angeles where I had the privilege of holding a series of meetings, seventeen Black churches got together in the heart of downtown Los Angeles and Watts, and all those areas, and asked this white evangelist to come and preach. You talk about an exhilarating experience!

Under the freeway bridge lived James Walton. Somebody invited him to come to the meetings. When he first came he would sign in as homeless. And then he began to give the church address because the Dorcas folks gave him some food. I cannot tell you the thrill it was for me to watch James Walton, one of God’s misfits, become a baptized member of that church.

God knows about those witch doctors in Tanzania who came forward. They brought their paraphernalia and burned them. They were baptized. God reaches into the cesspools of Lusaka and the swap heaps of Nairobi, and the muck of life and He makes clean instruments of beauty from the filthy failures of yesteryear.

Look what he did in Corinth. It took Paul fifteen chapters in the book of Corinthians to address all of the problems of the church. Every chapter has a different problem. Scum, incest, sexual perverts, gluttons, back biting, glossilalia; you name it, they were a cranky bunch of beloved misfits. I want you to notice what Paul writes to this motley group of unsophisticated misfits. It is stunning. In 1st Corinthians, chapter 1, he says, “Not many of you were wise by human standards. Not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things . . . so that no one may boast before him.”

You and I are here in our Sabbath best but we are all misfits in the currency of heaven. God our Father, in His amazing grace, loved us even when you and I were Jephthah, a rebel, a drunk, a gossip, a crook, a liar, a brawler, a Pharisee, a playboy, an adulterer, a hypocrite, a do-gooder, a dropout, a dope addict. God may have brought us from the streets of prosperity. We may have been desperate, cold, and indifferent but He washed our wounds and turned us around and changed our direction.

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He wants to invite us here to help Him reach out and bring and build more trophies like you and me from the scrap heaps of life. Never forget it folks. We are all dug from a deep, dark, deadly pit. The message this morning is that we are all Jephthahs. We are all Al Capones. We are all classic misfits. Thank God that He has chosen to cover our past with His blood and hide us in the shadow of His cross and remember our sins no more. No one will ever know what colossal misfits we really are. Talk about grace!

I wish you could sit with us on Thursday mornings at the *Voice of Prophecy* International Headquarters when we read the letters. Who are these people who write using their last stamp? What kind of people would write to a broadcast, to a Pastor Lonnie that they have never met, to a radio ministry that they have never visited in downtown Los Angeles, to a post office box that is completely invisible and anonymous in terms of demographics? Do you think that we tend to reach the wealthy or the poor? I think you can imagine the answer. Do you think we reach the educated or do you think we reach a lot of folks who are struggling to even get their high school diploma? Do you think we tend to reach the happily married people out there who write to us and tell us about their prayer needs or do you think we are really reaching the divorced and the people that have four and five children and maybe six or seven? Do you think they are living free or on death row in some penitentiary somewhere? I will tell you something—we get letters from the Green Mile all the time. In fact, one year ago on a Tuesday afternoon my staff and I gathered at my office. I was supposed to be at the penitentiary interviewing our Christian brother, Don Hawkins, an inmate on death row awaiting execution. Hawkins recently had been baptized. At four o'clock, on that Tuesday, we knew the potassium chloride was being fed into his arm.

Matthew 25 says Jesus knows all these people by name. He knows the sheep, He knows the goats but the question is, "What are you and I going to do about these hungry, ethnically diverse, prison-bound, children of the Heavenly King?" Jesus is eager to speed our radio messages to them, our telephone calls, our *Sow 1 Billion* lessons to these exact addresses. In the great wedding parable of Matthew 22, Jesus targets the misfits to come to His great feast. He deliberately sends for the awkward, the clumsy, the poor, the objectionable and He sends out the message from the King. *Voice of Prophecy* goes out into bars, into bus depots, and gambling casinos. It goes to where the homeless people are sleeping, to the Indian reservations of North America with the Native American *Discover Bible* lessons and the Navajo broadcast. It brings in the slot machine addicts because Jesus knows how to see past the shabby exterior of a misfit and find in that heart a heart of gold.

This is what He invites us to do as His leaders of this world Church. Jesus is here this morning. He is here but He is really out there. He is in the slums this morning; He is in the scrap piles of life looking for bargains on lost sheep and lost coins and bargains on lost prodigals

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because He cares about them. Why does He care so much? Because He was once a misfit—put to death between two other misfits, crucified naked on a cross, bleeding, gasping for air. Jesus was innocent but He died between two men who certainly were not innocent. The soldiers were not innocent, the priests and clergy were not innocent.

Jeannie and I came home to our little Camaro church after being in Africa with Net 2003. We had not been able to attend a communion service for about two years and it was communion Sabbath. We sat right behind a couple who had obviously never been to a communion before. They were whispering as the communion plate came by. Seeing their confusion we tapped them on the shoulder. They were surprised, “Oh we have seen you on the screen every night. What are you doing here? You are supposed to be in Columbia.” We explained that we had taped the last four shows and were home for a weekend. We learned that Stan and Patty Crisp had been coming to our meetings but he was one of those misfits. She said, “I cannot believe he is in a church. You do not know who this person is that is sitting next to you. He was born on the wrong side of the tracks in Van Nuys, California. He was a gangster, a thug. He ran drugs; he was in and out of jail. He does not know who his father is because his mother was a prostitute. He has 150 fathers as far as he is concerned.” He had never set foot inside a church but a realtor by the name of Roy Brazer invited them to come to the meetings. Somehow they came. The very first night, when he felt the call of the Holy Spirit to sign up for those *Sow 1 Billion Discover Bible* lessons, he literally ran down the aisle. They had been baptized the previous Sabbath in that church and this was their first communion—my new brother and sister in Christ. A few days ago, he took out a big wad of keys from his pocket and said, “You know something? You would not have trusted me with a ten foot pole last year. I now have the keys to your church. I am a deacon.”

We are a misfit ministry. We are broadcasting to these people. We are targeting these people and Luke 15 tells me God actually considers His kingdom enriched when they come to the banquet. The magnificence of God’s banquet hall is made more glorious as the muddy and the mangled come into His sumptuous lobby and fill up His overflowing balconies of grace. God wants to enrich all of our ministries here in 2004 by opening huge opportunities with initiatives that you are going to talk about today on the floor. As you give your best and you give your means, He desires to enrich your life as you invest in reaching His misfits. I know sometimes we are tempted to think that if we just do our very best we write out a little check. We work for the church so we will just let the evangelist and other people do that. Maybe that is really all we can do. God has other people too. “He does not have anything else for me to do to be in His service. I will let the Mark Finleys, the Doug Batchelors, and the evangelists get out there and do it.”

In the last moments of this worship hour, I want to assure you there is nothing further from the truth. God has a place for you. He has a plan for you. He has a need for you and that place goes beyond writing out a check. God wants you to go out to your neighbors and your community and make a difference in your world. He wants to work through you. You may say, "I am just a secretary here. I am just an associate. I do not have any talents. I do not have any abilities." This reminds me of a wonderful book I bought—*The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren. He talks about what so many have always felt: "I do not have any abilities. I cannot do anything. What can I contribute to this discussion today? I have been asked to serve on a subcommittee. What can I do? I do not know anything about that area."

Studies show the average person here in this room has at least 700 skills, 700 different abilities. Our brain can store 100 trillion facts. Our mind can handle 15 thousand decisions a second. Our nose can smell up to 10 thousand different odors. Our touch can detect a thickness of a difference of 125 thousandth of an inch. Every ability that we have can be used somehow to the glory of God. Since time began, we have always made excuses for not getting involved. Abraham said, "Oh I am just too old Lord." Jacob was insecure. Leah was unattractive. Moses stuttered. Joseph was abused. Gideon was poor. Samson was codependent. Rahab was immoral. David had an affair and all kinds of family problems. Elijah was suicidal. Jeremiah was depressed. Jonah was reluctant. Naomi was a widow. John the Baptist was eccentric to say the least. Peter was impulsive and hot tempered. Martha was a worrywart. The women of Sichar had several failed marriages. Zacchaeus was unpopular and Thomas had doubts. Paul had poor health and Timothy was timid. That is quite a variety of misfits.

God loves misfits. He uses each one in His service and He will use you, and He will use me. I mentioned earlier a snarly, old misfit named Cliff who resides in the same retirement home as my mother-in-law. Jeannie's mom had to sit next to him every night as the battle over the remote control waged during the live-by-satellite meetings from Columbia, South Carolina. Cliff wanted to watch the crime movies but the others wanted to watch Net 2003. Well, since her son-in-law and daughter, Jeannie, were on the program, guess who won? So eighty-four-year-old Cliff Slover, that tough, swearing, cursing, and definitely unhappy man, had to sit there every night with no other choice but to watch the meetings. He heard about the Saviour who loves the misfits of our world. He loves the tired. He loves the abandoned. He loves the old. One night I gave an invitation. I remember specifically saying, "You may be out there in a care home, or you may be watching this privately and you are not in a church. No one may see your hand but if you have never given your life to Jesus Christ and you know you do not have eternal life, I want you, right where you are, to raise your hand to heaven. I may not see it, no minister may see it but God will see your hand, my friend, and He will, in His own timing, send someone into your life to lead you safely and securely into a profession of Jesus Christ."

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That night, Jeannie's mother noticed along with Joe, Maria, and the others that Cliff put his hand up. They said "What are we going to do?" "We cannot give him Bible studies, we are too old." The pastor was in the hospital and lay dying of cancer. "Who is going to visit? The church is in disarray right now." They decided they would call an old, beat up, banged up, bruised eighty-one-year-old retiree—old Pastor Joe. Let us get Pastor Joe to come and visit him. Pastor Joe came over and began to give Bible studies to Cliff. As soon as we got back from Zambia, Jeannie and I went to see her mother, and what a surprise for me to see my dad, Pastor Joe, lead Cliff down into the baptistery steps. His doctor was right behind him because he was very, very old and shaky. "Talk about a transformation," my dad said as he watched what took place in Cliff's heart and on his lips and in his life. He said it was the most amazing transformation he had ever seen.

Before he was baptized, a little eleven-year-old girl was baptized and the whole audience gave a thundering ovation. Then Cliff spoke and said, "This little girl has given her whole life to Jesus. I am giving him nothing. I am giving him the dregs but He is going to give me the same reward He is going to give her—eternal life." This classic misfit despised by the world but reclaimed for heaven's eternal feast. How appropriate that this curmudgeonly old man, a veritable thief on the cross, at the last moment, gave to God those final moments of his life.

We do not know how many across the continent of Africa have been baptized. Twenty-two thousand people were baptized in Zambia alone, but we baptized one person in Paradise, California, by the name of Cliff Slover. Do you think God cared about him as much as He did about the twenty-two thousand in Africa?

Jan Paulsen has encouraged the *Voice of Prophecy* to step up to the plate and do something for *Sow 1 Billion*. He challenged us to build a bridge from those people taking the lessons in their apartments and in their homes and writing to post office boxes, to a local classroom situation where they can have a class, a Bible school on the air. Many, many churches around the world, such as in Africa, have one pastor for twenty-five to twenty-eight churches. Many of the churches in North America do not have a pastor's Bible class because they share a pastor. What if we could have a pastor's Bible class on the Hope Channel every Sabbath morning? I would teach that class and we would invite these millions of people writing in to come to a nearby location such as a local church. They can have an "Exploring the Word Bible Class." That is what that little brochure in your hand is all about. We are continuing to lift up the trumpet in new and exciting ways. Loud let it ring, the good news to misfits. Jesus has a better plan. He is coming again!

The video, "Exploring the Word Bible Class," was shown.

Jan Paulsen, Chairman, called to order the fifth session of the 2004 Annual Council.

Prayer was offered by P Daniel Kunjachan, Treasurer of the Southern Asia Division.

ADCOM/04AC to MAB

LEZEAU, JEAN-LUC—ACTING DIRECTOR, GENERAL CONFERENCE
STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT - APPOINTMENT

VOTED, To approve the appointment of Jean-Luc Lezeau as Acting Director of the
General Conference Stewardship Department, effective immediately.
ADCOM/04AC to MAB

SMALL, HEATHER-DAWN—ACTING DIRECTOR, GENERAL
CONFERENCE WOMEN'S MINISTRIES - APPOINTMENT

VOTED, To approve the appointment of Heather-Dawn Small as Acting Director of the
General Conference Women's Ministries, effective January 1, 2005.

TRE/04AC to REL

TREASURER'S REPORT

Robert E Lemon, Treasurer of the General Conference, presented the following report:

What a privilege it is to attend this Annual Council and to listen to the reports from the Council on Evangelism and Witness and the thrilling stories included in the Secretary's Report which Matthew Bediako presented on Sunday! To think that each day there are approximately 3,000 individuals baptized and 13 new congregations established! But, we are sobered when we realize that 66 percent of the world's population lives in the 10/40 Window, an area which is virtually untouched by Christianity. With four new babies born every second, it is clear that the task is beyond our feeble abilities. Praise the Lord, we do not have to depend on our own strengths.

As we come to the last Annual Council of this quinquennium, it is appropriate for us to look back at the last five years to see how the Lord has led, and at the same time to look forward to see what may be the opportunities and challenges during the next quinquennium.

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At the 1999 Annual Council, Robert L Rawson, in the Treasurer's Report, indicated what he felt would be the issues of concern for the present quinquennium:

1. Tithe Sharing
2. Wage Scale Philosophy
3. Better channels to regularly report financial facts to Church members
4. Financial and administrative structures that can be more responsive to a rapidly changing world environment
5. Mission Statement driven resource allocation
6. Clarity and consistency in recognizing and responding to issues of ethics and integrity
7. Move forward with confidence and prepare to meet our Lord

Tithe-Sharing Formula

It is true that the new tithe-sharing formula has played a major role in budget discussions during this quinquennium and has affected the funds available for distribution through the General Conference World Budget. Unfortunately, some have misunderstood the implications of the change and have interpreted it to mean that the Church is in financial trouble and does not have the funds available that it once did.

Total tithe has increased every year and the increases during the recent years of economic upheaval and recession cannot be considered anything but being short of a miracle. Praise the Lord for blessing His people and for their faithfulness.

The new tithe-sharing formula has allowed a more equitable sharing of the burden and permitted more tithe to remain within the division's territory. Steven G Rose, Undertreasurer of the General Conference, will share some graphs that show the impact of the new tithe-sharing formula. The phase-in period has tracked very close to projections presented in 1999.

Mission Offerings

The mission offerings form a major component of the General Conference World Budget. It has been a great concern that this important part of the support of the world-wide work has not been growing. The mission offerings have dropped as a percentage of tithe from approximately

60 percent in the 1930's to less than 5 percent today. With the huge challenge of the 10/40 Window and other unentered areas, ways must be found to better communicate the challenge of an unfinished work. While mission offerings have not kept pace with tithe, local church offerings have held at approximately 35 percent of tithe over the past 40 years.

What are some of the challenges and opportunities that we will be faced during the next quinquennium?

1. Finding Better ways of Communicating the Challenges of an Unfinished Work—We have a tremendous challenge in the unentered areas. In recent years, our mission emphasis has focused to a great extent on successes in the field. It may seem to some that the work is finished in the mission field and that funds are needed to finish the work at home. The answer is not fundraising but rather a shared vision of need. We must lay before God's people the challenges of an unfinished work, and I believe they will respond in ways that we have not yet even imagined.

2. Developing more Flexible Organizational Structures—We need organizational structures that allow more flexibility in order for the Church to take advantage of new opportunities and to meet new challenges. We have begun to review policies to determine whether more latitude should be given to the divisions and local organizations to meet local circumstances. Two years ago, we adopted a new set of remuneration policies. This year, we will be looking at a new investment guidelines document as well as policies covering borrowing of funds and approval of capital projects.

We should be open to reviewing the way we conduct the business of the Church. This should not begin as an assumption that what we are now doing is wrong, but we must be willing to step back and look at what we are doing without feeling threatened. This is, of course, easier said than done.

3. Addressing Ascending Liability Issues without Compromising Unity—If there is one strategic value that stands above the others as requiring specific attention from the General Conference, it is the value of unity. There are many strains on unity with a rapidly growing community of believers. The issue of ascending liability has been with us for years, but the cost of protecting the Church from ascending liability has grown dramatically in recent years. We are reviewing various aspects of the Church's operation in an attempt to reduce this liability, but ascending liability cannot be completely eliminated without jeopardizing the unity of the Church. We must do all we can to reduce exposure but not at the cost of unity.

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4. Empowering all Members to Become Full Partners in Supporting and Finishing the Work—There are areas of the world where our members need assistance in getting the work established. We speak of the need for self reliance in financial matters, but often find it easier to seek help from others than to test what the local membership can do with God's blessing. We may deprive them of the opportunity to rely on God to meet their needs and to support His work.

God has blessed His children and each church member needs to have the opportunity to share in finishing the work. One hundred years ago, there was a tremendous expansion. Take a look at all the 100th anniversary celebrations. I hope that we can have a similar expansion of the work in the 10/40 Window during the next quinquennium. Considering how small our membership was 100 years ago, we can accomplish much more today.

Each organization should seek ways of lessening its dependence on appropriations thus freeing up resources for use in unentered areas.

I remember an experience in one conference in which I served—we were forced to reduce the number of pastors serving local congregations. None of the churches wanted to share their pastor with another church. But, when we started talking about opening work in new areas where we had no church or Seventh-day Adventist presence, a number of churches volunteered to go without a pastor and allow the elders to care for the church. We must make certain that when we ask areas to share their resources for entering new areas that these resources truly go to opening new work and not to areas that are already well established.

The story is told of a local church that had been struggling with its finances for many years. One day the pastor got up and announced that he had good news and bad news. The good news, he said, "The church now has all the funds needed to carry on its ministries and meet all of its obligations. The bad news is that the money is still in your pockets."

God has provided His people with all the resources needed to finish the work.

5. Evaluating all Expenditures on a Cost/Benefit Basis using Kingdom Criteria—We need to spend time evaluating all expenditures on a cost/benefit basis. There is sometimes a resistance to any measurement of outcomes for the Church as people say the work of the Holy Spirit cannot be quantified. That is true, but there are still many measures that can be applied to be sure we are getting the outcomes we are seeking.

As we conduct the analysis, we need to understand the organization and not just apply what is used in industry. We need to use Kingdom criteria. Many businesses would not invest the monies we will have to invest to enter new areas (markets) that will not produce results for many years. If we only look where we can get the most baptisms per \$1,000, we will continue to work only where the work is well established.

We also need to properly assess the value of the Church's structure and the benefits it brings. Nearly all the separately funded projects would fail to have lasting results if it were not for the organized Church around the world which nurtures those who join with the family of God. There are many who criticize the various levels and administrative structure which we have in the Church. We need to evaluate these based on the needs of the various parts of the world field. Let us be certain to calculate the value of the Church structure to a voluntary organization, and not use norms of a corporate-line authority.

I remember one individual who was very troubled that we needed twelve employees in the conference office to supervise the work of 28 pastors. He said his business would be bankrupt if he had one supervisor for every 2.3 employees. I told him I agreed with him completely, but that he needed to take into consideration the fact that the conference staff is not only involved in support and supervision of 28 pastors, but also with 300 local church elders, Sabbath School leaders, church treasurers, etc. It is important to recognize that it takes much more time to direct and support a volunteer than it does a paid employee.

If you look at the appropriation of over 5 million dollars in the proposed 2005 General Conference World Budget for the General Conference Auditing Service and compare it to the total budgeted expenses of 120 million dollars, you could ask why it costs us nearly 4 percent of the budget just to conduct the audits. That would be way above industry averages. But when you realize that the General Conference bears the costs of the audits of virtually all the denominational organizations outside of the North American Division and divide the 5 million dollars by approximately 1.5 billion dollars, it comes to less than one-third of one percent.

6. Finding Effective Ways of Passing on the Family Business—One of the biggest challenges we face is to find ways to engage the next generation completely and meaningfully in the life, mission, and support of the Church. G Tom Carter, retired director of the General Conference Trust Services, has a sermon entitled, Passing on the Family Business. Carter states that individuals who operate family businesses have been most successful in passing on the family business if the children are involved meaningfully in the business from an early age. Most individuals who have been successful in building up a family business have been careful to take out of the business only the minimum amount needed. Everything possible in the business is reinvested to build for the future.

The new generation is serious about its commitment to the Lord but we have struggled in our efforts to develop that same connectedness to God's visible family here on earth.

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Many wish to see immediate results tied directly to their support and often channel their support to specific projects. We must become more intentional in seeking ways to give feedback on what their support of the Church is accomplishing. The Church cannot accomplish its mission by project giving alone. We need to find better ways to identify and communicate how tithes and offerings are being used.

7. **Communicating Financial Information in Easily Understood Formats**—We need to communicate financial information to our members in formats that are clearer, more informative, and understandable. We must make use of new technologies that can aid in presenting this information. At the same time, we need to be mindful of how the information on the internet can be used by individuals in some parts of the world for their personal purposes.

8. **Developing Clearer Processes for Identifying and Responding to Issues of Ethics and Integrity**—We are in the post-Enron era. There is an atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust that permeates society including the Church. We need to be totally transparent and proactive in addressing any areas where there may be concerns.

9. **Finding more Effective Ways to Deal With the Increased Globalization of Functions Within the Church**—We live in a very different world today than did my parents when they left for mission service to Africa in 1946. It took over a month to get there and their first furlough was seven years later. Division boundaries were much easier to honor. At this Annual Council, we are recommending a change in the policy which requires denominational employees and volunteers to get permission from the General Conference before traveling in the territory of another division. Our organizational structure assumes that the division committee and division administration are to control the work of the Church within its territory. This is becoming less and less a reality.

Radio and television signals can now be beamed from a single point by satellite around the entire globe. The internet sends information to the far corners of the earth easily and inexpensively. Adventist World Radio and Adventist Television Network regularly broadcast to footprints that do not respect division boundaries. Church agencies, such as the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, work with external agencies that draw very different regional boundaries than does our denomination.

These technologies and developments present extraordinary opportunities for the Church, but they also bring challenges. We have not done a very good job of developing mezzanine level structures within the Church that can deal with the cooperation and coordination that is needed

where division boundaries are crossed. There is a tendency to assume that every item which crosses a division boundary must be handled or coordinated by the General Conference. Unless we find better ways to deal with these issues, we will find more and more of the General Conference's time and energies diverted to these matters at the expense of focusing on its primary mission.

10. Gaining Consensus on Distribution of Resources to Fulfill the Mission—Over the past couple of years, we have been struggling with the issue of distribution of interdivision budgets. There always seem to be compelling reasons why budgets need to remain where they are, but at the same time, we must enter new areas and take advantage of new opportunities. Some tend to feel one area must lose for another area to gain. When we are refocusing on the work in unentered areas, everyone is gaining. Our ultimate objective is to finish the Lord's work. As we direct our efforts toward the unentered areas of the world, we all will benefit.

As we come to the end of the five-year phase-in of the new tithe-sharing formula, we have agreed that we will review the formula for the distribution of appropriations. This will be a difficult process if we are not all agreed as to what the priorities are, but it is vital to finishing the work. Our resource allocation must be mission driven.

11. Dealing with Post 9/11 Challenges—We are facing increased restrictions on the sharing of resources since 9/11. It is becoming more and more difficult to get visas, to transfer funds, and to function as a global Church.

12. Use of Tithe—There are a number of realities that have changed since the last study on the use of tithe. New organizations, such as the Adventist Development and Relief Agency and Adventist World Radio, are not addressed in the policy. The role of interdivision employees has changed over the years. We need to review these and other issues. The outcome of this study will be very important to the future allocation of resources within the Church.

Never forget that God is in charge! Sometimes we get so involved in trying to find solutions to issues that we forget who is in charge. This is God's work and we do not have to worry about its ultimate success. We only need to make sure that we are helping and not hindering.

The Church is in good hands – God's hands. Let us praise Him for His goodness and His mercy!

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October 12, 2004, a.m.
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TRE/04AC to SGR

FINANCIAL STATEMENT—AUGUST 2004

Steven G Rose, Undertreasurer of the General Conference, pointed out items of interest in the interim year-to-date Financial Statement for the eight-month period January 1 to August 31, 2004:

VOTED, To record receipt of the Financial Statement for August 31, 2004.

FinPl&Bud04AC/04AC to SGR(DIV)

GENERAL CONFERENCE BUDGET—2005

VOTED, To approve the 2005 General Conference Budget as presented. (See pages 243 to 260.)

TRE/04AC to REL

GENERAL CONFERENCE FINANCIAL AUDIT REVIEW
COMMITTEE—RECOMMENDATION

VOTED, To approve the recommendation of the Audit Review Committee to retain the services of Maner, Costerisan & Ellis, P.C., to audit the 2004 yearend Financial Statement of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

PRE/PreC04SM/PREXAD04/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/TreC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LCC-05AC

535-04G GENERAL CONFERENCE AUDITING SERVICE -
POLICY AMENDMENT

Rationale for amending General Conference Bylaws and General Conference Working Policy relating to the General Conference Auditing Service.

The General Conference Auditing Service was established to ensure that financial audits and policy compliance testing would: (1) Include every denominational entity worldwide; (2) Be conducted on a regular basis (annually); (3) Reflect international auditing standards; and (4)

Provide a denomination-wide oversight and monitoring of the audit function. While the General Conference Auditing Service is internal to the denomination, it fulfills its responsibilities in a manner similar to that of an external auditor. Current policy identifies the General Conference Auditing Service as the exclusive audit agency for the denomination except in situations where prevailing laws require the use of an external auditor.

At present any arrangement for the services of an external auditor is to be made in consultation with the General Conference Auditing Service. This could be interpreted as placing the General Conference Auditing Service in a conflict of interest. Further, there are occasions in which it would be beneficial to consider additional options for the conduct of a financial audit and policy compliance review, provided that professional auditing standards are not compromised.

This proposal outlines the role of the General Conference Auditing Service as the denomination's preferred, though not necessarily exclusive, auditing service. It also defines a client's role in decisions concerning an auditor.

General Conference policy requires the auditor to perform policy compliance testing. Although various levels of policy compliance testing have been defined there has been little if any guidance on what constitutes materiality and how matters of noncompliance are reported (either in the auditor's report to the board/executive committee or in the letter to management). The lack of guidelines in these matters has been the source of much misunderstanding in relationships between the General Conference Auditing Service and its denominational clients. This proposal gives additional clarity to policy compliance testing and reporting procedures.

Specific provisions of this proposal include:

1. An amended statement of the General Conference Auditing Service responsibility.
2. A provision for the use of external auditors under conditions determined by the General Conference or its divisions.
3. A statement regarding the frequency of audits.
4. An expanded explanation of policy compliance testing and management's assertion concerning policy compliance.
5. The option for an auditor to report by teleconference or videoconference to the Audit Review Committee and the governing committee/board.

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VOTED, To adopt, for audits with the financial year ending December 31, 2005 or later, the following amendments to General Conference *Working Policy* SA Auditing Policies, subject to approval by the 2005 General Conference Session of corresponding amendments to the General Conference Bylaws, Article VIII, Auditing Service and Audits:

SA 05 Auditors and Auditing

SA 05 05 General Conference Auditing Service—1. Responsibility—The General Conference Auditing Service is charged with ~~the responsibility for the entire auditing function of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. (See SA-05-25.)~~ the responsibility of: 1) Providing a worldwide auditing service for the Seventh-day Adventist Church; 2) Monitoring the audit program throughout the denomination; 3) Recommending to the General Conference Executive Committee or division executive committee standards and/or guidelines for the endorsement and selection of external auditors; and 4) Reporting to the General Conference President, through the General Conference Auditing Service Board, on the overall audit program in the Church and trends/issues that appear in the global picture of financial and policy administration.

2. Purpose—The purpose of the General Conference Auditing Service is to conduct structurally independent financial and trust audits, and compliance (policy, contractual, and regulatory, as applicable) tests of the highest quality, ~~at minimum cost, of all denominational organizations.~~ in a cost-effective manner, for denominational organizations. ~~The objective is to provide an opinion in order to enhance the credibility of financial information to assist church administrators in their mission of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.~~ The objective is to provide administrators and governing boards within the scope of the audit an assurance on financial and nonfinancial information and its compliance with applicable professional standards, denominational policy and external regulations.

3. Mandate—a. The General Conference Auditing Service and any external auditor shall comply with generally accepted auditing standards in ~~its audits~~ the audit of denominational organizations throughout the world.

b. The General Conference Auditing Service shall function with professional independence and comply – No change

4. Enablement—a. To enable the General Conference Auditing Service to fulfill its responsibility – No change

b. ~~The General Conference Auditing Service is authorized to conduct unannounced audits.~~ Auditors are authorized to conduct unannounced audits. The governing authority (constituency, board, executive committee) in the case of union or conferences and

institutions may request or require unannounced audits. In the case of union missions and local missions an unannounced audit may be authorized by the administration of the next higher organization.

SA 05 10 Generally Accepted Auditing Standards—1. International Standards—
Statements on auditing standards published in various countries differ in form and content, and govern, to a greater or lesser degree, the practices followed in the auditing of financial information. To enhance the degree of uniformity of auditing practices throughout the world, the international accounting fraternity has developed International Standards on Auditing. To achieve standardization of auditing procedures within the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, the General Conference Auditing Service shall adopt an audit methodology which shall, at a minimum, comply with International Standards on Auditing.

2. Country-Specific Standards – No change
3. Independence—
 - a. The General Conference Auditing Service – No change
 - b. General Conference Auditing Service personnel shall – No change
 - c. ~~All audits and related professional services required by denominational organizations shall be performed by, or under the direction of, the General Conference Auditing Service.~~ All audits and related professional services required by denominational organizations shall be performed by the General Conference Auditing Service and/or by an external auditor selected from a roster of auditors endorsed by the General Conference Executive Committee in the case of audits for divisions or General Conference institutions or field units directly attached to the General Conference or, in the case of audits for entities within a division, endorsed by the division executive committee. General Conference Auditing Service personnel shall not perform any service or function which may appear to be in conflict with their official responsibilities.
 - d. General Conference Auditing Service or external audit personnel shall not be members of any denominational administrative or governing – No change
 - e. Administrators of denominational – No change
4. Competence—
 - a. To ensure that audits – No change
 - b. The General Conference Auditing Service shall establish – No change
5. Quality Control—
 - a. The General Conference Auditing Service shall – No change
 - b. To comply with national professional standards – No change

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SA 05 15 Definition of an Audit—As used in this section: 1. A financial audit is the examination by an auditor, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, of the assertions of management as embodied in its financial statements, to enable the auditor either to express or to disclaim an opinion on the fairness with which the financial statements present the entity's financial position, results of ~~operation~~, operations, and cash flows in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles. This level of examination is not to be confused with lesser related services, such as reviews and compilations.

Special investigations, for whatever reason, are not considered to be financial audits. Requests for such services, if and when submitted to the director of the General Conference Auditing Service, shall be considered on a case by case basis, depending on the availability of personnel. The costs involved in such investigations shall be borne by the organization requesting the service, unless otherwise approved by the organization funding the audit.

2. A trust audit consists of an evaluation – No change

3. a. A compliance test is the evaluation examination by an auditor of evidence to determine compliance as follows: with General Conference Working Policy and other denominational policies, if any, applicable to the client. Determination of core policies to be tested, establishment of guidelines for evaluating materiality thresholds, definition of agreed-upon procedures, and the manner of reporting noncompliance shall be determined by the General Conference Executive Committee for General Conference policies. Divisions shall do likewise for any additional policies established by the division. Policy compliance testing may be conducted by either the General Conference Auditing Service or by an external auditor. Compliance tests can be done in one of the following three ways:

a. ~~In the case of General Conference Working Policy,~~

1) ~~By applying specific policies required to be tested in terms of the General Conference Working Policy (for example, E 70 40, Auditing of Service Records; E 85, Conflict of Interest and/or Commitment; S 70 05, Insurance of Denominational Assets), and policies encountered in the course of the financial audit. The auditor will give negative assurance, issue a qualified report, or state that it is not possible to report, on the organization's compliance with policy; or~~ By examining evidence for compliance with the core policies encountered in the course of the financial audit. The auditor will give negative assurance, issue a qualified report, or state that it is not possible to report, on the organization's compliance with policy. In addition, management shall be required to submit a self-assessment declaration regarding policy compliance. Such declaration shall be in the manner prescribed by the General

Conference Executive Committee or as enhanced by additional clauses as determined by the organization's governing authority; or

2) ~~By applying, at a minimum, the agreed-upon procedures formulated by the denomination to the core policies designated by the General Conference Executive Committee from time to time. Every governing board/committee may add to the aforementioned formulated procedures, in consultation with the auditor, to accommodate unique regional circumstances and situations. By performing agreed-upon procedures on all the core policies. An organization whose governing board/committee wishes to have agreed-upon procedures applied to only selected items on the list of core policies shall still be reviewed under the negative assurance provisions of paragraph 1) above. The auditor will report on the finding from applying the prescribed procedures, and where applicable, a report under paragraph 1) above.~~

3) By performing an examination engagement in accordance with generally accepted attestation standards on, at a minimum, the core policies designated by the General Conference Executive Committee from time to time. Every governing committee/board may add to the core policies to meet its specific circumstances and situations. An organization whose governing board/committee wishes to have examination engagement procedures applied to only selected items on the list of core policies shall still be reviewed under the negative assurance provisions of paragraph 1) above. The auditor will provide an opinion on the organization's compliance with the policies under consideration, and where applicable, a report under paragraph 1) above.

~~The governing committee/board of each organization shall select one of the three approaches mentioned above prior to the commencement of the financial audit.~~

The governing committee/board of each organization wishing to select options 2) or 3) above must do so prior to the commencement of the financial audit otherwise option 1) will apply. Additional costs relative to option 2) or 3) are at the organization's expense.

~~Policy compliance tests shall be conducted by the General Conference Auditing Service on all denominational entities as specified in SA-05-25, whether the General Conference Auditing Service serves as the principal auditor or not.~~

b. In the case of contractual agreements and regulatory requirements, ~~the auditor examines the extent of compliance with~~ the examination for compliance should include review of specific agreements and/or requirements, to enable the auditor to report on compliance with the prescribed requirements and standards.

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SA 05 20 Management's Responsibility—1. While the auditor is responsible for forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements – No change

2. Management shall allow ~~General Conference Auditing Service~~ the auditor/auditing team personnel complete access to all employees, accounting and corporate records, agreements, contracts, minutes, service records, and other related documents, deemed necessary by the General Conference Auditing Service auditor for the performance of an audit, audit or policy compliance test. Even though an external audit may have been completed, management shall also allow the General Conference Auditing Service similar access when the General Conference Auditing Service is responding to a request of the unit's constituency or of the board/executive committee of the next higher organization.

SA 05 25 Assignment—1. ~~Client Base—The General Conference Auditing Service shall be responsible for performing, or arranging for the performance of, all audits of the General Conference and its world divisions, union and local conferences and missions, unions of churches, affiliated services, and organizations and institutions at all levels above the local congregations. Audits by or under the direction of the General Conference Auditing Service shall be conducted on all entities, regardless of type, that are controlled/directed/managed by a local conference/field/mission, union, division, or the General Conference. The General Conference Auditing Service shall also be responsible for the audit of Adventist Development and Relief Agency country and regional administrations and projects (not audited by external auditors) and special funds.~~ Client Base—The General Conference Auditing Service shall be the Seventh-day Adventist Church's preferred provider of auditing services. The client base includes all denominational organizations such as world divisions, unions and local conferences and missions, unions of churches, institutions, organizations or services above the level of a local congregation. The General Conference Auditing Service does not perform audits for independent organizations. Audits shall be conducted on all entities, regardless of type, that are controlled/directed/managed by a local conference/field/mission, union, division or the General Conference, including Adventist Development and Relief Agency country and regional offices, projects not audited by external auditors under contractual terms of the project, and special funds. The General Conference Auditing Service shall not be responsible for the audit of entities, regardless of type, that are controlled/directed/managed by either a single local congregation or a number of local congregations. Exceptions to the above requirements shall be by specific action of the General Conference Executive Committee.

2. Audit frequency—Audits shall normally be conducted annually. Even when audits are not performed annually all years shall be audited. The division may approve a longer interval between audits for some organizations or institutions within its territory or may delegate this authority to the next higher organization of the entity being audited.

~~2.~~ 3. **New Organizations**—It shall be the responsibility of the next higher organization to inform the General Conference Auditing Service through standard denominational channels whenever a new entity is organized or created. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency shall advise the General Conference Auditing Service as soon as a proposal for a project has been approved by an aid organization.

~~3.~~ 4. **General Conference Audit**—The financial records of the General Conference shall be audited by a certified public accounting firm, engaged for this purpose by the General Conference Executive Committee. The audit shall be conducted, and the audit reports signed by employees of the certified public accounting firm. The General Conference Auditing Service shall assist with the audit.

~~SA 05 30 Use of Accountants in Public Practice~~—Because the responsibility for the auditing function of the denomination is assigned to the General Conference Auditing Service, it is intended that only when required by law or under exceptional circumstances shall accountants in public practice be engaged, except for audits of the General Conference. In such circumstances when a client organization's governing committee and/or board and the director of the General Conference Auditing Service determine the advisability of using the services of accountants in public practice, the selection and hiring of external accountants shall be done in consultation with the director of the General Conference Auditing Service by the client administration. The engagement shall be for a specified period. The cost of these audits shall be borne by the entity or project audited. An audit by accountants in public practice shall not take the place of regular denominational policy compliance audits by the General Conference Auditing Service.

SA 05 30 Use of Accountants in Public Practice—Although the General Conference Auditing Service is the denomination's preferred provider of auditing services, there may be occasions where, due to circumstances or legal requirements, it is preferable to engage the services of an external auditor. A division, or the General Conference Executive Committee in the case of General Conference institutions, divisions or other entities attached to the General Conference, shall identify circumstances and outline a process under which an organization may choose an external auditor. In such situations an auditor shall be engaged for a specific period from a list of external auditors endorsed by the General Conference Executive Committee in the case of General Conference institutions, divisions or other entities attached to the General Conference, or in case of audits for entities within a division, endorsed by the division executive committee. Where an organization has the audit performed by an external auditor, the cost of the audit shall be borne by the entity being audited unless other prior arrangements have been approved by organization(s) sharing the cost. (In the case of audits where the General Conference is requested to share in the costs, approval must be obtained from the General Conference Administrative Committee.)

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SA 05 35 Auditor's Reports—1. Types of Reports—a. The auditor's written expression of an opinion on financial information may be unqualified, qualified, adverse, or a disclaimer of opinion, based on the conclusions drawn from the audit evidence obtained.

b. ~~General Conference Auditing Service personnel~~ The auditor shall be required to report on the entity's compliance with

- 1) General Conference Working Policy and other – No change
- 2) Contractual agreements and regulatory requirements – No change

c. The auditor shall also communicate – No change

d. When the condition of an organization's – No change

2. Distribution of Reports—a. The auditor's opinion, reports on compliance, and the audited annual financial statements shall be forwarded by the auditor, along with the auditor's management letter, to the officers of the organization being audited.

b. Every division/attached union shall determine the time periods, which shall not exceed the maximum periods stipulated below, within which the organizations in its territory shall respond to the auditor's management letter. If such a determination is not made, the following shall apply:

Each organization shall have a maximum of 60 days from the date the management letter is received by the officers of the entity, or have a maximum of 30 days after the next meeting of the governing committee and/or board, whichever is earlier, to submit to the auditor a response to the management letter. The treasurer/chief financial officer of the organization being audited shall be responsible for the organization's response to the auditor's management letter and its recommendations. At the close of the applicable time period, the auditor shall send sufficient copies of the auditor's opinion, the reports on compliance, the audited financial statements, the management letter, and management's response to the management letter, to the treasurer/chief financial officer for the members of the governing committee and/or board of the organization being audited. The treasurer/chief financial officer shall present the auditor's opinion, the reports on compliance, the audited financial statements, the management letter, and management's response to the management letter to the Financial Audit Review Committee. The auditor shall also distribute (a) the same information (a) to the appropriate officers of the higher organizations, (in the case of health food companies, also to the Director of the International Health Food Association) and, as required, to the Statement Review Committee, ~~Committee and~~, (b) to the General Conference Auditing Service, and (c) the auditor's opinion,

reports on compliance, and the audited financial statements to the General Conference Office of Archives and Statistics.

SA 05 40 General Conference Auditing Service Board—1. Function—a. General—The General Conference Auditing Service is accountable to the General Conference Executive Committee through the General Conference president. Due to the complexity of operations, the General Conference Auditing Service Board shall have administrative oversight over the nonprofessional aspects of the General Conference Auditing Service. The involvement of the General Conference with the General Conference Auditing Service is on an operational (such as office space, personnel relations, etc.) level, and not on a professional auditing standard-setting level; the General Conference Auditing Service functions independently in implementing the accounting and auditing standards of the accounting profession.

- b. Personnel—1) The director and associate directors – No change
- 2) Assistant directors of the General Conference Auditing Service –
No change
- 3) Assistant directors of the General Conference Auditing Service –
No change
- 4) All other professional personnel necessary for the discharge of the responsibilities of the General Conference Auditing Service at the headquarters and in the North American Division shall be employed by the Human Resources Committee ~~in consultation with~~ upon recommendation from the director of the General Conference Auditing Service.
- 5) The General Conference Auditing Service Board shall – No
change
- 6) To implement section SA 05 50, paragraph 3 – No change
2. Composition—The General Conference Auditing Service Board shall – No
change

SA 05 45 Division/Attached Union Audit Affairs Committee – No change

SA 05 50 General Conference Auditing Service Organizational Structure—1. Personnel—a. The General Conference Auditing Service personnel shall consist of a director, associate directors, assistant directors, district directors, senior staff auditors, staff auditors, and assistant staff auditors.

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b. Official action concerning the employment and termination of employment of General Conference Auditing Service personnel, who are remunerated directly by the headquarters office of the General Conference, shall be taken by the General Conference Auditing Service ~~Operating~~ Board, recognizing that the General Conference Human Resource Services shall exercise its authorized function in the employment and termination of employees.

c. Documentation of the employment – No change

d. Auditing personnel shall be remunerated – No change

2. Offices—The headquarters office of the General Conference Auditing Service shall be situated in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States of America. In addition to the headquarters office, the General Conference Auditing Service ~~Operating~~ Board, in consultation with the director of the General Conference Auditing Service, and in consultation with the respective world divisions of the General Conference, shall establish such area and district offices throughout the world as may be necessary to facilitate the work of the General Conference Auditing Service, generally following the geographical boundary lines of denominational entities. Area offices shall be under the direction of associate directors (or assistant directors, depending on the size of the offices), and district offices shall be under the direction of district directors.

3. Adequate Staff of Auditors – No change

SA 05 55 General Conference Auditing Service Budget – No change

SA 10 Audit of Financial Records of Local
Churches and Small Organizations

SA 10 05 Responsibility for Audits – No change

SA 10 10 Other Small Organizations – No change

SA 10 15 Annual Report – No change

SA 15 Financial Audit Review Committee

SA 15 05 Financial Audit Review Committee—1. Function—Each denominational organization's governing committee and/or board shall appoint a Financial Audit Review Committee to study the auditor's reports and management letter, and management's response to the auditor. The Financial Audit Review Committee shall submit recommendations based on its study, to the governing committee and/or board.

2. Composition – No change

3. Invitation to Auditor—The auditor shall be invited to attend the Financial Audit Review Committee meeting at which the audit reports and management letter are studied, and the governing committee and/or board meeting at which the Financial Audit Review Committee makes its recommendations, if any, to the ~~committee and/or board~~. committee. Under circumstances where legal requirements permit and conferencing facilities are deemed satisfactory to the client and the auditor, the auditor may choose to attend, via teleconference or videoconference, the meetings mentioned above. Attendance by the auditor at such meetings is not mandatory. If there are representatives from the higher organization present, they would be considered invitees with voice but no vote.

4. Copy of Recommendations – No change

PRE/PreC04SM/PREXAD04/Con&By/ADCOM/GCDO04AC/04AC to LCC-05GCS

534-04GS AUDITING SERVICE AND AUDITS - CONSTITUTION
AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Rationale for amending General Conference Bylaws and General Conference *Working Policy* relating to the General Conference Auditing Service.

The General Conference Auditing Service was established to ensure that financial audits and policy compliance testing would: (1) include every denominational entity worldwide; (2) be conducted on a regular basis (annually); (3) reflect international auditing standards; and (4) provide a denomination-wide oversight and monitoring of the audit function. While the General Conference Auditing Service is internal to the denomination, it fulfills its responsibilities in a manner similar to that of an external auditor. Current policy identifies General Conference Auditing Service as the exclusive audit agency for the denomination except in situations where prevailing laws require the use of an external auditor.

At present arrangement for the services of an external auditor is to be made in consultation with General Conference Auditing Service. This could be interpreted as placing General Conference Auditing Service in a conflict of interest situation. Further, there are occasions in which it would be beneficial to consider additional options for the conduct of a financial audit and policy compliance review, provided that professional auditing standards are not compromised.

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This proposal, accompanied by corresponding changes to General Conference *Working Policy*, outlines the role of General Conference Auditing Service as the denomination's preferred, though not necessarily exclusive, auditing service.

The responsibility and function of General Conference Auditing Service is outlined in the General Conference Bylaws and further amplification of these responsibilities is contained in the General Conference *Working Policy*. An amendment to the General Conference Bylaws requires approval by a General Conference Session. On the other hand, General Conference *Working Policy* amendments are determined by an Annual Council.

The following proposal involves both the General Conference Bylaws and the General Conference *Working Policy*. Thus it is proposed that Annual Council 2004 recommend to the General Conference Session the amendment of General Conference Bylaws and further; that Annual Council 2004 approve amendments to the General Conference *Working Policy* subject to the 2005 General Conference Session approval of the corresponding amendment to the General Conference Bylaws.

RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article VIII—Auditing Service and Audits, to read as follows:

ARTICLE VIII—AUDITING SERVICE AND AUDITS

Sec. 1. At each regular General Conference Session, the General Conference shall elect a director of the General Conference Auditing Service, whose duties ~~shall be to administer the conduct of audits of the organizations of the Church throughout the world.~~ shall be to: 1) Administer the conduct of audits that the General Conference Auditing Service performs for organizations of the Church throughout the world, 2) Monitor the overall audit program throughout the denomination, 3) Recommend to the General Conference Administrative Committee or division executive committee standards and/or guidelines for use by divisions in the endorsement of external auditors that may be engaged within the division territory, and 4) Report to the General Conference President, through the General Conference Auditing Service Board, on the overall audit program in the Church and the trends/issues that appear in the global picture of financial and policy administration.

Associate directors shall also be elected at each regular General Conference Session. The director and associate directors shall be recommended by the General Conference Auditing Service Board to the Session Nominating Committee after consultation with the administrations of the respective divisions.

References to service directors and associate service directors elsewhere in these Bylaws shall not apply to the director and associate directors of the General Conference Auditing Service, except as provided for in Article XIII, Sec. 1.-c.

Sec. 2. a. At each regular General Conference Session, the General Conference shall elect a General Conference Auditing Service Board which shall be constituted as follows – No change

b. A quorum of the General Conference Auditing Service Board – No change

Sec. 3. The General Conference Auditing Service, ever sensitive to the country-specific regulations governing the audits of denominational entities in a particular country, ~~shall be responsible for all audits of~~ serves as the denomination's preferred provider of auditing services for world divisions; union conferences; union missions; conferences; missions; unions of churches; affiliated services, organizations, and institutions of the General Conference and every other administrative level; Adventist Development and Relief Agency country and regional administrations and projects (not audited by external auditors); and special funds. Exceptions to the above requirements shall be by specific action of the Executive Committee.

04SM/ADCOM/GCDO04AC/04AC to JP-05GCS

146-04GS GROWING IN CHRIST—NEW FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF

The 2004 Spring Meeting reviewed the Proposal for a New Fundamental Belief—Growing in Christ, as well as a procedure to be followed in processing this document, and voted to bring it back to the 2004 Annual Council for final discussion before it is presented to the 2005 General Conference Session.

VOTED, 1. To refer to the 2005 General Conference Session the following revised draft for the proposed New Fundamental Belief—Growing in Christ, which reads as follows:

Growing in Christ

By His cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the demonic spirits during His earthly ministry has broken their power and made certain their ultimate doom. Jesus' victory gives us victory over the evil forces that still seek to control us, as we walk with Him in peace, joy, and assurance of His love. Instead of evil forces, the Holy Spirit now dwells within us and empowers us. Committed to Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we are set free from the burden of past deeds and our former life with its darkness, fear of evil powers, ignorance, and meaninglessness. In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His

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character, as we commune with Him daily in prayer, feeding on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for worship, and participating in the mission of the Church. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us sanctifies every moment and every task. (Ps 1:1-2; 23:4; Col. 1:13-14; 2:6, 14-15; 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18, 2 Cor. 3:17, 18; Phil. 3:7-14; 1 Thess. 5:16-18; Matt. 20:25-28; John 20:21; Gal. 5:22-25; 1 John 4:4; Heb 10:25.)

2. To request the addition of a text on unity be considered.

TRE/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/TreC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE&RER(DIV)

566-04G INVESTMENT OF CHURCH FUNDS - GUIDELINES

VOTED, To approve the document, Investment of Church Funds - Guidelines (Appendix C in the General Conference *Working Policy*), which reads as follows:

S 45 Investment of Church Funds

S 45 05 Safeguarding Denominational Funds—1. Introduction—In order that assets for investment might be prudently managed the following principles and policies have been adopted for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

S 45 10 Philosophy—1. Committees and individuals authorized to invest funds for the denomination must always be mindful of their stewardship responsibility. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they should strive with prudence and wisdom to reflect the Master both in style and substance. At the practical level, this means direct investments will not be made in certain industries which are not in keeping with the values of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It also means that principles of integrity and fairness will govern all transactions with counter parties.

S 45 15 Principles—1. Controlling committees must act as prudent investors would be expected to act, with discretion and intelligence, to seek reasonable income, preserve principal, and to avoid speculative investments.

2. All investments must be prudent and in harmony with the laws, rules and regulations of the jurisdiction in which the organization is located.

3. A return correlates strongly with risk, but tolerance for risk varies greatly with the purpose of the funds for investment and the relevant circumstances of the organization.

Levels of risk and return must be determined for all asset pools. Acceptable risk and return levels are guided by the purpose or objective of the funds. The tradeoff between risk and return is the committee's central task.

4. Criteria for Selection of Investment Instruments—Specific investments or techniques are not by themselves prudent or imprudent. The choices of techniques or investments to include in a portfolio are determined by the level of risk for a specific security and its anticipated effect on the portfolio.

5. Diversification Through Pooled Investment Vehicles—Controlling committees shall diversify the portfolios of intermediate and long term assets for investment. All intermediate term (S 45 40) and long term (S 45 45) portfolio's should be well-diversified to avoid undue exposure to any single economic sector, industry group, or individual security. Pooled investment vehicles are the recommended method for facilitating diversification. The following apply to intermediate and long term investments but may not apply to short term investments (S 45 35):

a. Investments in any company should not exceed 4.9 percent of the outstanding ownership of the entity.

b. At no time shall a controlling committee allow more than 5 percent of the assets under its management, based on market value, to be invested in the securities of any one issuer other than government debt.

c. At no time shall a controlling committee allow more than 15 percent of the assets under management, based on market value, to be invested in any one industry. Industries are defined as sub-groupings within macro-economic sectors (e.g. Sector = Technology, Industry = Hardware).

6. Within the values of the denomination, controlling committees shall invest and manage each pool of assets for investment solely in the interest of achieving the purposes for which each of the individual pools of assets were established.

7. In investing and managing assets, a controlling committee must limit costs to those that are appropriate and reasonable in relation to the size of the asset pools, the purpose of the asset pool and the skill of the controlling committee.

a. Retention of external managers or the construction of portfolios through the purchase of individual securities or vehicles should only be considered when the assets for investment are large enough to allow for appropriate diversification and to justify the fees associated with management of the fund and custody of the securities. Normally asset pools of

less than US\$2,000,000 would not qualify. For asset pools greater than US\$2,000,000, a committee must evaluate available options with a view to minimizing management costs.

8. Controlling committees shall complete an asset allocation study in consultation with nonconflicted, qualified professionals for asset pools for investment prior to investing any assets.

9. Quality and Marketability—Common and convertible preferred stocks should be of good quality and listed on a major exchange or traded in the over-the-counter market with the requirement that such stocks have adequate market liquidity relative to the size of the asset pool.

10. For each asset pool an Investment Policy Statement in a format understood by the money management industry and consistent with this *Working Policy* shall be approved by each controlling committee whether employing external managers or managing funds internally.

11. Convertible bonds, convertible into common stock, Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT's), and preferred stock are considered equity securities and thus are prohibited from being purchased as fixed income securities.

12. All members of controlling committees must have a current, signed conflict of interest statement on file.

13. Self custody of securities is discouraged. Controlling committees are encouraged to select a recognized custodian to hold securities, to settle brokerage transactions, and to provide monthly detail of such transactions.

14. Controlling committees which determine investment policy or make investment decisions shall retain professional investment advisors whose compensation is not commission driven.

S 45 20 Divisions to Establish Investment Policy—1. Wide variations in national markets, laws, regulations and securities make it impractical to establish a single detailed set of investment policies beyond a set of general principles and guidelines as contained in this policy. Each division is encouraged to develop an investment policy in harmony with the provisions of this policy which contain principles, guidelines, and processes appropriate to its territory to govern the investment practices of its organizations and institutions.

2. In divisions choosing not to develop an investment policy for their subsidiary organizations, such organizations shall be limited to investments in the General Conference Unitized Funds and/or those investments covered in S 45 35.

S 45 25 General Conference Unitized Funds—1. The General Conference Investment Office serves the world field through a family of General Conference Unitized Funds that are designed to pool Church funds for investment such that maximum economies of scale are achieved for the Church and its mission. This family of General Conference Unitized Funds makes possible complex asset allocations and sophisticated portfolio construction with high levels of risk management through diversification of managers, management style and investment instruments that have been screened for the values of the Church. As a part of the management service of the investment office, accounting, custody, performance appraisal, and auditing costs are included.

2. New funds may be created from time to time by the General Conference Investment Committee and approved by the General Conference Corporation. The following General Conference Unitized Funds are available:

- a. General Conference Money Fund
- b. General Conference Bond Fund
- c. General Conference Income Fund
- d. General Conference U.S. Large Capitalization Equity Fund
- e. General Conference U.S. Small Capitalization Equity Fund
- f. General Conference International Equity Fund
- g. General Conference Emerging Markets Equity Fund
- h. General Conference Micro Capitalization/Private Equity Fund (closed to new investors)
- i. General Conference Pooled Life Fund (special purpose fund)

Each General Conference Unitized Fund, except the General Conference Money Fund and Pooled Life Fund offers monthly liquidity to all participants. The Micro Capitalization Fund is closed to new investors.

3. The portfolios of the General Conference Unitized Funds are composed of domestic and international equity, fixed income, and cash equivalent securities. Within this framework, the investment objectives of each General Conference Unitized Fund are as follows:

	Primary Objective	Secondary Objective
General Conference Money Fund	Current Income	Stable Daily NAV
Bond Fund	Income	Preservation of Capital
Income Fund	Income	Preservation of Purchasing Power
U.S. Large Cap Equity Fund	Growth of Capital	Preservation of Purchasing Power
U.S. Small Cap Equity Fund	Aggressive Growth	Growth of Capital
International Equity Fund	Growth of Capital	Preservation of Purchasing Power
Emerging Markets Equity Fund	Aggressive Growth	Growth of Capital
Micro Capitalization Fund/Private Equity Fund	Aggressive Growth	Growth of Capital
Pooled Life Fund	Special Purpose Fund	Special Purpose Fund

S 45 30 Classes of Funds—1. Assets for investment at all organizational levels must be divided into three Classes:

a. **Short-Term Funds**—Those funds not needed to cover immediate expenses but that may be needed during the next twelve months to support operating activities or projects that are anticipated to commence during that period. Short-term funds are to be invested to maximize current income with an emphasis on security of principle and liquidity.

b. **Intermediate-Term Funds**—Those funds that support operating activities and projects that are not anticipated to commence within the next twelve months. They typically would include excess operating capital, funds held for building and other projects not expected to be needed during the next twelve months. Intermediate-term funds are to be invested with the goal of obtaining a positive annual return but even more importantly, over the investment time horizon of forty-eight months, to protect against loss of principle. In order to accomplish this there is a willingness to sacrifice some positive returns to protect principle. It is the objective that asset growth should exceed the rate of inflation over the investment time horizon in order to preserve purchasing power of the invested assets.

c. **Long-Term Funds**—Those assets that are committed for retirement benefits, endowment or other long-term needs where fluctuations in market value are acceptable to achieve greater anticipated long-term returns. It is recognized that in some years, fluctuations in market may result in negative rates of return. Long-term funds are invested with the objective

that the market value of the investments should grow in the long run and earn rates of return in excess of the general market indices.

S 45 35 Investment of Short-Term Funds—1. All short-term securities purchased must have adequate market liquidity and should not represent a significant exposure relative to the size of the controlling committee's short-term portfolio and assets must be rated A-1, P-1 or equivalent except those issued by a sovereign government, or an agency thereof guaranteed by that government.

2. All denominational organizations, institutions, and services are authorized to invest short-term funds (current account items such as working capital and trust funds) in the following investment categories, maturing within twelve months:

- a. Banker's acceptances created in international trade
- b. Commercial paper
- c. Certificates of Deposit of insured institutions, up to insured limit
- d. G-7 Government and government agency securities with less than one year to maturity or government issuances denominated in the currency of the controlling organization, with approval by the division concerned
- e. Corporate securities, which satisfy all of the limitations stated above, with less than one year to maturity
- f. General Conference Unitized Money Fund or other money market funds with assets in excess US\$250,000,000
- g. Union revolving funds

S 45 40 Investment of Intermediate-Term Funds—1. All provisions as provided in S 45 35.

2. Marketable bonds must be rated "investment grade" or better by Standard and Poor's (BBB- or higher) and Moody's (Baa3 or higher) or one of their subsidiaries. If Moody's or S&P or their subsidiaries do not rate a security, then the Fitch (BBB- or higher) or one of its subsidiaries rating will be used. For split rated securities, the lowest rating will apply.

3. Intermediate-term issues that are permitted include only those with up to four years average life unless matched for specific liability dates.

4. Intermediate-Term investments include:
 - a. Securities that, over a four-year period, have an average life of less than forty-eight months.
 - b. General Conference Unitized Bond and Income Funds
 - c. Special temporary employee loans. (These interest-bearing loans are given under special conditions such as in connection with a move. The controlling committee, board, or properly appointed subcommittee must give approval for each loan with the details on file with the minutes.)
 - d. Division/Union deposit funds

S 45 45 Investment of Long-Term Funds—1. All provisions as provided in S 45 35 and S 45 40.

2. Long-Term investments include:
 - a. Equity Investments:
 - 1) Common stocks, American Depository Receipts (ADR's) of foreign companies, and ordinary shares of non-U.S. securities or warrants thereon, listed on recognized exchanges.
 - 2) Preferred stocks rated investment grade
 - 3) Convertible securities including debentures rated investment grade.
 - 4) Sales and repurchase of covered calls listed on a recognized exchange.
 - 5) Registered, open-end (mutual) funds which do not have 12b-1 fees or their equivalent and comply with all provisions of S 45 15.
 - 6) Exchange Traded Funds (ETF's)
 - 7) Well capitalized, nonspeculative Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT's) listed on a recognized exchange.

8) Intrad denominational loans adequately secured by recorded mortgage, deeds of trust or chattel mortgages on equipment, and interest-bearing with a repayment schedule.

a) In addition to the terms of 8) above for organizations within the loaning entity's territory but not under its jurisdiction, either a guarantee or a "no objection" must be obtained from the controlling committee of the parent organization.

b) In addition to the terms of 8) above for organizations outside the loaning entity's territory either a guarantee or a "no objection" must be obtained from the borrowing division or controlling organization in whose territory the borrowing organization is located.

9) All equity focused General Conference Unitized Funds

b. Fixed Income:

1) G-7 Government and Agency Securities

2) Corporate notes and bonds maturing within thirty years

3) Mortgage and other asset backed securities maturing within thirty years with the following exceptions:

a) Subordinated debt is prohibited

b) All collateralized obligations must be rated AA or better

c) Interest Only (IO's), Principal Only (PO's), Inverse floaters and all other leveraged tranches are prohibited

4) Syndicated real estate mortgages limited to 80 percent of the fair market value of the collateral.

5) Private debt placements secured by an irrevocable letter of credit issued by institutions rated A-1 or P-1 or its equivalent

6) First mortgages on an employee primary residence with up to 90 percent loan to value and repayment through a payroll deduction

7) General Conference Bond and Income Unitized Funds or an income fund with a thirty-six month average life

S 45 50 Special Consideration Securities—1. With General Conference Executive Committee approval, the following may be permissible for organizations administering large investment pools (normally not less than US\$10,000,000) and with professional management staff:

- a. Real Estate—Syndicated with institutional investors and representing no more than 25 percent interest in the property(ies) or if single property principally owned, investment shall require professional consultation and management advice and prior approval by the controlling committee.
- b. High yield bonds
- c. Partnerships investing in equity securities which are managed defensively
- d. Mortgage- or asset-backed securities when managed by a professional manager
- e. Derivative contracts may be used to reduce or manage the risk exposure of a portfolio when used in combination with the other portfolio holdings and within the context of the manager's overall strategy.
 - 1) Contracts can be used in lieu of cash market transactions only when fully documented and when their valuation, execution and/or cost provide relative advantages.
 - 2) Adequate liquidity for contract margin requirements must always be coordinated within the overall manager's strategy.
 - 3) Asset sales for cash must be accomplished in an orderly way.
 - 4) The manager may utilize derivatives contracts to replicate the risk/return profile of an asset or combination of assets provided that the guidelines allow such exposures with the underlying assets themselves. Derivatives may not be used to produce exposure to an asset, asset class, index, interest rates, or other financial variable that would not otherwise be allowed in the portfolio guidelines were derivatives contracts not allowed.
 - 5) At no time shall the portfolio, in aggregate, be more than 100 percent invested.

S 45 55 Securities Not Named—1. Interpretation regarding investment vehicles not named in this policy shall be submitted in writing through the Secretary of the General Conference Investment Committee for interpretation by the Investment Committee of applicability of the specific investment vehicle within the framework of this policy.

TRE/PoiRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/TreC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

565-04G SAFEGUARDING DENOMINATIONAL FUNDS - POLICY
DELETION

VOTED, To delete GC S 45, Safeguarding Denominational Funds, which reads as follows:

S 45 Safeguarding Denominational Funds

S 45 05 Precautions—1. Selecting Employees—The employment of honest, sincere Christian men and women is the best security that can be obtained in the safeguarding of funds. Only those shall be chosen for positions of trust and responsibility involving the handling of moneys and investments who give evidence of a genuine Christian experience, and whose training or qualifications fit them for responsibilities of this kind.

2. Christian Values—Individuals authorized to invest funds for the Church must always be mindful of their stewardship responsibility. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit they should strive with prudence and wisdom to have their actions reflect their Master both in style and substance. At the practical level this means direct investments will not be made in certain industries. It also means that principles of integrity and fairness will govern all transactions with counter parties.

3. Fidelity Bond—It is recommended that denominational organizations protect church assets by utilizing a commercial blanket fidelity bond of adequate limits. Employees who have committed prior acts of theft or dishonesty are not covered under fidelity bonds. Where fidelity bonds are not available, provision shall be made to allocate funds to cover possible fidelity losses.

4. Dealing With Offenders—When an employee of a conference/mission or other organization takes a course in violation of the laws of the country and of the financial trust or responsibility reposed in him/her, church discipline shall be administered and conference/mission officials shall cooperate in the proper punishment of such offenders.

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5. Safety-Deposit Boxes—When safety-deposit boxes are maintained for the safekeeping of documents and other valuables, two authorized persons shall be present to gain admittance to the safety-deposit boxes and their contents.

6. Allocated Funds and Trust Funds—The investment of allocated funds, trust funds, and irrevocable trustee funds that must be held in conferences and missions, institutions and other organizations shall be made only under the direction of controlling committees or boards; and these investments shall be disposed of by similar authorizations. A careful and complete record shall be kept of the purchase and sale of all investments.

7. Campaign Expense of Evangelistic Teams—a. The income and expense of evangelistic teams shall be audited regularly by responsible auditors. These audits should include the sale of materials at evangelistic meetings.

b. No special offering shall be taken at evangelistic meetings that directly benefits an employee or team, nor shall items, including recordings, be sold for personal gain at evangelistic meetings.

8. Auditing of Financial Records—In order to afford adequate security for denominational funds and to provide protection for those responsible for these funds, denominational organizations at all levels shall be audited as provided in Chapter SA of the General Conference Working Policy.

9. Depositing Funds—Denominational funds shall be deposited only in banks and savings institutions approved by controlling boards and committees.

10. All investments must be prudent and in harmony with the laws, rules, and regulations of the jurisdiction in which the individual organization is located.

11. An investment policy statement in a format understood by the money management industry and consistent with this Working Policy shall be prepared by each organization employing outside fund managers. A sample is available from the General Conference Investment Office.

S 45 10 Investment of Funds—1. Approved Vehicles for Short-term Investments—The following is a list of short-term investment vehicles which may be used by organizations, subject to the detailed provisions of S 45 20.

a. Commercial banks (see paragraph 2. below).

b. Savings banks (see paragraph 2. below).

c. Savings and loan associations or building societies (see paragraph 2. below).

d. Bankers' acceptances issued by local banks or major foreign banks when commercial paper issued by such banks or holding companies is rated investment grade by a recognized statistical rating organization or if the investment is limited to an amount covered by national government insurance.

e. Certificates of deposit or master notes issued by local banks or major foreign banks when commercial paper issued by such banks or holding companies is rated investment grade by a recognized statistical rating organization or if the investment is limited to an amount covered by national government insurance.

f. Credit unions (see paragraph 2. below).

g. National government obligations (maturing in 36 months or sooner).

h. National government agency issues (maturing in 36 months or sooner).

i. Commercial paper rated investment grade.

j. General Conference Money Fund and money market funds whose portfolios are conservatively constructed, managed by banks, large mutual funds, or brokerage firms of high quality. The General Conference Administrative Committee may approve other similar money market partnerships or investment pools.

k. General Conference Short-term Bond Fund and bond mutual funds conservatively constructed and managed by reputable companies (average life of 36 months or less). The General Conference Administrative Committee may approve other fixed income securities partnerships or investment pools.

l. Repurchase Agreements backed by marketable government securities and handled by reputable financial institutions.

m. Union revolving loan funds.

2. Only strong commercial banks (see paragraph 1. a. above) shall be used for checking accounts. Investments under the provisions of paragraphs 1. b., 1. c., and 1. f. above shall be limited to amounts covered by insurance provided by the appropriate national government agencies.

§ 45 15 Other Investments—1. Approved Vehicles for Long-term Investments—The following is a list of long-term investment vehicles which may be used by organizations, subject to the detailed provisions of § 45 20.

- a. General Conference, division, union, or General Conference Administrative Committee approved unitized funds or similar partnerships or investment pools. All such funds shall be maintained on a unitized or similar basis so that organizations may share equitably in the income and growth of the funds thus invested. Organizations may purchase units in the funds which have been approved for them or have the units redeemed by the fund at any valuation date. The General Conference currently operates six unitized funds which are allowed under this section as investment vehicles for money expected to be invested for at least three years. They are the Bond Fund, Income fund, Large-Cap US Equity fund, Small-Cap Fund, International Fund, and Emerging Markets Fund. The General Conference Corporation may add or delete funds included in this category as needed.
- b. Division/union deposit fund. Funds are accepted from organizations and institutions within the division or union territory and unitized funds.
- c. Union revolving loan fund.
- d. Pooled investment/loan fund. Funds are accepted on a fixed rate of interest paid on the notes. The fund is responsible for all gains or losses on investments and therefore does not distribute the total investment earnings.
- e. Government and corporate bonds and bond mutual funds (Investment grade or better but excluding tax exempt bonds except under special circumstances in trustee funds).
- f. Government, Federal Agency, and corporate notes (Investment grade or better).
- g. Preferred stocks, common stocks, warrants, convertible securities, and equity mutual funds (see § 45 05, paragraph 9).
- h. Special temporary employee loans. These interest-bearing loans are given under special conditions such as in connection with a move. The controlling committee, board, or properly appointed subcommittee must give approval for each loan with the details included in the action recorded in the minutes.
- i. Purchase of building sites for conference, church and school projects other than for the organization's own plant use.

j. Real Estate (nonleveraged). Speculative investment in real estate shall not be authorized. Each division shall develop a policy governing investments in real estate which shall:

- 1) Designate procedures for the management of the asset and the receipt and disbursement of the income;
- 2) Indicate the conditions under which investments may be approved by local and union conference/mission committees or institutional boards or duly appointed subcommittees without requiring General Conference Administrative Committee approval;
- 3) Include the standards and process for assuring that enforceable title is acquired;
- 4) Specify required documentation to verify compliance with hazardous materials guidelines and other environmental regulations.

k. Intrad denominational loans.

- 1) Intrad denominational loans to churches and denominational organizations (including denominationally owned housing) under loaning entity's jurisdiction where borrowing has been authorized.
- 2) Loans may also be made to denominational organizations (including hospitals) within the loaning entity's territory but not under its jurisdiction provided approval is obtained from the next higher organization of the borrowing entity. These loans shall be on an interest-bearing, scheduled-repayment basis. If the loaning entity requires repayment earlier than the repayment schedule, the loan shall become due and payable within 90 days through securing of a loan from another source if necessary. All loans of this type shall be adequately secured by recorded deeds of trust or chattel mortgages on equipment.

l. Secured motor vehicle loans to denominational employees.

m. Secured loans to denominational employees for homes under the following provisions (see S 45 30):

- 1) Recorded first trust deeds/mortgages, and/or
- 2) Recorded second trust deeds/mortgages.

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3) The combined total of first and second trust deeds/mortgages shall not exceed 90 percent of either the appraised value or purchase price of the property, whichever is less.

4) Interest rates charged on employee home loans shall approximate the going rates for similar loans made by local commercial lending organizations at the time the loans are made.

n. Secured trust deeds/mortgages (other than to employees but including other Seventh-day Adventist organizations) of the following types and on scheduled amortized program (S 45 30):

1) Recorded first trust deed/mortgage up to 80 percent of either the purchase price or recognized appraised value of the property, whichever is less.

2) Recorded second trust deed/mortgage which when combined with existing balance of first trust deed/mortgage does not exceed 80 percent of either the purchase price or recognized appraised value of the property, whichever is less.

3) Pass-through mortgages guaranteed by a national government agency.

4) Other investments in facilities as provided under stipulated conditions by the General Conference Executive Committee.

o. Conference Agency Fund. For use of local churches and schools, academies and Adventist Book Centers to pool resources in order to obtain higher earnings.

p. Real estate syndicates (nonleveraged).

q. Real estate loans to denominational employees holding ownership evidenced by stock certificates and occupancy agreements in corporate structures, the loans to be covered by promissory notes and assigned ownership shares with the individual loans limited to 90 percent of either the purchase price or the appraised value, whichever is less.

r. General Conference Micro-Cap and Private Equity Fund. (Those who were unit holders on June 30, 2002 may retain their units.)

s. General Conference Pooled Life Income Fund.

S 45 20 Investment Policy by Denominational Entity—1. Entities are allowed to invest as detailed below. No minimums or maximums are indicated for either the S 45 10 or S 45 15 investment items. The administration of each entity is responsible for selecting the types of investments that meet the needs of the investing entity. Careful consideration must be given to the regular operating cash flow requirements and adequate resources should be maintained in short-term investments to meet day-to-day operating requirements. All investments shall be limited to the approved items. If a specific fund or activity is not listed below, its investments shall be limited to the short-term items in S 45 10. Other investments may be used in trustee situations, if they are required to be in harmony with controlling laws in each applicable jurisdiction.

a. Division/Conference Operating Fund

1) Tithe Funds:

a) S 45 10

b) S 45 15 items a., c., and f.

2) Nontithe Funds:

a) S 45 10

b) S 45 15 items a. to d., f., h., i., and k. to o. (NOTE: Item k. loans may be for operating and capital purposes.)

b. Association Operating Fund

1) S 45 10

2) S 45 15 items a. to d., f., h., i., and k. to o. (NOTE: Item k. loans may be for operating and capital purposes.)

c. Education Fund

1) S 45 10

2) S 45 15 items a. to d. and f.

d. Plant Fund

- 1) S 45 10
- 2) S 45 15 items a. to f., l., m., and n.
- 3) S 45 15 items g. and p. (Andrews University and Loma Linda University only).

e. Pooled Investment/Loan Fund

- 1) S 45 10
- 2) S 45 15 items a. to c., e., f., k., and n. (NOTE: Items k. and n. loans to be limited to 35 percent of demand note liability and shall be for capital purposes only.)

f. Endowment Fund

- 1) S 45 10
- 2) S 45 15 items a. to f., j., and k. (excluding churches and intra-entity loans) to n.
- 3) S 45 15 items g. (all organizations) and p. (Andrews University and Loma Linda University only).
- 4) The Common Fund
- 5) When the donor specifies that funds given must be maintained in a specific type of investment or that the funds may not be pooled, this directive must be carried out by the entity to whom the endowment funds are given.

g. Charitable Gift Annuities

- 1) S 45 10
- 2) S 45 15 items a., c., e., f., k., m., and n.
- 3) Funds may be pooled within the charitable gift annuity fund. The issuing organization shall not borrow from an individual gift annuity. In all cases each annuity shall be invested in compliance with the annuity agreement and with state and regulatory bodies.

4) S 45 15 item g. (General Conference, Andrews University, and Loma Linda University only).

h. Agency Funds

1) S 45 10 (Only nonfluctuating items may be used.)

2) S 45 15 items b., c., d., f., k., and n.

3) Funds may be pooled within the agency fund unless prohibited by the owner of such funds.

4) Loma Linda University unitized funds or the Common Fund through Loma Linda University (agency's governing board must approve this type of investment - Loma Linda University only).

i. Union Revolving Loan Fund

1) S 45 10

2) S 45 15 items c., f., and k. (NOTE: Item f. is limited to 25 percent of the total Loan Fund.)

j. Union Revolving Loan Sinking Fund

1) S 45 10

2) S 45 15 items a. to c., e., f., and m. (NOTE: Item m. limited to 25 percent of total Sinking Fund.)

k. General Conference, Division, and Union Conference Unitized Funds

1) S 45 10

2) S 45 15 items a. to c., e. to h., j., k., m., n., p., and q.

(NOTE: The total of items k., m., n., and q. may not exceed 35 percent of the market value of the fund. When more than one unitized fund is maintained by an organization, the total of items j., k., m., n., and q. for all unitized funds may be consolidated when calculating the percentage of such items, thereby indicating that one particular fund could exceed the percentage

indicated provided the combination of all unitized funds does not exceed the 35 percent maximum.)

l. Union Deposit Funds (including specialized unitized funds)

- 1) S 45 10
- 2) S 45 15 items a., c. to f., h., i., k., and n. (NOTE: Items k. and n. limited to combined total of 75 percent of total Union Deposit Funds.)

m. Church Retirement Funds

- 1) S 45 10
- 2) S 45 15 items a., c., e. to g., j., k., n., and p., and r.

(NOTE: Items c. and k. are only permissible if adequately secured by recorded deeds of trust or chattel mortgages on equipment.)

n. Colleges and Universities Operating Funds

- 1) S 45 10
- 2) S 45 15 items a., c., f., h., and l.
- 3) S 45 15 items e., g., and p., Andrews University and Loma Linda University only.

o. Academies Operating Funds

- 1) S 45 10
- 2) S 45 15 items a., c., f., h., l., and o.

p. Home Study International

- 1) S 45 10
- 2) S 45 15 items a. to c., f., h., and k. to n.

- q. Media Center
 - 1) S 45 10
 - 2) S 45 15 items a. to c., f., h., k. to n.
- r. Christian Record Services International Incorporated
 - 1) S 45 10
 - 2) S 45 15 items a. to c., f., h., and k. to n.
- s. Publishing Houses
 - 1) S 45 10
 - 2) S 45 15 items a. to c., e., f., h., and k. to n.
- t. Adventist Book Center
 - 1) S 45 10
 - 2) S 45 15 items a. to c., f., h., l., and o.
- u. General Conference Money Fund
 - 1) S 45 10 (maturities of one year or less)
 - 2) S 45 15 items c., e., and f.
- v. Retirement Homes and Related retirement Funds
 - 1) Investment policies as developed by the controlling entities.
- w. Health Care Institutions and Related Retirement Funds
 - 1) Investment policies as developed by the controlling entities.
- x. Local Churches and Schools
 - 1) S 45 10

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- 2) S 45 15 items c., f., and o.
 - 3) Loans shall not be made to individual church members.
- y. Adventist Risk Management, Incorporated
- 1) S 45 10
 - 2) Investments to be in compliance with state regulatory bodies.
- z. Trustee Funds-Pre-1969 and Similar Irrevocable
- 1) S 45 10
 - 2) S 45 15 items c. to g., k., and n.
 - 3) If trust contains trustor's(s') residence this may be sold and investment made in new residence on approval of governing board or committee.
 - 4) The trust assets shall be invested to comply with controlling laws in each applicable jurisdiction.
- aa. Trustee Funds-Unitrusts
- 1) S 45 10
 - 2) S 45 15 items a., c., e. to g., and n. (NOTE: The trust assets shall be invested to comply with controlling laws in each applicable jurisdiction. Unitrusts may be pooled with other charitable remainder trusts, with each charitable remainder trust receiving its share of the investment earnings, if appropriate written disclosures are provided to prospective donors.)
 - 3) S 45 15 item d. (Loma Linda University only).
- bb. Trustee Funds-Annuity Trusts
- 1) S 45 10
 - 2) S 45 15 items a., c., e. to g., and n. (NOTE: The trust assets shall be invested to comply with controlling laws in each applicable jurisdiction. Annuity trusts may be pooled with other charitable remainder trusts, with each charitable remainder trust receiving

its share of the investment earnings, if appropriate written disclosures are provided to prospective donors.)

3) S 45 15 item d. (Loma Linda University only).

cc. Trustee Funds-Revocable (Pre-1980 Trusts)

1) S 45 10

2) S 45 15 items c. and d.

3) All trusts written prior to January 1, 1980 should be amended, if necessary and practicable, to conform to existing law. Principal additions after January 1, 1984 to pre-January 1, 1980 trusts shall be specifically invested. Exceptions may be made respecting these additions to individual trusts when allowable by existing local law and upon approval of the appropriate association, corporation, or institution committee or governing board. All funds shall be held in harmony with existing denominational policies.

dd. Trustee Funds-Revocable (Post-1979 Trusts)

1) All revocable trusts written after December 31, 1979 must be specifically invested as directed by trustor (with trustor assuming the benefits and risks of principal variations) and not loaned to any church organization, except to an approved Union Revolving Loan Fund.

2) Whenever the trustee must assume full management responsibilities due to the incompetency of the trustor(s) or other special circumstances, the investment policies for Pre-1969 and Similar Irrevocable Trusts (z. above) will apply.

ee. Trustee Funds-Pooled Life Income Agreements

1) S 50 15 item s.

S 45 25 "Cash" and "Investments"—1. Terminology—Investments listed in S 45 10 items a. through k. shall, if not subject to market fluctuation, be listed in the balance sheet as "cash," while those subject to market fluctuation shall be listed as "investments."

2. Classification—Other investments, as listed in S 45 15, shall be classified as follows:

a. Paragraph 1. a. and e. to g. inclusive: as "Investments."

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b. Paragraph 1. b. to d. and h. to p. inclusive: According to the nature of the investment (i.e. "Notes Receivable," "Loans Receivable," etc.).

3. Type of Asset—The accounting manuals for the various entities should be consulted as to whether such Cash, Investments, Notes Receivable, Loans Receivable, etc., are to be shown as "current" assets or "other" assets.

S 45 30 Secured Real Estate Investments—1. Procedures—S 45 15, paragraph 1. m., permits secured real estate loans to employees, and S 45 15, paragraph 1. n., permits secured real estate loans to denominational organizations as well as nondenominational loans. Each denominational organization wishing to make these types of secured investments shall develop a checklist of approved procedures for the processing of the loans. The completed checklist would become a part of the file for each such loan.

2. Policies—The following items shall be included in the policies for making these secured real estate loans:

a. Investments shall be limited to those secured by mortgages or trust deeds, and shall be secured from the time the funds are released by the investing organization.

b. Title insurance shall be required for nondenominational loans.

c. The loans shall be limited to a maximum of 30 years and shall be repaid on a scheduled amortization basis.

d. Property securing loans must be adequately covered with fire and extended coverage insurance with the lending organization being named in the policy.

e. Evidence of annual payment of real estate taxes must be provided to the lending organization.

3. External Loans—Nondenominational (external) loans shall require the following:

a. Use of outside escrow agents on all loans.

b. Use of independent certified appraisers on loans of US\$500,000 or more.

c. Construction loans shall include the use of the percentage of completion for disbursements and holdbacks on final draws until the lien periods expire.

d. Loans shall be made with interest rates in accordance with approximate local interest rates and terms for similar loans.

S 45 35 Take-Out (Stand-By) Letters—Organizations shall not issue letters of financial commitment commonly known as “take-out” or “stand-by” letters on behalf of third-party commercial ventures.

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

592-04G DIVISION INVESTMENTS - POLICY DELETION

VOTED, To delete S 50, Division Investments, which reads as follows:

S 50 Division Investments

S 50 05 General Statement—1. Division Investments—Divisions may invest outside their respective territories only after consulting with the General Conference Investment Office. The “Safeguarding Denominational Funds” policy (S 50) governs investments by divisions within the United States of America. Divisions shall prepare investment policies for use within their territories which shall maintain the spirit of S 50 while adapting it to local conditions.

2. General Conference Assistance—The General Conference Associate Treasurer assigned to the investment aspects of the General Conference will give divisions whatever assistance is requested or indicated in the placement of funds for investing.

S 50 10 Schedule of Limitations—Divisions may invest the following funds inside or outside the division territory in any investments covered by policy:

1. Working Capital—Up to 50 percent of the division’s authorized working capital in hand, and 75 percent of any excess authorized working capital as calculated from the most recent audited financial statement.

2. Trust Funds—Up to 90 percent of the total of all current trust funds.

3. Allocated Funds—Up to 25 percent of the total of all current reserve funds.

S 50 15 Specific Directives—1. Investment Vehicles—The unitized funds operated by the General Conference will be used as the investment vehicles for long-term investments made by divisions outside their territories, the proportion in each fund to be specified by the division

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concerned. Obligations of the United States Government (Treasury and Federal Agency issues) may also be used for long-term investments as arranged through the General Conference. Short-term investments in items included in S 45 10 will be made through the General Conference if such investments are made outside the division territory.

2. Credit with General Conference—Divisions shall have a credit with the General Conference sufficient to cover purchase costs before initiating any new investment or adding to existing investments.

3. Division Unitized Fund—When a division is authorized by the General Conference to establish a unitized fund to serve its territory, the policy pertaining to the operation of the General Conference unitized funds shall be followed.

4. Specific Endowment Funds—Division executive committees may authorize the establishment of specific endowment funds the income of which is to be allocated for purposes specified when establishing the fund. The purposes may include capital development, evangelism, education, or operating assistance to conferences and institutions, etc.

Jan Paulsen, Chairman

Agustin Galicia, Secretary

Larry R Evans, Editorial Secretary

Janet C Upson, Recording Secretary

**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
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Summary:

		<u>2004</u>			<u>2005</u>		
<u>Income</u>		<u>Tithe</u>	<u>Non-Tithe</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Tithe</u>	<u>Non-Tithe</u>	<u>Total</u>
S-70	Tithe	71,153,750	0	71,153,750	71,002,924	0	71,002,924
S-73	Unrestricted Offerings	0	41,542,680	41,542,680	0	42,193,877	42,193,877
S-74	Unrestricted Donations	0	500,000	500,000	0	250,000.00	250,000
S-76	Unrestrict Invest Earn	0	1,430,300	1,430,300	0	1,500,000	1,500,000
S-79	Miscellaneous Income	0	157,000	157,000	0	101,000	101,000
		<u>71,153,750</u>	<u>43,629,980</u>	<u>114,783,730</u>	<u>71,002,924</u>	<u>44,044,877</u>	<u>115,047,801</u>
S-71	Additional Tithe	28,800,000	(28,800,000)	0	28,800,000	(28,800,000)	0
S-95	Trfs fr Other Functions	(9,471,746)	9,471,746	0	(8,750,849)	8,750,849	0
S-96	Trfs From Other Funds	0	300,000	300,000	0	300,000	300,000
		<u>90,482,004</u>	<u>24,601,726</u>	<u>115,083,730</u>	<u>91,052,075</u>	<u>24,295,726</u>	<u>115,347,801</u>
Expense							
I.	GC Operations	28,455,718	0	28,455,718	29,627,506	0	29,627,506
II.	GC Administered Funds	5,571,708	900,000	6,471,708	5,766,493	900,000	6,666,493
III.	IDE Funding	19,239,823	0	19,239,823	19,239,823	0	19,239,823
IV.	Appropriations	38,103,532	22,830,226	60,933,758	38,426,722	23,034,226	61,460,948
V.	Special Funding	1,350,000	1,771,500	3,121,500	1,350,000	1,771,500	3,121,500
		<u>92,720,781</u>	<u>25,501,726</u>	<u>118,222,507</u>	<u>94,410,544</u>	<u>25,705,726</u>	<u>120,116,270</u>
Net		(2,238,777)	(900,000)	(3,138,777)	(3,358,469)	(1,410,000)	(4,768,469)
Working Capital/Blocked Currency		<u>2,238,777</u>	<u>900,000</u>	<u>3,138,777</u>	<u>3,358,469</u>	<u>1,410,000</u>	<u>4,768,469</u>
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

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Unallocated Income	Tithe		
	<u>Actual 2003</u>	<u>Budget 2004</u>	<u>Budget 2005</u>
Schedule 70 - Tithe			
Tithe - Divisions	7,394,633	7,650,774	9,243,291
Tithe - Division-Blocked	(1,403,484)	(575,505)	(580,000)
Tithe - Recovery of Blocked	409,314	575,505	580,000
Tithe - Division Accrued	(21,000)	0	
Tithe - IDE	846,957	830,000	845,000
Tithe - NSD (Auditing Adjustment)	0	443,400	450,000
Tithe from NAD (2001-10%; 2002-9.5%; 2003-9%; 2004-8.5%)	65,372,299	60,229,609	58,108,710
Less Retirement Adjustment (2001-.20%;2002-.25%;2003-.30%;2004-.30%)	(2,069,752)	(2,125,751)	(2,179,077)
Tithe Additional - In-House	0	4,105,718	4,500,000
Tithe Additional	0	0	0
Tithe Miscellaneous	<u>116,749</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>35,000</u>
	<u>70,645,716</u>	<u>71,153,750</u>	<u>71,002,924</u>
 Blocked Currency/Working Capital	 <u>0</u>	 <u>2,238,777</u>	 <u>3,358,469</u>
Schedule 71 - Additional Funds			
Additional Tithe to GC	28,800,000	28,800,000	<u>28,800,000</u>
Non-Tithe Appropriations	<u>(28,800,000)</u>	<u>(28,800,000)</u>	<u>(28,800,000)</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

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Unallocated Income	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Budget 2005
Schedule 73 - Unrestricted Offerings			
World Mission Fund - OS	25,348,407	24,122,000	25,350,000
World Mission Fund - OS Blocked	(3,731,329)	(2,100,000)	(2,100,000)
World Mission Fd - Recovery Blocked	463,749	2,100,000	3,500,000
WMF - OS - Trf to 13th Sabbath	(940,233)	(911,000)	(940,000)
WMF - OS - Investment	(513,890)	(496,000)	(515,000)
WMF - OS - Trf to GM Ann Sac	(1,569,750)	(1,003,000)	(1,570,000)
WMF - OS - OS Accrued	54,000	0	0
	19,110,954	21,712,000	23,725,000
World Mission Fund - NA	21,364,822	22,181,960	20,723,877
WMF - NA - Trf to 13th Sabbath	(883,208)	(880,760)	(885,000)
WMF - NA - Trf to SS Invest	(453,088)	(471,420)	(455,000)
WMF - Ann Sacrifice	(913,462)	(999,100)	(915,000)
	19,115,064	19,830,680	18,468,877
	38,226,018	41,542,680	42,193,877
Schedule 74 - Unrestricted Donations			
Donations, Miscellaneous	125,364	500,000	250,000
Donations, Unspecified	149,656	0	0
	275,020	500,000	250,000

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Unallocated Income	<u>Actual 2003</u>	<u>Budget 2004</u>	<u>Budget 2005</u>
Schedule 76 - Unrestrict Invest Earnings			
Investment Earnings & Interest	1,202,536	1,270,300	1,325,000
Capital Gains	176,180	160,000	175,000
Recog Unreal Apprec of Investments	<u>6,795,865</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>8,174,581</u>	<u>1,430,300</u>	<u>1,500,000</u>
Schedule 77 - Endowments			
Endowments - Non-Tithe	<u>5,978</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Schedule 79 - Miscellaneous Income			
Lease Inc - SW Bell Antenna	13,915	16,000	15,000
Miscellaneous	41,920	16,000	16,000
Royalties	<u>67,534</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>70,000</u>
	<u>123,369</u>	<u>157,000</u>	<u>101,000</u>
Blocked Currency/Working Capital	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,410,000</u>

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Unallocated Income	<u>Actual 2003</u>	<u>Budget 2004</u>	<u>Budget 2005</u>
Schedule 95 - Trfs to/fr Other Functions			
Offerings for Exchange - From Other Functions	(10,390,372)	(9,471,746)	(8,750,849)
Offerings Exchanged - To Other Functions	<u>10,390,372</u>	<u>9,471,746</u>	<u>8,750,849</u>
	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>
Schedule 96 - Transfers from Other Funds			
Matured Trusts and Wills (Estates Fnd)	<u><u>708,993</u></u>	<u><u>300,000</u></u>	<u><u>300,000</u></u>

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	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Budget 2005
I. Office Operating			
GC Office Operating Cap	<u>26,922,403</u>	<u>28,455,718</u>	<u>29,627,506</u>
II. GC Administered Funds			
SS Mission Quarterlies	254,421	200,000	200,000
Blocked Currency Expenditures	22,139	0	0
World Budget Miscellaneous	315,942	20,000	20,000
Elmshaven Repairs & Renovations	20,000	20,000	20,000
Elmshaven Supervision Assistance	8,000	8,000	8,000
World Dept. Special Projects	391,695	400,000	400,000
Global Mission (Const.Oversight)	100,000	100,000	0
Annual Council	132,626	110,000	110,000
Annual Council Travel	330,342	480,000	480,000
Exchange, Monetary	(44,652)	100,000	100,000
GC Session	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Offerings Promotion - General	100,000	100,000	0
Pre Video Production	0	150,000	150,000
Office of Mission Awareness	0	0	359,785
Adventist Television Network	2,633,708	2,483,708	2,483,708
Spring Meeting	81,684	130,000	130,000
Council on Evangelism	25,000	25,000	25,000
Commissions/Taskforces/Spcl Meeting:	120,000	120,000	120,000
Leadership Training	100,000	100,000	100,000
Strategic Planning	25,000	25,000	25,000
Bible Study Website	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>35,000</u>
Total GC Admin Funds - Tithe	<u>5,615,905</u>	<u>5,571,708</u>	<u>5,766,493</u>

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Non-Tithe**

II. GC Administered Funds	<u>Actual 2003</u>	<u>Budget 2004</u>	<u>Budget 2005</u>
Contingencies:			
General	600,000	600,000	600,000
Blocked Currency Expenditures	90,775	0	0
OGC Spcl Counsel & Litigation	<u>300,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>
Total GC Adm Fnds Non-Tithe	<u>990,775</u>	<u>900,000</u>	<u>900,000</u>
Total GC Administered Funds	<u><u>6,606,680</u></u>	<u><u>6,471,708</u></u>	<u><u>6,666,493</u></u>

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III. IDE Funding	<u>Actual 2003</u>	<u>Budget 2004</u>	<u>Budget 2005</u>
IDE Funding	<u>19,397,448</u>	<u>19,239,823</u>	<u>19,239,823</u>

IV. Appropriations

Separate Board Units-Tithe

Adventist World Radio	296,982	310,000	320,000
Geoscience Research Institute	758,369	775,568	800,689
White Estate	1,027,312	1,076,996	1,262,046
White Estate Contingency	0	114,755	0
White Estate Branches	438,847	441,127	465,000
Auditing Service	650,000	650,000	650,000
Auditing Service Contingency	0	161,098	120,000
Auditing Service Divisions	4,192,596	4,212,449	4,425,000
Auditing Service Divisions-Contingenc	0	100,000	0
NAD Proposed Wage System	<u>0</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>
Sub-total Separate Brd Units-Tithe	7,364,106	7,891,993	8,142,735

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IV. Appropriations: (Cont'd)	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Budget 2005
Divisions - Tithe			
Appropriations, Tithe Operating:			
East Central Africa Division	2,750,278	2,840,278	2,800,278
ECD Contingency - If approved			
Africa Post/Graduate School	0	10,000	50,000
Eastern Europe Fin Affairs Com	1,002,946	1,002,946	1,002,946
Euro-Africa Division - Gen	1,468,421	1,468,421	1,468,421
Inter-America Division	843,194	843,194	843,194
Northern Asia Pacific Division	1,406,045	1,406,045	1,406,045
South American Division	1,669,086	1,669,086	1,669,086
South Pacific Division	960,974	960,974	960,974
Southern Africa Indian Ocean	2,018,674	2,808,674	2,768,674
SID Contingency - If approved			
Africa Post/Graduate School	0	10,000	50,000
SUD (GENCOSUD)	1,587,155	1,587,155	1,587,155
Southern Asia Pacific Division	1,928,606	1,928,606	1,928,606
Trans-European Division - Gen	2,597,882	2,597,882	2,597,882
Western Africa Division	2,059,964	2,049,964	2,009,964
WAD Contingency-If Approved			
Africa Post/Graduate School	0	10,000	50,000
	<u>20,293,225</u>	<u>21,193,225</u>	<u>21,193,225</u>
TED Special	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Excess Liability Ins	<u>4,189,911</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>
Sub-total Divisions - Tithe	25,483,136	23,193,225	23,193,225

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IV. Appropriations: (Cont'd)

	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Budget 2005
General Church Programs			
Evangelism	100,000	100,000	100,000
Graduate Scholarships	100,000	150,000	150,000
Sub-total General Church Programs	200,000	250,000	250,000
Publishing Programs			
AR Monthly Edition Subsidy	284,544	299,673	317,835
Ministry Magazine	125,418	139,390	150,000
EDU AMICUS	135,155	139,658	144,000
Jrnl Of Adv Educ - English Edition	100,000	100,000	100,000
Jrnl Adv Educ - International Edition	20,000	20,000	20,000
S.D.A. Periodical Index	5,500	5,500	5,500
SOP Book Translation Subsidy	200,000	150,000	150,000
SOP Books - New Members - Contingency (If Approved)	0	200,000	233,334
Sub-total Publishing Programs	870,617	1,054,221	1,120,669

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Tithe**

IV. Approp: (Cont'd)

Institutions	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Budget 2005
ADRA - Administration	165,570	180,000	186,000
Allias Operating Approp	206,050	200,050	200,050
AU Operating Approp:			
Seminary:			
Regular	1,132,751	1,132,751	1,132,751
Fac Replace-Seminary	71,952	71,952	71,952
Aviation Center	30,888	30,888	30,888
Mission Orientation	151,500	151,500	151,500
Extension School	31,302	31,302	31,302
Inst for Prevent of Drug Addict	130,874	130,874	130,874
	<u>1,549,267</u>	<u>1,549,267</u>	<u>1,549,267</u>
HSI Operating Approp	60,600	60,600	60,600
LLU Operating Approp	2,750,230	2,750,230	2,750,230
Int'l Health Food Assn	35,000	98,946	98,946
NAD - PARL Liberty Magazine	100,000	100,000	100,000
Satellite Television - SAD WHAST	275,000	275,000	275,000
Council on Evangelism & Witness	500,000	500,000	500,000
Sub-total Institutions	<u>5,641,717</u>	<u>5,714,093</u>	<u>5,720,093</u>
Total Appropriations - Tithe	<u><u>39,359,576</u></u>	<u><u>38,103,532</u></u>	<u><u>38,426,722</u></u>
V. Special Funding			
Adventist World Radio - General	<u>1,350,000</u>	<u>1,350,000</u>	<u>1,350,000</u>
Total Special Funding - Tithe	<u><u>1,350,000</u></u>	<u><u>1,350,000</u></u>	<u><u>1,350,000</u></u>

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IV. Appropriations: (Cont'd)	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Budget 2005
Divisions Non-Tithe			
Appropriations, Non-Tithe Operating:			
East Central Africa Division	1,387,096	1,387,096	1,387,096
Eastern Europe Fin Affairs Com	248,903	248,903	248,903
Euro-Africa Division	715,629	715,634	715,634
Inter-American Division	975,943	975,943	975,943
Northern Asia Pacific Division	165,099	165,099	165,099
South American Division	958,086	958,086	958,086
South Pacific Division	742,754	742,754	742,754
Southern Africa Indian Ocean Div	1,067,304	1,067,304	1,067,304
SUD (GENCOSUD)	879,211	879,211	879,211
Southern Asia Pacific Division	1,087,926	1,087,926	1,087,926
Trans-European Division	950,812	950,812	950,812
Western Africa Division	1,087,861	1,087,861	1,087,861
Sub-total Divisions Non-Tithe	10,266,624	10,266,629	10,266,629
 Donations Non-Tithe:			
51140 Donations	48,250	60,000	60,000

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Non-Tithe**

IV. Appropriations: (Cont'd)	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Budget 2005
Institutions			
ADRA Rent	540,000	540,000	583,000
AWR Rent	60,000	60,000	72,000
AIAS Operating Approp	564,315	570,315	570,315
AU Operating Approp			
Graduate School	2,229,369	2,229,369	2,229,369
HSI Operating Approp	191,900	191,900	191,900
HSI Rental	200,000	200,000	349,000
LLU Operating Approp:			
General	7,324,889	7,324,889	7,324,889
Graduate Biology	300,000	300,000	300,000
OC Operating Approp	<u>1,087,124</u>	<u>1,087,124</u>	<u>1,087,124</u>
Sub-total Institutions	<u>12,497,597</u>	<u>12,503,597</u>	<u>12,707,597</u>
Total Approp Non-Tithe	<u><u>22,812,471</u></u>	<u><u>22,830,226</u></u>	<u><u>23,034,226</u></u>

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V. Special Funding

Division Programs	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Budget 2005
Appropriations, Special:			
East Central Africa Division	55,000	55,000	55,000
Euro-Africa Division	70,000	70,000	70,000
Eastern Europe Fin Affairs Com	90,000	90,000	90,000
Inter American Division	75,000	75,000	75,000
North American Division	0	0	0
Northern Asia Pacific Division	50,000	50,000	50,000
East Asia Comm HK (NSD)	<u>45,000</u> 95,000	<u>45,000</u> 95,000	<u>45,000</u> 95,000
South American Division	70,000	70,000	70,000
South Pacific Division	50,000	50,000	50,000
Southern Africa Indian Ocean Div	50,000	50,000	50,000
SUD (GENCOSUD)			
General	95,000	95,000	95,000
Southern Asia Pacific Division	50,000	50,000	50,000
Trans-European Division:			
General	170,000	170,000	170,000
Western Africa Division	<u>55,000</u>	<u>55,000</u>	<u>55,000</u>
Total Appropriations, Special	925,000	925,000	925,000
Southern African Indian Ocean Div			
General	60,000	0	0
Unification Contingency	<u>100,000</u>	<u>160,000</u>	<u>160,000</u>
Total So African Indian Ocean Div	<u>160,000</u>	<u>160,000</u>	<u>160,000</u>
Sub-total Divisions Programs	1,085,000	1,085,000	1,085,000

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V. Special Funding (Cont'd)	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Budget 2005
Institutional Programs			
NA Approp for Servicemen's Cntr-Korea	35,000	35,000	35,000
AIAS - General	30,000	30,000	30,000
AWR - General	120,000	120,000	120,000
AU Specials:			
General	50,000	50,000	50,000
Grad School & Sem Libr Bks	<u>125,000</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>125,000</u>
	175,000	175,000	175,000
HSI Specials:	236,500	236,500	236,500
SAD WHAST	60,000	60,000	60,000
Adventist Television Network	<u>30,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>
Sub-total Institutional Programs	<u>686,500</u>	<u>686,500</u>	<u>686,500</u>
Total Special Funding	<u><u>1,771,500</u></u>	<u><u>1,771,500</u></u>	<u><u>1,771,500</u></u>

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Divisions:	<u>Base Appropriations</u>			<u>Special Appropriations</u>		<u>GC Administered</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Tithe</u>	<u>Non-Tithe</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Tithe</u>	<u>Non-Tithe</u>	<u>IDE Tithe</u>	<u>Auditing Tithe</u>	
East Central Africa Div	2,800,278	1,387,096	4,187,374		55,000		0	4,242,374
Eastern Europe Fin Affairs Cc	1,002,946	248,903	1,251,849		90,000		0	1,341,849
Euro-Africa Division	1,468,421	715,634	2,184,055		70,000		0	2,254,055
Inter-America Division	843,194	975,943	1,819,137		75,000		0	1,894,137
Northern Asia Pacific Div	1,406,045	165,099	1,571,144		95,000		0	1,666,144
South American Division	1,669,086	958,086	2,627,172		70,000		0	2,697,172
South Pacific Division	960,974	742,754	1,703,728		50,000		0	1,753,728
Southern Africa Indian Ocean	2,768,674	1,067,304	3,835,978		50,000		0	3,885,978
SID Unification Contingency	0	0	0		160,000		0	160,000
SUD (GENCOSUD)	1,587,155	879,211	2,466,366		95,000		0	2,561,366
Southern Asia-Pacific Div	1,928,606	1,087,926	3,016,532		50,000		0	3,066,532
Trans-European Division	2,597,882	950,812	3,548,694		170,000		0	3,718,694
TED Special	1,000,000	0	1,000,000		0		0	1,000,000
Western Africa Division	2,009,964	1,087,861	3,097,825		55,000		0	3,152,825
	<u>22,043,225</u>	<u>10,266,629</u>	<u>32,309,854</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,085,000</u>	<u>19,239,823</u>	<u>4,312,449</u>	<u>56,947,126</u>

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	<u>Base Appropriations</u>			<u>Special Appropriations</u>		<u>GC Administered</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Tithe</u>	<u>Non-Tithe</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Tithe</u>	<u>Non-Tithe</u>	<u>IDE Tithe</u>	<u>Auditing Tithe</u>	
Others:								
ADRA	186,000	583,000	769,000	0	0			769,000
Adventist Television Network	2,483,708	0	2,483,708	0	30,000			2,513,708
Adventist World Radio	320,000	72,000	392,000	1,350,000	120,000			1,862,000
AIAS	200,050	570,315	770,365	0	30,000			800,365
Andrews University	1,549,267	2,229,369	3,778,636	0	175,000			3,953,636
GCAS	770,000	0	770,000	0	0			770,000
Council on Evang & Witness	500,000	0	500,000	0	0			500,000
GRI	800,689	0	800,689	0	0			800,689
Home Study Int'l	60,600	540,900	601,500	0	236,500			838,000
Int'l Health Food Assn	98,946	0	98,946	0	0			98,946
Loma Linda University	2,750,230	7,624,889	10,375,119	0	0			10,375,119
Oakwood College	0	1,087,124	1,087,124	0	0			1,087,124
NAD - PARL Liberty Mag	100,000	0	100,000	0	0			100,000
NAD Proposed Wage System	100,000	0	100,000	0	0			100,000
NAD-Servicemen's Cntr-Korea	0	0	0	0	35,000			35,000
Satellite TV-SAD WHAST	275,000	0	275,000	0	60,000			335,000
White Estate	1,727,046	0	1,727,046	0	0			1,727,046
Graduate Scholarships	250,000	0	250,000	0	0			250,000
Publishing Programs	1,120,669	0	1,120,669	0	0			1,120,669
Excess Aviation & Liab Ins	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	0	0			1,000,000
	<u>14,292,205</u>	<u>12,707,597</u>	<u>26,999,802</u>	<u>1,350,000</u>	<u>686,500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>29,036,302</u>

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IV. Appropriations:

	<u>Actual 2003</u>	<u>Budget 2004</u>	<u>Budget 2005</u>
Restricted Funds			
Approp, Investment-Outreach:			
Africa-Indian Ocean Division	0	0	0
East Central Africa Division	131,324	134,691	132,088
Eastern Africa Division	0	0	0
Eastern Europe Fin Affairs Com	39,735	39,792	39,394
Euro-Africa Division	69,324	69,424	68,729
Inter-American Division	57,741	57,824	57,246
Northern Asia Pacific Division	49,870	49,941	49,442
South American Division	83,389	83,509	82,674
South Pacific Division	54,078	54,156	53,614
Southern Africa Indian Ocean Div	97,952	123,522	121,031
Southern Africa Union Conf	0	0	0
SUD (GENCOSUD)	78,285	78,397	77,613
Southern Asia Pacific Division	95,748	95,885	94,926
Trans-European Division	639	112,801	111,673
Western Africa Division	<u>99,915</u>	<u>100,058</u>	<u>97,801</u>
Total Restricted Funds	<u><u>858,000</u></u>	<u><u>1,000,000</u></u>	<u><u>986,231</u></u>

ANNUAL COUNCIL
GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 12, 2004, 2:00 p.m.

Lowell C Cooper, Chairman, called to order the sixth session of the 2004 Annual Council.

Prayer was offered by Robert S Smith, President of the Review and Herald Publishing Association.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION—
MEETING

At 2:00 p.m. a meeting of the International Health and Temperance Association was called.

At 2:20 p.m. the meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee convened.

04AC to SGR

PHASE-IN ON NEW REMUNERATION PHILOSOPHY - REPORT

VOTED, To record reception of the report by the General Conference Treasurer that the General Conference and all the General Conference institutions are in compliance with the five year phase in provisions of the new remuneration policy.

PREXAD04/GCDO04AC/04AC to GDK&REL-ADCOM(DIV)

132-04Gb USE OF TITHE STUDY COMMISSION

Frequently questions arise regarding consistency in the use of tithe, tithe exchange, depreciation and tithe, tithe in educational institutions, interdivision employee support and tithe, and numerous other important questions. It is useful and at times necessary for a rapidly growing world Church to periodically review its use of tithe.

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VOTED, To establish a Use of Tithe Study Commission with broad-based world representation with terms of reference and membership appointed by the General Conference Administrative Committee in consultation with division administrations, as follows:

TERMS OF REFERENCE

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Review and analyze current practices and policies on the use of tithe, and identify the challenges arising from those practices and policies. | 1. Power to act. |
| 2. Restudy and research the biblical and Spirit of Prophecy materials on the use of tithe, including a review of previous documents and materials on the use of tithe. | 2. Power to act. |
| 3. Make recommendations, based on 1. and 2. above for any changes in policies and guidelines on the use of tithe. | 3. Recommend to the General Conference Executive Committee through the General Conference Administrative Committee. |

Membership (59)

Chairman: Appointed by the President
Vice-Chairman: Appointed by the President
Secretary: Appointed by the Treasurer

General Conference (5)

Theologians/Church Historians (7)

Divisions (18)

Presidents (13)

Treasurers (5)

Unions (4)

Presidents (2)

Treasurers (2)

Conferences (12)

Presidents (5)

Treasurers (3)

Pastors (4)

Institutions (4)

K-12 (2)
Higher Education (2)
Laypersons (4)
To be named

04AC to JP(DIV)

A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST PHILOSOPHY OF MUSIC

Ted N C Wilson, General Vice President of the General Conference, gave the background for the creation of the document on music expressing special thanks to Angel Manuel Rodriguez, Director of the Biblical Research Institute for his contribution in the preparation of the document. After the document was read, much discussion followed.

A motion was made to table this item. The vote was taken by a show of hands and it was,

VOTED, To accept the motion to table the document, A Seventh-day Adventist Philosophy of Music.

FAMILY MINISTRIES - REPORT

Ronald M and Karen M Flowers, Co-Directors of the General Conference Family Ministries Department presented the following report:

You can zoom in on a portrait of Adventist family anywhere in the world and find families with strong connections and vibrant spirituality. But just as predicably, any photo shot will expose troubled marriages. There will be worried parents, strong-willed children, and disenchanted young adults. Chances are you will also find abusers and abused.

Behind their best efforts to smile on Sabbath morning, their lives are ragged and untidy. The family—God's primary center for discipling—is struggling to convey spiritual values to the next generation. In too many homes, their joy and energy for quality life together, and for God and mission, are being drained away by family concerns.

As the directors of Family Ministries here at the General Conference, let us be the first to acknowledge that this ministry has no quick fixes in its pockets. What the church's ministry to families does have to offer is grace, loving care and hope. We can provide practical instruction on what it means to be a Christian, Adventist family. We can help families learn important relational skills. We can create opportunities for them to grow together in faith and practice.

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Five big initiatives have been the focus of the work of this office and our world colleagues for this quinquennium:

1. We have set ourselves to the large task of writing a comprehensive, biblically-based curriculum framework for family life education in the local church. A curriculum framework answers the question, What is it God wants members to know, feel and do in relationship with one another in the church and in the smallest church—the family? What will empower them for effective discipling within the family circle and for winsome witness among neighbors and friends?

An interdivision taskforce of family professionals, theologians, and educators have been working closely with us throughout the quinquennium. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude. They have poured their hearts as well as their expertise and long years of experience into preparing this curricular foundation.

This work establishes the shared, world-church curricular base for family life education from which culturally-sensitive resources can be developed. It is our best effort to write down for future generations of leaders all that we have learned in the 30 years since a ministry to families established by Ellen G White had to be re-established in 1975.

You have seen the first release in this series of 11 teaching resources—*Human Sexuality: Sharing God's Good Gift with Your Children*. It is already in print or in press in seven major languages. The next two releases will deal with Christian marriage and with the parent-child relationship.

2. As a second major initiative, we have prepared resources for a family ministries leadership orientation and development program of approximately 110 hours. These resources are based on our 11-part Family Ministries curriculum framework outline. We have offered to all the world divisions a departmental certificate program for the development of division, union and conference leadership in Family Ministries. The program is underway in 11 of the 13 divisions. We have also collaborated with our colleagues to put in place academically-based leadership programs at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, at Loma Linda, Montemorelos, Sahmyook, and Pacific Adventist universities, as well as at Avondale and Fulton College. Inquiries have also come from the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton for the development of such a program there.

3. As a third initiative, we continue to provide—by popular demand—a major annual resource for ministry to families in the local church. This resource is sent each year to the divisions in manuscript form for their contextualization. The 2005 planbook will be our 15th such resource. Each is a 100-page-or-so idea bank for sermons on family and for

making the church child and family friendly. It also contains seminar resources for marriage strengthening, parenting, and relating to one another in love as the family of God.

4. Fourthly, we have used the opportunities open to Family Ministries to stimulate dialogue between evangelists and family professionals. We believe that by overlaying a knowledge of the family unit and how it functions onto the process of evangelism, we may be able to bring Jesus to entire family circles where we now baptize one or two. Through our departmental networks and in cooperation with the General Conference Ministerial Association, our book *Family Evangelism* has been distributed to over 15,000 pastors and church leaders worldwide during this Year of Evangelism.

5. As a final initiative, we carry a burden on our hearts for on-going research on the Adventist family. We are currently collaborating with the South Pacific Division and the Inter-American Division on studies to identify the family factors that correlate with lower incidence of risky behavior among youth—behaviors such as premarital sexual activity, cohabitation, violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and other things that put their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being at high risk. We believe that the stronger our research base on the Adventist family, the better equipped the church will be at all levels to make good decisions and to provide the best resources for ministry.

On a personal note, we love this work. We thank you for the support you continue to give this department. We invite you to visit the exhibit we have set up at the back where some of our resources are on display. As you leave today, we will provide you with a little memento as a daily reminder of the responsibility for families that rests on our shoulders as leaders in our own families and in the family of God.

Vision with us the smiles we might create, on earth and in heaven, if we acted fully on our belief that family is the basic building block of the church, that disciplinemaking begins at home, and that loving Adventist families really are the best sermons we preach!

SupportingMinAdv/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

609-04G SUPPORTING MINISTRIES - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC K, Supporting Ministries, to read as follows:

K Supporting Ministries

K 05 Criteria for Defining Supporting Ministries

K 05 05 Criteria for Defining Supporting Ministries—The Seventh-day Adventist Church defines as Supporting Ministries, independent organizations that comply with the following criteria:

1. The leaders and representatives of supporting ministries shall be loyal members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in good ~~and regular~~ standing.
2. The theological positions of the supporting ministries and the emphasis placed upon them shall be in harmony with the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In supporting these beliefs, the context of both the biblical text and writings of Ellen G White will be faithfully used. Theological positions not addressed in the fundamental beliefs shall not be promoted. ~~shall be treated as private beliefs and shall not be promoted to the point where they become divisive.~~
3. The leaders and representatives of supporting ministries shall support and cooperate with the goals and purposes of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in their words, actions, and publications. Their work shall positively supplement that of the Church in carrying out the gospel commission.
4. ~~Supporting ministries personnel, ordained or unordained, shall not represent their supporting ministry as an official church project.~~ Supporting ministry organizations and their personnel shall clearly and explicitly state in their legal documents and in their dealings with third parties that they support the spiritual mission of the Church but are independent supporting ministry organizations not controlled by or legally affiliated with the Church.
5. Supporting ministries shall not accept tithes from Seventh-day Adventist Church members but shall encourage their supporters to be faithful in returning tithes and appropriate offerings through the authorized channels of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
6. Supporting ministries providing services outside their own division territory shall consult with, and secure approval from, the division administration concerned regarding the nature, extent and duration of services rendered within that division.
6. ~~Supporting ministries shall make available a formal statement of mission, including plans and objectives, upon the request of the division in whose territory they operate.~~

7. ~~Supporting ministries which accept contributions shall, in countries where it is required, be registered with the appropriate tax bodies as nonprofit organizations and shall provide copies of their annual audited financial statements upon the request of the respective divisions.~~

8. ~~Requests for official church business travel for supporting ministries personnel holding denominational licenses or credentials, shall be processed in harmony with the provisions of BA 60 15. Failure to comply with this policy may jeopardize the continuation of such licenses or credentials.~~

9. ~~All interdivision travel by laypersons on official church business shall be processed in harmony with the provisions of BA 60 20.~~

K 05 10 Process for Listing Supporting Ministry Organizations—Organizations that comply with the criteria of K 05 05, may apply for listing as a supporting ministry organization to the secretary of the division where the organization's head office is located.

The organization seeking listing shall:

1. Have been in operation for at least one year
2. Have at least two full-time employees
3. Be led by a Seventh-day Adventist who does not receive salary from any Seventh-day Adventist denominational organization for the leadership of this organization
4. Is controlled by a board with a membership majority of lay Seventh-day Adventists
5. Complete an application form supplied by the appropriate division
6. Supply copies of the following documents, together with the completed application form, to the secretary of the division:
 - a. Mission statement
 - b. Articles of Incorporation (or constitution if unincorporated) and bylaws (or equivalent documents in jurisdictions using different terminology or having different

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requirements) clearly stating the organization's purposes and objectives, and legal status (for example, not-for-profit, charitable, or religious corporation). If such documents refer to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, they must clearly indicate the organization is an independent organization that supports the spiritual mission of the Church and is not controlled or legally affiliated with the Church.

c. References from individuals, church boards, or administrative entities attesting that the organization complies with the K 05 05 definition of Supporting Ministry Organization

d. Statistics—number of employees/volunteers

e. Report of activities

f. Reason for seeking listing

g. Other information as required by K 05 05 or by the division reviewing the request for listing as a supporting ministry organization

When the application process is complete, the division secretary shall submit the request to the division executive committee for consideration and then notify the General Conference Secretariat when the supporting ministry organization is added to the division's list of supporting ministry organizations. Each division shall be responsible for the maintenance and accuracy of its list of supporting ministry organizations. The roster maintained by the General Conference Secretariat is for the convenience of the divisions and does not connote control, endorsement, or responsibility for any supporting ministry organization listed. The General Conference Secretariat shall refer any question about any listing to the appropriate division for consideration and response.

In divisions where an Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries-type organization is established, the division may choose to accept the Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries-type application process. In such cases, the division shall send its recognized list of organizations to the General Conference Secretariat for listing on the roster.

Each division will confirm quinquennially that its list of supporting ministry organizations meet all K 05 05 and other requirements of the division.

04AC to LRE

154-04G GENERAL CONFERENCE MINISTRIES AND SERVICES
REVIEW COMMISSION - MEMBERSHIP

VOTED, To record the membership of the General Conference Ministries and Services Review Commission, as follows:

BAPTISTE, HAROLD W, CHAIRMAN
Karst, Gerry D, Vice-Chairman
Parmenter, Vernon B, Secretary

Rose, Steven G, Treasury representative
Ryan, Michael L, General Conference Vice President for Strategic Planning
Pastors (5)

Masih, Dalbir (Trans-European Division, British Union Conference)
Grant, Leonardo (Inter-American Division)
Parulan, Ephraim M (Southern Asia-Pacific Division)
Kwanin, Kwame Boakye (West-Central Africa Division)
Kim, Dae Sung (Northern Asia-Pacific Division)

Laypersons (5)

Hidalgo-Arteaga (Inter-American Division)
Ostring, Elizabeth E (South Pacific Division)
Zirimwabagado, Rita U (East-Central Africa Division)
General Conference Administrative Committee to name two laypersons

Division Presidents (13)

Daniel, Luka T (West-Central Africa Division)
Evans, Laurie J (South Pacific Division)
Frikart, Ulrich W (Euro-Africa Division)
Gulfan, Alberto C Jr (Southern Asia-Pacific Division)
Lee, Jairyong (Northern Asia-Pacific Division)
Leito, Israel (Inter-American Division)
Mbwana, Geoffrey G (East-Central Africa Division)
Mwansa, Pardon Kandanga (Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division)
Nagel, Ruy H (South American Division)
Schneider, Don C (North American Division)
Stele, Artur A (Euro-Asia Division)
Watts, D Ronald (Southern Asia Division)
Wiklander, Bertil A (Trans-European Division)

Union Administration (9)

Brito, Mario A (Euro-Africa Division)

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Colney, Lalchansanga (Southern Asia Division)
Krupsky, Vladimir A (Euro-Asia Division)
Palacios, Julio A (Inter-American Division)
Mayr, Siegfried G (Southern Asia-Pacific Division)
Mfuné, Saustin Kazgeba (Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division)
Monnier, Eric P (South American Division)
Trevino, Max A (North American Division)
Wani, John Luga (East-Central Africa Division)
Institutions (2)
General Conference Administrative Committee to name

At 4:25 p.m. the General Conference Executive Committee was recessed.

ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY—LEGAL
MEETING

At 4:25 p.m. the Adventist Development and Relief Agency legal constituency was called.

At 4:55 p.m. the meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee reconvened.

04AC to JP(DIV)

144-04G A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST PHILOSOPHY OF
MUSIC

VOTED, To take from the table the document, A Seventh-day Adventist Philosophy of Music.

PRE/ADCOM/PreC/144-03G/PREXAD/ADCOM/04AC to JP(DIV)

144-04G A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST PHILOSOPHY OF
MUSIC

VOTED, To approve as guidelines the document, A Seventh-day Adventist Philosophy of Music, which reads as follows:

A Seventh-day Adventist Philosophy of Music

God has woven music into the very fabric of His creation. When He made all things “the morning stars sang together and the angels shouted for joy.”—Job 38:7 The book of Revelation portrays heaven as a place of ceaseless praise, with songs of adoration to God and the Lamb resounding from all.—Rev 4:9-11; 5:9-13; 7:10-12; 12:10-12; 14:1-3; 15:2-4; 19:1-8

Because God made humans in His image, we share a love and appreciation for music with all His created beings. In fact, music can touch and move us with a power that goes beyond words or most other types of communication.¹ At its purest and best, music lifts our beings into the very presence of God where angels and unfallen beings worship Him in song.

But sin has cast blight over the Creation. The divine image has been marred and well-nigh obliterated; in all aspects this world and God’s gifts come to us with a mingling of good and evil. Music is not morally and spiritually neutral. Some may move us to the most exalted human experience, some may be used by the prince of evil to debase and degrade us, to stir up lust, passion, despair, anger, and hatred.

The Lord’s messenger, Ellen G White, continually counsels us to raise our sights in music. She tells us, “Music, when not abused, is a great blessing; but when it is put to a wrong use, it is a terrible curse.”² “Rightly employed, [music] is a precious gift of God, designed to uplift the thoughts to high and noble themes, to inspire and elevate the soul.”³

Of the power of song, she writes: “It is one of the most effective means of impressing the heart with spiritual truth. How often to the soul hard-pressed and ready to despair, memory recalls some word of God’s,—the long-forgotten burden of a childhood song,—and temptations lose their power, life takes on new meaning and new purpose, and courage and gladness are imparted to other souls! . . . As a part of religious service, singing is as much an act of worship as is prayer. Indeed, many a song is prayer. . . . As our Redeemer leads us to the threshold of the Infinite, flushed with the glory of God, we may catch the themes of praise and thanksgiving from the heavenly choir round about the throne; and as the echo of the angels’ song is awakened in our

¹“It [music] is one of the most effective means of impressing the heart with spiritual truth” (*Education*, p. 168).

²*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 497. She also states that in the future, “just before the close of probation,” “there will be shouting, with drums, music, and dancing. The senses of rational beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make right decisions. And this is called the moving of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit never reveals itself in such methods, in such a bedlam of noise. This is an invention of Satan to cover up his ingenious methods for making of none effect the pure, sincere, elevating, ennobling, sanctifying truth for this time” (2 *SM* 36).

³*Education*, p. 167.

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earthly homes, hearts will be drawn closer to the heavenly singers. Heaven's communion begins on earth. We learn here the keynote of its praise."⁴

As Seventh-day Adventists, we believe and preach that Jesus is coming again soon. In our worldwide proclamation of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12 we call all peoples to accept the everlasting gospel, to worship God the Creator, and to prepare to meet our soon-returning Lord. We challenge all to choose the good and not the bad, to "say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ."—Titus 2:12, 13

We believe that the gospel impacts all areas of life. We therefore hold that, given the vast potential of music for good or ill, we cannot be indifferent to it. While realizing that tastes in music vary greatly from individual to individual, we believe that the Scriptures and the writings of Ellen G White suggest principles that can inform our choices.

In this document the phrase "sacred music"—sometimes referred to as religious music—designates music that focuses on God and on biblical and Christian themes. In most cases, it is music composed and intended for worship service, evangelistic meetings, or private devotion and may be both vocal and instrumental music. However, not all sacred/religious music may be acceptable for an Adventist. Sacred music should not evoke secular associations or invite conformity to worldly behavioral patterns of thinking or acting.

"Secular music" is music composed for settings other than the worship service or private devotion. It speaks to the common issues of life and basic human emotions. It comes out of our very being, expressing the human spirit's reaction to life, love, and the world in which the Lord has placed us. It can be morally uplifting or degrading. Although it does not directly praise and adore God, nevertheless it could have a legitimate place in the life of the Christian. In its selection the principles discussed in this document should be followed.

Principles to Guide the Christian

The music that Christians enjoy should be regulated by the following principles:

1. All music the Christian listens to, performs or composes, whether sacred or secular, will glorify God: "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."—1 Corinthians 10:31 This is the over-riding biblical principle. Anything that cannot meet this high standard will weaken our experience with the Lord.

⁴*Education*, p. 168.

2. All music the Christian listens to, performs or composes, whether sacred or secular, should be the noblest and the best: “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is pure, whatever is right, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”—Phil 4:8 As followers of Jesus Christ who hope and expect to join the heavenly choirs, we view life on this earth as a preparation for, and foretaste of, the life to come.

On these two foundations—glorifying God in all things and choosing the noblest and the best—depend the other principles listed below for the selection of music by Christians.

3. It is characterized by quality, balance, appropriateness, and authenticity. Music fosters our spiritual, psychological, and social sensitivity, and our intellectual growth.

4. It appeals to both the intellect and the emotions and impacts the body in a positive way. It is wholistic.

5. Music reveals creativity in that it draws from quality melodies. If harmonized,⁵ it uses harmonies in an interesting and artistic way, and employs rhythm that complements them.

6. Vocal music employs lyrics that positively stimulate intellectual abilities as well as our emotions and our will power. Good lyrics are creative, rich in content, and of good composition. They focus on the positive and reflect moral values; they educate and uplift; and they correspond with sound biblical theology.

7. Musical and lyrical elements should work together harmoniously to influence thinking and behavior in harmony with biblical values.

8. It maintains a judicious balance of spiritual, intellectual, and emotional elements.

9. We should recognize and acknowledge the contribution of different cultures in worshipping God. Musical forms and instruments vary greatly in the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist family, and music drawn from one culture may sound strange to someone from a different culture.

Seventh-day Adventist music-making means to choose the best and above all to draw close to our Creator and Lord and glorify Him. Let us rise to the challenge of a viable alternative musical vision and, as part of our wholistic and prophetic message, make a unique Adventist musical contribution as a witness to the world regarding a people awaiting Christ’s soon coming.

⁵We acknowledge that in some cultures harmonies are not as important as in other cultures.

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Closing prayer was offered by Donald G King, President of the Atlantic Union Conference.

Lowell C Cooper, Chairman
Roscoe J Howard III, Secretary
Larry R Evans, Editorial Secretary
Lissy Park, Recording Secretary

ANNUAL COUNCIL
GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 13, 2004, 9:00 a.m.

DEVOTIONAL

The devotional message entitled "The Witness of Truth: When God Smiles" was presented by Shawn Boonstra, Associate Speaker and Director, *It Is Written*. Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version unless noted otherwise.

I have chosen this morning to speak on Daniel, chapter 12. "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great Prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered everyone that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

At some moment in sacred history, God took a carefully crafted plan for the salvation of the human race. He gathered his angels together and He revealed it to them. Angels wept as they realized what it would mean for Jesus as the plan would unfold, but they listened to their instructions from the Father very carefully. "Listen," said God, "do what you can to make sure everything I am about to show you happens right on schedule and, if necessary, if the prince of the powers of the air should interfere, Michael one of the chief princes, will be there to ensure your success. I want you to understand that what is at stake is the salvation of the human race."

From that very moment, angels leapt into action and at heaven's staff meeting, they were given their assignments. "I need two of you to go and stand guard at the gates to the Garden of Eden and understand that this is just the beginning for Adam's family. It is not the end. You are to stand at the gates and guard the way to the Tree of Life. Remember, this is very important. Humanity is going to catch its first glimpse of the heavenly sanctuary and the plan of salvation. So stand faithful as a beacon of hope reminding the human race that you are keeping the way to the Tree of Life."

Covering cherubs volunteered for the job. Years went by. God called his angels and said, "I need two of you to go with Me and meet with Abram. And when we are done with dinner, I am going to stay there but you are going to go down to the city of Sodom and you are going to retrieve Lot and his family. You are going to get them out of that city into a safe place,

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and as you do that, remember that your actions will be recorded in the pages of sacred Scripture for posterity. Your actions will paint a picture of the judgment hour for believers in generations to come.”

I have often wondered why God bothered to come and speak to Abram before He dissolved the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. God really did not need Abram’s permission and yet He takes the time in Genesis 18 to explain what is going on to a man who really does not have a right to know. Why does God come to Abram? Some commentators have suggested that God did that because He had just promised the land of Canaan to Abram in a solemn covenant. Now He was letting the new tenant know about the changes He was going to make. Abram had a nephew living in the city and so he had something personally at stake but I think in Genesis 18 there is more to it than that. As Abram meets with God, God paints a prophetic picture of the investigative judgment. Before God ever lifts a finger against the city of Sodom, Abram and God, as it were, go through the books of judgment and look at all the evidence together. God voluntarily opens up His decision to human investigation, the same way we know He will open all of His decisions to human investigation during the millennial period.

“Lord,” said Abram, “do you mean to say you are going to destroy all those people in the city of Sodom?”

“Yes, Abram, because it is the only course of action I have left. Those people are not interested in Me. I have tried to reach them. I have tried to soften their hearts. They will not listen, and if I let this get any further out of hand, the long-term pain and suffering will be terrible.”

“But Lord, what if there are still some righteous people down there in that city? I mean, what if there are fifty people? I know what kind of God you are, and if there are fifty righteous people you will save them. Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?” Abram asked.

“You are right Abram. If there are fifty people who would make a decision for me, I would hold off, but I want you to look with me at the evidence. There are not fifty.”

“All right Lord, maybe there are not fifty but I know there must be forty-five. And I know that for forty-five righteous people you will save that city. You are the judge of all the earth. I know you have a heart of love, a heart of mercy and I know that you would never destroy forty-five righteous people.”

So it went until Abram was completely satisfied that God had turned over every stone, that God had done everything possible for the people of Sodom, and that the only thing left to do was to destroy the city. It was a divinely choreographed moment as Abram met with God. At that moment, as Abram comes to grips with God’s decision, we catch a glimpse of that moment

just as a heart beat from now, when all of God's people will come to the very same conclusion. In Revelation 15, after God's people have finally come through a time of trouble, the Bible says they sing the Song of Moses and the Lamb, and in that song they declare to the universe that every decision God has ever made is the right one.

“Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested.”—Revelation 15:3, 4 NKJV

The meeting between Abram and God was a divinely choreographed moment, painting for us a picture of the investigative judgment thousands of years ahead of time. Angels of God participated in that event. They have been given their assignments. Two angels were assigned to Sodom, to call everyone who would respond to come out. At that moment they paint for us a picture of three angels who would later go to Babylon on earth's last-day judgment hour and plead with people to come out. They would paint a picture of a mighty angel in Revelation 18 who calls for God's people to come out of the wicked city before it is destroyed.

There is an unbroken thread of carefully planned angelic activity that stretches all the way from the gates of the Garden of Eden to the Tree of Life in the paradise of God. As I have studied and searched God's plan of salvation in the pages of Scripture, I have become convinced that there is a little known thread that connects an ancient Hebrew prisoner by the name of Daniel to a little European girl living more than twenty-five hundred years later. It begins in Daniel, chapter 12, verse 4, “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”

Her name was Mary and more than anything in the world, Mary wanted to learn how to read. She was ten years old. She was illiterate because there was no school in her village. The reason she so desperately wanted to learn how to read was because she wanted to be able to read the Bible for herself. The only Bible she knew were the little snippets she could memorize at church and at prayer meeting but there was no school in her village. There were many villages without schools in 1792. Her heart ached to be able to read and one day her father came home with a large smile on his face and he said, “Mary I have good news for you.”

“They have just opened a school down the road in a neighboring village and you may go, but you are going to have to walk.”

“How far away is it, Daddy?”

“Oh, it is two miles.”

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“Two miles, is that it? I would gladly walk to school two miles each way.” She did.

She walked two miles each way and very quickly rose to the top of her class. She learned how to read but that was only half of her dream. The other half of her dream was to own a copy of the Scriptures for herself but in 1792 very few people had Bibles because they were prohibitively expensive. Most working people could not afford one even if they saved for it all their lives.

Mary was desperate to have a copy of the Bible now that she had learned to read. She found out that a neighbor of hers living a two-hour walk from her house, owned a Bible. The kind neighbor volunteered to let her come on the weekends and sit in the study and read the word of God. “I will gladly walk two hours to read the words of God,” said Mary, and Mary did.

Every weekend she sat in the study pouring over the pages of the Bible and as she read the words of God they came alive for her. The stories of Jesus touched her heart and it fueled the fire in her heart to have a Bible of her very own. One afternoon she came into their little home and she said, “Daddy, I want to buy my own Bible.”

“Well that is a good idea, honey. You are going to have to save a lot of money.”

“I will Daddy,” and she did.

She started to save her pennies. She took in sewing. She raised chickens. She sold the eggs. She babysat the neighborhood children. She gathered firewood and sold it. She started to save her pennies and at this point her father probably should have talked some sense into her. “Mary, come to your senses. You are shooting too high. Your ambitions are too large. I want you to be realistic because I do not want you to be bitterly disappointed. You will never save enough money for a Bible.” He probably should have done that but in my heart I believe there were angels of God on duty in that little home who led that father to encourage his daughter. He went into the backyard and made a little wooden box with a paper bottom and a slot on the top for pennies. “Listen Mary,” he said, “I have made you this little box. You can put your pennies in there and when it is full, we will tear the paper off the bottom. We will count the pennies and one day you will buy that Bible.” And she saved and she saved and she saved. And she worked and she worked and she worked and it was not easy. At one point her father fell ill and so they had to tear open the box to take out the pennies to feed the family.

They put a new piece of paper on the bottom and she began to save again. One night after six years of working and saving, they tore the paper off the bottom of the box. They poured out the pennies on the kitchen table. To their amazement there was enough to purchase a Bible. “Daddy, I have enough. I am going to buy a Bible. But Daddy, where will I find one?” Nobody

had any for sale. They lived in Wales. Welsh Bibles were particularly scarce. At school, Mary noticed one day that her teacher had a new Bible in the Welsh language.

“Teacher,” she said, “where did you get that?”

“There is a minister living in a village twenty-five miles from here. His name is Thomas Charles and he has Welsh Bibles for sale. That is where I got it.”

“Did you say twenty-five miles?”

“Yes, twenty-five miles.”

She ran home, “Daddy, there are Bibles for sale in a village twenty-five miles from here. Twenty-five miles Daddy, that is not very far. Can I go?”

“You may go.”

The next morning before it was light, Mary left their little home with a purse full of pennies jingling in her hand. She set off for the Welsh village of Bala by way of a rough hilly goat trail. She walked all day. She walked until it was dark and finally as the last bits of light were dying away she arrived at the village. She knocked on the first door she saw.

“Listen,” she said, “I am looking for Thomas Charles. Could you tell me where he lives?”

“Well, I know where he lives but it is far too late to go there. You spend the night in our home here with my wife, and I will take you to see him in the morning.”

Mary lay in a bed in that little home tossing and turning all night. She could not sleep. She jingled the pennies once in a while beside her bed. She was standing by the door ready to go when the family awoke the next morning. “You cannot go now,” they said, “it is still breakfast time. It would be rude to intrude on Pastor Charles at this hour. Sit down and eat breakfast.” She was too excited to eat breakfast. When the family was finished, they led her down the street to the cottage of Thomas Charles. They knocked on the door. They were admitted and were received into the study. Thomas Charles came in and sat down and listened to her story.

“Sir,” said Mary, “I love the Bible. Since I was a little girl I have loved the Bible and I have learned to read and I have saved money for six years. I would like to buy a Bible today.”

“Young lady, that is not possible. You could not possibly have money for a Bible. What do your parents do?”

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“They are weavers, Sir.”

“Well, weavers do not make much money. You do not have that kind of money.”

“Sir, I do, God has blessed me.” And she poured out the pennies on his desk.

“Young lady, where did you get all that money?”

“It was not easy, Sir. I saved for six years. I took in sewing. I raised chickens. I sold eggs. I watched children. I gathered firewood and somehow God has blessed my pennies and I have enough. Please, Sir, may I buy a Bible?”

Thomas Charles looked over at the man who had brought her over to his house. It was a sacred moment. Angles of God were in the room. “Isn’t this something,” he said “to see such a brave girl, such a good Christian, so brave and consistent and passionate about God’s Word, and I do not have a single Bible left—not one—And there is no hope of buying one ever again because the Religious Tract Society says it is not worth printing Bibles in the Welsh language. They are not going to do it anymore.”

The words fell on Mary’s ears like hammer blows. Her whole world fell apart; she would be going home that day without a Bible. She began to weep and as she cried, she began to rock in her chair. As Thomas Charles watched that young lady weeping for the Word of God, he was moved with compassion. An angel reached over and tapped him on the shoulder. He stood up, put a hand on her head and said, “As I live and breathe Mary, you will be going home today with a Bible. I have two here that have already been sold but one of the men who purchased one can read English and so he is going to have to live without it. Here you go, take your Bible.” With that, Mary picked up the Bible and returned the twenty-five miles home flipping through her very own Bible as she walked. She enjoyed it till the day she died.

Mary’s Bible is in a glass case at Oxford University in England. It has become a beacon of hope for millions of people. When Thomas Charles heard that story he went to a meeting of the Religious Tract Society in 1802. He stood up and told it. “I know a young lady,” he said, “who saved pennies for six years to buy a Bible in the Welsh language. We do not have any to give people like that. Where there is one person aching for the Word of God, there are thousands of people aching for it. So today gentlemen, I propose that we establish a new society for printing Bibles in the Welsh language.”

A Baptist minister by the name of Joseph Hughes was there. He leapt to his feet and said, “The story is moving and I agree we should establish such a society but why just for Wales? If for Wales, why not all of Great Britain and if for all of Great Britain why not the whole world?” That day the British and Foreign Bible Society was born. When Mary made her walk to Bala,

the Bible was available in sixty-seven languages. By the year 1900, it was available in 524 languages and the British and Foreign Bible Society had already distributed 204 million copies. By the year 2000, the Bible was available in 2,233 languages.

When I get to heaven and I open the books of judgment there will be a lot of things I want to see.

Obviously I want to see the story of my life. I am dying to know how heaven saw the way I lived. I am going to want a few more details on some of the stories in the Bible because I am aching to know what really went on. But you know, if such a thing exists, I am going to check the daily log book of the angels because I believe that that little girl walking twenty-five miles was a carefully planned and choreographed event in heaven. What are the odds in 1792 at the close of the dark ages that a little girl would become the inspiration for Bibles to go to the whole world? What are the odds that in the decades that followed, Bibles would be printed in hundreds of languages and end up in the hands of people who would grow apart, only to be a part of the Second Advent Movement decades later. What are the odds that Bible Society Bibles ended up in the hands of people who were to become the Millerites and the first Seventh-day Adventists? It was a divinely choreographed moment.

God knew it was going to happen hundreds of years in advance. He said knowledge would increase. Just as evil angels were sealing up the sale of the last Bible in Welsh, panicking because they knew it was time for Daniel's prophecy to come to pass, the unseen Army of God was working it out so that a man with a Bible would be moved to the point where he sold it to a little girl who probably did not seem all that important at the time. As they were there in that committee, angels of God were walking through that auditorium prompting people to do something to spread the Word of God to prepare the way for a Second Advent Movement.

A committee met to decide the future of the Religious Tract Society. Angels were there and I believe that was true for large events like the Great Awakening, the Millerite Movement, and the Great Disappointment. It is also true on an individual level. At every moment, angels of God are moving heaven and earth to do something great for the Kingdom of God in order to work out God's plan so that Jesus can come that much sooner. As this body meets and deliberates today, I pray that the voice of God will be heard in this room because I have no doubt He already knows the outcome He wants for today. As you look over your life can you see those moments where Jesus anxiously commissioned His angels to do something great?

I did not grow up in a Seventh-day Adventist home. I often wished that I had. I did grow up in a Christian home and on Sunday afternoons, after my family had gone to church and after dinner, my brother and I would be allowed to watch television. We were waiting for *Mickey Mouse* to come on at six o'clock. We had an old black and white television, the kind that did not have an instant on and it took what seemed like an eternity to warm up. In order for my brother

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and me to see the picture sooner, we would sometimes drape a blanket over the top and stick our heads under the blanket to see the picture. As the television was warming and we were waiting for *Mickey Mouse* to come on, we would see a program called *It Is Written* with George Vandeman. He seemed like a trustworthy man. He used the Bible and in our hearts we knew this man must be okay. As I look back on it now, I know I am going to look that event up in the books of heaven when I get there. I do not think it was a coincidence that I saw that program in a little town in British Columbia near the Alaska panhandle.

Not long after that God dropped another little hint in my life, I went to a Christian school in a small community and in the fourth grade there was a new boy in my class. One day in my backyard, as we were throwing a ball back and forth, he asked me, "Shawn, why is it that your family goes to church on Sunday?"

"What do you mean, goes to church on Sunday? What day do you go to church?"

He said, "Well we go to church on Saturday."

I said, "What kind of church is that? Don't you read the Bible in your church? Everybody knows the Bible says you ought to go to church on Sunday."

He dropped the matter because he could see that I was a stubborn little Dutch boy who was not going to give in easily. What do you suppose are the chances it was coincidence that that little boy showed up in my backyard. I do not believe it for a moment. I believe that angels of God arranged that moment and that it had been planned in the mind of God long before it happened. When it comes to God, there are no coincidences.

Years later when I left home, I met Jean who today is my wife. Apparently the dating went very well. We had been dating for about three weeks. I came home one night and, I am ashamed to admit it, but I was not living the life I had been raised to lead. Oh, my life was not terrible. It is just that I was not living what I had been taught. I was sharing an apartment with a roommate and I came home one night and there was my Bible. The one my grandmother had bought me was sitting on my bed. I have no idea how it got there. I did not pull it off the bookshelf and if you had met my roommate you would know he did not pull it off the bookshelf. But there it was.

I sat on the edge of my bed and read. Now as I look back at it, I believe angels of God were there setting up that moment, making my Bible noticeable and I read the book of Revelation. As I sat on my bed and read the book of Revelation, it did not make any sense. Vials full of God's wrath, trumpets, candles, what in the world does it mean? I thumped through and I kept on going, a little voice not audible, I think you know what I mean, prompted me to keep on going. I got all the way down to the seventeenth chapter, the one where the woman

rides a beast and so on. All of a sudden, the lights started to go on for me and I realized who the beast was. I flipped back a couple of pages. This sounds a lot like Revelation 13, and sure enough, it was a lot alike. I went back and forth, back and forth and not because I am particularly intelligent but because angels were poking me in the ribs trying to get my attention. The lights went on.

I called Jean, whom I had been dating for three weeks. She was intimately associated with the power represented in Revelation 13 and 17. I was so excited. I did not let her get a word in edgewise.

I called her and said, "Guess who it is?"

"What do you mean, guess who it is?"

I said, "The beast, come on, guess who the beast is."

She said "What beast? What are you talking about?"

I said, "In the book of Revelation. Guess who it is." And I told her.

It was nearly the end of our relationship, however, since that time I have learned a little bit about tact and evangelism. But it was that event that helped me realize that if Jean and I wanted to be serious about each other, or even go on dating, we were going to have to work out our religious differences. The Bible is clear you are not to be unequally yoked.

I was a confirmed Calvinist, Jean of another tradition. We knew it was not going to work unless we ironed out our differences and so, at that point, we started to debate, to discuss, to argue a lot of things. Most importantly, we started to open the Bible and we started to visit every church under the sun. We never did find a place that would be a satisfactory place, although we did find a church to belong to. Not long after that I was in a used book store, which is where you will still find me today when I have a spare moment. Truth be known, I got here yesterday, but I was out book shopping. It is my favorite place to be.

One day, while on a break at work, I drove past a book store I had never seen. I literally left black marks on the pavement as I hit the brakes. I jumped out of my car and ran inside. They were selling boxes of books for five dollars. I bought a box. I brought it home and opened it up and there on top of all of those books was a book on the history of Sabbath-keeping Christians.

Now you tell me, how did that get in there? I believe angels of God were running up and down the aisles of that store following me. "Hurry up he is in aisle C. Get the book in the box."

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I read the book, went to the pastor of my church and said, "Is this true? Have Christians been only keeping Sunday in relatively recent history? Did the New Testament church observed the Sabbath?"

The pastor said, "It is true. But does it matter?" It mattered to me because if a church is not teaching the truth it is not God's church. I knew the Bible said that the church is supposed to be the pillar in the ground of truth.

At that stage in my life I wanted nothing more than to run for public office. That is all I wanted. I knew I would have a big office and a big car. I knew I would get to be on television. But there was a small voice inside of me that said, "You are not going to do that you are going to preach."

"I do not want to be a preacher, Lord."

"You are going to preach." I sat on the back porch of my house one night looking up at the stars and I challenged God.

"All right Lord," I said, "I will tell you what. I will walk away from all of my dreams. I will do all that. I will preach, but you better show me where your people are. Where are the people who believe this book?"

I went to bed that night quite contented and smug, knowing I would be running for public office one day soon. The next morning, the telephone rang. It was my brother.

He said, "Shawn, I just got this handbill in the mail. It is on a prophecy seminar and I know you like prophecy. You talk about it all the time—all that beast stuff. Why don't we go?"

I said, "Who puts it on?"

"*It Is Written.*" Suddenly I was back under that blanket looking at that old black and white television and there was George Vandeman with his open Bible.

"Kevin," I said, "those people are Seventh-day Adventists. They are really strange." I had run into a few. "And you should see what they eat. It comes out of the can and it looks like dog food. It quivers. I am not going to a meeting like that. I cannot eat that stuff." To any representatives of the companies that produce that stuff today, I want you to know I love dog food now.

My brother said, "Let us go for fun. You can always heckle the preacher."

I went and the first night I could not believe what I was hearing. I called Jean and said, "They are there."

She said, "Who?"

"God's people. They believe the whole thing." That is so refreshing in a world where very few people believe the whole thing anymore. Jean came the next night and six weeks later we were Seventh-day Adventists.

Have you ever wondered what angels daydream about? I mean, if they had some spare time, if they could lie on the celestial grass and watch the clouds go by, what would they daydream about? I have a suggestion. I do not have a Scripture passage to back it up, but I have a suggestion. It is a suggestion based on the fact that on the Ark of the Covenant, the angels looked down on the mercy seat with great interest. And 1st Peter, chapter 1, verse 12 tells me that angels desire with all their heart to understand the mystery of the plan of salvation. A suggestion based on the fact that Paul tells us that the Second Coming is the blessed hope for God's family on earth. I believe it is the blessed hope for God's family in heaven, too.

If angels were to spend their time daydreaming and hoping, I think they would daydream about the Second Coming of Jesus. Except you see in their daydreams, they would see it from the other side of the sky. When you and I are looking up they are looking down. When the sky opens above our heads, it opens beneath their feet. We see a small cloud about the size of a man's fist growing larger and larger until we can see that it is a cloud of angels coming for us, but the angels see a small planet about the size of a man's fist that grows and grows and grows until they can see that it is the planet Jesus died for. We look up and we see all the holy angels coming back with Jesus. They look down and they see all the holy graves opening and the dead coming back to life. We look up and shout, "Lo, this is our God." They do not shout. They look down. They blow trumpets and Jesus does the shouting as he opens the graves and the righteous come back to life.

Let me ask you, "What do you think angels daydream about?" At some point in their dreams, Jesus takes off His high priestly robes. He puts down the heavenly censor, because the work of mediation is finished, and a smile spreads across the face of God. This is the moment the whole plan was pushing toward. "This is the moment You have been working so hard for, let Us go and get Our family." Then, for the first time since the crucifixion of the Son of God, heaven falls silent.

This time it is not because of the unbearable shame and pain of the moment. It is because ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands and thousands of angels follow Jesus out of the

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golden gates and heaven is empty as they head to planet earth. The greatest moment in the history of the universe has finally come; the family of God in heaven and the family of God on earth are reunited. No more death, no more pain, no more sorrow because the tabernacle of God is with men and once more we will walk in paradise beside the angels in the cool of the evening. We will hear the voice of God Himself reminding us, "I am your God. You are my people."

Jan Paulsen, Chairman, called to order the seventh session of the 2004 Annual Council.

Prayer was offered by Juan O Perla, Secretary of the Inter-American Division.

SEC/04AC to MAB

GUSTIN, PATRICIA J—APPRECIATION

VOTED, To express appreciation to Patricia J Gustin for her years of service to the Institute of World Mission. A plaque was presented to her in special recognition and gratitude for her zeal and commitment to the caring, training, and supporting of missionaries around the world; and for her dedicated leadership as Director of the General Conference Institute of World Mission from August 1, 1996 to December 31, 2004.

SEC/04AC to EH

GURUBATHAM, JOSEPH E—APPRECIATION

VOTED, To express appreciation to Joseph E Gurubatham for fifteen years of outstanding service as president of Home Study International and Griggs University. It was with deep regret that the Board voted to accept Gurubatham's request for retirement. Under his able leadership, Home Study International and Griggs University has greatly expanded its international scope of service to many parts of the world field. Young people around the world have benefited from the services offered by this institution. Appreciation also goes to Juanita Gurubatham who contributed sacrificially to her husband's dedicated ministries.

ADCOM/04AC to MAB

GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING – ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

VOTED, To call a full General Conference Executive Committee to convene in St. Louis, Missouri, as follows:

Tuesday, June 28	2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
	7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Wednesday, June 29	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES - REPORT

Ardis D Stenbakken, and Heather-Dawn Small, Director, and Associate Director of the General Conference Women's Ministries Department, presented the following report:

It is a real pleasure to bring you a report on some of the amazing and exciting things that the Women's Ministries Department has been doing during this quinquennium. We see the mandate for our office to be: to train, to support, and to resource the work at the local level. Women's Ministries activities are based on needs, so what is happening in one area may be different from another area, yet needs of women are similar worldwide. The following are ways we have reach out to minister to women around the world.

In Africa, the General Conference Women's Ministries Department was able to establish a memorial fund in Tanzania to remember sixty-two Adventist women who died in a train wreck. Through this fund, \$55,000 was collected to help build a training center where courses in tailoring, cooking and embroidery are being taught. Soon more courses will be given in literacy, gardening, and computer studies.

In another area 3,000 women from fourteen countries met for a Women's Ministries Congress. This is a time for spiritual growth and leadership training. Included was a time to exchange ideas and explore ways to meet the needs of people in their area. An example of was meeting such needs as literacy, small enterprise development, community projects, small groups, and personal career ministry.

In India, the first ten-village evangelistic program was organized and led entirely by women resulted in 1,119 baptisms and ten new churches.

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In South America, 125 people were taught to read and write, and many gave their lives to Jesus. After the training, fifty percent of the students were involved in Bible Study groups. As a result of this training program, a new church was planted which now has 150 members. Literacy training has always been important in Women's Ministries because sixty-five to seventy-five percent of illiterates are women and many of them are members of the Church.

Other projects offered by Women's Ministries worldwide include:

1. The newest is the Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day, which is a multi-department project. Six brochures were printed for use by the churches—each brochure deals with a different aspect of the abused or abuser. This program has been extremely successful with positive reports coming in on what a difference this has made in the quality of life for those affected.
2. Leadership Certification Program—the emphasis this quinquennium has been on training.
3. Resource Items that Support local Ministries—another twelve brochures have been prepared specifically for Women's Ministries Leaders and use in the local church ministries.
4. Women's Ministries Devotional Book—every year since 1991 this book has been produced. The profits have funded more than 830 scholarships to date.
5. Scholarshipping Our Sisters (SOS)—this program supports higher education for Seventh-day Adventist women globally through the Women's Ministries Scholarship fund.
6. Evangelism—in 1992, the first year for departmental statistics, Women's Ministries were responsible for 5,228 baptisms and by 1999 baptisms had risen to 105,241. The total baptisms since 1992 have been 652,838. Praise the Lord!

The Seventh-day Adventist world Church population is approximately 13.6 million and women make up about seventy percent of the world Church. This translates into a membership of approximately 9.5 million women in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Women's Ministries Department is working to fully involve them in the mission of the Church by helping them find ways to use of their spiritual gifts. Women's Ministries does make a difference, for the individual woman, her church, her family, and the Church world-wide.

PRE/Adhoc/ADCOM/04AC to LCC

147-04Gb RESPONSE TO AN AFFIRMATION OF CREATION

VOTED, To approve the following statement in response to the International Faith and Science Conference Organizing Committee's report, An Affirmation of Creation, subject to the changes that were voted in the previous action, to read as follows:

Whereas belief in a literal, six-day creation is indissolubly linked with the authority of Scripture, and;

Whereas such belief interlocks with other doctrines of Scripture, including the Sabbath and the Atonement, and;

Whereas Seventh-day Adventists understand our mission, as specified in Revelation 14:6, 7, to include a call to the world to worship God as Creator,

We, the members of the General Conference Executive Committee at the 2004 Annual Council, state the following as our response to the document, An Affirmation of Creation, submitted by the International Faith and Science Conferences:

1. We strongly endorse the document's affirmation of our historic, biblical position of belief in a literal, recent, six-day Creation.
2. We urge that the document, accompanied by this response, be disseminated widely throughout the world Seventh-day Adventist Church, using all available communication channels and in the major languages of world membership.
3. We reaffirm the Seventh-day Adventist understanding of the historicity of Genesis 1-11: that the seven days of the Creation account were literal 24-hour days forming a week identical in time to what we now experience as a week; and that the Flood was global in nature.
4. We call on all boards and educators at Seventh-day Adventist institutions at all levels to continue upholding and advocating the Church's position on origins. We, along with Seventh-day Adventist parents, expect students to receive a thorough, balanced, and scientifically rigorous exposure to and affirmation of our historic belief in a literal, recent, six-day creation, even as they are educated to understand and assess competing philosophies of origins that dominate scientific discussion in the contemporary world.

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5. We urge church leaders throughout the world to seek ways to educate members, especially young people attending non-Seventh-day Adventist schools, in the issues involved in the doctrine of creation.

6. We call on all members of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist family to proclaim and teach the Church's understanding of the biblical doctrine of Creation, living in its light, rejoicing in our status as sons and daughters of God, and praising our Lord Jesus Christ—our Creator and Redeemer.

SEC/ADCOM/GCDO02SM/02SM/SEC/ADCOM/GCDO02AC/02AC/102-02Gc/SEC/
ADCOM/GCDO03SM/03SM/SEC/ADCOM/GCDO03AC/03AC/102-03Gb/SEC/ADCOM/
GCDO04SM/04SM/ADCOM/GCDO04AC/04AC to RJH(DIV)

102-04Ga AUTHORIZED MEETINGS 2004

VOTED, To approve the updated list of Authorized Meetings 2004 with the understanding that attendance at these meetings must also be approved by the administration of each entity, as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>October 2004</u>			
8(eve)-14(am)	Fri	Annual Council	Silver Spring MD
10(eve)	Sun	Adv Hlth Intnatl Corp Membership Mtg	Silver Spring MD
10(eve)	Sun	Financial Statement Audit Review Committee	Silver Spring MD
11(eve)	Mon	GCAS Board	Silver Spring MD
11(eve)	Mon	HSI/Griggs University Board	Silver Spring MD
11(eve)	Mon	International HIV/AIDS Study Commission	Silver Spring MD
11(pm)	Mon	IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD
12(pm)	Tue	ADRA Special Constituency	Silver Spring MD
14(pm)-16	Thu	International Conf on Adventists in the Community	Silver Spring MD
15(am)	Fri	Andrews University Board Finance Committee	Berrien Springs MI
17	Sun	Andrews University Subcommittees	Berrien Springs MI
17(pm)	Sun	Andrews University Seminary Executive Com	Berrien Springs MI
18	Mon	Andrews University Board	Berrien Springs MI
18,19	Mon	Biblical Research Institute Committee	Loma Linda CA
18-Nov 6	Mon	Institute of World Mission	Berrien Springs MI
19	Tue	Loma Linda Boards—Executive Committees	Loma Linda CA
24,25	Sun	Oakwood College Board	Huntsville AL
29(eve)-Nov 1	Fri	NAD Yearend Meeting	Battle Creek, MI

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>November 2004</u>			
18	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
<u>December 2004</u>			
2	Thu	Adventist Risk Management Board	Silver Spring MD
7(pm),8	Tue	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
9	Thu	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
13(am)	Mon	Inst for Prevention of Addiction Board (IPA)	Berrien Springs MI
13	Mon	ADRA Executive Committee	Silver Spring MD
16	Thu	R&H Executive & Finance Committees	Silver Spring

SEC/ADCOM/GCDO03SM/03SM/SEC/ADCOM/GCDO03AC/03AC/102-03Gc/SEC/
ADCOM/GCDO04SM/04SM/ADCOM/GCDO04AC/ADCOM/04AC to RJH(DIV)

102-04Gb AUTHORIZED MEETINGS 2005

VOTED, To approve the list of Authorized Meetings 2005 with the understanding that attendance at these meetings must also be approved by the administration of each entity, as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>January 2005</u>			
2-6	Sun	Institute of World Mission Re-entry Program	Avondale AUSTRALIA
7-22	Fri	Institute of World Mission	Avondale AUSTRALIA
10,11	Mon	GC Ministries & Services Review Comm	FLORIDA
11-15	Tue	PREXAD	Orlando FL
19,20	Wed	IRLA International Congress	Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD
22	Sat	Religious Liberty Festival	Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD
26	Wed	IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD
<u>February 2005</u>			
14	Mon	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
15	Tue	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
17	Thu	Geoscience Research Institute Board	Loma Linda CA
21-23	Mon	PPPA, R&H, & ABC Marketing Seminar	San Francisco CA
28	Mon	Christian Record Services Board	Lincoln NE

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>March 2005</u>			
3	Thu	Adventist Risk Management Board	Silver Spring MD
3	Thu	AIIAS Board	Silang PHILIPPINES
3(pm)	Thu	IWM Administrative Council	Berrien Springs MI
4(am)	Fri	Andrews University Board Finance Committee	Berrien Springs MI
6	Sun	Andrews University Board Subcommittees	Berrien Springs MI
6(pm)	Sun	Andrews University Seminary Executive Com	Berrien Springs MI
7	Mon	Andrews University Board	Berrien Springs MI
14-Apr 2	Mon	Institute of World Mission	THAILAND
15	Tue	Loma Linda Boards—Executive Committees	Loma Linda CA
17	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
21-26	Mon	GC Spiritual Emphasis Wk & Travel Moratorium	Silver Spring MD
30	Wed	PPPA Board Finance Committee	Nampa ID
31	Thu	PPPA Board	Nampa ID
<u>April 2005</u>			
4,5	Mon	Global Mission Issues Committee	Silver Spring MD
5(am)	Tue	International Board of Education	Silver Spring MD
5	Tue	Min Professional Growth Seminar Broadcast	Loma Linda CA
5(eve)	Tue	Global Mission Operations Committee	Silver Spring MD
6,7	Wed	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
6,7	Wed	GC Ministries & Services Review Comm	Silver Spring MD
6(pm)	Wed	Education Consultation	Silver Spring MD
7(am)	Thu	Accred Assoc of SDA Sch, Col, & Univ	Silver Spring MD
7(pm)	Thu	Adventist Television Network Committee	Silver Spring MD
8	Fri	Presidents Council	Silver Spring MD
8	Fri	Secretaries Council	Silver Spring MD
8	Fri	Treasurers Council	Silver Spring MD
10(am)	Sun	Financial Planning & Budgeting Committee	Silver Spring MD
10(eve)	Sun	10/40 Window Committee	Silver Spring MD
11(am)	Mon	GC & Division Officers	Silver Spring MD
11(pm)	Mon	Adventist World Radio Board	Silver Spring MD
12	Tue	Council on Evangelism & Witness	Silver Spring MD
12(pm)	Tue	ICPA Board	Silver Spring MD
13,14(am)	Wed	Spring Meeting	Silver Spring MD
13(eve)	Wed	International HIV/AIDS Study Commission	Silver Spring MD
13(eve)	Wed	HSI/Griggs University Board	Silver Spring MD
14	Thu	GC PARL World Affairs Com & IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD
15-17	Fri	ADRA Board	Silver Spring MD

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>April 2005, contd</u>			
18,19	Mon	Biblical Research Institute Committee	Berrien Springs MI
22	Fri	Adventist Heritage Ministry Finance Committee	Battle Creek MI
24,25	Sun	Adventist Heritage Ministry Board	Battle Creek MI
24,25	Sun	Oakwood College Board of Trustees	Huntsville AL
26(eve)	Tue	R&H Board Finance Committee	Hagerstown MD
27(am)	Wed	R&H Board	Hagerstown MD
<u>May 2005</u>			
12(pm)	Thu	Andrews University Executive Committee	Berrien Springs MI
17	Tue	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
18,19(am)	Wed	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
19	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
<u>June 2005</u>			
1-10	Wed	GC Travel Moratorium	Silver Spring MD
2	Thu	Adventist Risk Management Board	Silver Spring MD
6-25	Mon	Institute of World Mission	Berrien Springs MI
8	Wed	GC Staff Day	Gaithersburg MD
9	Thu	R&H Board Executive & Finance Committees	Silver Spring MD
22-27	Wed	HIV/AIDS & SEEDS PLUS Intern'l Conference	Berrien Springs MI
24	Fri	Presidents Council	St Louis MO
24	Fri	Secretaries Council	St Louis MO
24	Fri	Treasurers Council	St Louis MO
26	Sun	GC & Division Officers	St Louis MO
26(eve)-28	Sun	International Risk Management Conference	St Louis MO
27,28	Mon	Division Officer Interviews	St Louis MO
28(pm),29(am)	Tue	General Conference Executive Committee	St Louis MO
29-July 9	Wed	General Conference Session	St Louis MO
<u>July 2005</u>			
12-17	Tue	Institute of World Mission Re-entry Program	Berrien Springs MI
25-Aug 13	Mon	Institute of World Mission	Newbold ENGLAND
29-Aug 2	Fri	Biblical Research Institute Science Council	NORTH AMERICA
<u>August 2005</u>			
11	Thu	PPPA Board & Constituency Session	Nampa ID
15	Mon	Christian Record Services	Lincoln NB
16,17	Tue	Adventist Risk Management Board	Woodstock VT

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>August 2005, contd</u>			
22	Mon	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
23	Tue	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
26	Fri	Adventist Heritage Ministry Finance Committee	Port Gibson NY
28,29	Sun	Adventist Heritage Ministry Board	Port Gibson NY
<u>September 2005</u>			
6(eve)	Tue	R&H Board Finance Committee	Hagerstown MD
7(am)	Wed	R&H Board	Hagerstown MD
11-15	Sun	Adventist Risk Management Conference	Anchorage AK
15	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
19-23	Mon	Staff Travel Moratorium	Silver Spring MD
<u>October 2005</u>			
2	Sun	Council on Evangelism & Witness	Silver Spring MD
3(am)	Mon	International Board of Education	Silver Spring MD
3	Mon	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
3(pm)	Mon	10/40 Window Committee	Silver Spring MD
4	Tue	GC PARL World Affairs Com & IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD
4	Tue	Presidents Council	Silver Spring MD
4	Tue	Secretaries Council	Silver Spring MD
4	Tue	Treasurers Council	Silver Spring MD
4(pm)	Tue	Adventist Television Network Operating Com	Silver Spring MD
5	Wed	GC & Division Officers	Silver Spring MD
5(eve)	Wed	Global Mission Operations Committee	Silver Spring MD
6(am)	Thu	ADRA Board	Silver Spring MD
6	Thu	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
6(pm)	Thu	Accred Assoc of SDA Sch, Col, & Univ	Silver Spring MD
6(pm)	Thu	Adventist World Radio Board	Silver Spring MD
6(pm)	Thu	International Board of Min & Theo Educ	Silver Spring MD
7(am)	Fri	Financial Planning & Budgeting Committee	Silver Spring MD
7(pm)	Fri	AIAS Board	Silver Spring MD
7(pm)	Fri	International HIV/AIDS Study Commission	Silver Spring MD
7(eve)-13(am)	Fri	Annual Council	Silver Spring MD
9(eve)	Sun	Financial Statement Audit Review Committee	Silver Spring MD
10(pm)	Mon	GCAS Board	Silver Spring MD
10(eve)	Mon	Adventist Health Intl Corp Membership Mtg	Silver Spring MD
10(eve)	Mon	HSI/Griggs University Board	Silver Spring MD
14(am)	Fri	Andrews University Board Finance Committee	Berrien Springs MI

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>October 2005, contd</u>			
16	Sun	Andrews University Subcommittees	Berrien Springs MI
16(pm)	Sun	Andrews University Seminary Executive Com	Berrien Springs MI
17	Mon	Andrews University Board	Berrien Springs MI
17,18	Mon	Biblical Research Institute Committee	Loma Linda CA
17-Nov5	Mon	Institute of World Mission	Berrien Springs MI
18	Tue	Loma Linda Boards—Executive Committees	Loma Linda CA
23,24	Sun	Oakwood College Board of Trustees	Huntsville AL
28(eve)-Nov 1	Fri	NAD Yearend Meeting	Silver Spring MD

<u>November 2005</u>			
17	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD

<u>December 2005</u>			
1	Thu	Adventist Risk Management Board	Silver Spring MD
5	Mon	Inst for Prevention of Addictions Board	Berrien Springs MI
6	Tue	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
7,8(am)	Wed	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
12	Mon	ADRA Executive Committee	Silver Spring MD
15	Thu	R&H Executive & Finance Committees	Silver Spring MD

SEC/ADCOM/GCDO04SM/04SM/GCDO04AC/ADCOM/04AC to RJH(DIV)

102-04Gc AUTHORIZED MEETINGS 2006

VOTED, To approve the updated list of Authorized Meetings 2006 with the understanding that attendance at these meetings must also be approved by the administration of each entity, as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>January 2006</u>			
6-8	Fri	Ellen G White Estate Consultation	Williamsburg VA
7-11	Sat	Institute of World Mission Re-entry Program	Avondale AUSTRALIA
10-14	Tue	PREXAD	Miami FL
15-30	Sun	Institute of World Mission	Avondale AUSTRALIA
25	Wed	IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>February 2006</u>			
16	Thu	Geoscience Research Institute Board	Loma Linda CA
16	Thu	Institute for the Prevention of Addictions Board	Loma Linda CA
17-21	Fri	PPPA, R&H, ABC Marketing Seminar	East Coast
20	Mon	Christian Record Services Board	Lincoln NE
27	Mon	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
28	Tue	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
<u>March 2006</u>			
2	Thu	Adventist Risk Management Board	Silver Spring MD
2	Thu	AIAS Board	Silang PHILIPPINES
2(pm)	Thu	IWM Administrative Council	Berrien Springs MI
3(am)	Fri	Andrews University Board Finance Committee	Berrien Springs MI
5	Sun	Andrews University Board Subcommittees	Berrien Springs MI
5(pm)	Sun	Andrews University Seminary Executive Com	Berrien Springs MI
6	Mon	Andrews University Board	Berrien Springs MI
13-18	Mon	GC Spiritual Emphasis Wk & Travel Moratorium	Silver Spring MD
13-Apr 1	Mon	Institute of World Mission	
16	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
20,21	Mon	Muslim Literature Committee Mtg	Silver Spring MD
29	Wed	PPPA Board Finance Committee	Nampa ID
30	Thu	PPPA Board	Nampa ID
<u>April 2006</u>			
3,4	Mon	Global Mission Issues Committee	Loma Linda CA
4(am)	Tue	International Board of Education	Loma Linda CA
5,6	Wed	Division Officer Interviews	Loma Linda CA
5(pm)	Wed	HIV/AIDS Office Board	Loma Linda CA
5(pm)	Wed	Education Consultation	Loma Linda CA
6(am)	Thu	Accrediting Assoc of SDA Sch, Coll, & Univ	Loma Linda CA
6(pm)	Thu	Adventist Television Network Operating Com	Loma Linda CA
7	Fri	Presidents Council	Loma Linda CA
7	Fri	Secretaries Council	Loma Linda CA
7	Fri	Treasurers Council	Loma Linda CA
7(eve),8	Fri	Loma Linda Centennial & Worship Events	Loma Linda CA
9(am)	Sun	Financial Planning & Budgeting Committee	Loma Linda CA
9(pm)	Sun	LLUAHSC Constituency & Loma Linda Bds	Loma Linda CA
10(am)	Mon	GC & Division Officers	Loma Linda CA
10(pm)	Mon	Adventist World Radio Board	Loma Linda CA

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>April 2006, contd</u>			
11	Tue	Council on Evangelism & Witness	Loma Linda CA
11(am)	Tue	ADRA Executive Committee	Loma Linda CA
11(pm)	Tue	ICPA Board	Loma Linda CA
11(eve)	Tue	Adventist Health International Board	Loma Linda CA
12,13(am)	Wed	Spring Meeting	Loma Linda CA
12(eve)	Wed	HSI/Griggs University Board	Loma Linda CA
12(eve)	Wed	International HIV/AIDS Study Commission	Loma Linda CA
13	Thu	GC PARL World Affairs Com & IRLA Board	Loma Linda CA
17,18	Mon	Biblical Research Institute Committee	Berrien Springs MI
18-20	Tue	World Council of Editors	Silver Spring MD
21	Fri	Adventist Heritage Ministry Finance Committee	_____
21,22	Fri	Adventist Heritage Ministry Board	_____
23,24	Sun	Oakwood College Board of Trustees	Huntsville AL
26(pm)	Wed	R&H Finance Committee	Hagerstown MD
27	Thu	R&H Constituency Meeting	Hagerstown MD
<u>May 2006</u>			
11(pm)	Thu	Andrews University Executive Committee	Berrien Springs MI
16	Tue	Loma Linda Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
17,18	Wed	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
18	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
24,25	Wed	IRLA International Congress	_____
27	Sat	Religious Liberty Festival	_____
31-June 1	Wed	Adventist Risk Management Board	Burlington VT
<u>June 2006</u>			
6	Tue	R&H Board Exec & Finance Committee	Silver Spring MD
12-15	Mon	PREXAD	_____
12-July 1	Mon	Institute of World Mission	Berrien Springs MI
14	Wed	GC Staff Day	Gaithersburg MD
<u>July 2006</u>			
7-17	Fri	International Bible Conference	Izmir TURKEY
11-16	Tue	Institute of World Mission Re-entry Program	Berrien Springs MI
13	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
24-Aug 12	Mon	Institute of World Mission	_____
28-Aug 1	Fri	Biblical Research Institute Science Council	_____

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>August 2006</u>			
6(eve)	Sun	PPPA Board Finance Committee	Nampa ID
7	Mon	PPPA Board	Nampa ID
21	Mon	Christian Record Services Board	Lincoln NE
21	Mon	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
21-31	Mon	Geoscience Research Institute Field Conf	Denver CO
22	Tue	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
29(eve)	Tue	R&H Board Finance Committee	Hagerstown MD
30(am)	Wed	R&H Board	Hagerstown MD
<u>September 2006</u>			
10-13	Sun	Adventist Risk Management Conference	Denver CO
12-22	Tue	GC Staff Travel Moratorium	Silver Spring MD
14	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
15	Fri	Adventist Heritage Ministry Finance Committee	Battle Creek MI
17,18	Sun	Adventist Heritage Ministry Committee	Battle Creek MI
<u>October 2006</u>			
1	Sun	Council on Evangelism & Witness	Silver Spring MD
2	Mon	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
2(pm)	Mon	10/40 Window Committee	Silver Spring MD
3(am)	Tue	International Board of Education	Silver Spring MD
3	Tue	Presidents Council	Silver Spring MD
3	Tue	Secretaries Council	Silver Spring MD
3	Tue	Treasurers Council	Silver Spring MD
3(pm)	Tue	Adventist Television Network Operating Com	Silver Spring MD
3(pm)	Tue	GC PARL World Affairs Com & IRLA Board	Silver Spring MD
4	Wed	GC & Division Officers	Silver Spring MD
4(eve)	Wed	Global Mission Operations Committee	Silver Spring MD
5	Thu	Division Officer Interviews	Silver Spring MD
5(am)	Thu	Accrediting Assoc of SDA Sch, Coll, & Univ	Silver Spring MD
5(am)	Thu	ADRA Board	Silver Spring MD
5(am)	Thu	Church Manual Committee	Silver Spring MD
5(pm)	Thu	Adventist World Radio Board	Silver Spring MD
6(am)	Fri	Financial Planning & Budgeting Committee	Silver Spring MD
6(pm)	Fri	Africa HIV/AIDS Office Board	Silver Spring MD
6(pm)	Fri	AIAS Board	Silver Spring MD
6(pm)	Fri	International Board of Min & Theo Educ	Silver Spring MD
6(eve)-12	Fri	Annual Council	Silver Spring MD

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>October 2006, contd</u>			
8(eve)	Sun	Financial Statement Audit Review Committee	Silver Spring MD
9(pm)	Mon	GCAS Board	Silver Spring MD
9(eve)	Mon	HSI/Griggs University Board	Silver Spring MD
9(eve)	Mon	International HIV/AIDS Study Commission	Silver Spring MD
13(am)	Fri	Andrews University Board Finance Committee	Berrien Springs MI
15	Sun	Andrews University Subcommittees	Berrien Springs MI
15(pm)	Sun	Andrews University Seminary Executive Com	Berrien Springs MI
16	Mon	Andrews University Board	Berrien Springs MI
16,17	Mon	Biblical Research Institute Committee	Loma Linda CA
16-Nov 4	Mon	Institute of World Mission	Berrien Springs MI
17	Tue	Loma Linda Boards—Executive Committees	Loma Linda CA
22,23	Sun	Oakwood College Board of Trustees	Huntsville AL
27-31	Fri	NAD Yearend Meeting	Silver Spring MD
<u>November 2006</u>			
16	Thu	Ellen G White Estate Board	Silver Spring MD
29	Wed	Adventist Risk Management Board	Silver Spring MD
<u>December 2006</u>			
11	Mon	ADRA Executive Committee	Silver Spring MD
12	Tue	Loma Linda Boards—Board Committees	Loma Linda CA
13,14(am)	Wed	Loma Linda Boards	Loma Linda CA
14	Thu	R&H Executive & Finance Committees	Silver Spring MD

04AC to HWB

HEALTH MINISTRIES - REPORT

Allen R Handysides, Director of the General Conference Health Ministries Department, presented the following report along with members of the Health Ministries team.

As a team, the members of the Health Ministries Department met the objective of visiting every division in the world field to encourage every church to become a community health center, modeling Christ's healing ministry.

Division Advisories—Advisories were held to teach generalities and specifics, and to give advice on many issues, including extremism. In conjunction with Adventist Risk

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Management, the Quest for Quality programs have been held in the South America Division, the Inter-American Division, the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, and the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

Pastoral Training—Training has been implemented in many countries. Several of the topics covered were: Celebrations, Stress Management, Breath Free, Alcohol, Regeneration, Celebration Health Expo, Birthing Companions, Evangelism, and 8 Steps to Wellness.

Hospital Systemization—As it has been a real concern of the Health Ministries Department that our mission hospitals be systematized. Hospital inspections were done at Kendu Bay, Murgmero, Heri, Ishaka, Gimboie, Sir Run Run Shaw, Manuta, Silvestre, Bandung, and others. The system used in the Philippines is quite good and progress is taking place in Africa. We hope similar models will develop in other divisions.

Medical and Dental Clinics—High-class dentistry and medical services are being promoted world-wide, and visited on a regular basis.

HIV/AIDS—a scourge of a disease—is being addressed through the HIV/AIDS office, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), and our world division of Health Ministries. Cooperative interdivision activity, World Health Organization (WHO) relationship, ADRA projects, and the upcoming pre-General Conference Session, “HIV/AIDS Call to Compassion” Conference at Andrews University, are galvanizing us into action.

Health Ministries Supports Evangelism—There were 1,736 people baptized in over fifteen campaigns in the United States of America, Indonesia, India, Africa and the United Kingdom.

Youth Alive Program—This program of preventive care has had great results. Working together with Youth Ministries, Family Ministries and Education Departments, many individuals have been trained world-wide.

Accreditation Surveys—Participating with the Education Department in accreditation surveys at the medical school in Argentina, as well as the Philippines, gives depth to the survey, heightens our appreciation of problems, builds unity in the Church, and fosters growth.

Health Ministries and Government Agencies—Agencies such as the United Nations and the World Health Organization have interacted with the Health Ministries Department. The International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (ICPA), under the direction of Peter Landless, recently had the opportunity to address meetings in the British Houses of Parliament, with officials of the World Health Organization and United Nations in Geneva, as well as government heads.

“Ask the Doctor”—This is a column featured monthly in the *Adventist Review*.

Weekly Health Program—The latest thrust is to provide Adventist Television Network/Hope Channel with a weekly program on health, titled “Life Beat”. This provides an in-depth and expanded coverage of health topics for the world field.

Immunizations—In-house employees and traveling staff receive immunizations and assistance with medication.

EBSCO Library—Adventist Health Systems has given funds for the EBSCO (Web-based Subscription Service) library making it available to all Seventh-day Adventist mission hospitals and schools of dentistry. Over three hundred journals are available on-line in full text through EBSCO.

Nursing Coordinator—Over forty-two nursing schools world-wide have been supported by the Health Ministries nursing coordinator, with three international nursing conferences, participation in the Quest for Quality program, and with a new Loma Linda Masters of Science (MSc) nursing degree program.

Appreciation is expressed to all our division leadership for their wonderful cooperation and assistance. Truly, a world health team is being forged to work synchronously together.

Jan Paulsen, Chairman
Theodore T Jones, Secretary
Larry R Evans, Editorial Secretary
Janet C Upson, Recording Secretary

ANNUAL COUNCIL
GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 13, 2004, 2:00 p.m.

Ted N C Wilson, Chairman, called to order the eighth session of the 2004 Annual Council.

Prayer was offered by Ella Simmons, a representative from the North American Division.

SEC/ADCOM/04AC to TNCW(DIV)

150-04G ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO OPERATING GUIDELINES -
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend Adventist World Radio Operating Guidelines (See General Conference *Working Policy*, Chapter HB, Adventist World Radio, for general organizational policies), to read as follows:

Adventist World Radio Operating Guidelines

Article I. Purpose

~~The purpose of Adventist World Radio (AWR hereinafter) shall be to assist the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the fulfillment of the great commission of Jesus Christ, as stated in Matthew 28:19, 20, by means of electronic broadcast.~~

Section 1. Mission Statement—Adventist World Radio broadcasts the Adventist hope in Christ to the hardest-to-reach people groups of the world in their own languages.

Section 2. Vision Statement—Adventist World Radio (AWR) staff, directors, and constituents envision radio and internet broadcasts reaching into countries where the Church cannot have a public presence on the ground. These broadcasts would be the first contact with the Adventist message in Christ for many people groups. The broadcasts would become a bridge between listeners and Adventist people who can then respond with Bible studies, fellowship, baptism, and church membership. The broadcasts can be a continuing source of nurture for those who cannot have contact with other Adventist people. In places where Adventists can have a presence on the ground, the broadcasts will serve as seed-sowing for follow-up by local church people using other evangelistic tools. It is envisioned that the work of AWR will be a significant

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means of reaching un-reached people groups so that all of the world will hear the gospel according to Jesus' command and the end can come.

Section 3. Philosophical/Theological Mandates—The Seventh-day Adventist Church takes seriously The Gospel Commission given by Jesus Christ and other scriptural instruction.

Matthew 28:18-20 “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’” (NIV)

Matthew 24:14 “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” (NIV)

Revelation 14:6 “Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.” (NIV)

Isaiah 65:1 “I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’” (NIV)

While there are multiple methods of communicating the gospel to people in many places of the world, there are other areas where gospel outreach is severely limited because of isolation, issues pertaining to freedom, and economic resources. AWR was established in 1971 by the General Conference to reach into such restricted areas by means of the air waves used by radio. In some situations this method appears to be the only way of reaching certain groups of people. Therefore, AWR helps to fulfill the mandate of our Lord that every people group and language should hear the gospel no matter how difficult, and only “then” will the end come. AWR is, therefore, primarily a mission broadcasting agency.

Section 4. Broadcast Priorities—In order to achieve the purpose described above, AWR will establish priorities for its work. The highest priority for the use of its resources will be the hardest-to-reach people groups of the world such as those countries within the 10/40 Window. Other areas may receive more limited assistance.

Section 5. Methodology—This organization is a radio ministry, and shortwave radio is its prominent tool because it is the best way of bypassing many of the severe limitations faced in some areas since the broadcasts take place outside of the country to be reached. However, AWR may use any form of radio that is the best method to accomplish its goal. AWR also uses FM, medium wave, satellite radio, and other variations, including the internet. Furthermore, AWR

broadcasts in local languages with speakers who were raised in the language and culture that they are using. Programming content is prepared for non-Christian listeners.

Section 6. Values—AWR seeks to create an organizational climate that functions with these values:

- AWR operates with a sense that this is God's organization and God's mission, and it is His plan that we seek and depend upon for all that we do.
- All individuals associated with AWR have a passion for mission that is consciously connected with whatever task is their responsibility.
- Prayer is an essential organizational activity that affects decision-making and actions for every step of the way.
- An awareness of the constant presence of the Holy Spirit is cultivated along with a sense of dependence upon Him for guidance.
- Respect and appreciation is extended to every race, nationality, and culture with a particular sensitivity for understanding cross-cultural matters
- Commitment to integrity will characterize all of our activities and relationships.
- Each individual's intention is to be relationally positive and affirming to others regardless of position, gender, or other difference.
- Collaborative decision-making and teamwork is our goal, and workers are committed to resolve conflict should it arise.
- Creativity, innovation, and excellence will characterize the products of our work, and growth and learning are encouraged among employees.
- The principle of stewardship of the resources of money, time, and material will be applied throughout the AWR system, because of our sense of responsibility to God.

Article II. Offices Organization, Offices, and Relationships

Section 1. Organization—AWR is a subsidiary institution of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and therefore the General Conference Executive Committee shall serve as its constituency. Governance, however, shall be under the direction of a board of directors.

~~Section 2. Offices—~~ Section 2. Offices—The principal office of AWR shall be located at 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20904, USA. United States of America. Other ~~regional~~ region offices, either within or outside the United States, and which contribute to the mission of AWR, may be authorized by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. In addition, AWR may establish operations centers, broadcast stations, studios, and lease agreements for the use of facilities that are not owned.

Section 3. Relationships—AWR works in close cooperation with other Seventh-day Adventist Church entities, such as the Office of Global Mission, the Communication Departments, other media organizations, the world divisions, and unions.

Article III. Board of Directors

~~AWR is a subsidiary of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and therefore the General Conference Executive Committee shall serve as its constituency. Governance, however, shall be under the direction of a Board of Directors.~~

Section 1. Composition—~~The~~ Membership—The Board of Directors shall consist of not more than thirty-two persons, and their selection shall be guided by the following formula:

- a. President of the General Conference (1)
- b. Secretary of the General Conference (1)
- c. Treasurer of the General Conference (1)
- d. Two vice presidents of the General Conference (2)
- e. Undertreasurer of the General Conference (1)
- f. An associate treasurer of the General Conference (designated by the treasurer) (1)
- g. Presidents of the world divisions of the General Conference (13)
- h. President of AWR (1)
- i. Director of the Communication Department of the General Conference (1)
- j. Director of the Office of Global Mission of the General Conference (1)

k. A minimum of six ~~other nonchurch-employed~~ others who are not employed by the church, and are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who have a compelling interest in the mission of the Church. At least one shall be from outside of North America. (6+)

Invitees. The other officers of AWR shall be ~~non-voting~~ nonvoting invitees at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors except executive sessions.

The President of the General Conference or his designee shall serve as chair. A Vice President of the General Conference shall serve as vice-chair. The President of AWR shall serve as secretary.

Section 2. Election—The Board of Directors shall be elected by the AWR ~~Constituency~~ constituency at the first Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee following each regular General Conference Session. Vacancies occurring on the Board of Directors shall be filled when they occur by the General Conference Executive Committee, except vacancies created by those who hold office on the Board of Directors by virtue of their position in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, in which case the vacancy shall be filled by his/her successor.

Section 3. Meetings—Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least annually, generally in conjunction with the Annual Council and/or Spring Meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee. Special meetings may be called at any time by the Board chair or designee, and may be by gathering, by telephone, or by other suitable electronic means.

Section 4. Quorum—A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of a simple majority of its members and must include the chair or vice-chair.

Section 5. Power and Authority—The power and authority of the Board of Directors shall be that it:

a. Establishes the mission of AWR and ensures that it is clearly articulated through a mission statement and by other means. ~~Approves the Mission Statement and strategic three-year plan annually.~~

b. Promotes understanding and support of the mission, and monitors progress toward achieving the mission by developing and approving a strategic plan. ~~Ensure that the global broadcast ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is acting effectively in the fulfillment of its supporting role in the Church's mission.~~

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c. Evaluates the activities of the organization in relationship to the strategic plan and assesses the effectiveness of these activities.

d. Provides for and assists in the communication of AWR's story to its various constituencies.

e. Approves the annual budget, establishes financial policies, monitors compliance, and ensures that appropriate audits are conducted.

f. Approves any unbudgeted expense over US\$1.5 million.

g. Monitors financial needs and trends, and participates in making individual contributions as well as in other fundraising activities.

h. Oversees the management of organizational risks.

~~i. Recommend to the General Conference Executive Committee the election or dismissal of~~ Elects the President, Senior Vice President, and the Vice President for Finance, as well as supporting and evaluating them, and if necessary, terminating them. after receiving and approving a nomination or recommendation from the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

~~d. Provide basic funding and monitor overall financial trends.~~

~~e. Approve the annual budget.~~

~~f. Receive reports and monitor trends.~~

~~j. Elects~~ Appoints the Executive Committee of the Board and the Finance Committee.

~~k. Reviews and assesses Board performance.~~

~~h. Elect the Finance Committee of the Board.~~

l. Recommends changes in these Operating Guidelines to the General Conference Executive Committee.

m. Conducts such legal and other business matters as may rightfully come before the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Compensation—Members of the Board of Directors shall receive no monetary compensation for their services.

Article IV. Executive Committee of the Board

Section 1. ~~Composition—The Membership—~~The Executive Committee of the Board shall consist of not more than fifteen members. Their election shall be guided by the following formula:

- a. Chair of the AWR Board of Directors (1)
 - b. Treasurer of the General Conference (or designee) (1)
 - c. President of AWR (1)
 - d. Director of the Communication Department of the General Conference (1)
 - e. Director of the Office of Global Mission of the General Conference (1)
 - f. AWR Vice President for Finance (ex officio) (1)
 - g. AWR Senior Vice President (ex officio) (1)
 - h. ~~AWR Vice President for Development and Communication (ex officio)~~
- (1)
- h. Up to two other officers of AWR should they exist. AWR Vice President for Operations and Engineering (ex officio) (1-2)
 - i. Six nonchurch employed members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who have a compelling interest in the mission of the Church. (6)

The chair of the Board of Directors will serve as chair of the Executive Committee. The President of AWR shall serve as secretary.

Section 2. Appointment—The members of the Executive Committee of the Board shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at its first meeting in each new quinquennium following a General Conference Session. Vacancies shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

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Section 3. Meetings—The Executive Committee of the Board shall meet as often as necessary, not less than twice annually at the call of the chair or his/her designee, and by the most appropriate means.

Section 4. Quorum—A quorum of the Executive Committee of the Board shall consist of a simple majority and must include the chair or his/her designee.

Section 5. Power and Authority—The power and authority of the Executive Committee of the Board shall be that it:

~~a. Approves employment of other vice presidents (other than the Vice President for Finance) as recommended by the President.~~

a. Approves the employment and dismissal of other vice presidents (other than the Senior Vice President and the Vice President for Finance), headquarters leadership staff, and region directors as recommended by the President.

b. In consultation with the Finance Committee, approves the budgeted purchase or divestiture of assets over US\$100,000.

c. Approves any unbudgeted expense between US\$100,000 and US\$1.5 million. (Unbudgeted expense over US\$1.5 million must be approved by the full Board.)

~~e. In consultation with the appropriate region director, approve the addition or deletion of broadcast languages.~~

~~f. Provide the Board of Directors with nominations for the Executive Committee as vacancies occur.~~

~~e. Elect other committees as may be deemed useful.~~

d. Authorizes the establishment and closure of region offices.

e. Performs other duties as assigned by of the Board of Directors between sessions of the full Board.

Article V. Finance Committee of the Board

Section 1. ~~Composition—The~~ Membership—The Finance Committee of the Board shall consist of eight members including the President, and Vice President for ~~Finance of AWR,~~ Finance, the Senior Vice President, and ~~Controller~~ Assistant Treasurer of AWR, the chair of the

Board of Directors of AWR, the designated Associate Treasurer of the General Conference (~~or his designee~~), and two nonchurch employees.

The designated Associate Treasurer of the General Conference (~~or his designee~~) shall serve as chair. The Vice President for Finance of AWR shall serve as secretary.

Section 2. Appointment—Members of the Finance Committee of the Board shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at its first meeting in each new quinquennium following a General Conference Session. Vacancies shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Meetings—Meetings shall be held by the most appropriate means and shall convene at the call of the chair or his/her designee.

Section 4. Quorum—A quorum of the Finance Committee of the Board shall consist of a simple majority and must include the chair or his/her designee.

Section 5. Power and Authority—The power and authority of the Finance Committee of the Board shall ~~be:~~ be that it:

- a. Recommends the annual budget to the Board of Directors, in consultation with the AWR Vice President for ~~Finance~~, Finance, and
- b. Recommends, to the Executive Committee of the Board, budgeted purchases and divestiture of assets over US\$100,000.
- e. ~~Serve as the audit review committee for AWR.~~
- d. c. Performs other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.

Article VI. Financial Audit Review Committee

A Financial Audit Review Committee shall be appointed by the Board in accordance with the provisions of the General Conference Working Policy, Section SA 15.

Article VII. AWR Administrative Committee

Section 1. Membership—The members of the Administrative Committee (hereinafter known as AWR ADCOM) shall be the officers (President and Vice Presidents) of AWR.

The AWR President or his/her designee shall serve as chair. The AWR Senior Vice President shall serve as secretary.

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Section 2. Appointment—The members of ~~the Administrative Committee~~ AWR ADCOM are automatically appointed by virtue of their position as ~~shall be the~~ officers of AWR. Invitees from among the other leadership staff may attend at the discretion of AWR ADCOM.

Section 3. Meetings—The ~~Administrative Committee~~ AWR ADCOM shall meet weekly, and/or whenever called. ~~be in perpetual session.~~

Section 4. Quorum—A quorum of ~~the Administrative Committee~~ AWR ADCOM shall consist of a simple majority of the members and shall include the chair or his/her designee.

Section 5. Power and Authority—The power and authority of ~~the Administrative Committee~~ AWR ADCOM shall be that it:

- a. ~~Administer routine AWR worldwide operations.~~ Implements strategic plans approved by the Board of Directors.
- b. Approves the employment and dismissal of ~~salaries~~ global staff (those who serve across the regions of AWR), the heads of areas of responsibility in the region offices (other than the region director), and in consultation with the GC Human Resources Department, the hourly support staff at the headquarters office.
- c. Works with the President to recommend nominations for headquarters leadership positions and region directors to be filled by the Executive Committee. Committee of the Board.
- d. Approves staff job descriptions throughout the system.
- e. Approves and processes furlough requests for all AWR ~~inter-division~~ interdivision and intradivision employees in accordance with applicable policy.
- f. Creates appropriate policies for AWR staff and operations that are not covered by existing General Conference Working Policy.
- g. Approves the local policies that may be developed in the various regions.
- h. Coordinates preparation of the annual budget and monitors periodic financial reports.
- i. Negotiates changes within the operating budget, approves budgeted unbudgeted purchases, and where necessary refers these matters to the Finance Committee.

- US\$100,000.
- j. Approves capital expenditures and divestitures from US\$5,001 to US\$100,000.
 - h. ~~Negotiate changes within the operating budget.~~
 - k. Appoints and monitors local ~~in-house~~ operating committees at AWR regions and sites.
 - j. ~~Approve AWR affiliate station applications.~~
 - l. Reviews and approves requests for broadcasts in new languages, assistance with new production studios, and other special projects.
 - m. Approves appropriate personnel for check signing authority.
 - n. Authorizes and approves the signing of all contracts.
 - o. Approves recipients of the AWR Silver Trumpet Award.
 - p. Serves as the highest authority under the Board for decision-making and administering AWR throughout the system. ~~Perform other duties incidental to the daily pertaining to the operations of AWR.~~

Article VIII. ~~Region/Site~~ Region/Site ~~In-House~~ Operating Committees

Section 1. Membership—Each region office, station, or other organizational center within AWR ~~will have~~ shall establish an ~~In-House~~ Operating Committee (OC) to make decisions pertaining to that site. The Region Director or Site Manager shall serve as chair.

Section 2. Appointment—The members of each OC shall be approved by ~~the AWR Administrative Committee.~~ AWR ADCOM.

Section 3. Meetings—Meetings shall be held by the most appropriate means and shall convene at the call of the chair or his/her designee, but not less than once a month.

Section 4. Quorum—A quorum of the committee shall consist of a simple majority and must include the chair or his/her designee.

Section 5. Power and Authority—The power and authority of the ~~In-House~~ Operating Committees shall ~~be:~~ be that it:

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- a. Oversees operations at the site and manages the facilities, making recommendations as needed to AWR ADCOM.
- b. Recommends an annual budget to the AWR ~~VP~~ Vice President for Finance for the operation of the site.
- c. Approves ~~non-routine~~ local operating expenditures, and capital purchases and divestitures, within the approved budget for items up to US\$5000. Costs above these amounts should be referred to AWR ADCOM.
- d. ~~On a monthly basis reviews and monitors~~ Reviews and monitors on a monthly basis, financial reports in relationship to budget, takes necessary actions to stay within the budget, and sends a monthly report of financial records to the AWR headquarters office.
- e. ~~Approve or deny monetary advance requests which will be repaid the next month, and review and recommend to AWR ADCOM requests for advances or loans that extend beyond one month.~~
- e. Manages personnel issues and expenses of staff according to policies of the highest level of the church organization in that territory, or as approved by AWR ADCOM.
- f. Approves and/or records travel for staff under the oversight of the OC according to AWR policy.
- g. Employs and dismisses locally hired ~~hourly~~ employees (other than leadership staff) at the site in consultation with AWR ADCOM.
- i. ~~Recommend to AWR ADCOM the employment of support staff.~~
- h. Oversees the selection of student missionaries and recommends their calls through AWR ADCOM.
- i. Recommends furloughs and optional annual leaves for staff to AWR ADCOM.
- j. Approves vacation schedules for staff.
- k. Sends minutes within five working days of each meeting to AWR ADCOM for review and for action on items recommended to it.

Article IX. Other Committees

Section 1. AWR Investment Committee—Membership of the AWR Investment Committee will be comprised of the AWR Finance Committee and the General Conference Associate Treasurer responsible for investment management. The accountant and/or region director/site manager may be invited to participate when addressing matters pertaining to those sites. The responsibilities of this committee shall be that it:

- a. Analyzes the cash flow patterns of AWR headquarters and its regions to determine cash flow needs and predict availability of funds for investment.
- b. Selects investment advisory consultants as needed.
- c. Allocates funds between various investment options according to General Conference Investment Policy Guidelines in the General Conference *Working Policy Appendix C*.
- d. Receives semi-annual reports regarding performance from investment managers.

Section 2. Advancement Planning Committee—The Advancement Planning Committee is appointed by AWR ADCOM to coordinate and plan initiatives for the development and communication offices.

Section 3. Engineering Advisory Committee—The Engineering Advisory Committee is appointed by AWR ADCOM as a means for AWR's engineers to consult with one another and review technical plans and equipment.

Section 4. Technical Advisory Committee—The Technical Advisory Committee is appointed by AWR ADCOM upon the recommendation of the AWR Global Chief Engineer and is made up of Seventh-day Adventist engineers who work in nonchurch situations and serve as consultants for AWR engineers for planning and technical analysis.

Section 5. Other Committees—Other committees may be appointed from time to time as are needed to assist in the work of AWR.

Article X. Officers and ~~other~~ Other AWR Staff

Section 1. Executive officers—The Officers—The executive officers of AWR shall be:

- a. President/Executive Director

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b. Senior Vice President

~~b. c.~~ Vice President for Finance

Section 2: Other ~~Officers—Other officers—Other~~ officers shall be:

a. ~~The other vice~~ Vice presidents who may be appointed.

Section 3. Election—The President of AWR, the Senior Vice President, and the Vice President for Finance shall be ~~recommended to the General Conference Executive Committee elected by the AWR Board of Directors at the last Annual Council~~ its first meeting preceding which is at the first Annual Council following a General Conference Session, and these officers shall serve until successors are elected. Other vice presidents, headquarters leadership staff, and region directors shall be recommended by the President and ratified by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee of the Board at the first meeting of the Board following a General Conference Session, following the election of the Board, and they shall serve until successors are elected. Vacancies shall be filled by the Board and Executive Committee of the Board, as outlined in Article III, Section 5, and Article IV, Section 5, above.

Section 4. Duties

a. President/Executive Director. Subject to the control of the Board of Directors, the President/Executive Director shall have day-to-day general supervision, direction, and management of AWR in its mission functions, administrative and professional personnel matters, and business issues, including the raising of operating and capital funds. He/She shall serve as secretary of the Board of Directors.

~~e. b.~~ Senior Vice President. The Senior Vice President shall report to the President and shall serve as chief operating officer for day-to-day management, including the oversight of global training, the program and production activities in each region, the region directors, and other duties as assigned by the President.

~~b. c.~~ Vice President for Finance. The Vice President for Finance shall report to the President, and shall have the responsibility of conducting the business of AWR in a prudent manner in harmony with its mission, and all appropriate policies. He/She shall prepare and manage the annual budget, assist in the management of those AWR entities located outside of the Silver Spring AWR headquarters office, and keep such financial records as are necessary for fiscal responsibility. He/She shall serve as secretary of the Finance Committee of the Board, and fulfill other duties as assigned by the President.

d. Additional vice presidents. The Board of Directors may designate additional vice presidents as deemed appropriate.

Section 5. Interim President—In the event of prolonged absence or disability of the President, or of removal for cause, the Senior Vice President shall serve as interim President until such time as the ~~General Conference Executive Committee~~ Board of Directors shall elect a permanent replacement.

Section 6. Other Staff.

Besides the Vice Presidents, the AWR Board or Executive Committee may appoint other leadership staff at the headquarters office. They may also appoint ~~Region Directors~~ region directors to oversee the various AWR regions as needed.

Article XI. Changes to These Operating Guidelines

Changes to these Operating Guidelines shall be brought by AWR ADCOM to the AWR Board of Directors which shall, in turn, recommend them to the General Conference Executive Committee.

AWR/SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

525-04G STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO) - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC HB 05, Statement of Purpose, to read as follows:

HB 05 Statement of Purpose

Adventist World Radio is an institution of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists established to proclaim the everlasting gospel to all the world in harmony with scriptural ~~commands~~. commands through various types of radio and internet broadcasting. (See also Total Commitment to God declaration, A 10 40.)

A priority is placed on broadcasting to areas that have limited opportunity for outreach activities, low membership to population ratios and large territories, the inability to access other broadcast media, and other special circumstances. Such unreached people groups are found, for instance, in the countries of the 10/40 Window. Adventist World Radio uses local languages for broadcasting in order to reach the largest number of people.

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AWR/SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

526-04G ORGANIZATION (ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO) -
POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC HB 10, Organization, to read as follows:

HB 10 Organization and Procedures

HB 10 05 Constituency—The General Conference Executive Committee is the constituency of Adventist World Radio.

HB 10 10 Board—A board appointed by the Annual Council immediately following the General Conference Session administers Adventist World Radio. The membership of the Board is as determined by the Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee. The Chairman of the Board is a general vice president of the General Conference designated by the General Conference President. The Board appoints the Adventist World Radio President/ Executive Director. The Board approves plans and policies for Adventist World Radio, establishes the budget, appoints standing and ad hoc committees, and controls the operations of Adventist World Radio within the policies and procedures of the General Conference.

~~HB 10 15 Adventist World Radio Stations—Adventist World Radio carries out its mission through denominationally owned and operated international radio stations and/or leased facilities. The Board assigns Adventist World Radio operations regionally in association with owned and operated stations or leased facilities.~~

HB 10 15 Operating Guidelines—Operating guidelines recommended by the Board and approved by the General Conference Executive Committee shall assist the administration of Adventist World Radio in its various operations.

HB 10 20 Adventist World Radio Officers, Operations Centers, and Stations—Adventist World Radio carries out its mission through denominationally owned and operated region offices, operations centers, and broadcast stations; it may also lease air time from other stations.

AWR/SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

527-04G RESPONSIBILITIES (ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO) -
POLICY DELETION

VOTED, To delete GC HB 20, Responsibilities, which reads as follows:

HB 20 Responsibilities

HB 20 05 Release of Broadcasts—Adventist World Radio regional operations serve the divisions and attached unions by the release of broadcasts prepared or approved by them. Programming and its release are recommended to the Board by committees representing the divisions and attached unions served by Adventist World Radio through its regional operations. These regional operations each serve two or more divisions and operate under the direction of managers appointed by the Board and responsible to the Board through the Adventist World Radio President/Executive Director.

HB 20 10 Service to Divisions—Adventist World Radio aids the divisions and attached unions through providing technical expertise to program production centers, training of personnel, and by identifying those interested in the message of the broadcasts. Unless requested to do so by the General Conference, Adventist World Radio does not accept responsibility for broadcasting within countries where the Church has access to the broadcast media.

AWR/SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/TreC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

528-04G RELATIONSHIPS TO WORLD DIVISIONS (ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO) - NEW POLICY

VOTED, To adopt a new policy GC HB 20, Relationships to World Divisions, which reads as follows:

HB 20 Relationships to World Divisions

HB 20 05 Business Activities—Since Adventist World Radio is an unincorporated subsidiary of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and the work of the General Conference is delegated to divisions, unions and conferences/missions/fields around the world, Adventist World Radio may develop agreements with these entities for providing legal standing or for general business activities such as: using office space or holding property, hiring employees, accounting and payroll processes, receiving donations, reporting to governments, establishing bank accounts, determining appropriate programming, use of the Adventist World Radio name and logo, and other related matters.

Adventist World Radio generally works with the highest level of church organization in the country where its respective offices are located and, as far as applicable, follows the policies of that particular organization.

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Adventist World Radio indemnifies these church organizations for liabilities that may be incurred in direct relationship to Adventist World Radio's business activities.

HB 20 10 Broadcast Services—Adventist World Radio collaborates with the divisions and their unions by planning broadcasts to areas of mutual agreement. Generally for shortwave radio, it is the unions or divisions that operate production studios and care for follow-up of listeners while Adventist World Radio distributes and broadcasts the programs. Adventist World Radio determines what programming is appropriate for broadcast on its networks. In addition, Adventist World Radio provides technical expertise, training of personnel, and, in approved instances, equipment. Additional assistance is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Unless requested to do so by the General Conference, Adventist World Radio does not accept responsibility for broadcasting within countries where the Church has access to other broadcast media.

HB 20 15 Division Coordination and World Offering—The communication directors of the divisions and unions are usually the contact links with Adventist World Radio. These individuals coordinate proposals for new language development, new studios and other initiatives, nurture the various production studios, promote the annual Adventist World Radio world offering (see HB 30, T 05 20, paragraph 6., W 30), report and publicize Adventist World Radio activities in their territories, and other responsibilities as agreed upon.

AWR/SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

529-04G FINANCIAL MATTERS (ADVENTIST WORLD
RADIO) - NEW POLICY

VOTED, To adopt a new policy GC HB 25, Financial Matters, which reads as follows:

HB 25 Financial Matters

HB 25 05 Financial Record Keeping—Adventist World Radio maintains its own financial accounts, including the receipting of donations and the recording of other income, and the payment of expenses. Salaries of Adventist World Radio employees are usually paid through the church organization in the territory where they are located.

HB 25 10 Sources of Funding—Adventist World Radio is funded through appropriations from the General Conference, an annual world offering (see HB 30, T 05 20, paragraph 6., and W 30), a percentage of any combined offering plans covering world mission offerings (i.e. world

budget, one offering plan, etc.), other donor-designated offerings, private donations from individuals, and philanthropic planned giving instruments.

HB 25 15 Accountability for Funding—Adventist World Radio funds shall be accounted for at all region offices, stations, and other sites in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted by the Seventh-day Adventist denomination taking into account the legal requirements of the respective country. A Financial Audit Review Committee with its membership selected in harmony with SA 15 05 shall be appointed by the Board.

AWR/SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

530-04G ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO ANNUAL WORLD
OFFERING - NEW POLICY

VOTED, To adopt a new policy GC HB 30, Adventist World Radio Annual World Offering, which reads as follows:

HB 30 Adventist World Radio Annual World Offering

HB 30 05 Annual Offering—An offering known as the Adventist World Radio Offering shall be received annually throughout the world field on a date approved by the General Conference Executive Committee/respective division committees. The date shall be included in the General Conference/Division Calendar of Special Days and Offerings. Divisions that follow a combined offering plan covering world mission offerings shall include Adventist World Radio in that plan. This offering and any other offerings designated for Adventist World Radio shall be processed according to the General Conference *Working Policy*, W 30, Adventist World Radio Offering.

AWR/SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

531-04G ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO ANNUAL WORLD
OFFERING - NEW POLICY

VOTED, To adopt a new policy GC W 30, Adventist World Radio Annual World Offering, which reads as follows:

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W 30 Adventist World Radio Annual World Offering

W 30 05 Annual Offering—The Adventist World Radio Offering shall be received annually throughout the world field on a date approved by the General Conference Executive Committee/respective division executive committees. The date shall be included in the General Conference/Division Calendar of Special Days and Offerings. Divisions that follow a combined offering plan covering world mission offerings shall include Adventist World Radio in that plan.

W 30 10 Purpose (Use)—This offering shall be used for Adventist World Radio broadcasts, operations, and projects around the world. Adventist World Radio shall work with each division administration to provide funding from these offerings to meet the objectives of the denomination in accomplishing the mission of Adventist World Radio in that division. It shall only be made available to denominational entities for projects that are directly related to the mission of Adventist World Radio.

W 30 15 Promotion—Adventist World Radio shall prepare offering promotional materials and templates. Divisions are encouraged to modify or translate these materials for use in their fields. Divisions which send copies of the promotional materials along with proper invoicing shall be reimbursed for the cost of the promotion up to 10 percent of the offering received from that division the previous year. In the North American Division, offering materials are provided and distributed by Adventist World Radio.

W 30 20 Processing of Funds—The annual offering and related offerings shall be remitted monthly to the General Conference.

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

423-04GS USE OF THE TERM CONFERENCE, ETC -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

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

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

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

collective organization of local churches. In the *Church Manual* the term *conference* or *union conference* may also apply to a mission or a union mission.

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

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

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

401-04GS METHOD OF GRANTING LETTERS OF TRANSFER -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

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

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

If the difficulties involve - No change

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

403-04GS BAPTISMAL SERVICE, THE - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

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

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

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

404-04GS CHURCH LEADERS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

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

Church Leaders

Occasionally in newly organized churches, and sometimes in older ones, there is no one possessing the necessary experience and qualifications to serve as elder. Under such circumstances the church should elect a person to be known as "leader." In the absence of a ~~minister~~ the pastor or a conference/mission/field assigned minister, the leader is responsible for the services of the church, including the business meetings. The leader must either conduct these or arrange for someone else to do so. A church leader may not preside at any of the church ordinances, administer baptism, conduct the Lord's Supper, perform the marriage ceremony, or preside at business meetings when members are disciplined. A request should be made to the conference/mission/field president for an ordained minister to preside at such meetings.

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

407-04GS SELECTING CHOIR LEADERS - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

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

Selecting Choir Leaders—Great care - No change

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

ChManSub/417-02GN/ChMan/410-03GN/ADCOM/04AC to AM

410-04GN BREAD AND WINE - *CHURCH MANUAL NOTES*
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, The Services and Meetings of the Church, page 89, Notes #4, to read as follows:

4. Bread and Wine—(See p. 78.)—A hymn may be sung during the reassembly of the congregation as the officiating ministers or elders take their places at the table on which the bread and wine have been placed, and the deacons and deaconesses take their places. The covering over the bread is removed. A suitable passage of Scripture may be read such as 1 Corinthians 11:23, 24; Matthew 26:26; Mark 14:22; or Luke 22:19, or a brief sermon may be given at this point in the service rather than earlier. This can be especially effective if the sermon emphasizes the meaning of the bread and wine so its message is still fresh in the minds of participants as the emblems are being distributed. Those officiating normally kneel while the blessing is asked on the bread. The congregation may kneel or remain seated. Most of the bread to be served is usually broken ahead of time, with a small portion left on each plate for the elders ~~or pastors~~ and/or ministers to break. The minister and elders hand the plates containing the bread to the deacons, then the deacons serve the congregation. During this time there may be a choice of special music, testimonies, a summary of the sermon, selected readings, congregational singing, or meditative organ or piano music.

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Each person should retain - No change

The minister then reads -No change

An optional method - No change

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

413-04GS LICENSED MINISTERS - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

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

Licensed Ministers

To give young men - No change

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

ChManSub/422-02G/ChMan/420-03GS/ADCOM/04AC to AM-05GCS

420-04GS COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 13, Standards of Christian Living, pages 172 and 173, Courtship and Marriage, to read as follows:

Courtship and Marriage

Courtship is recognized - No change

Marriage is the foundation - No change

The failure to follow these principles - No change

“The family tie is the closest - No change

Worship of God - No change

“Can two walk together - No change

The Spirit of Prophecy consistently - No change

The church recognizes that it is the prerogative of the individual to make the final decision relative to the choice of a marriage partner. However, it is the hope of the church that, if the member chooses a marriage partner who is not a member of the church, the couple will realize and appreciate that the Seventh-day Adventist ~~pastor~~, minister, who has covenanted to uphold the principles outlined above, should not be expected to perform such a marriage. If an individual does enter into such a marriage, the church is to demonstrate love and concern with the purpose of encouraging the couple toward complete unity in Christ. (For further information on the subject of marriage, see Chapter 15, Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage.)

03AC/ChManSub/ChMan/04AC to AM-05GCS

415-04GS PLACE OF MUSIC IN WORSHIP - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, The Services and Meetings of the Church, page 71, Place of Music in Worship, to read as follows:

Place of Music in Worship

Place of Music in Worship - No change

Sing With the Spirit and the Understanding - No change

Selecting Choir Leaders - No change

Membership of Church Choirs—Sacred music is an important part of public worship. The church needs to exercise care in the selecting of choir members who will rightly represent the principles of the church. Choir members occupy a conspicuous place in the services of the church. Their singing ability is only one of the qualifications they should have. They should be members of the church, or the Sabbath School, or the Adventist Youth Society ~~who~~, and in their

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personal appearance and manner of ~~dress, conform to the standards of the church, setting dress~~ set an example in modesty and decorum. People of uncertain consecration or questionable character, of those not appropriately dressed, should not be permitted to participate in the musical features of the services. Consecrated individuals with exemplary characters, appropriately attired, provide a positive influence when involved in the musical features of the services. Any plan concerning the wearing of choir robes is optional on the part of the church.

The organization of children's choirs is to be encouraged as an effective means of spiritual nurture, bonding to the church family, and outreach.

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

425-04GS NOMINATING COMMITTEE - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

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

Nominating Committee

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church, officers are elected every one or two years (see p. 49) through an appointed nominating committee. This committee brings its report to the church, which then acts on the names presented. This procedure enables the church to give careful study to each name prior to election, and avoids the public competitive element that may arise when nominations are made from the floor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The sequential steps are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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~~d. e.~~ The nominating committee meets to prepare the list of church officers, which will be presented to the church for approval.

e. f. The church appoints by vote the various church officers for the ensuing year.

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

Work of the Nominating Committee—As soon as possible after its election, the nominating committee should be called together by the ~~one chosen to act as~~ chairperson. With earnest prayer for guidance the committee should begin its work of preparing a list of names to submit to the church for officers and assistants comprised of members in regular standing on the roll of the church making the appointments. These will be placed in nomination for office and presented to the church at a Sabbath service or at a specially called business meeting of the church. In making their selections, the committee may counsel with others who are well informed. This committee does not nominate either the pastor or the assistant pastor(s). These appointments are made by the executive committee of the conference/mission/field.

Nominating Committee to Consult Prospective Officers - No change

Members May Appear Before the Nominating Committee - No change

Nominating Committee Discussions Are Confidential - No change

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

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

Objecting to the Report of the Nominating Committee - No change

Vacancies - No change

PUB/ChManSub/ChMan/427-03GSa/ADCOM/04AC to AM-05GCS

427-04GSa PUBLISHING MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT -
CHURCH MANUAL ADDITION

RECOMMENDED, To add to the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Auxiliary Organizations of the Church and their Officers, page 122, Publishing Ministries Department, which reads as follows:

Publishing Ministries Department

The Publishing Ministries Department is organized to coordinate and promote literature evangelism in the local church under the supervision of the Publishing Ministries Council and the appropriate publishing organization for the territory. It will assist the local church departments in the promotion, sale, and distribution of subscription magazines and other missionary literature. The department is to work with the pastor and departments of the church in planning for systematic ways to involve the church membership in accomplishing these objectives.

“There are many places in which the voice of the minister cannot be heard, places which can be reached only by our publications,—the books, papers, and tracts filled with the Bible truths that the people need.”—*Colporteur Ministry*, p. 4.

Publishing Ministries Council—The Publishing Ministries Council is to be appointed by the church board and works under its direction. It shall be chaired by the Publishing Ministries coordinator. The pastor, Personal Ministries leader, and Personal Ministries secretary will serve as ex officio members. Committee members shall be chosen based on their interest and experience in literature evangelism. (See Notes #29, p. 124.)

Publishing Ministries Coordinator—The Publishing Ministries coordinator is elected by the church to provide leadership in literature evangelism activities of the church. (See Notes #30, p. 125.)

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PUB/ChManSub/ChMan/427-03GNb/ADCOM/04AC to AM

427-04GNb PUBLISHING MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT -
CHURCH MANUAL NOTES ADDITION

VOTED, To add Notes #29 and #30 to the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Auxiliary Organizations of the Church and Their Officers, pages 134 and 135, which read as follows:

Notes

29. Publishing Ministries Council—(See p. 122.)—The duties of this council may include the following:

a. Assisting the conference/mission/field, or appropriate publishing organization for the territory, in promoting the Publishing Ministry, identifying literature workers, and recommending church members who have special gifts to work as literature evangelists.

b. Arranging with the conference/mission/field Publishing Ministries Department, or appropriate publishing organization for the territory, to conduct literature evangelism awareness seminars in the church and to conduct training seminars for members who have indicated an interest in becoming literature evangelists.

c. Promoting the purchase and reading of Spirit of Prophecy books for personal spiritual development and nurture.

d. Assisting departments in the selection and circulation of literature such as missionary books, magazines, and Spirit of Prophecy books.

30. Publishing Ministries Coordinator—(See p. 122.)—The duties of the Publishing Ministries coordinator include the following:

a. Serving as chairperson of the Publishing Ministries Council and being responsible for implementing the Publishing Ministries Council's decisions.

b. Identifying church members to serve as literature evangelists.

c. Ordering literature supplies, as needed, through the Personal Ministries secretary.

d. Submitting reports to the conference/mission regarding the Publishing Ministry/Literature Evangelism activities of the church.

e. Serving as a member of the local church board.

PUB/ChManSub/ChMan/429-03GS/ADCOM/04AC to AM-05GCS

429-04GS NOMINATING COMMITTEE - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 11, The Church Election, pages 143 to 146, Nominating Committee, to read as follows:

Nominating Committee – No change

When the Nominating Committee Is Appointed - No change

How the Nominating Committee Is Appointed - No change

Who Should be Members of the Nominating Committee - No change

Work of the Nominating Committee—As soon as possible after its election, the nominating committee should be called together by the one chosen to act as chairperson. With earnest prayer for guidance the committee should begin its work of preparing a list of names to submit to the church for officers and assistants comprised of members in regular standing on the roll of the church making the appointments. These will be placed in nomination for office and presented to the church at a Sabbath service or at a specially called business meeting of the church. In making their selections, the committee may counsel with others who are well informed. This committee does not nominate either the pastor or the assistant pastor(s). These appointments are made by the executive committee of the conference/mission/field.

The church nominating committee deals with the following:

Elder(s)

Deacon(s)

Deaconess(es)

Clerk

Treasurer

Assistant treasurer(s)

Children's Ministries coordinator

Church chorister or song leader

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Church organist or pianist
Education secretary
Family Ministries leader(s)
Women's Ministries leader
Ministry to People with Disabilities coordinator
Personal Ministries leader
Personal Ministries secretary
Bible School coordinator
Publishing Ministries coordinator
Interest coordinator
Community Services director
Sabbath School superintendent(s)
Sabbath School assistant superintendent(s)
Sabbath School secretary
Sabbath School assistant secretary
Sabbath School division leaders, including leaders for the adult and extension divisions
Sabbath School Investment secretary
Vacation Bible School director
Home and School Association leader
Home and School Association secretary-treasurer
Dorcas Society leader
Dorcas Society secretary-treasurer
Adventist Junior Youth Society leader
Adventist Junior Youth assistant leader(s)
Adventist Youth Society leader
Adventist Youth Society associate leader
Adventist Youth Society sponsor
Adventist Youth Society secretary-treasurer
Adventist Youth Society assistant secretary-treasurer
Adventist Youth Society music director
Adventist Youth Society pianist or organist
Pathfinder Club director
Pathfinder Club deputy director
Adventurer Club director
Religious Liberty leader
Communication secretary or Communication Committee
Health Ministries leader
Stewardship leader
Church board
Church school board

Such other leadership personnel as the church may deem advisable, except Sabbath School teachers who shall be appointed by the Sabbath School Council and approved by the church board.

PUB/ChManSub/ChMan/428-03GS/ADCOM/04AC to AM-05GCS

428-04GS CHURCH BOARD AND ITS MEETINGS, THE -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, The Services and Meetings of the Church, page 81, The Church Board and Its Meetings, to read as follows:

The Church Board and Its Meetings

Definition and Function - No change

Membership—The following church officers should be included in the church board membership:

Elder(s)
Head deacon
Head deaconess
Treasurer
Clerk
Personal Ministries leader
Personal Ministries secretary
Publishing Ministries coordinator
Bible School coordinator
Community Services and/or Dorcas leader
Sabbath School superintendent
Family Ministries leader
Women's Ministries leader
Children's Ministries coordinator
Education secretary
Home and School Association leader
Adventist Youth Society leader
Pathfinder Club director
Adventurer Club director
Interest coordinator
Communication Committee chairperson or Communication secretary

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Health Ministries leader
Stewardship leader
Religious Liberty leader

In many cases two or more of these offices are carried by one individual. Additional members of the board may be elected by the church if desired. The minister appointed by the local field to serve the church as its pastor is always a member of the church board.

Officers - No change

Meetings - No change

Work of the Board - No change

Committees of the Board - No change

PUB/ChManSub/ChMan/426-03GS/ADCOM/04AC to AM-05GCS

426-04GS PERSONAL MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT, THE -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Auxiliary Organizations of the Church and Their Officers, pages 93 to 95, The Personal Ministries Department, to read as follows:

The Personal Ministries Department

The Personal Ministries Department provides resources and trains church members to unite their efforts with the ministry and church officers in the final proclamation of the gospel of salvation in Christ. The aim of the department is to enlist every member in active soul-winning service for God.

Personal Ministries Council—The Personal Ministries Council guides the outreach (missionary) efforts of the local church and works under the direction of the church board. The council should meet at least once each month. This council shall consist of the following: Personal Ministries leader (chairperson), Personal Ministries secretary, Publishing Ministries coordinator, pastor, an elder, church treasurer, Dorcas Society leader, Dorcas Society secretary, Adventist Men's organization leader, Interest coordinator, Health Ministries leader, Communication secretary, Sabbath School superintendent, Youth leader, coordinator for Ministry to People with Disabilities, Children's Ministries coordinator, Women's Ministries

leader, director of Community Services center or Community Services leader, and other members as deemed necessary. The Personal Ministries Council may assign subcommittees for specialized tasks as deemed necessary. All subcommittees report to the Personal Ministries Council. (See Notes, #1, p. 123.)

Personal Ministries Leader—The Personal Ministries leader is elected by the church to lead in training and directing the church in active outreach (missionary) service and is chairperson of the Personal Ministries Council. It is the leader's duty to present to the church, in the monthly Sabbath Personal Ministries service and in the church business meetings, a report on the total outreach (missionary) activities of the church.

Personal Ministries Secretary—The Personal Ministries secretary is elected by the church and serves as the representative of the Adventist Book Center for all departments of the church. The secretary works closely with the Personal Ministries leader in developing the outreach (missionary) programs of the church. (See Notes, #2, p. 124.)

Community Services/Dorcas Society - No change

Adventist Men - No change

Community Services Center - No change

Ministry to People with Disabilities - No change

ChMan/ChManSub/ChMan/04AC to AM

456-04GE CHURCH ELDER, THE - *CHURCH MANUAL*
EDITORIAL AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 7, Church Officers and Their Duties, Pages 49, 50 and 52, The Church Elder, to read as follows:

The Church Elder

Relationship to the Ordained Minister—In a case where the conference/mission/field committee assigns an ordained minister to labor as a pastor of a church, he should be considered as the ranking officer, and the local elder elder(s) as his assistant assistant(s). Their work is closely related; they should therefore work together harmoniously. The minister should not gather to himself all lines of responsibility, but should share these with the local elder elder(s) and other officers. The minister serving the church regularly as pastor acts as the chairman of the

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church board. (See pp. 83, 139.) There may be circumstances, however, when it would be advisable for the elder to act in this capacity. The pastoral work of the church should be shared by both. The ~~elder~~ elder(s) should, in counsel with the minister, assist in the pastoral responsibility, which includes visiting the church members, ministering to the sick, arranging or leading out in anointing services and child dedications, and encouraging those who are disheartened. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on this part of an elder's work, who as an under shepherd should exercise a constant vigilance over the flock. If the appointed pastor is a licensed minister, the local church or churches that he serves should elect him as an elder. (See p. 137.)

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

418-04GS GOSPEL FINANCE - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

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

Offerings

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

PRE/ChManSub/ChMan/04AC to AM

432-04GE MUSIC - *CHURCH MANUAL* EDITORIAL
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 13, Standards of Christian Living, pages 169 and 170, to read as follows:

Music

“Music was made to serve a holy purpose, to lift the thoughts to that which is pure, noble, and elevating, and to awaken in the soul devotion and gratitude to God.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 594. Jesus “held communion with heaven in song.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 73.

Music is one of the highest arts. Good music not only gives pleasure but elevates the mind and cultivates the finest qualities. Spiritual songs have often been used of God to touch the hearts of sinners and lead to repentance. Debased music, on the contrary, destroys the rhythm of the soul and breaks down morality.

Great care should be exercised in the choice of music. Any melody partaking of the nature of jazz, rock, or related hybrid forms, or any language expressing foolish or trivial sentiments, will be shunned. ~~shunned by persons of true culture.~~ Let us use only good music in the home, in the social gathering, in the school, and in the church. (See p. 72.)

PRE/ChManSub/ChMan/430-03GE/ADCOM/04AC to AM

430-04GE USE OF “THE” IN TITLES - *CHURCH MANUAL* DIRECTIVE

VOTED, To approve a directive to amend the *Church Manual*, where appropriate, by deleting the word “the” in chapter titles and subtitles.

PRE/ChManSub/ChMan/431-03GE/ADCOM/04AC to AM

431-04GE DEPARTMENT DESIGNATIONS - *CHURCH MANUAL* DIRECTIVE

VOTED, To approve a directive to amend the *Church Manual*, where necessary, so the name of the department is consistently followed by the word “department,” rather than preceded by it.

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ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM/404-02GS/03AC/408-03GS/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO04AC/
04AC to AM-05GCS

408-04GS CONDUCTING THE COMMUNION SERVICE - *CHURCH*
MANUAL AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, The Services and Meetings of the Church, page 76, Conducting the Communion Service, to read as follows:

Conducting the Communion Service—Length of Service - No change

Preliminaries—The introductory portion - No change

Foot-washing—Each church should - No change

Bread and Wine - No change

Celebration—The service may close with a musical feature or congregational singing followed by dismissal. However it closes, it should end on a high note. Communion should always be a solemn experience but never a somber one. Wrongs have been righted, sins have been forgiven, and faith has been reaffirmed; it is a time for celebration. Let the music be bright and joyous.

An offering for the poor is often taken as the congregation leaves. After the service the deacons and deaconesses clear the table, collect glasses, and respectfully dispose of any bread or wine left over by ~~burning or burying the bread and pouring out the wine on the ground. and burying, burning, or disposing of the bread in another appropriate manner but in no event returning it to common usage.~~

ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM/403-02GS/03AC/405-03GS/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO04AC/
04AC to AM-05GCS

405-04GS DUTIES OF DEACONS, THE - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

The following item was referred back to the Church Manual Committee by the General Conference Executive Committee. After further deliberation the Church Manual Subcommittee recommends that there be no additional change to the wording.

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 7, Church Officers and Their Duties, page 55, The Duties of Deacons, to read as follows:

The Duties of Deacons—The work of the deacons involves a wide range of practical services for the church including:

1. Assistance at Services and Meetings - No change
2. Visitation of Members - No change
3. Preparation for Baptismal Services - No change
4. Assistance at the Communion Service—At the celebration of the ordinance of foot-washing, the deacons or deaconesses provide everything that is needed for the service, such as: towels, basins, water (at a comfortable temperature as the occasion may require), buckets, et cetera. After the service they should see that the vessels and linen used are washed and returned to their proper place.

Following the Lord's Supper, great care should be exercised in disposing of any bread or wine left over after all have partaken of these emblems. Any remaining wine that was blessed ~~wine remaining that was blessed~~, is to be respectfully poured out. Any remaining bread that was blessed of the bread remaining which was blessed should be buried, burned, or respectfully disposed of in another appropriate manner but in no event returned to common usage.

5. The Care of the Sick and the Poor - No change
6. Care and Maintenance of Church Property - No change

ChManSub/ChMan/422-03GS/ChManSub/ADCOM/04AC to AM-05GCS

422-04GS REASONS FOR WHICH MEMBERS SHALL BE
DISCIPLINED - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

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

Reasons for Which Members Shall be Disciplined

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

1. Denial of faith in the fundamentals of the gospel and in the cardinal doctrines of the church or teaching doctrines contrary to the same.
2. Violation of the law of God, such as worship of idols, murder, stealing, profanity, gambling, Sabbathbreaking, and willful and habitual falsehood.
3. Violation of the seventh commandment of the law of God as it relates to the marriage institution, the Christian home, and biblical standards of moral conduct.
4. Such violations as fornication, promiscuity, incest, homosexual practice, sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults, and other sexual perversions, and the remarriage of a divorced person, except of the spouse who has remained faithful to the marriage vow in a divorce for adultery or for sexual perversions.
5. Physical violence, including violence within the family.
6. Fraud or willful misrepresentation in business.
7. Disorderly conduct which brings reproach upon the ~~cause:~~ church.
8. Adhering to or taking part in a divisive or disloyal movement or organization.
(See p. 182.)
9. Persistent refusal to recognize properly constituted church authority or to submit to the order and discipline of the church.
10. The use, manufacture, or sale of alcoholic beverages.
11. The use, manufacture, or sale of tobacco in any of its forms for human consumption.
12. The misuse of, or trafficking in, narcotics or other drugs.

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

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

IAD/SAD/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO04AC/04AC to AM-05GCS

457-04GS ALTERNATIVE METHOD FOR MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER
(CHURCH MEMBERSHIP) - *CHURCH MANUAL* ADDITION

RECOMMENDED, To add a new section to the *Church Manual*, Alternative Method for Membership Transfer, to Chapter 6, Church Membership, following Clerk to Prepare Letter, on page 36, to read as follows:

Alternative Method for Membership Transfer—A division may approve alternative methods for transferring members from one church to another within the division but when members request transfers to a church in another division, the above "Method of Granting Letters of Transfer" must be followed.

CHM/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO04AC/04AC to AM-05GCS

409-04GSa CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT, THE -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Auxiliary Organizations of the Church and Their Officers, pages 119 and 120, The Children's Ministries Department, to read as follows:

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Children's Ministries Department

~~The Department of Children's Ministries is organized to promote and coordinate ministry to the children of the church, as well as to involve children in service to others. Christ's instruction to feed the lambs provides the impetus for the church to meet the needs of children for nurture, fellowship, worship, stewardship, and outreach.~~

~~Children's active minds construct meaning from every experience. "The lessons that the child learns during the first seven years of life have more to do with forming his character than all that it learns in future years." *Child Guidance*, p. 193. This is the time to begin to educate them "to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought." *Education*, p. 17.~~

~~"When Jesus told the disciples not to forbid the children to come to Him, He was speaking to His followers in all ages, to officers of the church, to ministers, helpers, and all Christians. Jesus is drawing the children, and He bids us, Suffer them to come; as if He would say, They will come if you do not hinder them." *The Desire of Ages*, p. 517.~~

~~"Every child may gain knowledge as Jesus did." *The Desire of Ages*, p. 70.~~

The Department of Children's Ministries exists to develop the faith of children from birth through age fourteen leading them into union with the church. It seeks to provide multiple ministries that will lead children to Jesus and disciple them in their daily walk with Him, and as such cooperate with the Sabbath School Department and other departments to provide religious education to children.

Mission—The mission of the Children's Ministries Department is to nurture children into a loving, serving relationship with Jesus. The department seeks to fulfill this mission by developing:

~~Ministry to Seventh-day Adventist Children—It is the responsibility of each individual in the church community to exert a positive influence on children. Providing children with the opportunity for participation, interaction, and leadership in a variety of religious education settings gives them a sense of inclusion as valued members of the church family, leads them to Jesus, and teaches them to view life through a Seventh-day Adventist perspective. (See Notes, #23, p. 132.)~~

~~Ministry to Children Outside the Church—The Bible makes it clear that God has a special burden for children who are not enfolded in the church family. Outreach to children within the influence of the church will have far-reaching results, one of which will be winning parents to the Lord. The Department of Children's Ministries carries responsibility for the~~

~~traditional outreach programs such as: Vacation Bible Schools, children's branch Sabbath Schools, Neighborhood Bible Clubs, and Story Hours. (See Notes, #24, p. 132).~~

~~In churches which do not have a Department of Children's Ministries, Vacation Bible Schools, children's branch Sabbath Schools, Neighborhood Bible Clubs, and Story Hours will come under the direction of the Sabbath School Department. (See p. 96.)~~

~~Involving Seventh-day Adventist Children in Service to Others—Participation not only increases capabilities and assures children that they are a necessary part of the church family but, more importantly, involvement in service to others is a major part of their growth in grace. Creative efforts to involve children will help them establish a pattern of outreach to others that may well continue through life. (See Notes, #25, p. 133.)~~

~~Safeguarding Children—In Matthew 18:6 Christ spoke strongly about those who would intentionally hurt children: "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." The local church should take reasonable steps to safeguard children engaged in church-sponsored activities by choosing individuals with high spiritual and moral backgrounds as leaders and participants in programs for children.~~

Grace-oriented Ministries, in which all children will experience the unconditional love of Jesus, find assurance of acceptance and forgiveness, and make a commitment to Him.

Inclusive Ministries, in which the volunteers who minister and the children to whom they minister will be valued regardless of race, color, language, gender, age, abilities, or socio-economic circumstances, and be involved without discrimination.

Leadership Ministries, in which volunteers are empowered, trained, and equipped for effective ministry to children.

Service-oriented Ministries, in which children are given opportunity for hands-on service to people in their neighborhood or city, thus establishing a pattern of outreach to others that may well continue through life.

Cooperative Ministries, that involve working with other entities, such as the Family Ministries, Sabbath school, Youth, and Stewardship Departments, to achieve shared goals.

Safe Ministries, whereby churches: a.) choose volunteers with high spiritual and moral backgrounds; b.) adopt safeguards to protect children from physical, emotional, and spiritual abuse, and the church from liability.

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Evangelistic Ministries, in which children who are not included in the church family will be introduced to the love of Jesus through outreach programs such as: Vacation Bible Schools, children's Branch Sabbath Schools, Neighborhood Bible Clubs, and Story Hours. (See Notes, #24, p. 132).

Ellen G. White underscores the importance of children's ministries when she says:

"Too much importance cannot be placed on the early training of children. The lessons that the child learns during the first seven years of life have more to do with forming his character than all that it learns in future years."—Child Guidance, p. 193.

"It is still true that children are the most susceptible to the teachings of the gospel; their hearts are open to divine influences, and strong to retain the lessons received. The little children may be Christians, having an experience in accordance with their years. They need to be educated in spiritual things, and parents should give them every advantage, that they may form characters after the similitude of the character of Christ."—Desire of Ages, p. 515.

"Children of eight, ten or twelve years, are old enough to be addressed on the subject of personal religion. Do not teach your children with reference to some future period when they shall be old enough to repent and believe the truth. If properly instructed, very young children may have correct views of their state as sinners, and of the way of salvation through Christ."—Testimonies, Vol. 1, p. 400.

"When Jesus told the disciples not to forbid the children to come to Him, He was speaking to His followers in all ages, --to officers of the church, to ministers, helpers, and all Christians. Jesus is drawing the children, and He bids us, Suffer them to come; as if He would say, They will come if you do not hinder them."—Desire of Ages, p. 517.

Children's Ministries Coordinator—The Children's Ministries coordinator is elected by the church and to develop specific ministries to nurture the faith of children so as to develop a loving, serving relationship with Jesus. The coordinator should be an individual of moral and ethical excellence, who demonstrates love and commitment to God, God and the church, and children, who has leadership ability as well as and experience, and passion for in working with children. (See Notes, #27, p. 133.)

Children's Ministries Committee—The Children's Ministries Committee coordinator works with the pastor and church board to establish a Children's Ministries Committee to provide ministries to children in the church. works under the direction of the church board or Personal Ministries Council. The committee should be composed of individuals who are Members will be chosen on the strength of their interest and expertise in working with children. Ordinarily, the membership is made up of the Sabbath School division leaders. Vacation Bible

School leader, Junior Youth leaders, and two to three others who have a passion for ministry to children. The number of members will vary according to the needs of each church. (See Notes, #26, p. 133.)

CHM/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO04AC/04AC to AM

409-04GNb CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT, THE -
CHURCH MANUAL NOTES AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend Notes #23, #24 and #25 to the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Auxiliary Organizations of the Church, pages 132 and 133, to read as follows:

~~23. Ministry to Seventh-day Adventist Children—(See p. 122.)—Ways to strengthen the spiritual life of Seventh-day Adventist children could include:~~

- ~~a. Sabbath School (under the responsibility of the Sabbath School Department).~~
- ~~b. Pathfinder and Adventurer Clubs (under the responsibility of the Youth Department).~~
- ~~c. Children's prayer meeting at the same time and place as the adult midweek prayer meeting.~~
- ~~d. An on-going baptismal class for children who express a desire to be baptized, but are considered too young.~~
- ~~e. Children's Bible club on Sabbath afternoon that would involve them in meaningful and appropriate Sabbath observance.~~
- ~~f. Weekly religious instruction for Seventh-day Adventist children not attending church school.~~
- ~~g. Children's small group's ministry bringing children each week for discussion, Bible study, and fellowship.~~
- ~~h. Children's choir.~~

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i. ~~Children's congress (city or district or field/mission/conference wide) to provide opportunities for children and their parents to experience leadership training, inspiration, and fellowship.~~

24. ~~Ministry to Children Outside the Church—(See p. 119)—In addition, the church can extend ministry to children by the following kinds of programs:~~

- a. ~~Seventh-day Adventist day care.~~
- b. ~~Radio and television programs.~~
- e. ~~Children's choirs.~~
- d. ~~Evangelistic meetings for children.~~
- e. ~~Correspondence Bible courses.~~
- f. ~~Other creative outreach, e.g. children's gymnastics clubs.~~

25. ~~Involving Seventh-day Adventist Children in Service to Others—(See p. 120.)—Here are some suggestions for tapping the unlimited potential of children:~~

- a. ~~Participation in divine services.~~
- b. ~~Participation in church outreach.~~
- e. ~~Visitation to shut-ins.~~
- d. ~~Musical performances.~~
- e. ~~Community service.~~
- f. ~~Leadership opportunities in evangelism, Bible study, and prophecy seminars.~~

26. 23. Children's Ministries Committee—(See p. 120.)—The committee's responsibilities could include: major responsibilities of the Children's Ministries Committee shall be as follows to:

- a. Conduct a needs assessment of children in the church and community by using surveys and interviews in counsel with the pastor and church leaders. Providing cooperation and balance among the religious education activities planned for children.
- b. Brainstorm ideas, develop strategies, and cooperate with other departments of the church to foster programs and activities which help to nurture and disciple the children. Working together to coordinate all activities in order to avoid overlaps or gaps in the plans for children, and preparing a yearly activities calendar that incorporates all children's programs.
- c. Plan a yearly calendar of activities for children, coordinating all programs with the church calendar so as to provide balance and avoid overlaps or conflicts. Keeping up-to-date records of church members' children and community children who have participated in church activities.
- d. Keep up-to-date records of children who have participated in church-sponsored activities, and have the records filed with the church secretary. Conducting a needs assessment of children in the congregation and/or community.
- e. Participate with the conference/mission/field Children's Ministries Department in implementing children's emphasis programs promoted by the department.

27. 24. Children's Ministries Coordinator—(See p. 120)—The responsibilities of the Children's Ministries coordinator are to: ~~role of the Children's Ministries coordinator may include responsibilities such as:~~

- a. Chair the Children's Ministries Committee. Scheduling and chairing the Children's Ministries Committee, encouraging a spirit of teamwork among those working for and with children, and being the team leader in creating a ministry for children that draws them to Christ and provides for their participation in all church activities.
- b. Implement the Sabbath School curriculum and provide training for leaders and teachers in using this curriculum. Serving as an advocate of the interests of children to:
 - 1) The Church Board—by keeping the board members informed of concerns and successes, by reporting the results of the children's needs assessment, and by encouraging funding for children's programs.
 - 2) The pastor by working together to make the various aspects of church life meaningful to children.

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3) ~~The Personal Ministries Council by participating in the council's planning for the church, suggesting ways to involve children.~~

4) ~~The leaders of children's activities by supporting and encouraging them.~~

c. Plan and implement a yearly calendar of programs for children that will draw them to Christ and provide for their participation in all church activities. Taking reasonable steps to maintain a high moral and ethical quality of leadership for the children.

d. Develop a budget for implementing all programs and activities for children. Maintaining communication with parents and leaders of children's activities, informing them about workshops, conventions, camp meetings, and other resources, and encouraging their growth in understanding children.

e. Serve as an advocate for the interests and needs of children to the:
~~Seeking opportunities to spend time with children in order to stay in touch with their thinking and their needs.~~

1) Church Board—by keeping the board members informed of concerns and successes, by reporting the results of the children's needs assessment, and by encouraging funding for children's programs.

2) Pastor—by working together to make the various aspects of church life meaningful to children.

3) Leaders of children's activities—by supporting and encouraging them.

f. Take reasonable steps to maintain a high moral and ethical quality of leadership for the children by screening volunteer leaders and teachers.

g. Maintain communication with parents and leaders of children's activities, informing them about workshops, conventions, camp meetings, and other resources, and encouraging their growth in understanding children.

h. Seek opportunities to spend time with children in order to stay in touch with their thinking and their needs.

SPD/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO04AC/04AC to AM-05GCS

454-04GS BAPTISMAL VOWS AND BAPTISM - *CHURCH*
MANUAL AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Church Membership, page 32 and 33, Baptismal Vow and Baptism, to read as follows

Baptismal Vow and Baptism

Baptismal Vow—Candidates for baptism or those being received into fellowship by profession of faith shall affirm their acceptance of the doctrinal beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the presence of the church or other properly appointed body. (See p. 31.) The minister or elder should address the following questions to the candidate(s), whose reply may be by verbal assent or by raising the hand.

Vow

1. Do you believe there is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons?
2. Do you accept the death of Jesus Christ on Calvary as the atoning sacrifice for your sins and believe that by God's grace through faith in His shed blood you are saved from sin and its penalty?
3. Do you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Savior believing that God, in Christ, has forgiven your sins and given you a new heart, and do you renounce the sinful ways of the world?
4. Do you accept by faith the righteousness of Christ, your Intercessor in the heavenly sanctuary, and accept His promise of transforming grace and power to live a loving, Christ-centered life in your home and before the world?
5. Do you believe that the Bible is God's inspired Word, the only rule of faith and practice for the Christian? Do you covenant to spend time regularly in prayer and Bible study?
6. Do you accept the Ten Commandments as a transcript of the character of God and a revelation of His will? Is it your purpose by the power of the indwelling Christ to keep this law, including the fourth commandment, which requires the observance of the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath of the Lord and the memorial of Creation?

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7. Do you look forward to the soon coming of Jesus and the blessed hope when “this mortal shall . . . put on immortality”? As you prepare to meet the Lord, will you witness to His loving salvation by using your talents in personal soul-winning endeavor to help others to be ready for His glorious appearing?

8. Do you accept the biblical teaching of spiritual gifts and believe that the gift of prophecy is one of the identifying marks of the remnant church?

9. Do you believe in church organization? Is it your purpose to worship God and to support the church through your tithes and offerings and by your personal effort and influence?

10. Do you believe that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit; and will you honor God by caring for it, avoiding the use of that which is harmful; abstaining from all unclean foods; from the use, manufacture, or sale of alcoholic beverages; the use, manufacture, or sale of tobacco in any of its forms for human consumption; and from the misuse of or trafficking in narcotics or other drugs?

11. Do you know and understand the fundamental Bible principles as taught by the Seventh-day Adventist Church? Do you purpose, by the grace of God, to fulfill His will by ordering your life in harmony with these principles?

12. Do you accept the New Testament teaching of baptism by immersion and desire to be so baptized as a public expression of faith in Christ and His forgiveness of your sins?

13. Do you accept and believe that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the remnant church of Bible prophecy and that people of every nation, race, and language are invited and accepted into its fellowship? Do you desire to be a member of this local congregation of the world church?

Vow (Alternative)

1. Do you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord, and do you desire to live your life in a saving relationship with Him?

2. Do you accept the teachings of the Bible as expressed in the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and do you pledge by God’s grace to live your life in harmony with these teachings?

3. Do you desire to be baptized as a public expression of your belief in Jesus Christ, to be accepted into the fellowship of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and to support the

Church and its mission as a faithful steward by your personal influence, tithes and offerings, and a life of service?

ChMan/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO04AC/04AC to AM-05GS

459-04GS BUSINESS MEETINGS - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, The Services of the Church, Page 81, Business Meetings, to read as follows:

Business Meetings

Church business meetings duly called by the pastor, or the church board in consultation with the pastor, may be held monthly or quarterly according to the needs of the church. Members in regular standing on the roll of the church conducting the business meeting may attend and vote. A quorum consists of those members present and voting at a duly called business meeting. Votes by proxy or letter shall not be accepted. In order to maintain a spirit of close cooperation between the local church and the conference/mission/field, the church shall secure counsel from the conference/mission/field officers on all major matters. The officers (president, secretary, treasurer) of the conference/mission/field to which the church belongs may attend without vote (unless granted by the church) any church business meeting within the conference/mission/field territory. A duly called business meeting of the church is a meeting that has been called at the regular Sabbath worship service, together with proper announcements as to the time and place of the meeting. At such meetings, at which the pastor will preside (or will arrange for the local elder to preside), full information should be given to the congregation regarding the work of the church. At the close of the year, reports should be rendered covering the activities of the church for the entire year and, based on those reports, the church should approve a full plan of action for the next year. When possible, reports and the next year's plan of action should be presented in writing. (See Notes, #9, p. 91.)

SS&PM/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO04AC/04AC to AM-05GCS

460-04GSa PERSONAL MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT, THE -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Auxiliary Organizations of the Church and Their Officers, pages 93 to 95, The Personal Ministries Department, to read as follows:

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The Personal Ministries Department

The Personal Ministries Department provides resources and trains church members to unite their efforts with the ministry and church officers in the final proclamation of the gospel of salvation in Christ. The aim of the department is to enlist every member in active soul-winning service for God.

Personal Ministries Council—The Personal Ministries Council guides the outreach (missionary) efforts of the local church and works under the direction of the church board. The council should meet at least once each month. This council shall consist of the following: Personal Ministries leader (chairperson), Personal Ministries secretary, pastor, an elder, church treasurer, Dorcas Society leader, Dorcas Society secretary, Adventist Men's organization leader, Interest coordinator, Health Ministries leader, Communication secretary, Sabbath School superintendent, Youth leader, coordinator for Ministry to People with Disabilities, Children's Ministries coordinator, Women's Ministries leader, director of Community Services center or Community Services leader, Bible School coordinator, and other members as deemed necessary. The Personal Ministries Council may assign subcommittees for specialized tasks as deemed necessary. All subcommittees report to the Personal Ministries Council. (See Notes, #1, p. 125.)

Personal Ministries Leader—The Personal Ministries leader is elected by the church to lead in training and directing the church in active outreach (missionary) service and is chairperson of the Personal Ministries Council. The Personal Ministries leader may need assistants who would coordinate the Bible Correspondence School, Bible Evangelism, literature distribution, Ingathering, small group ministries, member training, and other forms of evangelism. It is the leader's duty to present to the church, in the monthly Sabbath Personal Ministries service and in the church business meetings, a report on the total outreach (missionary) activities of the church.

Personal Ministries Secretary—No change

Community Services/Dorcas Society—No change

Community Services Center—Where a church operates a Community Services Center, the Personal Ministries Council is the governing committee of the center. The director of the center is appointed by the Personal Ministries Council and is a member of the council. (See Notes, #4, p. 125.)

Adventist Men—Adventist Men is another subsidiary group within the Personal Ministries Department. (See Notes, #3, p. 124.)

~~Community Services Center—Where a church operates a Community Services Center, the Personal Ministries Council is the governing committee of the center. The director of the center is appointed by the Personal Ministries Council and is a member of the council. (See Notes, #4, p. 126.)~~

Ministry to People with Disabilities—No change

Bible School Coordinator—The Bible School coordinator is elected to organize and coordinate the church's Bible School outreach ministry to the local community. The Bible School coordinator should work in close cooperation with the pastor, the Church Interest coordinator and the Personal Ministries leader. (See Notes p. 125.)

SS&PM/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO04AC/04AC to AM

460-04GNb PERSONAL MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT, THE -
CHURCH MANUAL NOTES ADDITION

VOTED, To add Note #5 to the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Auxiliary Organizations of the Church and Their Officers, page 125, which read as follows:

5. Bible School Coordinator—(See p. 95)—Duties of the coordinator include recruiting volunteers, providing training on how to give Bible studies and make visits, ordering Bible correspondence lessons and other supplies and establishing a plan for enrolling students and promoting the school. Bible school lessons are provided through various media including printed Bible studies, small group materials, video and DVD, and the Internet.

NAD/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO04AC/04AC to AM

458-04GNc INVOLVING EVERY MEMBER IN MINISTRY -
CHURCH MANUAL NOTES ADDITION

VOTED, To add a new section, Involving Every Member in Ministry, to the Notes section of the *Church Manual*, page 63.

Involving Every Member in Ministry

1. Involving Every Member in Ministry—The biblical word *laos*, from which we derive the word “laity,” includes the entire people of God, including the clergy. It can be used to mean *associates in ministry*. “Not upon the ordained minister only rests the responsibility of

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going forth to fulfill this commission. Everyone who has received Christ is called to work for the salvation of his fellow men” (The Acts of the Apostles, p. 110).

“But each of us has been given his gift, his due portion of Christ’s bounty. Therefore Scripture says: ‘He ascended into the heights with captives in his train; he gave gifts to men’ (Eph. 4:7, 8). “And these were his gifts: some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip God’s people for work in his service, to the building up of the body of Christ” (Eph. 4:11,12, NEB).

When Jesus went away, the Holy Spirit was given to His followers, bringing to each a gift or gifts for ministering, “distributing to each one individually just as He wills” (1 Cor. 12:11, NASB). Everyone receiving the Holy Spirit receives a ministering gift designated by the Spirit to be used in ministry for Christ. (Portions of this material are quoted from the Seventh-day Adventist Minister’s Handbook, Chapter 11, p 121.)

The Holy Spirit urges us to find a ministry whereby the gift can be used to serve others and attract them to Christ. Under this plan there is no hierarchy. Everyone is a minister performing some ministry for which he or she has been specially gifted.

Gifts-based Ministry—Every church member should be matched with an appropriate ministry as part of the congregation’s overall mission strategy. Some churches may choose to give this assignment to the nominating committee.

New positions, not included in the *Church Manual*, must be approved by the church board prior to nominations being made by the nominating committee. Every name on the church roll should be considered carefully and prayerfully and every member consulted before involving him or her in some ministry role.

The nominating committee may need to function on a regular basis throughout the year, meeting monthly or weekly (depending on the size of the church) to accomplish this assignment. Some churches may identify the nominating committee as the Ministry Development committee and make it clear that there are unusual expectations for the total involvement of all members. If the nominating committee/Ministry Development committee is appointed as a standing committee it must be with the endorsement of the congregation, who will in turn vote to approve its nominees.

The church may choose alternatively to appoint both a nominating committee and a separate Ministry Development committee. The nominating committee would nominate individuals to fill the regular positions identified in the *Church Manual*, while the Ministry Development committee would nominate all other church members to serve in an appropriate ministry.

Curriculum resources, based on a biblical understanding of spiritual gifts, are available to churches which seek to involve every member in ministry. These resources provide specific training and tools for the Ministry Development committee. The curriculum is designed so that it can be used by churches which choose not to have a Ministry Development committee and who decide to use a more traditional approach.

NAD/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO04AC/04AC to AM

458-04GND SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES - *CHURCH MANUAL*
NOTES ADDITION

VOTED, To add a new section, Small Group Ministries, to the Notes section of the *Church Manual*, page 63.

Small Group Ministries

2. Small Group Ministries—Moses organized Israel into groups of ten (Ex. 18). Jesus chose a group of twelve and spent most of His ministry with them. He often taught in private homes (Matt. 13:36, 17:25; Mark 9:33, 10:10). The New Testament church centered its activities on small groups, in fellowship, study, sharing, praying, and eating together (Acts 2:42, 46).

In North America and many other parts of the world, the Seventh-day Adventist Church began with local churches that were small, informal groups and met in homes. Ellen G. White emphasizes, “The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort is a plan that has been presented before me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members but for unbelievers also” (Evangelism, p 115).

As early as 1871 she wrote specific instructions on “How to Conduct Meetings,” that were the same in purpose and procedure as small group ministries today. (See *Review and Herald*, May 30, 1871: reprinted in *Testimonies*, vol. 2, pp. 577-582.)

The life of the body is in its cells. If the cell dies, the body eventually dies. If the cells are healthy, the body is healthy. When the cells multiply, the body grows. A study of church movements shows that every major revival has been influenced by a ready access to the Bible and the gathering of believers in small, intimate groups.

Bible Study Fellowships

Purpose—Bible study fellowships aim to both revive members and attract nonmembers. They provide an excellent means of reconnecting with inactive members. A strong emphasis of such groups is fellowship. Both the small size and the informal setting are more conducive to fellowship than the regular church setting. Even individuals not ready to identify with the church feel comfortable in the nonthreatening atmosphere of a small group.

Format—Groups should be no smaller than four or larger than fifteen. They should meet regularly—weekly, bi-weekly or at least monthly. They may meet in homes, at a workplace or meeting rooms in the community. Meetings normally last an hour or two and typically include three parts:

1. **Sharing:** The group should schedule their sharing time at the beginning of each meeting. The sharing of joys, blessings, and disappointments is a natural way to begin a meeting. It relieves tensions, provides honest affirmation, and creates a warm spirit. Dialogue is the key to success. No one must be allowed to dominate the group.

2. **Bible study:** The group may choose a book of the Bible or use a study guide for Bible study. Members study agreed sections of the material during the week, and discuss it with the group at the meetings. The leader probes for answers to such questions as “What does the author say in this text?” and “What does God say to me through this passage?”

3. **Prayer:** The group compiles a list of prayer topics, including requests and praises. It is important that they pray for one another, as well as specific projects that the group may be involved or interested in. Time should be allowed for short prayers by each person who wishes to participate.

Ministry Groups

Small groups may meet at the church and be made up of individuals with special interests. Example groups include but are not limited to persons interested in—family life, parenting, coping with life, and Bible study classes covering physical, mental, and spiritual health. Classes may also be established in the Sabbath School as support groups for individuals with specific needs as well as activity groups.

Mission Groups

Small groups may be sponsored by a local church as the first step in beginning work in a previously unentered community in the same way that branch Sabbath Schools and cottage meetings have been used by Seventh-day Adventists since the 19th century.

A small group which gathers in a home for Bible study, fellowship and worship requires little if any funding, and removes the barrier of cost from advancing the mission of the Church. Where the conference cannot afford to fund additional pastors, mission groups throughout a metropolitan area or rural region can continue to be affiliated with an established church. Small group leaders function under supervision of the district pastor.

How to Begin

The Personal Ministries Council normally initiates small group ministries and the church board gives final approval to the program and the appointment of leaders. This is a safeguard against the development of offshoot groups.

The pastor does not need to be a permanent member of any group. The pastor's greatest contribution is in recruiting and training leaders from among church members. These lay leaders invite friends, acquaintances, and neighbors to join their groups.

At the first meeting there should be a written statement or group agreement which explains the goals of the group and the ground rules. The group should be asked to help shape this brief, concise document (usually not more than one page). It would typically include an agreement to meet weekly for a specified number of weeks (6, 10, 13 or 26, for example), attend every meeting unless ill or out of town, read the assigned material between meetings, protect confidences, refrain from negative statements about other people or organizations, and invite others into the group. Those unable to support the agreement should be allowed to withdraw gracefully.

PREXAD03/PreC03/GCDO03AC/PREXAD04/Con&By/ADCOM/PreC04AC/GCDO04AC/
04AC to LCC-05GCS

533-04GS GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS - CONSTITUTION
AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Rationale for Amending Constitutional Provisions for General Conference Session Delegations

Current constitutional provisions limit the size of a General Conference Session delegation to 2,000 persons. Delegate quotas are determined by a variety of factors such as an entity's membership as a proportion of world membership, the number of organizational structures (union conferences/missions, local conferences/missions, division institutions, etc.). Some delegate quotas are specified in the constitution (e.g. each division receives ten delegates

in the delegates at large classification). A portion of the delegate seats are allocated at the discretion of the General Conference Executive Committee.

Under the current constitution an increase in the number of organizational units requires a decrease in the number of delegate seats that can be allocated on the basis of membership. Consequently there have been requests to amend the constitution in such a way as to allow these parameters, membership and organizational structure, to be addressed separately in the composition of a General Conference Session delegation.

A General Conference Session is convened for a specific agenda of Church business. The larger the delegation the more cumbersome the process of conducting the business of a Session. At the same time, there is a unifying value for delegates and a large number of guests to experience the worldwide fellowship that a Session provides. The growth in membership and the high value given to unity in the Church is presented as sufficient reason to consider a gradual growth in a Session delegation.

The following proposal was developed at the request of General Conference and division leadership. If approved at the 2005 General Conference Session, these amendments to the General Conference Constitution would affect the 2010 General Conference Session. The following changes are proposed:

1. Remove the numerical limit, currently 2,000, to the overall size of a General Conference Session delegation.
2. Place a numerical limit on certain segments of the delegation.
3. Limit, to less than 15 percent, the increase in numbers of delegates from those categories unaffected by growth in the number of organizational units.
4. Introduce a differentiation between organizational units having conference status and those with mission or equivalent status.
5. Continue the requirement that significant representation in the delegation shall be chosen from laypersons, pastors, teachers, and nonadministrative employees, of both genders, and representing a range of age groups and nationalities.
6. Increase, from the current level of ten, the number of delegate selections available to a division.
7. Reclassify division institution delegates as at large rather than regular delegates.

RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution, Article V—General Conference Sessions, to read as follows:

ARTICLE V—GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Sec. 1. The General Conference shall hold quinquennial sessions – No change

Sec. 2. The Executive Committee may call special sessions – No change

Sec. 3. The election of officers and the voting – No change

Sec. 4. The delegates to a General Conference Session shall be designated as follows:

a. Regular delegates ~~delegates, not to exceed 1,240.~~

b. Delegates at large ~~large, not to exceed 760.~~

c. In case of financial exigency or other major crisis within the Church or in the international arena, the Executive Committee may take an action to reduce the maximum number of delegates to a particular General Conference Session. Such reduction shall then be ~~applied, in the proportions indicated above,~~ applied to both regular delegates and delegates at large.

Sec. 5. Regular delegates shall represent – No change

Sec. 6. Regular delegates shall be allotted on the following basis:

a. ~~Twelve initial delegates for each division without regard to membership.~~

b. ~~Each division shall be entitled to additional delegates corresponding to the number of division institutions within its territory.~~

e. a. ~~Each union conference and union mission having division affiliation, or directly attached to the General Conference, shall be entitled to one delegate~~ two delegates other than its president (who is a delegate at large) without regard to membership.

b. Each union mission having division affiliation or directly attached to the General Conference, shall be entitled to one delegate other than its president (who is a delegate at large) without regard to membership.

~~d. Each union conference and union mission directly attached to the General Conference shall be entitled to one delegate two delegates other than its president (who is a delegate at large) without regard to membership.~~

~~e. c. Each conference and mission* having union affiliation affiliation, or directly attached to a division or the General Conference, shall be entitled to one delegate two delegates without regard to membership.~~

~~d. Each local mission* having union affiliation, or directly attached to a division or the General Conference, shall be entitled to one delegate without regard to membership.~~

~~f. Each union of churches, conference, and mission* directly attached to the division shall be entitled to one delegate without regard to membership.~~

~~g. Each union of churches, conference, and mission* directly attached to the General Conference shall be entitled to one delegate without regard to membership.~~

~~e. Each union of churches, attached either to a division or to the General Conference, shall be entitled to one delegate without regard to membership.~~

~~h. f. Each division shall be entitled to additional delegates based upon its membership as a proportion of the world Church membership. The total number of delegates from all divisions under this provision shall not exceed 400, the difference between 1,240 and the total number of delegates provided for under Sec. 6. a. to Sec. 6. g.~~

~~i. g. Delegates from each division, provided for under Sec. 6. a. and Sec. 6. h. Sec. 6. f., shall be allotted to the union conferences and union missions that are affiliated with that division, based on each union's proportion of the division membership. Any unallocated delegate entitlements under this process shall be allocated at the discretion of the division executive committee.~~

~~j. h. Unused quotas of regular delegates allocated to unions may be reallocated by the divisions.~~

*In several areas of the world, local field units not holding conference status may be classified with terminology other than "mission." For the purposes of Article V, Sec. 6., such field units may be considered equivalent to a mission provided they have two or more officers and an executive committee and observe a schedule of regular constituency meetings.

Sec. 7. Delegates at large shall represent the General Conference, General Conference institutions, its divisions, divisions of the General Conference, and its organizations division institutions and shall be appointed on the following basis:

- a. All members of the Executive Committee.
- b. Associate directors/secretaries of General Conference departments and associations.
- c. Twenty delegates from General Conference appointed staff – No change
- d. ~~Ten~~ Twenty delegates for each division.
- e. Each division shall be entitled to additional delegates corresponding to the number of division institutions within its territory.
- e. f. Those representatives of the General Conference and division institutions and other entities, and those employees, field secretaries, laypersons, and pastors who are selected by the Executive Committees of the General Conference and its divisions. The number of these delegates shall be 300, ~~determined as the difference between the sum of all the other categories of delegates at large, and 760.~~

Sec. 8. Division administrations shall consult with unions to ensure that the entire division delegation shall be comprised of Seventh-day Adventists in regular standing, at least 50 percent of whom shall be laypersons, pastors, teachers, and nonadministrative employees, of both genders, and representing a range of age groups and nationalities. The majority of the above 50 percent shall be laypersons. Delegate selections from General Conference and division ~~institutions~~ institutions, and those selected under Sec. 7.d. above, shall not be required to satisfy the quota for laity.

Sec. 9. Credentials to sessions shall be issued – No change

Sec. 10. Calculations for all delegate allotments – No change

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY - REPORT

John Graz, Director of the General Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department, presented the following report:

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The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) Department is one of the oldest departments of the General Conference. It was organized in 1901 with two objectives: Religious liberty, which was already a tradition in our Church, and Public Affairs, which means relations with authorities and governments.

As our church is a minority everywhere, it is essential to build bridges with others and make ourselves known. Why? Because prejudice is strong when a religious group is not known, and this could affect our work and threaten our institutions. Legislation may be voted which will restrain or totally freeze our growth.

We have developed a great network of relations and increased our presence in the United Nations, the United States Capitol, the government, and among religious leaders. The network of friends we have built has been very helpful in solving problems for the Church.

I want to thank the divisions and unions for the great work they have done and the progress which has been made, but we still have a lot to do to become effective everywhere. I would like to share with you four concerns:

1. Our department is weak in too many conferences and unions.
2. More and more Adventist students and employees face their Sabbath problems alone.
3. More and more Adventists students and employees work or take their examinations on Saturday.
4. Anti-proselytism legislation is coming in several countries and it is a serious trend.

These four concerns can affect us and the way we spread our message. Please take them seriously, as the times are not getting easier for us and our members. Our members need to know that we care and we need to do things to help them.

Be Sure!

1. Be sure you have a qualified person in every country who represents the church to the authorities and is able to serve as an active ambassador of the church.
2. Be sure that your ambassador shares information with the president and prepares meetings.

3. Be sure you have someone to handle the Sabbath problems of students and employees.

4. Be sure you have someone who is able to understand legislation, propose change, advise the government, and work with a coalition.

We cannot do all these things in one day. This is a serious work. Think about firefighters. When I was young I lived in a village. They did not want to have regular firefighters. It was too expensive and they had a few volunteers. It was too expensive to have a permanent team when there were no fires. One day a fire started on a farm. People in the village tried to help and they called the city for assistance. It took time to get the volunteers to the fire, some of them were drunk, and their equipment was old and obsolete. When they arrived at the fire the farm was already burned. It was too late!

“We are not doing the will of God if we sit in quietude, doing nothing to preserve liberty of conscience. Fervent, effectual prayer should be ascending to heaven that this calamity may be deferred until we can accomplish the work which has so long been neglected. Let there be more earnest prayer; and then let us work in harmony with our prayers.”—5T 713, 714

Closing prayer was offered by Claritza O Heyaime de Jimenez, a professor from the Dominican Republic representing the Inter-American Division as a lay representative.

Ted N C Wilson, Chairman
Vernon B Parmenter, Secretary
Larry R Evans, Editorial Secretary
Lissy Park, Recording Secretary

ANNUAL COUNCIL

GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 14, 2004, 9:00 a.m.

DEVOTIONAL

The devotional message entitled "The Witness of Truth: Engaging Minds—Touching Hearts" was presented by Michael Tucker, Speaker and Director, *Faith for Today*. Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version unless stated otherwise.

I would like to take just a moment or two to explain to you a little bit about our plans. You see, *Faith for Today* has been about forming relationships with people. Meeting needs, finding men and women where they are, mingling among them, understanding what their needs are, doing our best to meet those needs and then, as we build a relationship, eventually bringing those men and women to a point where we can introduce Jesus Christ to them. We do that through a continuum of programs. Many of you are familiar with *Lifestyle Magazine*. *Lifestyle Magazine* has been around for a few years. It started off as *Christian Lifestyle Magazine* and is known now as *Lifestyle Magazine*.

George Barna did some research in the United States of America and discovered what it would take to get unchurched people to visit a church. The people Barna contacted indicated three things: "If the church could help me with my relationships with my wife and with my children, my interpersonal relationships, I might visit a church." That was number one. Number two, "If a church would help me with my personal finances, I might visit a church." And number three, "If a church could help me live healthier, and have a better lifestyle, I might visit a church." These are the three areas that *Lifestyle Magazine* is going to focus on. These are the three most important needs expressed by the unchurched.

Once we have the confidence of our viewers, when we have met some of their needs, if they express an interest, we go to part two, a program called *The Evidence*. Dwight Nelson has been the host of *The Evidence*. The first call that I made when I accepted this position was to Nelson asking him whether or not he would continue as host of *The Evidence*. He has graciously consented to do just that. *The Evidence* is apologetics. It speaks to minds. It is a program which says that there is a reason to believe in the existence of a God. There is a reason to believe that God exists. We look at evidence from science, from psychology, from the lives of men and women which point to the possibility that God exists. No one explains that better than Dwight Nelson. He has from this ministry been led to London to have a series of meetings. And I believe next month he plans to go to Tokyo.

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Just recently Nelson was asked to host a two-hour special on the Trinity Broadcasting Network, a worldwide network. He was asked to host their two-hour flagship show, *Praise The Lord*. And so, Thursday night this week Nelson hosted a two-hour *Praise The Lord* program. It was an Evidence-styled program where we brought in scientists and other individuals and talked about reasons to believe in the existence of a God. He interviewed people with PhD's who had been agnostics but then had been led to Christianity and to believe in the existence of God and to put their trust in God. We are getting email messages from all around the world, thanking us for that program. We praise the Lord for that.

Lifestyle Magazine, *The Evidence*, and *McDougal MD*, which of course addresses health issues exclusively, are all that exist now. All three are playing every week on Trinity. Trinity likes these programs so much that they play them without a charge to us. We get an hour and a half a week, using those programs. To pay for a half an hour on Trinity would probably run between eight and twelve maybe sixteen thousand dollars a week. This is given to us three times a week without charge because of the quality of our programming. We praise God for this. In fact, they have told us recently that if we have a fourth program, they want to look at it. That is just what we are planning to do.

Let me share with you some of our new programs. Connie Vandeman Jeffery, daughter of George Vandeman, has put together a pilot for a program called *Keeping the Faith*. Using an interview-type program, it interviews women who have kept their faith in Jesus Christ through trying times. Their faith has seen them through difficult times. I have seen the pilot for this and it is excellent. We are now raising money in order to go into full production and this is one of the programs we plan to offer to Trinity. It speaks of the existence of God from the life of women who have found Him, who have held onto Him in difficult times. We are excited about this program.

Another program that we are going to create is *Faith for Kids*. In the United States of America, eighty-five percent of the people who sit in a church pew on Sabbath or Sunday morning, made their decision for Christ between the ages of five and twelve. Were you aware of that? Now we do a lot as a denomination for that age group with Christian Schools, Sabbath Schools, Vacation Bible Schools, Junior camps, and Pathfinders. I am not aware of much in broadcasting ministry for this age group. *Faith for Kids* is a fast-moving program which is designed to reach ages four to eight with the gospel. We are going to present stories from the Bible in an entertaining and energetic way to lead young people to Christ. We want to couple that with an interactive web page where parents can go and download stories to read to their children at night. We are really excited about what God has in store for *Faith for Kids*.

All of these are important programs, because they touch people where they are with their needs, but there is one more step. If there has been a weakness in *Faith for Today's* programming, it has been what we do with people once we catch their attention. After that, where do they go? What we would like to do is to have one more element which closes the circle of evangelism. This would give people an opportunity not just to receive Christ as Saviour, but also to come into full church fellowship. This program is simply going to be called *Faith for Today*, and it is our church-based program. It is a preaching service. It is a contemporary worship service, and we are going to put this together in 30-minute programs. It is not just going to be preaching. There will be a title block in the role-in of credits and a welcome to *Faith for Today* is being taped at Arlington Seventh-day Adventist Church. Then we will introduce the question of the day. That is how we do it at my church. We preach expositively through the Bible, but from each passage we choose a basic theme that Scripture reveals to us and based on that theme we introduce worship by asking a question of the worshippers.

We are going to ask that question of the viewers. Then we are going to take cameras out on the streets and get the interviews and roll in the tape as people answer the questions. From there we will go to music and half of the sermon. The sermons are being written now in such a way that there is a natural break. Each half will stand on its own as we answer the question from Scripture that we are asking on that particular morning. In fact, if you would not mind I asked our production department to put together a five-minute video clip and they are going to play that for us right now.

A short video was presented at this time.

The worship service is gospel-centered, Scripture-based, hope-filled, and focused on grace. That has been the focus of our preaching, expository but focusing on the gospel and focusing on the grace of God. There are standing orders for my staff and me and that is this: After we have written a sermon, we are to read it through. If we do not find grace, we are to tear it up and start again because we have missed the point. The point is always the grace of God. We are to be merchants of mercy, dispensers of grace. That is what the church is.

A group of people were sitting around in England discussing what it was that Christianity had that was different from any other religion. They argued back and forth among themselves and they really could not find anything. C S Lewis walked into the room, asked what they were talking about and they said, "We are looking for something that Christianity has that no other religion has." C S Lewis said, "Oh, that is easy, it is grace." He turned and walked out of the room; professors looked at each other and realized that he was right. The one thing we have to offer the world they cannot find anywhere else is the grace of God.

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Faith for Today is about meeting needs and helping people with finances, with health, and with relationships. When that help is presented in the love of Christ, we have the opportunity to take the next step and offer people the only thing they cannot get any where else. That is God's grace—God's grace that forgives you, God's grace that forgives me—the grace that has changed lives. When the Church has failed to focus on this, we have missed our calling. When we have made grace the center, this is when we are doing what Jesus has called us to do. Whether we are preaching the Sabbath, the Second Coming, the twenty-three hundred days, the prophecies of Revelation, it matters not. If grace cannot be found, we miss the point.

This is the message that we have preached at the church in Arlington. Our congregation is primarily boomers and younger—many twenty- and thirty-something's, young families, and many children. We have a membership of about sixteen hundred members with an average attendance of between thirteen and fourteen hundred a week. One person told me, "You know, I use to go away from church feeling beat up. Now, I go away knowing that there is hope for me." That seems to be the message that draws them. It is the message that Jesus preached. It is the message that consistently and persistently was preached by Jesus. There is hope for you no matter how dark your sin. There is hope for you, no matter how deep or how big the storm of your life. There is hope for you and the hope is found in the blood Jesus. There is hope for you. You can be forgiven. You can be accepted. You can be received by a loving God. You can be loved by God.

This is our message. I find it in Revelation 14. We believe that we are a movement that has been called to preach the Three Angels' Messages. Our focus today is primarily on the first angel's message. There is a time when we will focus more heavily on the second and third. We preach all three today, but we focus primarily on the first angel's message. When I studied this again, it is amazing how God took shackles off me. You probably have already seen this, but I did not see it until later in my ministry. Revelation 14, verse 6, "Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue and people—saying with a loud voice, 'Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the seas and springs of water.'"

Notice what the angel had to preach. He had to preach the "everlasting gospel." What is that? Well, unless I have missed it, the everlasting gospel is simply this. It is the message that Jesus Christ offers to you as a free gift. That is the gift of salvation. Something you cannot earn or deserve, something which He lovingly offers to you on the basis of His sacrifice. I give you a gift. My good works can do nothing to add towards that because He has given me a gift. Guess what? He does not lead me in my sins. He sanctifies me. I became obedient to Him. That is the

path of discipleship, is it not? That is what it means to become a disciple, a fully devoted self-replicating follower of Jesus Christ. That is a good definition for a disciple. Fully devoted, self-replicating, follower of Jesus Christ. That is what He does to me, but you know what? That does not happen until I have received the gift, until I have received the everlasting gospel, until I can know for sure that my salvation is secure in Jesus Christ. I trust Him today for that and He has granted me this gift. That is the message of the first angel. That is our primary message today.

Now it goes on to say, "Fear God and give glory to Him." That is worship. "The hour of His judgment has come." By the way, I believe we have this right. "The hour of His judgment has come" refers to the judgment spoken of in Daniel 8 and 9, the preadvent judgment of the saints sometimes called the Investigative Judgment. Who is judged during that judgment? Only one group of people and that is the saints—those who receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, those who call upon His name. The only people interested in this judgment are those who have received Him and they are looking forward to it. We anticipate it. We enjoy it. We bask in it today because our names are going to be vindicated.

Everyone who comes up during that judgment is vindicated because their life is covered by the blood of Jesus. It is not bad news, but we are the only ones really interested in this because we are the ones whose names are being brought up. We are the ones being vindicated. Because of this, it says, "And worship Him who made heaven and earth." You see, the key to this message is about the gospel and is about worshiping God. The judgment is almost a caveat. It is only there because we have received the gospel and because we give glory to God. We are being vindicated in the judgment even now as we speak. That is the work of Jesus Christ in the most holy place in the heavenly sanctuary.

Our focus is on the gospel and upon worshiping the God that saves us. I think that is the message of this Church. Everything else, including the Sabbath, fits into that. The state of the dead only has significance because we worship a God who saves us. That is the only reason it is important. We can be great Sabbath keepers and lose out on eternity because we missed the gospel. What a tragedy. Because we have the gospel, the Sabbath becomes so precious, so glorious, so wonderful. The state of the dead, soul sleep, really becomes important because we know that eventually there will be a reunion for those who have trusted Jesus. It goes back to the gospel.

Let me tell you about a couple that came to me for marital counseling. I had known the couple for years. In fact I watched them grow up and they had one of the most dysfunctional marriages I think I had ever seen. He was harsh, cold, rigid, legalistic, and there was no grace in

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him. He had driven out of his wife's heart the love she once had for him. Years before she had an affair, had been found out, and repented of it. He said he forgave her but he really did not and treated her even more cruelly and harshly. He said he had forgiven her but the more he stewed about it the angrier he became and finally he decided he would get even. He would have his own affair. He set out to do just that and was successful. He succeeded in having an affair. She suspected it, challenged him on it but he denied it. When she pointed to evidence, he said, "Well yes, we have a very close friendship but that is all." The husband and wife came to me for counseling and as we talked I knew the truth because I had other sources. I knew that he was involved in an affair but I could not reveal that through the counseling. I kept pressing him. Finally I gave him a book to read. It was a book on the grace of God. He said, "Why should I read this when we have marriage problems." I said "No, I think your problems are deeper than marriage. I just want you to read this book."

He read the book and slowly but surely I saw a change. In fact, his wife noticed that there was a change in how he was treating her. In one session he confessed everything to her. It was a full disclosure, and he begged her for forgiveness. She said that she would forgive him. And all of a sudden the marriage took on a brand new dynamic.

After a few weeks of this, she came to me, she said, "I am worried."

I said "Why are you worried."

"Well, this is always the man I have wanted to be married to but he never was. He is so gracious, so loving, so kind, so tender. I am worried that we are going to go back to the old style. I am just afraid this will not last."

He was sitting there and he said, "Well, I do not know what to tell you."

I said, "What can you tell your wife to give her courage, to give her hope that this will last?"

As he thought about it, I saw the tears in his eyes. He was starting to weep, and I said, "You have been converted, haven't you? You have received Christ as your Saviour. You have found grace." He said, "Yes I have. And I can never ever go back."

The wife was still concerned, "Shouldn't we do psychotherapy? I think he has some bad things from his past."

I said, "Do you trust God or Freud?"

She said, "You have a point."

That was four years ago. This couple has been married for twenty years now. The grace of God has changed their lives completely. I see that happen day after day, week after week. Nothing changes people like the power of the gospel. I would hope that you would pray for us, because our task, we believe, is not just to meet felt needs, as important as that is. Ellen White tells us that, "Christ's methods alone will have true success. Christ mingled among the people as one who desired their good, showed them his sympathy and then bade them follow me." That is the style of *Faith for Today* evangelism. We mingle among them as one desiring their good. We show tender sympathy towards them. We meet their needs and then we invite them to follow Jesus Christ. And you do that only by presenting the cross. You present the gospel. That is our desire. That is our plan. That is how we do business so I solicit your prayers as we present the gospel. Our message is Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Jan Paulsen, Chairman, called to order the ninth session of the 2004 Annual Council.

Prayer was offered by James Sze Fai Wu, President of the Chinese Union Mission.

TRE/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

586-04G FINANCIAL PLANNING AND BUDGETING PROCESS
(GENERAL FINANCIAL POLICIES) - POLICY ADDITION

VOTED, To add a new section GC S 05 15, Financial Planning and Budgeting Process, to read as follows:

S 05 15 Financial Planning and Budgeting Process—Each organization shall have a mission driven, broadly based consultative financial planning and budgeting process with a committee structure that can give detailed review to the ongoing financial planning and budgeting for the organization. In some cases, this may take the form of a finance committee and yet in other cases, the organization may be small enough that the process is handled directly by the governing body involved. If the organization's controlling committee establishes a separate committee for this purpose, the responsibilities should include reviewing budget requests and the careful review of the annual operating budget as well as a review of the organization's financial position as reflected in the financial statements. The approval of the budget and the review of the organization's financial statements would then be recommended to the controlling committee for action.

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TRE/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/TreC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

611-04G FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (GENERAL FINANCIAL
POLICIES) - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC S 15, Financial Responsibility, to read as follows:

S 15 05 Debt Control—1. Cash Basis—All denominational organizations shall be conducted on available funds and no further debts shall be incurred except in situations provided for in this policy. However, organizations are advised to conduct their financial business without borrowing as far as possible.

2. Enlargement of Facilities – No change
3. Borrowing for Reinvesting – No change
4. Loans – No change

5. Borrowing for Relending—No organization shall borrow money to relend to ~~churches~~ except through a denominational revolving fund or similar method as approved by the division executive committee. ~~fund, and no church shall borrow money for church building purposes except as hereinafter provided.~~

S 15 10 Capital Projects Approval and Financing—Each division executive committee shall develop a policy outlining the approval process for capital projects and financing requirements. The policy must be approved by the General Conference Executive Committee and is to be developed within the following guidelines and limitations:

1. The policy shall include criteria clearly outlining the maximum value of projects that may be approved by each organization. This may be defined in terms of organizational level (local conference/mission*, union conference/mission, institution, or division), as a percentage of the annual budget of the organization or some similar measure of financial capacity.

2. Organizations contemplating capital projects (purchasing buildings, renovating facilities, or new construction) shall be cautioned against undertaking financial obligations that would embarrass the organization.

3. In special cases in countries where in the judgment of the division executive committee it is deemed advisable, an organization may be authorized to borrow funds for capital

* In several areas of the world, local field units not holding conference status may be classified with terminology other than “mission.”

projects. In cases where borrowing is permitted the policy is to include borrowing guidelines that clearly define the maximum percentage of borrowing permitted on any project and cash requirements before commencement of the project. The policy may set a single maximum percentage of borrowing for all capital projects or may outline different maximums for different categories of capital projects (i.e. conference offices, employee housing, primary schools, secondary schools, churches, etc.). The maximum percentage of borrowing, if permitted, should take into consideration the difference between revenue-generating projects, projects that will be funded from ongoing operations, and projects that must be funded from donations or contributions.

4. Normally, if borrowing is permitted, the borrowing should only be secured by the assets of the organization requesting the loan. The policy should outline the approval process required if any loan is to be guaranteed by assets of any organization other than the one requesting the loan. Divisions may not guarantee any loans of subsidiary organizations without permission of the General Conference Executive Committee.

5. The capital project approval process shall be as follows:

a. The General Conference policies shall cover the authorization and granting of approval for capital projects and financing for the General Conference properties, General Conference institutions, and division headquarters offices. (The General Conference Administrative Committee will develop guidelines for General Conference institutions for use until the 2005 Annual Council when policies can be voted for General Conference institutions that take into account the policies of the host divisions.)

b. The division policies shall cover the authorization and granting of approval for capital projects and financing for the division (except division office buildings), division institutions, union conference/mission, local conference/mission, local churches, and other subsidiary organizations.

~~S-15-10 Church Buildings—1. Churches contemplating either the purchase or the erection of church buildings shall be cautioned against undertaking financial obligations that would embarrass the membership. When for any reason a congregation decides to buy or build a new church home, its building should not be vacated or disposed of unless provision has been made to house the congregation until the new building is erected or purchased. In all building undertakings, local and union committees shall give careful counsel in each case, taking into consideration the size of the congregation, its financial strength, and the location of the property.~~

~~2. In the purchase or building of church facilities, in no case shall commitments be made or building operations be commenced until—~~

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a. ~~Fifty percent of the entire cost of the building, including initial furnishings, is in hand in cash or in readily convertible assets, and provision satisfactory to the responsible authorizing committee for securing the remaining 50 percent has been made. In the case of construction, the work shall proceed and obligations shall be incurred only as funds are available.~~

b. ~~In special cases in home bases where in the judgment of authorizing boards and committees it is deemed advisable, a church may be authorized to borrow up to 50 percent of the cost of completing the current stage of its building project, provided a definite program for the liquidation of the loan has been underwritten by the local and union conferences/missions concerned and approved by the authorizing committees.~~

e. ~~In cases in which it is practicable to occupy church buildings before the contemplated project is entirely completed, authorization may be given for the work of construction to be undertaken in stages, provided the project has been underwritten by the local and union conferences/missions concerned and approved by the authorizing committees with the provision that construction will not proceed except as funds are available.~~

~~S 15-15 Land, Building, and Improvements—1. Land and Building Policy—In each division a land and building control policy shall be developed by the division committee. This policy shall indicate the conditions under which projects shall be approved by local and union conference/mission committees without division approval and also set forth requirements for documentation of title, plans, methods, and conditions under which the approval of the division committee is required.~~

2. ~~Cash Requirement—For institutional and conference building projects and improvements, the full amount of the funds needed shall be in hand before commitments are entered into, except that in cases of extreme necessity in union and local conferences, building operations may be started when 50 percent of the entire cost of the building is in hand in cash, and provision satisfactory to the responsible authorizing committee for securing the remaining 50 percent has been made. In the case of construction, the work shall proceed and obligations shall be incurred only as funds are available. In all cases where the 50 percent is not in hand, this amount shall be underwritten by the local and union conferences/missions concerned and the plan approved by the authorizing committees.~~

3. ~~Multiple Units—In the case of a building expansion program involving one or more units in one of the larger institutions, the budget and the plan for the building program for each unit shall be submitted to the controlling committees for approval before commitments are made. Such budgets shall provide for the full amount of funds required to complete the project by cash in hand or by yearly budgetary appropriations underwritten by the local and union conferences/missions or division concerned. Construction shall proceed and obligations shall be~~

~~incurred only as funds are available. When it is necessary to use the provisions of paragraph 1., the 50 percent provision may be applied to each unit, and each unit's borrowing shall be liquidated before the next construction is undertaken.~~

~~4. General Conference Approval/Review—Projects shall be referred to the General Conference Administrative Committee for approval or review and counsel prior to the beginning of construction when such financial plans for building projects, when completed, involve borrowing of more than US\$750,000 or require funding from General Conference Appropriations of more than US\$750,000.~~

~~5. Cost Estimates—Cost estimates from the project's architect concerning contemplated building improvement projects shall be submitted for approval by the appropriate committees. The estimated operating expenses of the new facility shall also be submitted to the next higher organization.~~

~~6. Payment of Existing Indebtedness—Any plans for institutional expansion shall include provision for the payment of any existing indebtedness within the period of time over which the building or expansion program is financed and shall become a part of that plan.~~

~~7. Property Purchases—When buildings are purchased, the same guidelines shall be followed.~~

~~S-15-20 S 15 15 Financial Control—1. Responsibility—The chief responsibility for the day-to-day operation of an organization rests with the officers of the organization. However, members of the board represent the constituency concerned and are responsible for the financial viability of the organization.~~

~~2. Financial Reports—In order that executive committees, managing boards, and responsible officers may be kept fully informed concerning the operations under their control, monthly financial statements shall be furnished to the members of the responsible boards and committees and to the officers of the next higher organizations. Financial statements of institutions shall be furnished also to the directors of the next higher organizations concerned. Monthly statements of the divisions shall be sent to the General Conference Treasury.~~

~~3. Operating Deficits—When any organization shows in its monthly or yearly statements that it is not operating within its income, it is the responsibility of the committee or board that directs the organization to take immediate steps for correcting the situation. When such conditions exist, the higher organizations shall give counsel and guidance in resolving the difficulty.~~

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4. Provision for Losses—An organization closing a financial year, and having incurred an operating deficit and/or a decrease to net worth during the year, shall make provision for covering such losses in the preparation of the budgets for the ensuing years if the available working capital is less than 100 percent of the requirement and the liquid assets on hand are inadequate to cover current liabilities and allocated funds.

~~S 15 25~~ S 15 20 Emergency Loans—A union conference/mission, local conference/mission, or institution may not borrow or authorize the borrowing of money to meet emergency situations without the approval of the division.

TRE/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/TreC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

585-04G COMPENSATION REVIEW COMMITTEE - NEW POLICY

VOTED, To adopt a new policy GC S 20, Compensation Review Committee, which reads as follows:

S 20 Compensation Review Committee

S 20 05 Compensation Review Committee—The denominational organization's controlling committee is responsible for monitoring compliance with compensation policies and being fully informed of compensation practices within its organizations. In the interest of transparency and full disclosure, each organization shall establish a compensation review process that complies with the following:

1. Compensation Review Committee—Each organization's controlling committee is to appoint a Compensation Review Committee (formerly referred to as Salary Audit Committee) comprised of members of the controlling committee.

a. The committee is to be composed of a majority of individuals who are not employees of the organization being reviewed and shall include any representatives present from the higher organization. The committee is to be chaired by a representative from the higher organization or a member of the controlling committee who is not an employee of the organization being reviewed.

b. The function of the committee is to review at a minimum the compensation and allowances/benefits actually paid to all elected or board-appointed personnel during the previous year and to review such for reasonableness and compliance with denominational policy for the entity involved as well as asking for clarification on any unusual items of compensation or allowances/benefits actually paid during the previous year.

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Documentation is to be presented to the committee in a format that allows for meaningful review. The normal format is a spreadsheet presentation with separate columns for base salary, bonuses or contracted compensation, and for each allowance/benefit identifiable by individual. Other presentation formats may be used as long as they detail the allowances/benefits separately and not as a single lump sum. All compensation or allowances/benefits (with the exclusion of health care assistance detailed by employee name) are to be included.

c. Except for organizations included under paragraph 2. below, the report to the governing committee/board would not include individual details but only a statement that the committee has met and reviewed the information.

2. For organizations who follow the provisions of Y 05 05, paragraph 10., ~~10~~, Variations for Commercial Business Organizations, the controlling committee has the responsibility to ensure compliance with the policy and therefore each year the controlling committee is to receive a complete report of the actual salary and allowances/benefits (detailed separately including retirement contributions identifiable on an individual basis, value of insurance policies, etc.) paid to the officers of the organization.

3. The setting of individual salary percentages/rates for the next year would not normally be part of the responsibilities of the Compensation Review Committee. However, the organization may, if it chooses, delegate this administrative responsibility to the committee.

TRE/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/TreC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

536-04G REMITTANCES TO GENERAL CONFERENCE
(GENERAL FINANCIAL POLICIES) – POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC S 20 10, Remittances to General Conference, to read as follows:

S 20 10 Remittances to General Conference—Tithe and mission offerings are reported to the General Conference treasury each month by each division treasurer. ~~treasurer outside the North American Division and by each union treasurer in the North American Division.~~ The reports and remittances ~~in~~ from the North American Division shall reach the treasurer's office not later than the ~~twentieth~~ twenty-fifth of the succeeding month, and those from ~~overseas~~ other divisions by the twentieth of the second succeeding month.

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397-04G AUDIT OF FINANCIAL RECORDS OF LOCAL
CHURCHES AND SMALL ORGANIZATIONS - POLICY
AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC SA 10, Audit of Financial Records of Local Churches and Small Organizations, to read as follows:

SA 10 ~~Audit~~ Audit/Financial Review of Financial Records
of Local Churches and Small Organizations

SA 10 05 Responsibility for Audits—Compliance audits of local church records and ~~other designated small units~~ small organizations (see SA 10 10) as detailed below below, shall be conducted annually by competent individuals employed by the local conference/ field/mission-conference/mission/field. In situations where it is not feasible to perform the audit/financial review on an annual basis, other arrangements may be put in place so that on a regular cycle as determined by the division, normally not to exceed a two-year period, an audit/financial review will be done. For the years that the conference/mission/field is not able to provide an audit/financial review, arrangements may be made for qualified individuals to provide an interim financial review. The work shall be conducted under standards set by the General Conference Auditing Service.

SA 10 10 ~~Other~~ Small Organizations—Financial records of Dorcas Federations (or their equivalents), Community Service Centers, and other enterprises operated by one or more churches shall be ~~audited~~ audited/reviewed annually. Elementary and intermediate schools, unless ~~audited~~ audited/reviewed by General Conference Auditing Service personnel, shall also be ~~audited~~ audited/reviewed annually as provided in SA 10 05. In all cases, however, where it is not feasible to perform the audit/financial review on an annual basis, other arrangements may be put in place so that on a regular cycle as determined by the division, normally not to exceed a two-year period, an audit/financial review will be done. For the years that the conference/mission/field is not able to provide an audit/financial review, arrangements may be made for qualified individuals to provide an interim financial review.

SA 10 15 Annual Report—The ~~conference/field/mission~~ conference/mission/field employee who ~~audits~~ audits/reviews financial records of local churches and ~~other~~ small organizations shall report to the ~~conference/field/mission~~ conference/mission/field committee at the time of the annual Financial Audit Review Committee indicating whether each church and small organization has been ~~audited~~ audited/reviewed during the ~~year. year, or during the~~ regularly scheduled period as determined by the division in harmony with SA 10 05 above. This

report shall be in writing and shall include the date and place of each ~~audit.~~ audit/financial review.

TRE/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

584-04G FINANCIAL AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE -
POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC SA 15, Financial Audit Review Committee, to read as follows:

SA 15 Financial Audit Review Committee

SA 15 05 Financial Audit Review Committee—1. Function—Each denominational organization's ~~governing committee and/or board~~ controlling committee shall appoint a Financial Audit Review Committee and the chairperson (from among the membership of the Financial Audit Review Committee) to study the auditor's reports and management letter, and management's response to the auditor. The Financial Audit Review Committee shall submit recommendations based on its ~~study,~~ study to the controlling committee. ~~governing committee and/or board.~~

2. Composition—The Financial Audit Review Committee shall consist of at least between three and seven members ~~members,~~ having appropriate financial expertise, ~~comprised of the chief administrator, the chief financial officer, and at least four persons from the membership of the controlling committee who are not employees of the entity being audited,~~ governing committee and/or board, at least two of whom If possible, a majority shall be persons not denominationally employed.

3. Invitation to Auditor—The auditor shall be invited to attend the Financial Audit Review Committee meeting at which the audit reports and management letter are studied, and the ~~governing committee and/or board~~ controlling committee meeting at which the Financial Audit Review Committee makes its recommendations, if any, to the committee. ~~committee and/or board.~~ Under circumstances where legal requirements permit and conferencing facilities are deemed satisfactory to the client and the auditor, the auditor may choose to attend, via teleconference or videoconference, the meetings mentioned above. Attendance by the auditor at such meetings is not mandatory. If there are representatives from the higher organization present, they would be considered invitees with voice but no vote.

4. Copy of Recommendations—A copy of the recommendations of the Financial Audit Review Committee, as approved by the controlling committee, ~~governing committee and/or board,~~ shall be sent to the auditor and to appropriate officers of higher organizations.

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507-04G SUPPORT OF WORLDWIDE WORK
(SHARING THE TITHE) - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC V 10 05, Support of Worldwide Work, to read as follows:

V 10 05 Support of Worldwide Work—1. Divine Plan—In harmony with the divine principle set forth in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy that all should share in the responsibility of supporting the worldwide work, we recognize the equity of ~~conferences~~ conferences/missions/fields and missions sharing their tithe.

2. Regular Tithe Percentages—In the administration of ~~conference/mission~~ conference/mission/field organizations, the following schedule of regular tithe percentages shall be followed:

a. The ~~conference/mission~~ conference/mission/field shall receive from churches and individuals within its territory 100 percent of the tithe receipts.

b. The union ~~conference/mission~~ conference/mission/field shall receive from the local ~~conference/mission~~ conference/mission/field 10 percent of the tithe received.

3. Special Tithe Percentage Schedule in Divisions—Each division shall arrange for the ~~conferences/missions~~ conferences/missions/fields and the attached fields within its territory to contribute a percentage of their tithe to the division, as determined by the division committee, to be used on behalf of the work within the division, in addition to the tithe of tithe and Retirement Plan percentage. The division committee shall develop a graduated percentage scale, up to a maximum of 20 percent, that best fits the needs and objectives of the division. Divisions not already having such a plan may need several years of increments before such a plan can be totally implemented.

4. The General Conference shall receive, on behalf of the world field, percentages of the gross tithe remitted by the unions to the world divisions (other than the North American Division), calculated as 1.2 percent of such tithe for the year 2001 and increasing by .2 percent annually to 2 percent for the year 2005. The North American Division shall reduce its tithe percentage remittance to the General Conference from 10.72 percent to 10 percent for the year 2001 and decreasing by steps of .5 percent annually to 8 percent for the year 2005.

~~5. Additional Tithe to a Division—As the work of the Church develops around the world, some conferences/missions with larger memberships and relatively more tithe funds have urgent needs which require nontithe funds, while at the same time situations exist in other areas~~

~~where additional tithing funds can be used to meet appropriate needs. This is particularly true where needs arise which cannot properly be met from tithing funds, such as expanding church or school facilities, certain educational needs, or land, buildings, or equipment costs. Therefore, it is permissible for some organizations to pass on such additional tithing to the division within certain limits, and with the understanding that an equal amount of nontithing funds will be appropriated to the organization.~~

TRE/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

325-04G DEFINITION (WORLD MISSION FUNDS) -
POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC W 05 05, Definition, to read as follows:

W 05 05 Definition—The regular mission funds in all the world include such general offerings as: Sabbath School, Annual Sacrifice, ~~Missions Extension~~, and all donations given for the purpose to which mission appropriations are made. These funds are accumulated as world mission funds and are recognized as General Conference funds. They are therefore included in the annual world mission budget distribution. The Annual Sacrifice Offering distribution is recommended to the world Church by the office of Global Mission.

TRE/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/TreC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

324-04G MISSION EMPHASIS (CAMP MEETING MISSION
OFFERING) - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC W 15 05, Mission Emphasis, to read as follows:

W 15 05 Mission Emphasis—Conferences are urged to follow the plan of emphasizing mission giving in connection with camp meetings and/or district and regional meetings.

1. Sabbath School—At the Sabbath School hour during camp meeting, the appeal is to be confined to the regular Sabbath School mission offering.

2. Worship Service—If a camp meeting offering for missions is taken at a Sabbath morning worship service, the division shall set a policy outlining the distribution between mission and evangelism or allow the conference to decide its distribution between mission and evangelism projects. ~~such offering will be divided as follows:~~

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a. ~~When there are two Sabbaths in the camp meeting program, the worship service offering is to be distributed in one of two ways. The offering may be divided on each of the two Sabbaths on a fifty-fifty basis between local needs and the mission offering, or the offering may be designated on one Sabbath entirely for local needs, and on the other Sabbath entirely as a mission offering.~~

b. ~~When there is only one Sabbath in the camp meeting program, the offering is to be divided on a fifty-fifty basis between local needs and missions.~~

e. ~~When the worship service offering is received at camp meetings, attendees should be told how the offering is to be allocated. Further, they should be advised that they have the right to designate in writing how their own camp meeting offering is to be divided between local projects and missions.~~

TRE/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

523-04G INSURANCE OF DENOMINATIONAL ASSETS
(INSURANCE POLICIES) - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC S 65 05, Insurance of Denominational Assets, to read as follows:

S 65 05 Insurance of Denominational Assets—In order to maximize protection for all church operations against risk of accidents, property, and liability losses, the following operating policies shall be followed:

1. Property Protection – No change
2. Liability Limits – No change
3. Acceptable Coverage – No change
4. Insurance Register – No change
5. Auditing—It shall be the duty of the auditor to check and report to the governing board or committee as to whether the provisions of insurance coverages are ~~reasonably adequate and in harmony with the *Working Policy* recommendations.~~ Policy. When requested by the General Conference Auditing Service, Adventist Risk Management, Incorporated shall assist as needed.
6. Consultant – No change

GCAS/TRE/ADCOM/04AC to REL&JRL

159-04G GENERAL CONFERENCE REMUNERATION SCALES,
 GENERAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL CONFERENCE
 INSTITUTIONS - REVISION

VOTED, To revise portions of the General Conference Remuneration Scales, General Conference and General Conference Institutions as follows:

General Conference Auditing Services

Old Scale		New Scale		GCAS Position	Equivalent Position
Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage		
<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>		
90	110	93	110	Associate Director	Division Department Director/Field Secretary/Undertreasurer
88	108	92	108	Assistant Director	Division Associate Department Director/Associate Secretary/Associate Treasurer
86	106	91	106	District Director	Union Department Director
85	105	90	105	Senior Staff Auditor	Union Assistant Department Director/Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer
84	104	89	104	Staff Auditor	Union Chief Accountant
65	95	76	96	Assistant Staff Auditor	Union or Conference Assistant Treasurer
55	85	59	79	Intern	Conference Accounting Clerk

AWR/TRE/ADCOM/04AC to REL&JRL

160-04G OVERSEAS DIVISIONS AND INSTITUTIONS OF
 THE GENERAL CONFERENCE REMUNERATION SCALE -
 REVISION

VOTED, To revise portions of the Overseas Divisions & Institutions of the General Conference Remuneration Scale, as follows:

Based on the General Conference *Working Policy* Y 05 05, paragraph 6—“The General Conference office and General Conference institutions shall use the remuneration plan structure of the division/country where they are located as the basis for calculating their remuneration plans,” Adventist World Radio has adopted the division remuneration scales for its region offices

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if in the same country as a division and likewise patterned its scale after the union remuneration base where the division is not in the same country. As the percentages may vary from one division/union to another, the Adventist World Radio percentage would follow the percentage associated with the division or union equivalent position. If the division/union is following the last General Conference remuneration scale the proposed column would apply.

Adventist World Radio Position	Percentage		Division Equivalent Position	Union Equivalent Position
	Min	Max		
Region Director	090	110	Department Director	
Site Manager	088	108	Associate Dept Director	Secretary/Treasurer
Global Frequency Engineer	088	108	Associate Dept Director	Secretary/Treasurer
Global Distribution Eng.	088	108	Associate Dept Director	Secretary/Treasurer
Global Chief Engineer	088	108	Associate Dept Director	Secretary/Treasurer
Global ELS Director	088	108	Associate Dept Director	Secretary/Treasurer
Global Training Director	088	108	Associate Dept Director	Secretary/Treasurer
Assoc Global Dist Eng	085	105	Assistant Dept Director	Dept Director
Assoc Global Freq Eng	085	105	Assistant Dept Director	Dept Director
Region Chief Engineer	085	105	Assistant Dept Director	Dept Director
Assoc Region Chief Eng	082	102	Computer System Analyst	Elem School Supr.
Region Controller	081	101	Computer Programmer	Assistant Treasurer
Region Engineer	081	101	Computer Programmer	Assistant Treasurer
Region Chief Operator	081	101	Computer Programmer	Assistant Treasurer
Region Program Director	081	101	Computer Programmer	Assistant Treasurer
Program Producer	080	100	Property Manager	Assistant Dept Dir
Accountant	068	098	Accountant	Senior Accountant
Asst Region Engineer	068	098	Accountant	Senior Accountant
Asst Program Producer	068	098	Accountant	Senior Accountant
Region Operator	068	098	Accountant	Senior Accountant
Maintenance Director	068	098	Accountant	Senior Accountant
Asst Region Operator	063	093	Admin Office Secretary	Admin Office Sec
Admin Office Secretary	063	093	Admin Office Secretary	Admin Office Sec
Secretary	060	090	Office Secretary	Office Secretary

Percentage is based on the Remuneration Scale for Overseas Divisions and Institutions,
January 1, 2002

04AC to LCC-ADCOM

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION NOMINATING COMMITTEE
PROCESSES—SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

VOTED, 1. To refer to the General Conference Administrative Committee, for further study and implementation, the section “Concepts not requiring amendments to the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws” in the report regarding General Conference Session Nominating Committee Processes.

2. To request that the General Conference Administrative Committee establish a process for further consideration of General Conference Session Nominating Committee processes, including those matters raised in the report presented to the General Conference Executive Committee.

(A copy of the General Conference Session Nominating Committee Processes—Suggestions for Improvement is attached to the official copy of the minutes.)

CHM/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

558-04G PHILOSOPHY (CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES—
DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES) - POLICY REVISION

VOTED, To revise GC FB 05, Philosophy, to read as follows:

FB 05 Philosophy

Christ’s mandate to feed the lambs (John 21:5) and to let the children come to Him (Mark 10:13,14) commissions the Church to evangelize children and to nurture their spiritual growth. The Department of Children’s Ministries is committed to equipping, facilitating, and coordinating a broadening and deepening of the Church’s spiritual nurture of children, in order to draw them into a close relationship with Christ and commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“Too much cannot be placed upon the early training of children. The lessons learned, the habits formed, during the years of infancy and childhood, have more to do with the formation of the character and the direction of the life than have all the instruction and training of after years.”—MH 380

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CHM/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

559-04G MISSION (CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES—
DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES) - NEW POLICY

VOTED, To adopt a new policy GC FB 10, Mission, which reads as follows:

FB 10 Mission

The mission of the Children's Ministries Department is to nurture children into a loving, serving relationship with Jesus.

CHM/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

561-04G AREAS OF EMPHASIS (CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES—
DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES) - POLICY DELETION

VOTED, To delete GC FB 15, Areas of Emphasis, which reads as follows:

FB 15 Areas of Emphasis

The focus of the Department of Children's Ministries is participation. Children who feel included will be drawn to continued involvement in the church community. Therefore, the three main areas of emphasis are:

FB 15 05 Ministry to Adventist Children—For many years the Sabbath School has been the backbone of Seventh-day Adventist ministry to children. Now, with an understanding of the importance of interaction, the need is clear for augmented participation in Christian experience by additional opportunities to strengthen spiritual life in meaningful ways. Providing children with a variety of religious education opportunities gives them a sense of inclusion as valued members of the church family, leads them to Jesus, and teaches them to view life through a Seventh-day Adventist perspective.

FB 15 10 Ministry to Other Children—In every country of the world, the largest unreached group is the children, yet children are the most responsive to the gospel. The Bible makes it clear that God has a special burden for children who are not enfolded in the church family. Outreach to children will have far-reaching results, one of which will be winning parents to Christ.

FB 15 15 Adventist Children Serving Others—Serving others promotes spiritual growth. Creative efforts to involve children in service to others will enhance their spiritual growth and help them establish a pattern of service for life. Additionally, participation increases capabilities and assures children that they are an important part of the church family.

CHM/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

562-04G AREAS OF EMPHASIS (CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES—
DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES) - NEW POLICY

VOTED, To adopt a new policy GC FB 15, Areas of Emphasis, which read as follows:

FB 15 Areas of Emphasis

The Children's Ministries Department focuses on the following areas of emphasis in the fulfillment of its mission:

1. Grace-oriented ministries, in which all children will experience the unconditional love of Jesus, find assurance of acceptance and forgiveness, and make a commitment to Him.
2. Inclusive ministries, in which the volunteers who minister and the children to whom they minister will be valued and involved regardless of race, color, language, gender, age, abilities, or socio-economic circumstances; and be involved without discrimination.
3. Leadership ministries, in which volunteers are empowered, trained, and equipped for effective ministry to children.
4. Service-oriented ministries, in which children are given opportunity for hands-on service to people in their neighborhood or city, thus establishing a pattern of outreach to others that may well continue through life.
5. Cooperative ministries, that involve working with other ministries, such as family ministries, Sabbath School, and stewardship, to further our shared goals.
6. Safe ministries, whereby our churches:
 - a. Choose volunteers with high spiritual and moral backgrounds,
 - b. Adopt safeguards to protect children from physical, emotional, and spiritual abuse, and the church from liability.

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7. Evangelistic ministries, in which children who are not enfolded in the church family will be introduced to the love of Jesus through outreach programs such as: Vacation Bible Schools, children's Branch Sabbath Schools, Neighborhood Bible Clubs, and Story Hours.

CHM/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

563-04G CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITY
(CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES—DEPARTMENTAL
POLICIES) - NEW POLICY

VOTED, To adopt a new policy GC FB 25, Curriculum Implementation Responsibility, which reads as follows:

FB 25 Curriculum Implementation Responsibility

The Children's Ministries Department jointly shares the responsibility with the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department in implementing the Sabbath School curriculum and in training leaders and teachers who work in various children's Sabbath Schools. The division may choose either the Children's Ministries Department or the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department to implement the training.

SS&PM/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

547-04G CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITY
(SABBATH SCHOOL AND PERSONAL MINISTRIES—
DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES) - NEW POLICY

VOTED, To adopt a new policy GC FR 25, Curriculum Implementation Responsibility, to read as follows:

FR 25 Curriculum Implementation Responsibility

The Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department jointly shares the responsibility with the Children's Ministries Department in implementing the Sabbath School curriculum and in training leaders and teachers who work in various children's Sabbath Schools. The division may choose either the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department or the Children's Ministries Department to implement the training.

PRE/ADCOM/04AC to AM

141-04G ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

VOTED, To approve that the implementing of curriculum and the training of leaders and teachers for children's Sabbath Schools be a shared function of the Children's Ministries Department and the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department.

Each division will be responsible to organize the shared function in its territory.

The development of curriculum materials will continue to be the responsibility of the General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department.

DWM&IWM&SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

610-04G CROSS-CULTURAL TRAINING FOR INTRADIVISION
EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS - NEW POLICY

VOTED, To adopt a new policy GC T 55, Cross-Cultural Training for Intradivision Employees and Volunteers, which reads as follows:

T 55 Cross-Cultural Training for
Intradivision Employees and Volunteers

When a division has a large number of intradivision employees and volunteers serving in different cultural settings than their own, the division should provide cross-cultural training for these employees and volunteers. (See N 15.) Counsel should be requested from the Institute of World Mission to ensure that the teaching staff is qualified to conduct the training programs. The division committee shall determine the location, length, and curriculum of such training programs.

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

524-04G GENERAL CONFERENCE APPOINTEES COMMITTEE -
POLICY ADMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC M 15 95, General Conference Appointees Committee, to read as follows:

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M 15 95 General Conference Appointees Committee—The committee approves direct action appointments; records interdivision appointments, transfers, ~~furloughs~~, furloughs and optional annual leaves of interdivision employees serving at the General Conference and General Conference institutions located in the North American Division territory, permanent returns, assignment of code budgets, independent transfers, and base division status; records volunteer assignments; and interprets general policies relating to interdivision service.

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

285-04G HOST DIVISION COUNTRY (HOMELAND, DIVISION,
AND DIVISION COUNTRY RELATIONSHIPS) -
POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC E 15 55, Host Division Country, to read as follows:

E 15 55 Host Division Country—The host division country is the country in the host division territory in which an interdivision employee serves. ~~If the interdivision employee takes out citizenship in the host division country, his/her interdivision employment status ceases and any future employment in that country is on a local employment basis.~~ (See M 15 40.)

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

286-04G CHANGE OF INTERDIVISION EMPLOYMENT TO
INTRADIVISION EMPLOYMENT - POLICY ADDITION

VOTED, To add GC E 15 60, Change of Interdivision Employment to Intradivision Employment, to read as follows:

E 15 60 Change of Interdivision Employment to Intradivision Employment—If the interdivision employee takes out citizenship in a host division country, his/her interdivision employment status ceases and any future employment in that country is on a local employment basis.

TRE/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

522-04G CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BASE DIVISION COUNTRY
RETIREMENT PLAN - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC Z 15 10, Contributions to the Base Division Country Retirement Plan, to read as follows:

Z 15 10 Contributions to the Base Division Country Retirement Plan—1. Prior to 1995 the base divisions bore the full cost of contributions to the base division country retirement plan for service by interdivision employees from their divisions.

2. Starting in 1995, a phase-in program was initiated whereby the General Conference, for those on Code 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 budgets and the local employing organization or base host division for those on Code 4 budgets, contributes to the base division country retirement plan.

3. Starting in 1996, contributions are based – No change

4. If interdivision employees choose to receive – No change

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

317-04G FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS (SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST INSTITUTE OF WORLD MISSION) -
POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC N 15 35, Financial Arrangements, to read as follows:

N 15 35 Financial Arrangements—1. The General Conference shall be responsible for funding salary for the time of attendance at the Institute, including any time of delay while waiting in the base division for a session of the Institute to begin, for appointees or interdivision employed spouses assigned to Code 1, 2, 3, or 6 budgets. The remuneration of those assigned to Code 4 budgets will be charged to the employing organization in the host division. Locally employed spouses assigned to Code 5 budgets are not eligible for salary during the Institute but might qualify for compensation for lost income during the new appointee period as outlined in paragraph 3. below. Salary for those attending the Institute prior to commencing interdivision service shall be at the base division country rate, the same as for the preembarkation period, regardless of where the Institute is held.

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2. If the Institute attendance is in connection with a furlough – No change
3. Compensation for loss of income during the time of attendance at the Institute of World Mission shall be paid to the spouse of an interdivision appointee/employee under the following circumstances:
 - a. A spouse, who is employed denominationally immediately prior to the Institute or the period granted for departure preparation and who discontinues employment in order to attend the Institute, shall be entitled to receive compensation for loss of income based on the rate of the last drawn salary, if paid in accordance with the ~~regular denominational wage scale.~~ base division country denominational remuneration scale. The rate of compensation for a spouse who discontinues nondenominational employment, or denominational employment at higher than the regular denominational wage scale, shall be equal to that of the last drawn salary but not exceed the regular base division country denominational salary-equivalent for ~~a person~~ an individual with similar job responsibility and experience. The expenses of this benefit to the spouse of the appointee shall be borne by the General Conference if the appointee is called on a Code 1, 2, 3, or 6 budget, or by the employment organization in the host division if the appointee is called on a Code 4 budget.
 - b. A spouse, who is employed denominationally or otherwise, on a local basis in the host division, and takes additional time outside of the furlough or optional annual leave period to attend the Institute and who would not have qualified for compensation for loss of income had he/she attended an Institute during the preembarkation time, shall receive compensation based on the rate of the last drawn salary but not exceeding the host division country denominational salary-equivalent for an interdivision employed spouse with similar job responsibility and experience. The expenses of this benefit to the spouse of the interdivision employee shall be borne by the General Conference if the employee is on a Code 1, 2, 3, or 6 budget, or by the employing organization in the host division if the employee is on a Code 4 budget.
 - c. A spouse, who is employed denominationally or otherwise, on a local basis in the host division, and takes additional time in connection with the first furlough or optional annual leave after arrival in the host division country to attend the Institute, and who would have qualified for compensation for loss of income had he/she attended an Institute during the preembarkation time, shall receive compensation based on the higher of either the rate used for compensation for loss of income during the preembarkation period (see N 05 20) or the applicable host division country denominational current salary rate. The expenses of this benefit to the spouse of the interdivision employee shall be borne by the General Conference if the employee is on a Code 1, 2, 3, or 6 budget, or by the employing organization in the host division if the employee is on a Code 4 budget.

4. A spouse who discontinues denominational employment – No change
5. Travel expense and expenses relating to attendance – No change

PREXAD/ADCOM/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

600-04Ga COMPOSITION OF CONSTITUENCES (INSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATIONS) - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC BA 45 05, Composition of Constituencies, to read as follows:

BA 45 05 Composition of Constituencies—The composition of constituencies of institutions shall reflect the policies of the respective church organizations to which the institutions are accountable. Constituencies of General Conference institutions shall include the membership of the General Conference Executive Committee. In addition, the bylaws of General Conference institutions shall include a provision that a special constituency shall be convened upon receipt by the board chairman of a request signed by fifty percent or more of the General Conference Executive Committee members who are members of the institution's constituency.

04AC to LRE(DIV)

600-04Gb GENERAL CONFERENCE INSTITUTIONS/SERVICES/ AGENCIES ADOPT PROVISIONS OF BA 45 05

VOTED, To request all General Conference institutions/services/agencies, at their next regular constituency/membership meeting, to adopt, in their governing documents, provisions corresponding to General Conference *Working Policy* BA 45 05 as amended on October 14, 2004.

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

532-04G HISHANDS—TO GO, TO SERVE, TO SAVE - LAUNCHING DATE - POLICY APPENDIX B AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend CHOSEN—TO GO, TO SERVE, TO SAVE (nomenclature has changed from “Chosen” to “HisHands”), as the implementation has been deferred until the 2006 Annual Council, to read as follows:

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Launching HisHands

Launching HisHands at the 2006 Annual Council. ~~2005 General Conference Session,~~
~~should be in two ways:~~

- ~~As a business session agenda item, and~~
- ~~During the Sabbath School programs for the adults and for the senior youth, possibly in video format, together with distribution of a brochure explaining the program in detail.~~

To prepare for the launch, a timeline must be approved to include the following:

- Completion of manuals
- Preparation of advertising
- Worldwide meeting for training of division volunteer leaders at time of the ~~2004 Annual Council~~ 2006 Departmental Advisories
- Training curriculums that will include packages on cultural sensitivity, methods of evangelism, and re-entry
- Establishment of appropriate guidelines and policies

Creating Positions

It is recommended that every division submit to the General Conference Secretariat at least 50 interdivision positions for placement on the AVS Adventist Volunteer Service web site in time for the launch at the ~~2005 General Conference Session.~~ 2006 Annual Council. These positions must fit the model recommended for HisHands.

It will be necessary also for each division to accumulate a significant number of intradivision positions on its web site or in its call book by ~~July 2005.~~ September 2006.

TRE/Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE-05GCS

605-04GS FUNDS - CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws, Article XVII—Funds, to read as follows:

ARTICLE XVII—FUNDS

Sec. 1. The funds of the General Conference shall be as follows:

a. ~~A title percentage of the title receipts of the union conferences and union missions, unions of churches, and of the local conferences and missions not included in union conferences and union missions. as forwarded from the local conference/mission/field through the union and division in accordance with the General Conference *Working Policy*.~~

b. Regular mission offerings.

c. ~~Special gifts and proceeds gifts. Proceeds from the maturities of planned giving. giving designated for the General Conference.~~

d. ~~A percentage of the title of the local conferences and missions of attached unions as determined by the General Conference Executive Committee or, in the case of North America, the General Conference Executive Committee meeting with the conference presidents.~~

e. ~~Appropriations from publishing houses, health care institutions, and other institutions that are under the control of the General Conference which, because of the character of their work, have more than local influence and responsibility, as may be arranged by joint counsel of the Executive Committee and the board of management of each institution.~~

SEC/ADCOM/04AC to LRE

HOME STUDY INTERNATIONAL/GRIGGS UNIVERSITY BOARD
OF DIRECTORS (GCC-B)—MEMBERSHIP ADJUSTMENT

VOTED, To adjust the membership of the Home Study International/Griggs University Board of Directors (GCC-B), as follows:

Delete Wakaba, Velile S

Add Mwansa, Pardon Kandanga

SEC/ADCOM/04AC to LRE

GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (GCC-S)—
MEMBERSHIP ADJUSTMENT

VOTED, 1. To adjust the membership of the General Conference Executive Committee, as follows:

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Delete Gordeeva, Tatiana (layperson category) (ESD)
 Thompson, Thipparapu Venkatramaiah (pastor) (SUD)

Add Demerdji, Larisa Georgievna (layperson category) (ESD)
 Subramany, Narasan (pastor) (SUD)
 Vincent, Pennamma (layperson) (SUD)

2. In the category of additional pastors or other front-line denominational employees for every 500,000 members or major fraction thereof beyond the first 500,000, as follows:

Delete Gumbala, Joe Elliott Noah (SID)

Add Mapiko, Wenford Rabson (SID)

SEC/ADCOM/04AC to LRE

COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (GCC-S)—
MEMBERSHIP ADJUSTMENT

VOTED, To adjust the membership of the Commission on Higher Education (GCC-S), as follows:

Delete Rasi, Humberto M

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

211-04G DELEGATES (GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS) -
POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC B 15 05, Delegates, to read as follows:

B 15 05 Delegates—General Conference sessions are made up of delegates duly appointed in harmony with the General Conference Constitution. ~~Constitution by the various union conferences of the world field (or by division committees in the case of union missions and attached local fields) to represent them in the session.~~ Such delegates are vested with authority to participate in, and vote on, all questions coming before the General Conference session, to elect officers and to have voice and vote in all the affairs of the session.

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

212-04G PROCEDURES FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF
PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, OR TREASURER OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC B 25, Procedures for the Replacement of President, Secretary, or Treasurer of the General Conference, to read as follows:

B 25 Procedures for the Replacement of
President, Secretary, or Treasurer
of the General Conference

B 25 05 The President—1. The Secretary of the General Conference shall serve as acting President of the General Conference until a new President is elected and assumes his responsibilities.

2. The Secretary of the General Conference shall immediately notify the presidents of all divisions of the vacancy.

3. The Secretary shall call a meeting of the available members of the General Conference Administrative Committee at the earliest possible opportunity. The General Conference Administrative Committee shall specify the time and the place of meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee to elect the new President. The decisions regarding time, place, and attendance shall be made as follows:

a. Preferably the election shall be scheduled for the next Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee; however, if the vacancy occurs three or more months before the next Annual Council, the General Conference Administrative Committee, after counsel with all the divisions, shall set the date and place for a special meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee.

b. All General Conference Executive Committee members shall be invited to attend.

4. A nominating committee, with appropriate representation from each division, shall be appointed by the General Conference Executive Committee, in a manner to be decided, regardless of whether the election takes place at an Annual Council or at a special meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee. Any member of the General Conference Executive Committee shall be eligible to serve on this nominating committee.

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5. The nominating committee shall present its recommendation to the General Conference Executive Committee for action.

B 25 10 The Secretary—1. The President, or in his absence the Undersecretary, shall notify all divisions of the vacancy.

2. The Undersecretary shall act as Secretary until such time as a new Secretary is elected and assumes the duties of the office.

3. The election of a new Secretary shall take place at the next Spring Meeting or Annual Council, or at a specially called meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee to which each division shall be invited to send its secretary and treasurer.

4. A nominating committee shall function as under B 25 05, paragraph 4.

5. The nominating committee shall present its recommendation to the General Conference Executive Committee for action.

B 25 15 The Treasurer—1. The President, or in his absence the Secretary, shall notify all divisions of the vacancy.

2. The Undertreasurer shall act as Treasurer until such time as a new Treasurer is elected and assumes the duties of the office.

3. The election of a new Treasurer shall take place at the next Spring Meeting or Annual Council, or at a specially called meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee to which each division shall be invited to send its secretary and treasurer.

4. A nominating committee shall function as under B 25 05, paragraph 4.

5. The nominating committee shall present its recommendation to the General Conference Executive Committee for action.

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

213-04G PROCEDURES FOR REFERRING TO THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUESTIONS OF
CONDUCT IN THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, OR
TREASURER - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC B 30, Procedures for Referring to the General Conference Executive Committee Questions of Conduct in the Office of President, Secretary, or Treasurer, to read as follows:

B 30 Procedures for Referring to the General
Conference Executive Committee Questions
of Conduct in the Office of President,
Secretary, or Treasurer

B 30 05 General Conference President—1. The General Conference secretary, in consultation with other officers of the General Conference, shall call and chair a special meeting of the General Conference Administrative Committee. At its discretion the General Conference Administrative Committee may, by a two-thirds majority vote, place the president on administrative leave (with continuing remuneration) until the matter has been investigated ~~and/or~~ and, if considered necessary, heard by a meeting of the full General Conference Executive Committee. During this time the president shall not be involved in the process, except by invitation.

2. The General Conference Administrative Committee shall determine, by a two-thirds majority vote, the manner and time period in which a question of conduct is investigated and referred to a meeting of the full General Conference Executive Committee.

3. The General Conference secretary shall chair the meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee at which the question of conduct is heard.

B 30 10 General Conference Secretary or Treasurer—1. The General Conference Administrative Committee, under the leadership of the president, shall determine, by a two-thirds majority vote, the manner and time period in which a question of conduct of the secretary or treasurer is investigated and referred to a meeting of the full General Conference Executive Committee.

2. The General Conference Administrative Committee may, by a two-thirds majority vote, place the secretary or treasurer on administrative leave (with continuing remuneration) until the matter has been investigated ~~and/or~~ and, if considered necessary, heard

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by a meeting of the full General Conference Executive Committee. During this time the officer concerned shall not be involved in the process, except by invitation.

SEC/PolRev&De/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

215-04G DIVISION PRESIDENT—DUTIES AND RELATIONSHIPS
(ADMINISTRATIVE RELATIONSHIPS) - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC B 35 35, Division President—Duties and Relationships, to read as follows:

B 35 35 Division President—Duties and Relationships—The president of the division is the first officer placed in general administrative oversight of all activities in the division. As a vice president of the General Conference he is an officer of the General Conference, responsible to that body for administration of the work according to plans and programs voted by the General Conference Session and Executive Committee and according to plans and policies agreed upon by the executive committee of the division, of which he is chairman. It is his duty to stand as counselor to the officers of unions or ~~detached missions~~, attached missions/local fields, as well as to those in charge of division departments and institutions.

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

222-04G ORGANIZING NEW MISSIONS/CONFERENCES/
UNIONS - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC B 55, Organizing New Missions/Conferences/Unions, to read as follows:

B 55 Organizing ~~New Missions/Conferences/Unions~~
New Missions*/Conferences/Unions

B 55 05 Responsibility of Administrative Committees—1. The process of organizing new missions/conferences/unions, in each case, is an administrative responsibility of the next higher organization, and great care should be exercised to ensure fiscal and pastoral responsibility and accountability.

2. In order to assist administration – No change

*Other terminology is used in some geographical areas for organizational units such as fields, sections, regions, or delegations.

3. Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committees – No change
 4. For guidelines of what total commitment to God means – No change
- B 55 10 Organizing New Missions – No change

B 55 15 Organizing New Conferences—1. If it is proposed to organize a new conference, the proposal shall be considered by the respective union executive committee, at a time when a full representation of the conferences/missions, and institutions in the union is present. Proposals to organize groups of churches into new conferences may be initiated by the conference, by a group of churches, by the union, or by the division.

2. If the union favors the proposal – No change
3. A team appointed by the union executive committee – No change
4. When the union executive committee is satisfied that the proposed organization is ready for conference status, ~~the union executive committee shall call a conference constituency meeting to consider the proposal. In the event of a positive action by the constituency, the union shall submit a request to~~ it shall request the division for an on-site evaluation of the proposed new conference.

5. A survey team appointed by the division executive committee – No change
6. Upon the recommendation of the survey team – No change
7. Upon the approval of the division executive committee – No change
8. When a new conference has been organized – No change

B 55 20 Organizing New Union Missions – No change

B 55 25 Organizing New Union Conferences – No change

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231-04G SPRING MEETINGS - NEW POLICY

BA 10 Spring Meetings

VOTED, To adopt a new policy GC BA 10, Spring Meetings, which reads as follows:

BA 10 05 Purpose—A meeting of the Executive Committee, known as the Spring Meeting, shall be held annually for the purpose of receiving the audited financial reports of the General Conference and for transacting regular Executive Committee business.

SEC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

245-04G LOCAL CONFERENCE/MISSION SESSION -
POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC C 35, Local Conference/Mission Session, to read as follows:

C 35 Local Conference/Mission
Conference/Mission/Field Session

C 35 05 Organizing Committee—The organizing committee to nominate standing committees at local ~~conference/mission~~ conference/mission/field sessions shall be made up as follows:

1. Each church represented in the delegation – No change
2. In ~~conferences/missions~~ conferences/missions/fields with less than 10,000 members, churches with 250 or more members may choose one additional member for each 500 members or major fraction thereof. (This would provide a total of two members from churches with membership of 251-750 members, a total of three members from churches with membership of 751-1250, etc.)
3. In ~~conferences/missions~~ conferences/missions/fields with more than 10,000 members, one additional member shall be chosen by each church for each full 500 members. (This would provide a total of two members from churches with membership of 501-1000, three members from churches with membership of 1001-1500, etc.)
4. The persons thus selected – No change

C 35 10 Chairman—Nominating Committee—The chairman of the nominating committee at the local ~~conference/mission~~ conference/mission/field session shall be the president of the union or, in his absence, one designated by him shall be named to serve as chairman; and, further, the nominating committee shall consist of from nine to fifteen members including the chairman, except in ~~conferences/missions~~ conferences/missions/fields of more than 10,000 members, where up to six additional members may be added. This membership shall be balanced, as nearly as possible, between denominational employees and laypersons representing various segments of the work and territories of the ~~conference/mission~~ conference/mission/field. Incumbent ~~officers~~ officers, except in local missions/fields, and department directors/secretaries shall not be members of the nominating committee. To provide wider representation, incumbent members of the conference/mission executive committee ordinarily shall not serve as members of the nominating committee.

C 35 15 Committee on Licenses and Credentials - No change

C 35 20 Audited Statements—Audited statements and the auditors' reports are to be presented to ~~conference/mission~~ conference/mission/field sessions as a regular procedure when financial statements are presented. Whenever possible the audit report is to be presented personally by the auditor.

TRE/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/04AC to LRE(DIV)

208-04G TRANSFER DURING TERM OF SERVICE (EXPENSES
OF INTERDIVISION EMPLOYEES TRANSFERRED
BETWEEN DIVISIONS) - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC M 65 05, Transfer During Term of Service, paragraph 1., to read as follows:

M 65 05 Transfer During Term of Service—1. When an interdivision employee is transferred by call to another division and the transfer is made at any time other than a regularly scheduled furlough or optional annual leave, the interdivision employee shall be allowed ~~outfitting~~ outfitting, baggage, and freight allowances on an appointee basis. The freight allowance may be used for shipments from the place of current interdivision employment, as well as from the base division country, provided the total cost does not exceed what would normally be paid for the entire shipment to be sent from the place of current interdivision employment. Any expense incurred beyond this shall be borne by the interdivision employee. If the transferring interdivision employee is being called to a Code 4 budget, all expenses for the transfer, as well as all subsequent furlough, optional annual leave, and permanent return expenses while serving this same organization, shall be borne by the calling organization in the

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new host division. If the transferring interdivision employee is being called to a Code 1, 2, 3, or 6 budget, all expenses relating to the transfer, as well as subsequent furlough, optional annual leave, and permanent return expenses, shall be borne by the General Conference.

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

564-04GS OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES - CONSTITUTION
AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

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

ARTICLE IX—OFFICERS AND
THEIR DUTIES

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

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

552-04GS TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION - CONSTITUTION
AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

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

ARTICLE I—TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION

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

Sec. 2. a. The duly organized divisions are: ~~Africa-Indian Ocean Division, Eastern Africa Division,~~ East-Central Africa Division, Euro-Africa Division, Euro-Asia Division, Inter-American Division, North American Division, Northern Asia-Pacific Division, South American

Division, South Pacific Division, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division, Southern Asia Division, Southern Asia-Pacific Division, ~~and~~ Trans-European Division, and West-Central Africa Division. The boundaries of these divisions shall be subject to adjustment only at Sessions of the General Conference or at Annual Councils of the Executive Committee.

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

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

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

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

549-04GS MEMBERSHIP - CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED, To amend General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution, Article IV—Membership, to read as follows:

ARTICLE IV—MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1. The membership of the General Conference shall consist of:

a. All union conferences and union missions that have been or shall be properly organized and accepted by vote of the General Conference in session.

b. ~~All conferences and missions~~ Any conferences, missions*, and unions of churches directly attached to the General Conference, and ~~all conferences~~ any conferences, and

*In several areas of the world, local field units not holding conference status may be classified with terminology other than "mission." For the purposes of Article IV, such field units may be considered equivalent to a mission provided they have two or more officers and an executive committee and observe a schedule of regular constituency meetings.

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missions and unions of churches directly attached to a division, that have been or shall be properly organized.

Prec03AC/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO04AC/04AC to
LRE(DIV)

207-04Gb INTERDIVISION TRAVEL - POLICY AMENDMENT

VOTED, To amend GC BA 60, Interdivision Travel, to read as follows:

BA 60 Interdivision Travel

BA 60 05 Travel by General Conference Employees—1. Requests from Division—~~When the officers of a division make a request for a visit of a General Conference employee, or when the General Conference officers feel that the work in a division would be benefited by a visit from General Conference personnel, the General Conference vice president appointed to oversee interdivision travel shall take up the matter with the head of the department (including administration and services) and division officers concerned. the recipient division shall contact the head of the General Conference department or service entity directly to formalize the arrangements.~~ Authorization for travel shall be given by the department head, as seems advisable, head, in harmony with the terms of reference regarding Interdivision Travel for the cost center involved, and communicated to the division officers by the ~~vice president. department head.~~

2. General Conference Initiated Requests—~~When Requests—When the General Conference officers feel that the work in a division would be benefited by a visit from General Conference personnel, or when~~ General Conference departments have individuals available for interdivision visits or when suggestions come in from division ~~departmental~~ department directors that a visit would be appreciated, the head of the General Conference department concerned shall inform the division officers, making suggestions as to the directors available for and the time of such visits. No commitments shall be made by the department to the division concerned until the officers of the division make an official request for the visit. ~~visit through the office of the General Conference vice president appointed to oversee interdivision travel.~~

3. Planning the Visit - No change

4. Official Correspondence—After the General Conference ~~vice president appointed to oversee interdivision travel~~ department director has communicated to the division officers the authorization for the visit, the individual concerned shall carry on the necessary correspondence with the division regarding the arrangements for the visit.

5. Travel Expenses - No change

BA 60 10 Travel by Other Denominational Employees—1. Requests from Divisions—a. When the officers of one division feel that the work in that division would be benefited by a visit from an employee in another division, they shall ~~inform the General Conference vice president appointed for this work who shall~~ take up the matter with the officers of the division concerned to determine if the employee is available and whether the visit would be in the best interest of the work.

b. If the division officers and the officers of the employing organization are willing to release the employee for a visit to another division, the decision ~~will be authorized and communicated to the calling division by the office of the General Conference vice president appointed to oversee interdivision travel, after consultation with the head of the General Conference department concerned.~~ will be recorded by the sending division and a copy of the same sent to the calling organization.

2. Requests Initiated by the Sending Division—a. At times it is beneficial for an employee in one division to be given the opportunity to visit another division. Such a visit can serve to broaden the vision of an employee and increase his/her understanding of the worldwide work of the Church. In such cases, the ~~division~~ officers of the sending division shall inform the ~~General Conference vice president appointed for this work who shall in turn bring the matter to the attention of the~~ officers of the division in which the visit is to take place.

b. If the officers of the division in which the visit is to take place are willing to arrange a visit, such approval will then be communicated to the sending division. ~~division by the General Conference vice president appointed for this work.~~

3. Planning the Visit - No change

4. Official Correspondence—All correspondence between the divisions concerned shall be ~~channeled through the General Conference vice president appointed for this work.~~ maintained as a permanent record by both divisions.

5. Travel Expenses - No change

6. Insurance—In the event that a division initiates a service request for an individual who is not denominationally employed, or one who is a retired denominational employee and who is not covered by the policy for volunteers (see R 15 15 and R 15 25), it is the responsibility of the sending division to ensure that appropriate insurance coverage is provided. In all cases, including denominational employees, it is the responsibility of the sending organization to ensure that short term travel insurance is provided, and it is the responsibility of the recipient

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organization to pay for the cost of the short term travel insurance, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by both divisions.

7. Invitations to Persons Unknown to the Division Officers—In the event that division officers receive requests from entities within their unions and/or conferences/fields/missions for individuals who are unknown to them, in order to protect the good name of the Church and avoid divisive elements, the officers of the division are requested to contact the office of the sending division and request a background check and recommendation regarding the invited person's loyalty and commitment to the Church's message and mission before an invitation is extended.

BA 60 15 Travel by Denominational Employees Serving with Privately Operated Institutions - No change

BA 60 20 Travel by Laypersons - No change

PRESIDENT'S CLOSING REMARKS

I want to express my appreciation and thankfulness to the delegates for coming to Annual Council and for your faithful attendance at the meetings. I appreciate very much our laypeople who are leaders in their own rights and for the dimension that you bring to this meeting. Also, to my colleagues for the enormous amount of work that has been conducted during this council. I pray the Lord will give you a safe journey back home and guide and give you direction in your field so we can finish His work and meet together in our heavenly home.

CLOSING PRAYER

Jan Paulsen closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjourned.

Jan Paulsen, Chairman
Douglas Clayville, Secretary
Larry R Evans, Editorial Secretary

- 1 b. Compiling information, as in 1b above, for those names which the exploratory
2 committee has received.
3

4 **Concepts requiring amendments to the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws**
5

- 6 1. Limit the number of positions filled at a General Conference Session (i.e. officer
7 positions at the General Conference and divisions plus department director positions
8 at the General Conference). Refer the filling of all other positions to the next Annual
9 Council, with the understanding that additional field representation shall meet with
10 the Annual Council when such positions are being filled.
11

12 **Further discussion needed**
13

14 This report neither recommends nor advocates a particular response at this time. The Ad
15 Hoc Committee sees merit in further consideration of the above and other alternatives.
16 Important questions have been raised about how to alleviate the enormous pressures under which
17 the President and General Conference Session Nominating Committee currently operate. The
18 suggestions above are only representative of a broader range of ideas that deserve careful
19 reflection, including:
20

- 21 1. Whether or not a Nominating Committee could be appointed and tasked to complete
22 some of its work before a General Conference Session.
23
24 2. Whether or not a nomination for President (or President, Secretary and Treasurer) of
25 the General Conference could be accomplished at some point prior to a General
26 Conference Session.
27
28 3. Whether or not a Search Committee process would be preferable to a Nominating
29 Committee process in identifying potential candidates for leadership positions.