

Motion to Amend our Mission Statement
Northern California Conference Constituency Meeting
September 30, 2018
From the Oroville, Ca. SDA Church

Appeal: More than simply reading this rationale and voting to amend our mission statement, we would appeal to all to study the magnificent Scriptures, Ellen White quotes and Fundamental Beliefs references in the endnotes. May Calvary recapture our hearts, stirring us to revival and a recommitment to the awesome identity, mission and destiny of the Remnant.

Rationale:

1. Proclaiming the Three Angels' Messages (Revelation 14:6-12) is the official mission of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist church according to our Fundamental Belief #13.¹
2. The Pacific Union Conference and General Conference Mission Statements include mention of the Three Angels' Messages.
3. Ellen G. White said that proclaiming the Three Angels' Messages *is* our mission.²
4. Synergistic,³ inter-dependent and defining aspects of the Three Angels' Messages, *as expressed in our Fundamental Beliefs*, unite gospel and law, faith and works, grace and obedience into their biblical unity, and could be summarized like this:

The everlasting gospel (Revelation 14:6) provides a righteous Sin Bearer, inspires repentance, provides forgiveness and empowers heart-obedience to God's commandments^{4 5} so that we might be justified⁶ in the judgment.⁷ The original seventh-day Sabbath of creation is a sign of this salvation and of God's faithful end-time Remnant (Ezekiel 20:12, 20; Revelation 12:17; 14:7, 12),⁸ who are prepared to meet Christ when He returns.
5. Adding a reference to the Three Angels' Messages [Revelation 14:6-12] to the Northern California Conference Mission Statement clarifies our commitment to the unique biblical identity and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Motion: We hereby move that the Northern California Conference Mission Statement be amended to read as follows (with the addition shown by italics and underlining).

The Northern California Conference is a network of churches, schools and ministries dedicated to transforming people through the good news of Jesus Christ, *as defined in the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14:6-12*, and preparing them for His soon return.

ENDNOTES

¹ Fundamental Belief #13. All the Fundamental Beliefs cited in this Rationale may be found at https://szu.adventist.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/28_Beliefs.pdf.

² The Three Angels' Messages as "Mission" in Ellen G. White – An Overview

Fundamental Belief #18 adds another identifying feature of the Remnant, the gift of prophecy as manifested in the writings of Ellen G. White, and it affirms the prophetic authority of her writings.

She said that our work is to give the last warning message to a perishing world by proclaiming the "first, second, and third angels' messages" and that "*there is no other work of so great importance,*" and that we "*are to allow nothing else to absorb*" our "*attention.*" {9T 19.1} Italics supplied.

The judgment now going on in heaven will close and then human probation will end. So our urgent duty is to make "plain the principles at stake in the great controversy . . . upon which hang the destinies of mankind" "standing on the brink" of "eternal ruin." {PK 716.1}

One of those principles at stake includes repairing the breach made by man in the Law of God regarding the Sabbath commandment. "In clear, distinct lines" we "are to present the necessity of obedience to all the precepts of the Decalogue." {PK 678.2}

Ellen White's warning against spiritualism in its end time Christian disguise especially relates to neglect of some aspects of the Three Angels' Messages: God's *judgment, justice* and His holy *Law* (*The Great Controversy* 557.2ff). By including mention of Revelation 14:6-12 in our mission statement we clarify our inclusion of the Law, judgment, and justice in our identity and mission in contrast to Christianized Spiritualism.

³ "Synergistic" is used to describe how the various inter-related concepts of the Three Angels' Messages, kept together, have a greater impact than their sum individually. For example, Ellen White referred to the Sabbath of the Seventh-day Baptists as disconnected from Revelation 14:6-12, as being a different Sabbath than ours, without power. Today, Seventh-day Baptists number 50,000 in contrast to 20 million Seventh-day Adventists.

⁴ See Fundamental Belief #10 on salvation. It relates to the "everlasting gospel" mentioned in Revelation 14:6. This Fundamental Belief includes Christ as Sin Bearer, the necessity of repentance, confession, being born again, Christ as *both* "Substitute and Example," and deliverance "from the Lordship of sin" through Spirit-empowered obedience to the Law of God.

⁵ Since the law is a transcript of God's character, when Fundamental Belief #7 speaks of restoring "in penitent mortals the image of their Maker" it directly relates to the Three Angels' Messages and a people who *keep the commandments of God*.

⁶ Justification in the judgment is depicted in Romans 2:13 “For not the hearers of the law [are] just before God, but the doers of the law *shall be justified.*”

⁷ The words “the hour of His judgment *is* come” (Revelation 14:7) correlate to Fundamental Belief #24 regarding 1844 as the beginning of the investigative judgment in heaven which “makes manifest who among the living are abiding in Christ, keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and in Him, therefore, are ready for translation into His everlasting kingdom:”

⁸ In light of the judgment, Revelation 14:7 calls us to worship God as Creator by keeping the original seventh-day Sabbath of Creation (Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 20:11) as the seal of God. Congruently, Fundamental Belief #20 says that the Sabbath “is a symbol of our redemption in Christ, a sign of our sanctification, a token of our allegiance . . . God’s perpetual sign of His eternal covenant between Him and His people” (Ezekiel 20:12, 20).