

1 ADCOM/ADCOM/ADCOM/PreC/GCDO18AC/18AC to MLR(DIV)

2
3 113-18G REGARD FOR AND PRACTICE OF GENERAL CONFERENCE
4 SESSION AND GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE
5 COMMITTEE ACTIONS
6

7 A sacred trust exists between church members and their elected Church leaders. Unity and trust
8 are strengthened as church members and organizational leaders commit to being led by the Spirit to
9 regard and honor the constituted decisions made by fellow church members and leaders.

10
11 “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”—Eph 4:3. “We are
12 coming to a time when, more than ever before, we shall need to press together, to labor unitedly. . . . in
13 unity there is strength.”—2SM 373, 374.
14

15 Where regard for and practice of General Conference Session and General Conference Executive
16 Committee actions have not been followed, these principles shall apply:
17

18 1. Process for Reporting Perceived Non-Compliance—The Administrative Committee of
19 any conference and/or union and/or division and/or the General Conference which identifies an entity
20 they perceive to be non-compliant, shall report the matter in writing to the administrative level of the
21 Church immediately above the perceived non-compliant entity, beginning with the administrative level
22 of the Church closest to the matter. If any level of organization does not report an issue of non-
23 compliance, it becomes the responsibility of the next higher organization.
24

25 2. Organization Closest to the Matter—Planning for and ensuring compliance shall initially
26 be the responsibility entrusted to the administrative level of the Church closest to the matter. This
27 organization is responsible for notifying the entity perceived as non-compliant. With sound judgment
28 and prayerful discernment, administrators may use existing General Conference working policies and
29 guidelines as tools for resolving matters of non-compliance.
30

31 3. Process for Addressing Perceived Non-Compliance—Administrators dealing with any
32 matter of perceived non-compliance shall exercise Christian due process which will (a) include much
33 prayer and dialogue, (b) provide a clearly written statement defining the perceived non-compliance, (c)
34 upon receipt of the written statement, provide 60 days for the executive officers of the perceived non-
35 compliant entity to provide evidence of compliance or a plan to achieve sustained compliance, (d) create
36 a supportive atmosphere by which to achieve compliance and unity, and (e) provide a reasonable
37 timeframe (30 days) to provide evidence of compliance or a plan to achieve sustained compliance.
38

39 If, in the opinion of the executive officers of the conference and/or union and/or division and/or
40 General Conference, compliance has been requested but has not been made evident or has not been
41 sustainably achieved, the General Conference Administrative Committee may request the appropriate
42 General Conference Compliance Review Committee* to implement its terms of reference. The
43 appropriate General Conference Compliance Review Committee* shall evaluate the matter and (1) deem
44 the perceived non-compliant issue to be resolved, (2) make recommendations to the appropriate
45 Administrative Committee, and/or (3) consider and recommend to the General Conference
46 Administrative Committee, General Conference officers, all division officers, and for final

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1 determination by the General Conference Executive Committee at Annual Council, that disciplinary
2 measures be taken.

3
4 If, in the opinion of a General Conference Compliance Review Committee,* reasonable time has
5 been given for discussion and review, the General Conference Compliance Review Committee* may
6 directly make recommendations to the appropriate Administrative Committee.

7
8 4. Process for Appeal—An entity seeking to appeal a recommendation may do so in writing
9 directly to the assigned General Conference Compliance Review Committee.* The appeal process made
10 by the non-compliant entity shall be considered part of the work of the General Conference Compliance
11 Review Committee* as defined by its terms of reference. The General Conference Compliance Review
12 Committee* shall respond in writing to the appeal made by the reporting organization, within 60 days of
13 delivery of the final written appeal. If there is no satisfactory resolution following the appeal to the
14 General Conference Compliance Review Committee,* the entity may appeal the matter further directly
15 in writing to the General Conference Administrative Committee.

16
17 5. Process for Unresolved Matters—If a matter of non-compliance continues to be
18 unresolved, the next higher level of Church organization is tasked with the responsibility to resolve the
19 matter or facilitate the initiation of a process leading to consequences.

20
21 6. Disciplinary Measures—In the event the due process referenced above does not bring
22 about compliance and does not result in the reversal of the action taken by the non-compliant entity
23 and/or the constituency-elected leader of that body (the union president, who serves as both the voice of
24 the union constituency and the voice of the world Church and who is an *ex officio* member of the
25 General Conference Executive Committee), the entity and its duly elected leader may be subject to the
26 following disciplinary measures:

27
28 a. **Warned**—By vote of simple majority of the General Conference Executive
29 Committee, unions/unions of churches/organizations that have complied with General Conference
30 Executive Committee and/or General Conference Session actions but have taken actions that are not in
31 compliance with the practices of the Church as defined by the General Conference Constitution and
32 Bylaws and/or the General Conference *Working Policy* may be “warned.” Being “warned” applies
33 generally to a non-compliant entity and does not intend to identify individuals for further action or
34 mention.

35
36 b. **Public Reprimand**—By vote of simple majority of the General Conference
37 Executive Committee, the president of such unions/unions of churches/organizations that have not
38 complied with General Conference Executive Committee actions and/or General Conference Session
39 actions, including *Working Policy*, which have been voted by the General Conference Executive
40 Committee and/or General Conference Session, may be given a public reprimand. In the attendee listing
41 contained in the agenda of each Spring Meeting and Annual Council of the General Conference

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1 Executive Committee, the names of those individuals representing entities under reprimand will be
2 denoted and will be mentioned at the opening session of the meeting.

3
4 c. **Placed on Removal for Cause** and Subject to Policy Application—When non-
5 compliance continues after public reprimand, the relevant General Conference Compliance Review
6 Committee,* by virtue of prior General Conference Executive Committee actions and/or General
7 Conference Session actions, shall have authority to consider and recommend to the General Conference
8 Administrative Committee, General Conference officers, all division officers, and the General
9 Conference Executive Committee at Annual Council, for final determination and for the application of
10 existing General Conference working policies and guidelines, such as removal of the representative
11 member “for cause” by a two-thirds majority vote.—General Conference Bylaws Article XIII Sec. 1. c.
12 and f., and GC B 95.

13
14 In the event that entities that have been “warned” or their president “reprimanded” take actions
15 that bring their entities into compliance with the practices of the Church as defined by the General
16 Conference Constitution and Bylaws, the General Conference *Working Policy*, and voted actions of the
17 General Conference Executive Committee and/or General Conference Session, the relevant General
18 Conference Compliance Review Committee* shall recommend to the General Conference
19 Administrative Committee that these entities or their president be reinstated to regular standing by the
20 General Conference Executive Committee. In the event that entities that have been “warned” or
21 “reprimanded” continue in non-compliance with voted actions of the General Conference Executive
22 Committee and/or General Conference Session, the relevant General Conference Compliance Review
23 Committee* may recommend to the General Conference Administrative Committee to pursue other
24 actions that may be available in the General Conference working policies and guidelines or the
25 Constitution and Bylaws of the General Conference. If, after the organization closest to the matter has
26 been unable to resolve a compliance issue and the General Conference Compliance Review Committee*
27 has recommended consequences, only the General Conference Executive Committee and/or the General
28 Conference in session has authority to implement the recommendation.

29
30 Presidents of conferences/missions whose union president has been “reprimanded” shall continue
31 to exercise voice, as provided by the General Conference Bylaws, and the body will be notified that the
32 invitee requesting voice is a constituent representative of a conference/mission of a union whose
33 president has been “reprimanded” due to a matter of non-compliance.

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35 In instances where a union president has been removed from the membership of the committee
36 “for cause,” other members of the General Conference Executive Committee from that union shall
37 continue to exercise full privileges without mention of reprimand.

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39 Entities desiring reconsideration of a General Conference Executive Committee and/or General
40 Conference Session action, may seek recourse through processes already provided for in the General
41 Conference *Working Policy*. The process of seeking recourse and the “Regard for and Practice of

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1 General Conference Session and General Conference Executive Committee Actions” shall run
2 concurrently.
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4 As circumstances warrant, this process may be used as a model by other levels of Church
5 organization.**
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*As per General Conference Administrative Committee actions July 17, 2018, and August 14, 2018.

9 **When considering compliance matters, local churches should refer to the process described in the *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual*.