



St. LOUIS 2022

61ST GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION

SESSION AGENDA

JUNE 06 - JUNE 11 | **2022**

AMERICA'S CENTER CONVENTION COMPLEX

gcsession.org



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61ST SESSION OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTISTS

JUNE 6-11, 2022

THE DOME
AMERICA'S CENTER
CONVENTION COMPLEX

ST LOUIS, MISSOURI

NOTICE

The 61st Session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is being livestreamed on the internet and recorded for internal and archival purposes. Any other recording is unauthorized.

61st Session of the
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

INFORMATION FOR YOUR SAFETY AND SECURITY

Although it is unlikely that a major crisis would disrupt the General Conference Session (GCS), it is always a possibility when thousands of people are gathered together. We rely on God's protective power and prepare with the Holy Spirit's guidance. Please note that the America's Center Dome will be referred to as "ACD" and the America's Center Convention Center will be referred to as "ACCC."

EMERGENCIES – ACD and ACCC: (314) 342-5081

BUILDING EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Building management handles all evacuation procedures. Listen for public address announcements and follow the instructions given. Help others near you if they do not understand English.

LOST & FOUND

Lost & Found is located in the Security Dispatch Office, Room 182.

MEETING POINT

Each family should determine a designated meeting point in the ACD and in the ACCC should they become separated.

PERSONAL SECURITY

1. Please note that the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, General Conference Session Management, the America's Center Dome, and the America's Center Convention Center are not responsible for the safety of your family. Keep your children in your care at all times.
2. Stay out of surrounding bodies of water found in fountains, ponds, and/or similar. These bodies of water are not for recreational purposes.
3. As you leave the ACD or ACCC remove your badge, as the badge will identify that you are a tourist and are unfamiliar/uncertain of the area.
4. As in any big city, use caution when walking alone at any time, day or night.
5. When returning to your hotel at night, arrange to walk with someone.
6. Use all the door locking devices your hotel offers.
7. Never open your hotel room door to anyone until you identify him/her through the peephole. If someone at your door claims to be a hotel representative and you have not called for services, call the front desk to verify their identity.

8. Do not carry large amounts of cash or valuables.
9. Do not give your hotel room number to strangers.
10. Wash your hands frequently.
11. Carry a copy of the vital information page of your passport with you at all times.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

1. If you are injured on site or need immediate medical attention, go to the First Aid Station, ACCC, Level 1, Plaza First Aid Room.
2. The Visitor and Volunteer Services team is a hospitality and public safety group that patrols downtown and assists visitors with helpful information about the city and provides emergency assistance. They will be wearing easily recognizable red shirts that say, "EXPLORE ST LOUIS". They patrol on foot around the America's Center Convention Complex.
3. Additional Safety & Security information is available on the General Conference Session app, GC Session 2022.

RED PHONES

In an emergency, call ACD and ACCC Dispatch (314) 342-5081.

SUSPICIOUS ITEMS

If you find suspicious items left lying in hallways or meeting rooms, call ACD and ACCC Dispatch (314) 342-5081 to report the item. Do not touch or move it and move away from the item while dialing a cell phone.

CRIME/THEFT/HARASSMENT

If someone reports they are or have been the victim of a crime, harassment, or theft, call America's Center Public Safety Dispatch (314) 342-5081 to report the incident. Delegates and technical staff should also report the theft for claims purposes to Adventist Risk Management (240) 472-9678 ACCC, Level 1, Room 105.

DISPATCH FOR ALL EMERGENCIES: ACD and ACCC: (314) 342-5081

ACCC Session Management: (314) 342 5501, Level 2, Room 255

ACD Session Management: (314) 342-5504 and (314) 342-5505, Level 1, Room 143-144

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES: ACD and ACCC: (314) 342-5081

911: Use in emergencies **OUTSIDE** of the ACD or ACCC

"IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING."

61st Session of the
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION

Secure Wireless

A secure wireless (Wi-Fi) has been provided for the delegates in the delegate seating area in the Dome, as well as in the Nominating Committee rooms in the Convention Center. This Wi-Fi connection is solely for delegate business use, for voting and receiving electronic materials. The Wi-Fi password will be sent to you by email. Please do not share it.

Unsecured Wireless

A free, unsecured wireless (Wi-Fi) is provided for guests throughout the Dome and Convention Center. No password is required for this Wi-Fi connection.

Portable Power Bank

A portable power bank has been provided to extend the power for your electronic devices. Please note the instructions included in the box that you will receive during on-site registration.

GC Session Event App

A specially developed GC Session app contains the program guide, business session agenda, maps, transportation information, food menus, emergency information, virtual exhibitor information, etc. This app, called **GC Session 2022**, is downloadable from the Apple and Android stores.

61st Session of the
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

MICROPHONE STATION INSTRUCTIONS

FOR ON-SITE DELEGATES

To Address the Chairperson

1. Approach the attendant at the nearest microphone station.
2. Give the attendant your badge (they will keep it until you leave the line).
3. You may speak when you are acknowledged by the chairperson.
4. When you have finished speaking, the attendant will return your badge to you.

Note: If you would like to leave the line before speaking, tell the attendant who will return your badge to you.

To Raise a Point of Order

1. Approach the attendant at the nearest microphone station.
2. Tell the attendant you desire to raise a point of order.
3. Give the attendant your badge (they will keep it until you leave the microphone).
4. You may speak when you are acknowledged by the chairperson.
5. When you have finished speaking, the attendant will return your badge to you.

Note: If you would like to withdraw your point of order before speaking, tell the attendant who will return your badge to you.

FOR ONLINE DELEGATES

Specific instructions will be given to online delegates on how to address the chairperson should they wish to speak or raise a point of order. This information will be made available on the General Conference Session website and on Zoom ten minutes prior to the beginning of program each morning.

61st Session of the
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS FOR
BUSINESS MEETINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Editor</u>
<u>Monday, June 6</u>			
10:00 am - 12:30 pm	Artur A Stele	Gerson P Santos	Hensley M Mooroven
2:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Ella S Simmons	Karen J Porter	Hensley M Mooroven
7:00 pm - 8:45 pm	Abner De los Santos	Claude J Richli	Hensley M Mooroven
<u>Tuesday, June 7</u>			
9:15 am - 12:30 pm	Thomas L Lemon	Gerson P Santos	Hensley M Mooroven
2:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Guillermo E Biaggi	Gary D Krause	Hensley M Mooroven
7:00 pm - 8:45 pm	Geoffrey G Mbwana	Elbert Kuhn	Hensley M Mooroven
<u>Wednesday, June 8</u>			
9:15 am - 12:30 pm	Ella S Simmons	Karen J Porter	Hensley M Mooroven
2:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Artur A Stele	Claude J Richli	Hensley M Mooroven
7:00 pm - 8:45 pm	Abner De los Santos	Elbert Kuhn	Hensley M Mooroven
<u>Thursday, June 9</u>			
9:15 am - 12:30 pm	Guillermo E Biaggi	Gary D Krause	Hensley M Mooroven
2:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Geoffrey G Mbwana	Elbert Kuhn	Hensley M Mooroven
7:00 pm - 8:45 pm	Thomas L Lemon	Karen J Porter	Hensley M Mooroven

61st Session of the
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION MANAGEMENT

Session Manager	George O Egwakhe
Associate Session Manager	Silvia L Sicalo
Assistant Session Manager	Sheri Clemmer

AGENDA

Agenda Development

Agenda Secretary	Hensley M Mooroooven
Assistant	Laurie J Schmidt
Master Agenda Control	Tamara K Boward
Preparation of Agenda Materials	Laurie J Schmidt

MINUTES AND EDITORIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Minutes Production

Recording Secretaries	Tamara K Boward Joanne Stango
Editorial Secretary	Hensley M Mooroooven
Editors of Actions	Gary D Krause/Elbert Kuhn/ Daisy J F Orion/Lissy Park/Magdiel E Perez Schulz/ Karen J Porter/Claude J Richli/Gerson P Santos
Minutes Approval	Hensley M Mooroooven/Lissy Park
Daily Bulletin, (<i>Adventist Review</i>) Editor	William M Knott

61st Session of the
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

SESSION RECORDING & SUPPORT MATERIAL

Session Transcription Director
Assistants

Karen J Porter
Muriel Bello
Gabriella Iannella
Sarah Kannanaikkel
Michael Porter

Material Distribution Coordinator

Dan E Herzel

61st Session of the
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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Business Center Director, Committee Room Scheduling, and Spot Announcements	Cheryl A Show
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Program Committee	Ted N C Wilson, Chair
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Secretariat Services and Material Approval	Hensley M Mooroven

61st Session of the
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

AGENDA & SUPPORT MATERIAL

Explanation of Coding and Format

This explanation is to help you use the 61st Session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists agenda and support material.

1. The agenda lists the items of business that are to be considered at the Business Meetings of the General Conference Session.

2. If an agenda item has support material, you will find a number at the end of the agenda title. That is the page number where the support material will be found.

3. Many agenda items have a code that precedes the agenda title. Each code has five digits followed by one or more letters. This is a computer identification code which is used to keep track of the item. You will find the same code on any corresponding support material.

4. Just above the title on the first page of the support material for each item, you will find what is known as a reference line. This line identifies the source(s) and traces the history of the item, and also shows its routing. The glossary on pages 13-15, will help you discover which organizations and committees have given prior consideration to a particular item and where it will be considered next. The series of acronyms to the left of the word “to” traces the past history of the item. To the right appear the initials of the General Conference Officer who is responsible for presenting the item. Occasionally, its future routing is suggested also.

5. If a computer identification code number appears in the reference line, it shows that the item has been considered during a previous administrative year. An administrative year extends from the close of one Annual Council to the close of the next Annual Council.

GLOSSARY OF MOST FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS

AAIM	Adventist AIDS International Ministry
AC	Annual Council
ACM	Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries
ADCOM	Administrative Committee
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AIAS	Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies
AM	Adventist Mission
APM	Adventist Possibility Ministries
ARMies	Adventist Review Ministries
ARM	Adventist Risk Management
ASTR	Archives, Statistics, and Research
AU	Andrews University
AUA	Adventist University of Africa
AVS	Adventist Volunteer Services
AWR	Adventist World Radio
BRI	Biblical Research Institute
CHM	Children's Ministries
CHUM	Chinese Union Mission
COM	Communication
ECD	East-Central Africa Division
EDU	Education
ESD	Euro-Asia Division
EUD	Inter-European Division
FM	Family Ministries
GC	General Conference
GCAS	General Conference Auditing Service
GCC	General Conference Executive Committee
GCDO	General Conference and Division Officers

Acronyms (contd) - 2

GCS	General Conference Session
GRI	Geoscience Research Institute
HCI	Hope Channel International
HM	Health Ministries
HR	Human Resources
IF	Israel Field
IAD	Inter-American Division
IPRS	International Personnel Resources and Services
IWM	Institute of World Mission
LLU	Loma Linda University
MENAUM	Middle East and North Africa Union Mission
MIN	Ministerial Association
MPPC	Mission Personnel Processing Committee
NAD	North American Division
NSD	Northern Asia-Pacific Division
OGC	Office of General Counsel
PARL	Public Affairs and Religious Liberty
PRE	Presidential
PreC	Presidents Council (General Conference and Division Presidents)
PREXAD	President's Executive Administrative Council
PUB	Publishing Ministries
RHPA	Review and Herald Publishing Association
SAD	South American Division
SEC	Secretariat
SecC	Secretaries Council (General Conference and Division Secretaries)
SID	Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division
SM	Spring Meeting
SPD	South Pacific Division

Acronyms (contd) - 3

SSD	Southern Asia-Pacific Division
SSPM	Sabbath School and Personal Ministries
STW	Stewardship Ministries
SUD	Southern Asia Division
TED	Trans-European Division
TRE	Treasury
TreC	Treasurers Council (General Conference and Division Treasurers)
TRS	Planned Giving and Trust Services
UUC	Ukrainian Union Conference
WAD	West-Central Africa Division
WHT	Ellen G White Estate, Inc.
WM	Women's Ministries
YOU	Youth Ministries

61st Session of the
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

GENERAL AGENDA

AAS	101.		Official Call to Order
ECK	102.		Satisfaction of Constitutional Requirements (General Conference Constitution Article V, Sec. 1) [23]
ECK	103.		<i>Rules of Order</i> and Parliamentary
ECK	104.		Mission Statement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church [24]
ECK	105.		Adoption of the Daily Program
ECK	106.		Adoption of Session Agendas
ECK	107.	115-22GS	Steering Committee—General Conference Session - 2022 [25]
ECK	108.	116-22GS	Standing Committees—General Conference Session - 2022 [26]
ECK	109.		Appointment of the Nominating Committee
TNCW	110.		President's Report
HMM	111.	106-22GS	Zimbabwe Central Union Conference, Zimbabwe East Union Conference, and Zimbabwe West Union Conference—New Union Conferences [27]
GPS	112.	107-22GS	Belize Union Mission—New Union Mission [28]
GPS	113.	110-22GS	Northern Ghana Union Conference—New Union Conference [29]
CJR	114.	105-22GS	Netherlands Union of Churches Conference—New Union of Churches Conference [30]
CJR	115.	108-22GS	Malaysia Union Mission and Southeastern Asia Union Mission—New Union Missions [31]

KJP	116.	109-22GS	Eastern Ethiopia Union Mission and Western Ethiopia Union Mission—New Union Missions [32]
KJP	117.	111-22GS	Trans-Caucasus Union of Churches Mission—Dissolution [33]
ECK	118.		Secretary’s Report
PHD	119.		Treasurer’s Report
PHD	120.		Independent Auditor’s Opinion and Certification
TNCW	121.		General Conference Corporation Members Meeting (2:00 pm, Wednesday, June 8, 2022)
TNCW	122.		General Conference Corporation Members Meeting (2:00 pm, Thursday, June 9, 2022)
MLR/AAS	123.		Three Angels’ Messages Report
AAS	124.	120-22GS	Resolution on the Holy Bible [34]
AAS	125.	121-22GS	Statement of Confidence in the Writings of Ellen G White [35]

61st Session of the
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AGENDA

HMM	201.	203-22GSE	Election - Constitution and Bylaws Editorial Amendment (Constitution Article VI) [36]
HMM	202.	207-22GSE	Departments and Associations—Directors/Secretaries, Associates, and Assistants - Constitution and Bylaws Editorial Amendment (Bylaws Article X) [37]
HMM	203.	211-22GSE	Use of “Telephone Conference” - Constitution and Bylaws Editorial Directive [38]
HMM	204.	208-22GS	General Conference Undersecretary and Associate Secretaries - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment (Bylaws Article IV) [39]
HMM	205.	209-22GS	General Conference Undertreasurer and Associate Treasurers - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment (Bylaws Article V) [40]
HMM	206.	204-22GS	General Conference Executive Committee - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment (Constitution Article VIII) [41]
HMM	207.	205-22GS	General Conference Executive Committee - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment (Bylaws Article XIII) [43]
HMM	208.	202-22GSa	General Conference Sessions - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment (Constitution Article V) [46]
HMM	209.	202-22GSb	Session Committees - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment (Bylaws Article II) [48]
HMM	210.	206-22GSa	Director of Office of Archives, Statstics, and Research - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment (Bylaws Article XII) [50]
HMM	211.	206-22GSEb	Appointment - Constitution and Bylaws Editorial Amendment (Constitution Article VII) [51]
HMM	212.	210-22GS	Use of “Union Mission” and “Local Mission” - Constitution and Bylaws Directive [52]

61st Session of the
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

NOMINATIONS

- 301. General Conference Elected Staff
- 302. East-Central Africa Division Elected Staff
- 303. Euro-Asia Division Elected Staff
- 304. Inter-American Division Elected Staff
- 305. Inter-European Division Elected Staff
- 306. North American Division Elected Staff
- 307. Northern Asia-Pacific Division Elected Staff
- 308. South American Division Elected Staff
- 309. South Pacific Division Elected Staff
- 310. Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division Elected Staff
- 311. Southern Asia Division Elected Staff
- 312. Southern Asia-Pacific Division Elected Staff
- 313. Trans-European Division Elected Staff
- 314. West-Central Africa Division Elected Staff
- 315. General Conference Corporation Board of Directors
- 316. General Conference Auditing Service Board

61st Session of the
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

CHURCH MANUAL AGENDA

GPS	401.	400-22GS	Unauthorized Speakers - <i>Church Manual Amendment</i> (CM 120-121) [53]
GPS	402.	403-22GS	Church School Board - <i>Church Manual Amendment</i> (CM 90-92) [54]
GPS	403.	404-22GS	Use of “Baptismal Ceremony” - <i>Church Manual Directive</i> [56]
GPS	404.	420-22GS	Meetings (Church Board and its Meetings) - <i>Church Manual Amendment</i> (CM 131) [57]
GPS	405.	427-22GS	Business Meetings - <i>Church Manual Amendment</i> (CM 128) [58]
GPS	406.	409-22GSa	Ordination of Elders - <i>Church Manual Amendment</i> (CM 73) [59]
GPS	407.	409-22GSb	Ordination Service for Deaconesses - <i>Church Manual Amendment</i> (CM 78) [60]
GPS	408.	417-22GS	Pastor and other Church Employees - <i>Church Manual Amendment</i> (CM 31-35) [61]
GPS	409.	422-22GS	Board of Elders - <i>Church Manual Addition</i> (CM 73) [67]
GPS	410.	433-22GS	To Foster Bible Study, Prayer, and a Relationship with Jesus (Elders) - <i>Church Manual Amendment</i> (CM 75) [68]
GPS	411.	441-22GS	Relationship to the Pastor (Elders) - <i>Church Manual Amendment</i> (CM 73-74) [69]
GPS	412.	436-22GSa	Nominating Committee and the Election Process - <i>Church Manual Amendment</i> (CM 110-113) [70]
GPS	413.	436-22GSb	Term of Office - <i>Church Manual Amendment</i> (CM 72) [73]
GPS	414.	442-22GS	Use of “Reelect” - <i>Church Manual Directive</i> [74]

- GPS 415. 437-22GSa **Duties of Deacons - Church Manual Amendment** (CM 79) [75]
- GPS 416. 437-22GSb **Duties of Deaconesses - Church Manual Amendment** (CM 81) [76]
- GPS 417. 437-22GSa **Organizing a Company - Church Manual Amendment** (CM 37-38) [77]
- GPS 418. 425-22GS **Spirit of Prophecy Writings - Church Manual Addition** (CM 102) [79]
- GPS 419. 430-22GSa **Adventist Possibility Ministries - Church Manual Addition** (CM 65) [80]
- GPS 420. 430-22GSb **Ministry to People with Disabilities - Church Manual Deletion** (CM 102) [82]
- GPS 421. 443-22GS **Youth Ministries - Church Manual Amendment** (CM 104-109) [83]
- GPS 422. 434-22GS **Membership (Church Board and its Meetings) - Church Manual Amendment** (CM 130-131) [88]
- GPS 423. 419-22GS **No Wall of Partition (Church of the Living God) - Church Manual Amendment** (CM 20-21) [90]
- GPS 424. 401-22GS **Membership Record - Church Manual Amendment** (CM 55) [91]
- GPS 425. 415-22GS **Church Board Cannot Remove Members - Church Manual Amendment** (CM 65) [92]
- GPS 426. 440-22GS **Church Board Cannot Grant Letters - Church Manual Amendment** (CM 54) [93]
- GPS 427. 424-22GS **Redemptive Membership Auditing - Church Manual Addition** (CM 55) [94]
- GPS 428. 426-22GS **Church Records - Church Manual Amendment** (CM 82) [95]
- GPS 429. 429-22GSa **Making Disciples - Church Manual Addition** (CM 43) [96]

- GPS 430. 429-22GSb **Discipleship (Church Board and its Meetings) - *Church Manual* Amendment** (CM 130) [101]
- GPS 431. 408-22GS **No Additional Tests of Fellowship - *Church Manual* Amendment** (CM 64) [102]
- GPS 432. 432-22GS **Fundamental Rights of the Members - *Church Manual* Amendment** (CM 65) [103]
- GPS 433. 416-22GS **Sabbathkeeping - *Church Manual* Amendment** (CM 144-145) [104]
- GPS 434. 428-22GS **Premarital Education/Counseling - *Church Manual* Addition** (CM 154) [106]
- GPS 435. 439-22GS **Purposes of Organization - *Church Manual* Amendment** (CM 25-26) [107]
- GPS 436. 402-22GS **Proper Method for Payment of Money by Members - *Church Manual* Amendment** (CM 84-85) [109]
- GPS 437. 418-22GS **Terms Used in the *Church Manual* - *Church Manual* Amendment** (CM 18-19) [110]

SATISFACTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

In compliance with the General Conference Constitution, Article V, Sec. 1, the following notice appears in the February online edition, and the March, April, May, and June print editions of *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World*.

2022 GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION

Official notice is hereby given that the postponed sixty-first session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held June 6-11, 2022, in the America's Center in St. Louis, Missouri, United States. The first meeting will begin at 8:00 am, June 6, 2022. All duly accredited delegates are urged to be present at that time. This Session will also be accessible for delegates remotely by electronic means.

Ted N C Wilson, General Conference President

Erton C Köhler, General Conference Secretary

MISSION STATEMENT
OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Our Mission—Make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Three Angels' Messages in preparation for His soon return (Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Rev 14:6-12).

Our Method— Guided by the Bible and the Holy Spirit, Seventh-day Adventists pursue this mission through Christ-like living, communicating, discipling, teaching, healing, and serving.

Our Vision— In harmony with Bible revelation, Seventh-day Adventists see as the climax of God's plan the restoration of all His creation to full harmony with His perfect will and righteousness.

1 SEC/ADCOM/19AC/128-19GS/117-20GS/ADCOM/113-21GS/GCC to ECK-22GCS
2
3 115-22GS STEERING COMMITTEE—GENERAL CONFERENCE
4 SESSION - 2022
5
6 RECOMMENDED, To approve the 2022 General Conference Session Steering Committee, as
7 follows:

8
9 STEERING

10
11 Ted N C Wilson, Chair
12 Hensley M Mooroooven, Secretary
13

14 Members: Kyoshin Ahn, Timothy H Aka, Stanley E Arco, Guillermo E Biaggi, Mario A
15 Brito, G Alexander Bryant, Sheri Clemmer, Abner De los Santos, Paul H Douglas, Karnik
16 Doukmetzian, George O Egwakhe, Larry R Evans, Mark A Finley, Elie Henry, Raafat A Kamal,
17 Mikhail F Kaminskiy, Si Young Kim, Erton C Kohler, Gary D Krause, Elbert Kuhn, Ezras
18 Lakra, Thomas L Lemon, German A Lust, Solomon Maphosa, Geoffrey G Mbwana,
19

20 Todd R McFarland, Duane McKey, Daisy J F Orion, Lissy Park, Magdiel E
21 Perez Schulz, Karen J Porter, C Randolph Robinson, Blasious M Ruguri, Michael L Ryan,
22 Claude J Richli, Saw Samuel, Gerson P Santos, Silvia Sicalo, Ella S Simmons, Artur A Stele,
23 Glenn C Townend, J Raymond Wahlen II, Elie Weick
24

25 Invitees: Tamara K Boward, Williams S Costa Jr, William M Knott

1 SEC/ADCOM/129-19GS/118-20GS/ADCOM/114-21GS/ADCOM to ECK-22GCS

2
3 116-22GS STANDING COMMITTEES—GENERAL CONFERENCE
4 SESSION - 2022

5
6 RECOMMENDED, To approve standing committees for the 2022 General Conference Session,
7 as follows:

8
9 CHURCH MANUAL

10
11 Guillermo E Biaggi, Chair
12 Abner De los Santos, Vice-chair
13 Gerson P Santos, Secretary
14 Tamara K Boward, Recording Secretary

15
16 Members: Kyoshin Ahn, Viktor Alyeksyeyenko, Audrey E Andersson, Kingsley C
17 Anonaba, Rudy R Baloyo, Bert B Beach, Lesleigh A E Bower, Elias Brasil de Souza, Changhyun
18 Choi, Alain G Coralie, Paul H Douglas, Karnik Doukmetzian, Robert B Dulay, George O Egwakhe,
19 Dwain Esmond, Stanley B Fernandes, Carolyn Forrest, Pavel Goia, Edward Heidinger, Elie Henry,
20 Anthony R Kent, Erton C Kohler, Khrawbor Kharbteng, Linda Mei Lin Koh, Stephane Le Guilcher,

21
22 Barna Magyarosi, Geoffrey G Mbwana, Rainford McIntosh, Wilson Measapogu, Hensley M
23 Mooroooven, Rodia M M Musonda, Isaiah M G Ok, Jerry N Page, Rayla Pikeri, Leslie N Pollard,
24 Gideon P Reyneke, Claude J Richli, Richard A Sabuin, Mykola Shpylchuk, Michael B Sikuri,
25 Heather-Dawn K Small, Florence M S Sombie, Artur A Stele, Alberto R Timm, Ted N C Wilson.

26
27 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

28
29 Ted N C Wilson, Chair
30 Geoffrey G Mbwana, Vice-chair
31 Hensley M Mooroooven, Secretary
32 Laurie J Schmidt, Recording Secretary

33
34 Members: Kyoshin Ahn, Viktor Alyeksyeyenko, Audrey E Andersson, Kingsley C
35 Anonaba, Rudy R Baloyo, Lisa M Beardsley-Hardy, Guillermo E Biaggi, Elias Brasil de Souza,
36 Mario Brito, Pierre Caporal Sr, Alain G Coralie, Abner De los Santos, Paul H Douglas, Marlon
37 de Souza Lopes, Karnik Doukmetzian, Edward Heidinger, Vincent Injety, Nenad Jeuranovic,
38 Leonard A Johnson, Orlan Johnson, J Francois Keet, Erton C Kohler, Michael Kruger,

39
40 Elbert Kuhn, Thomas L Lemon, Andrea T Luxton, Barna Magyarosi, Todd R McFarland,
41 Wilson Measapogu, Derek J Morris, Daisy J F Orion, Kathryn L Proffitt, Gideon P Reyneke,
42 C Randolph Robinson, Blasious M Ruguri, Richard A Sabuin, Saw Samuel, Michael B Sikuri,
43 Ella S Simmons, Joel D Tompkins, Basseyy E O Udoh, Ivan I Velgosha, Chinta J Victor,
44 Teixeira M Vinte, James Winegardner, Jennifer Woods, Lori T Yingling.

45
46 Invitee: Tamara K Boward.

1 ADCOM/ADCOM/GCDO17AC/17AC/115-17GS/108-18GS/107-19GS/107-20GS/106-21GS to
2 HMM-22GCS

3

4 106-22GS ZIMBABWE CENTRAL UNION CONFERENCE, ZIMBABWE
5 EAST UNION CONFERENCE, AND ZIMBABWE WEST UNION
6 CONFERENCE—NEW UNION CONFERENCES

7

8 RECOMMENDED, 1. To recognize and record the reorganization of the former Zimbabwe
9 Union Conference into three union conferences known as the Zimbabwe Central Union
10 Conference, the Zimbabwe East Union Conference, and the Zimbabwe West Union Conference,
11 effective January 1, 2018.

12

13 2. To accept the Zimbabwe Central Union Conference (SID) into the world
14 sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

15

16 3. To accept the Zimbabwe East Union Conference (SID) into the world sisterhood
17 of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

18

19 4. To accept the Zimbabwe West Union Conference (SID) into the world sisterhood
20 of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

1 ADCOM/ADCOM/GCDO19AC/19AC/131-19GS/108-20GS/107-21GS to GPS-22GCS

2

3 107-22GS BELIZE UNION MISSION—NEW UNION MISSION

4

5 RECOMMENDED, 1. To recognize and record union mission status for the Belize Union of
6 Churches Mission, effective October 13, 2019.

7

8 2. To accept the Belize Union Mission (IAD) into the world sisterhood of unions of
9 the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

1 ADCOM/ADCOM/GCDO21AC/21AC/139-21GS to GPS-22GCS
2
3 110-22GS NORTHERN GHANA UNION CONFERENCE—NEW
4 UNION CONFERENCE
5
6 RECOMMENDED, 1. To recognize and record union conference status for the Northern Ghana
7 Union Mission, effective October 10, 2021.
8
9 2. To accept the Northern Ghana Union Conference (WAD) into the world
10 sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

1 TED/ADCOM/GCDO16AC/16AC/113-16GS/106-17GS/106-18GS/106-19GS/106-20GS/
2 105-21GS to CJR-22GCS

3

4 105-22GS NETHERLANDS UNION OF CHURCHES CONFERENCE—
5 NEW UNION OF CHURCHES CONFERENCE

6

7 RECOMMENDED, 1. To recognize and record union of churches conference status for the
8 Netherlands Union Conference, effective May 5, 2017.

9

10 2. To accept the Netherlands Union of Churches Conference (TED) into the world
11 sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

1 ADCOM/ADCOM/GCDO19AC/19AC/139-19GS/109-20GS/108-21GS to CJR-22GCS

2

3 108-22GS MALAYSIA UNION MISSION AND SOUTHEASTERN

4 ASIA UNION MISSION—NEW UNION MISSIONS

5

6 RECOMMENDED, 1. To recognize and record the reorganization of the former Southeast Asia

7 Union Mission into two union missions known as the Malaysia Union Mission and the

8 Southeastern Asia Union Mission, effective December 31, 2021.

9

10 2. To accept the Malaysia Union Mission (SSD) into the world sisterhood of unions
11 of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

12

13 3. To accept the Southeastern Union Mission (SSD) into the world sisterhood of

14 unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

1 ADCOM/ADCOM/GCDO19AC/19AC/140-19GS/110-20GS/109-21GS to KJP-22GCS

2

3 109-22GS EASTERN ETHIOPIA UNION MISSION AND WESTERN

4 ETHIOPIA UNION MISSION—NEW UNION MISSIONS

5

6 RECOMMENDED, 1. To recognize and record the reorganization of the former Ethiopian
7 Union Mission into two union missions known as the Eastern Ethiopia Union Mission and the
8 Western Ethiopia Union Mission, effective November 17, 2019.

9

10 2. To accept the Eastern Ethiopia Union Mission (ECD) into the world sisterhood of
11 unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

12

13 3. To accept the Western Ethiopia Union Mission (ECD) into the world sisterhood
14 of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

1 ESD/ADCOM/16SM/109-16GS/105-17GS/105-18GS105-19GS/ESD/ADCOM/
2 ADCOM(Steering)/20SM/20AC/105-20G/134-21GS to KJP-22GCS
3
4 111-22GS TRANS-CAUCASUS UNION OF CHURCHES MISSION—
5 DISSOLUTION
6
7 RECOMMENDED, To recognize and record the dissolution of the former Trans-Caucasus
8 Union of Churches Mission in the Euro-Asia Division, effective January 1, 2021. The Division
9 has reorganized the territory.

1 PRE/ADCOM/GCDO19AC/19AC/141-19GS/124-20GS/118-21GS to AAS-22GCS

2
3 120-22GS RESOLUTION ON THE HOLY BIBLE

4
5 RECOMMENDED, To approve the Resolution on the Holy Bible, which reads as follows:

6
7 RESOLUTION ON THE HOLY BIBLE

8
9 As delegates to the 2022 General Conference Session in St Louis, Missouri, we express
10 our conviction that the Bible is the inspired and revealed Word of God. Through the Holy
11 Scriptures, God has revealed Himself and His will to humanity. The whole Bible is inspired and
12 must be understood as a whole in order to arrive at correct conclusions as to the truth on any
13 revealed topic. The Bible is reliable in what it affirms. Its record of creation in six literal days,
14 the fall of human beings, a global flood to destroy wickedness and preserve a remnant, Christ's
15 earthly life, death, and resurrection, as well as God's numerous interventions in history for the
16 salvation of human beings are trustworthy reports of God's acts in history (Luke 24:27; Heb 1:1,
17 2; 2 Pet 1:21). Prophetically, the fulfillment of predicted events in accordance with prophetic
18 time periods establishes confidence in the Bible as a unique witness to divine truth unlike any
19 other religious book (Isa 46:9, 10; Dan 2, 7, 8; Luke 24:44; 2 Pet 1:19, 20).

20
21 We believe that the Bible is the prophetic Word of God and through the prophets of the
22 Old Testament, the apostles of the New Testament, and especially through His Son, Jesus Christ,
23 God has revealed how He will act for the salvation of human beings and execute judgment on
24 wickedness.

25
26 We commit ourselves to prayerfully study and follow the Bible, the living and effective
27 Word of God. It is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. It
28 stands forever as a witness to God's will, His law, His thoughts, and His purposes for human
29 beings and for our world, and contains the treasures of eternal wisdom and grace (Isa 40:8; 1
30 Thess 2:13; 2 Tim 3:16, 17). Its principles and teachings are applicable in all times, all places, all
31 languages, and all cultures for all people. It speaks credibly and relevantly today as it has in the
32 past and will continue to speak as long as time shall last.

33
34 We also believe that the Bible leads us to a living relationship with God through Jesus
35 Christ. And by the Holy Spirit the Bible speaks directly to each person to reveal the plan of
36 salvation and restore believers into the image of God. Thus, the Bible stands as the norm for all
37 religious experience inasmuch as it reveals and teaches the truth and explains how its effects are
38 manifested on the intellect, feelings, and affections (Heb 4:12; Gal 5:22-23).

39
40 We express our deep gratitude to the Lord because in the Scriptures we find hope to live
41 amidst the challenges of the world. The Bible tells of God's plan to bestow immortality on His
42 people at the second coming of Christ and ultimately, after the millennium in heaven, to put an
43 end to sin and sinners forever and establish righteousness in the new earth (Ps 119:105; Rom
44 15:4; Heb 4:12; James 1:18).

1 PRE/ADCOM/GCDO19AC/19AC/142-19GS/ADCOM/GCDO20AC/ADCOM(Steering)/20AC/
2 125-20GS/119-21GS to AAS-22GCS

3
4 121-22GS STATEMENT OF CONFIDENCE IN THE WRITINGS OF
5 ELLEN G WHITE

6
7 RECOMMENDED, To approve the Statement of Confidence in the Writings of Ellen G White,
8 which reads as follows:

9
10 STATEMENT OF CONFIDENCE IN THE
11 WRITINGS OF ELLEN G WHITE

12
13 As delegates to the 2022 General Conference Session in St Louis, Missouri, we express
14 our deep gratitude for God’s prophetic guidance of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Aiming to
15 live “by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matt 4:4, NKJV; cf. Luke 10:16), we
16 take seriously the biblical passages that teach the abiding nature of the gift of prophecy (Rom
17 12:6; 1 Cor 12:10, 28; Eph 4:11-14) and promise its end-time manifestation (Joel 2:28-31; Rev
18 12:17; 19:10; 22:9). We recognize the gift of prophecy in the life and ministry of Ellen G White
19 (1827-1915).

20
21 We believe that the writings of Ellen G White were inspired by the Holy Spirit and are
22 Christ centered and Bible based. Rather than replacing Scripture, they uplift its normative
23 character, safeguard the Church from “every wind of doctrine” (Eph 4:14), and offer an inspired
24 guide to Bible passages without exhausting their meaning or preventing further study. They also
25 help us to overcome the human tendency to accept from the Bible what we like and to distort or
26 disregard what we do not like.

27
28 We commit ourselves to prayerfully study the writings of Ellen G White with hearts
29 willing to follow the counsels and instructions found therein. Whether individually, in the family,
30 in small groups, in the classroom, or in the church, we believe that the study of her writings
31 brings us closer to God and His infallible Word—the Scriptures—providing us a transforming
32 and faith-uplifting experience.

33
34 We rejoice in the Lord for what has already been accomplished in the global and local
35 circulation of the writings of Ellen G White in both printed and electronic formats, including
36 egwwritings.org and related apps. We encourage the continued development of both worldwide
37 and local strategies to foster the circulation and study of her writings in as many languages as
38 possible. The study of these writings is a powerful means to strengthen and prepare God’s people
39 to face the challenges of these last days as we approach Christ’s soon return.

1 SEC/Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO17AC/17AC/210-17GSE/203-18GSE/202-19GSE/
2 202-20GSE/202-21GSE to HMM-22GCS

3
4 203-22GSE ELECTION - CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
5 EDITORIAL AMENDMENT

6
7 RATIONALE: This editorial amendment clarifies that the General Conference Executive
8 Committee approves recommendations from divisions regarding their representation on the
9 Committee.

10
11 RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution,
12 Article VI—Election, to read as follows:

13
14 ARTICLE VI—ELECTION

15
16 Sec. 1. The following shall be elected at each regular session - No change

17
18 Sec. 2. The following shall be approved by vote of the General Conference Executive
19 Committee at a subsequent meeting, following recommendations from the divisions:

20
21 Other persons to serve as members of the General Conference Executive Committee as
22 provided for in Article VIII, Sec. 1. b.

1 SEC/Con&By/ADCOM/GCDO19AC/19AC/220-19GSE/206-20GSE/206-21GSE to HMM-
2 22GCS

3

4 207-22GSE DEPARTMENTS AND ASSOCIATIONS—DIRECTORS/
5 SECRETARIES, ASSOCIATES, AND ASSISTANTS - CONSTITUTION
6 AND BYLAWS EDITORIAL AMENDMENT

7

8 RATIONALE: This editorial amendment alphabetizes the names of the departments.

9

10 RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws
11 Article X—Departments and Associates—Directors/Secretaries, Associates, and Assistants, to
12 read as follows:

13

14

15 ARTICLE X—DEPARTMENTS AND ASSOCIATIONS—
16 DIRECTORS/SECRETARIES, ASSOCIATES, AND ASSISTANTS

16

17 Sec. 1. Departmental and association directors/secretaries and associate directors/
18 secretaries shall be elected by the General Conference Session and assistants shall be appointed
19 as determined by the General Conference Executive Committee to serve the world Church
20 through the Ministerial Association and the following departments: Adventist Chaplaincy
21 Ministries, Children’s Ministries, Communication, Education, Family Ministries, Health
22 Ministries, Planned Giving and Trust Services, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, Publishing
23 Ministries, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries, Stewardship Ministries, ~~Planned Giving and~~
24 ~~Trust Services~~, Women’s Ministries, and Youth Ministries

25

26 Should changes to the departmental structure of the General Conference be deemed
27 necessary, such changes may be approved and implemented by action of the General Conference
28 Executive Committee in Annual Council and continued, subject to ratification at the next
29 General Conference Session. When additions or changes to department or association structures
30 are implemented at times other than in connection with a General Conference Session, the
31 General Conference Executive Committee at an Annual Council shall also address the staffing
32 needs involved until the next General Conference Session.

33

34 Sec. 2. The departmental, association, agency, and service directors/secretaries - No change

35

36 Sec. 3. The term “associate director/secretary” shall be used to designate those - No change

37

38 Sec. 4. The term “assistant director/secretary” shall be used to designate those - No change

39

40 Sec. 5. Departmental and association directors/secretaries, associates, and - No change

1 SEC/Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO20AC/20AC/214-20GSE/210-21GSE to HMM-22GCS

2

3 211-22GSE USE OF “TELEPHONE CONFERENCE” - CONSTITUTION

4 AND BYLAWS EDITORIAL DIRECTIVE

5

6 RATIONALE: This directive allows for electronic conference and makes the terminology
7 consistent with what is found in General Conference *Working Policy*.

8

9 RECOMMENDED, To approve a directive to amend the General Conference Constitution and
10 Bylaws, where appropriate, by deleting “telephone conference” and replacing it with “electronic
11 conference.”

1 SEC/PRE/Con&By/ADCOM/PreC/SecC/TreC/GCDO19AC/19AC/221-19GS/207-20GS/
2 207-21GS to HMM-22GCS

3
4 208-22GS GENERAL CONFERENCE UNDERSECRETARY AND
5 ASSOCIATE SECRETARIES - CONSTITUTION AND
6 BYLAWS AMENDMENT

7
8 RATIONALE: This amendment accomplishes the following:

9
10 1. Reflects that, in an effort to be consistent with other divisions, the secretary of the
11 North American Division will no longer be an associate secretary of the General Conference
12 (lines 26-27).

13
14 2. Replaces the name of “interdivision employees” with “international service
15 employees” to be consistent with changes that have been made in General Conference *Working*
16 *Policy* (lines 35-38).

17
18 RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws
19 Article IV—General Conference Undersecretary and Associate Secretaries, to read as follows:

20
21 ARTICLE IV—GENERAL CONFERENCE
22 UNDERSECRETARY AND ASSOCIATE SECRETARIES

23
24 Sec. 1. An undersecretary and associate secretaries shall be elected to share - No change

25
26 ~~Sec. 2. The secretary of the North American Division, by virtue of election to that~~
27 ~~responsibility, shall also be an associate secretary of the General Conference.~~

28
29 ~~Sec. 3.~~ Sec. 2. The role of the General Conference undersecretary and associate secretaries,
30 in relationship to the divisions, includes the following:

31
32 a. To serve as liaisons with division secretaries as assigned by the General
33 Conference secretary.

34
35 b. To facilitate the processing of calls for ~~interdivision employees.~~ international
36 service employees.

37
38 c. To recruit ~~interdivision employees~~ international service employees to fill the
39 needs of the divisions.

40
41 d. To assist the divisions with personnel and policy matters.

1 PRE/Con&By/ADCOM/PreC/SecC/TreC/GCDO19AC/19AC/222-19GS/208-20GS/208-21GS
2 to HMM-22GCS

3

4 209-22GS GENERAL CONFERENCE UNDERTREASURER AND
5 ASSOCIATE TREASURERS - CONSTITUTION AND
6 BYLAWS AMENDMENT

7

8 RATIONALE: This amendment reflects that, in an effort to be consistent with other divisions,
9 the treasurer of the North American Division will no longer be an associate treasurer of the
10 General Conference.

11

12 RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws
13 Article V—General Conference Undertreasurer and Associate Treasurers, to read as follows:

14

15 ARTICLE V—GENERAL CONFERENCE
16 UNDERTREASURER AND ASSOCIATE TREASURERS

17

18 Sec. 1. An undertreasurer and associate treasurers shall be elected to - No change

19

20 ~~Sec. 2. The treasurer/chief financial officer of the North American Division, by virtue of~~
21 ~~election to that responsibility, shall also be an associate treasurer of the General Conference.~~

22

23 ~~Sec. 3.~~ Sec. 2. The role of the General Conference undertreasurer and - No change

1 SEC/Con&By/SecC/211-17GS/204-18GS/Con&By/ADCOM/OGC/Con&By/Con&By/
2 ADCOM/SecC/GCDO19AC/19AC/203-19GS/203-20GS/203-21GS to HMM-22GCS

3
4 204-22GS GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -
5 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

6
7 RATIONALE: This amendment accomplishes the following:

- 8
9 1. Removes Christian Record Services from the list of General Conference-
10 sponsored entities, as it is now sponsored by the North American Division (page 1, line 36),
11
12 2. Clarifies that the position of editor for *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World* is
13 the same person (page 1, line 40).
14
15 3. Defines the term “frontline employee” with the use of examples (page 2, lines
16 3-4).
17
18 4. Provides an approval process for the minutes of the General Conference
19 Executive Committee, including Annual Council and Spring Meeting (page 2, lines 14-18).
20

21 RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution
22 Article VIII—General Conference Executive Committee, to read as follows:

23
24 ARTICLE VIII—GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

25
26 Sec. 1. The Executive Committee of the General Conference shall consist of:

- 27
28 a. Ex Officio Members—1) Those elected as provided for in - No change
29
30 2) Presidents of unions, past presidents of the General - No change
31
32 3) The president-executive director of each of the following
33 organizations provided the respective organization remains classified as a General Conference-
34 sponsored entity: Adventist Development and Relief Agency International, Adventist
35 International Institute of Advanced Studies, Adventist Risk Management, Adventist University
36 of Africa, Adventist World Radio, Andrews University, ~~Christian Record Services~~, Hope
37 Channel, Loma Linda University Health, Review and Herald Publishing Association.
38
39 4) The editor of each of the following publications: ~~*Adventist Review*~~,
40 ~~*Adventist World*~~, *Adventist Review/Adventist World*, *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*,
41 *Ministry*.
42
43 5) The director of each of the following - No change
44
45 6) The president and board chair of Ellen G White - No change
46

204-22GS GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT - 2

1 b. Elected Members—1) Three laypersons and one church pastor from each
2 division without regard to membership size up to 500,000 members. One additional church
3 pastor or other ~~frontline denominational employee~~ frontline, full-time denominational employee,
4 such as Bible worker, health care professional, literature evangelist, teacher, etc. for each
5 additional 500,000 members or major portion thereof. The above laypersons, pastors, and other
6 denominational employees shall be selected by each division executive committee from
7 individuals recommended by the union executive committees and shall be Seventh-day
8 Adventists in regular standing.

9
10 2) No fewer than fifteen and no more than twenty - No change

11
12 3) No fewer than fifteen and no more than twenty - No change

13
14 Sec. 2. Minutes of the General Conference Executive Committee, including those of
15 Annual Council and Spring Meeting, shall be approved during a meeting of the General
16 Conference Administrative Committee, after such minutes have been distributed to the Executive
17 Committee members at least one week prior to the meeting of the General Conference
18 Administrative Committee.

1 SEC/Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO17AC/212-17GS/205-18GS/Con&By/ADCOM/Con&By/
2 ADCOM/PRE/Con&By/ADCOM/PreC/SecC/TreC/GCDO19AC/19AC/204-19GS/Con&By/
3 ADCOM/PreC/SecC/TreC/GCDO20AC/20AC/204-20GS/204-21GS to HMM-22GCS
4

5 205-22GS GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -
6 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT
7

8 RATIONALE: This amendment accomplishes the following:
9

10 1. Allows for removal from membership on the General Conference Executive
11 Committee “for cause,” while adding to the definition of “for cause,” in order to stay consistent
12 with General Conference *Working Policy* B 45 20 (page 2, lines 1-2 and page 2, lines
13 6-7).
14

15 2. Adds the executive officers to the list of elected positions requiring a quorum of
16 40 members (page 2, lines 26-27).
17

18 3. Removes local conference/mission/field presidents from being invited to attend
19 Annual Council meetings of the General Conference Executive Committee. The General
20 Conference Executive Committee meetings are open for everyone to attend on-site and are
21 generally livestreamed. Previously, such meetings were regularly held in the different world
22 divisions once per quinquennium. At the present time, with the introduction of electronic
23 meetings and due to budgetary constraints, meetings of the General Conference Executive
24 Committee are mostly held at the General Conference headquarters. Local conference/mission/
25 field presidents were invited to attend when meetings were held in their division territory. They
26 were extended the privilege of participation in all discussions of the meeting, but without vote.
27

28 In a desire to treat all divisions equally, and with the ability to observe the meetings
29 virtually, Art. XII Sec. 7. of the Constitution is being deleted (page 2 lines 34-38).
30

31 4. Amends the notification requirements for meetings of the Executive Committee
32 called during a General Conference Session (page 3, lines 2-5).
33

34 RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws,
35 Article XIII—General Conference Executive Committee, to read as follows:
36

37 ARTICLE XIII—GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
38

39 Sec. 1. a. During the intervals between sessions of the General - No change
40

41 b. The General Conference Executive Committee shall - No change
42

43 c. The General Conference Executive Committee shall have power to elect
44 or remove, for cause, officers, directors, and associate directors of departments/associations/
45 services and committee members, and to fill for the current term any vacancies that may occur in
46 its offices, boards, committees, or agents due to death, resignation, or other reasons. The phrase

205-22GS GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT - 2

1 “for cause,” when used in connection with removal from an elected or appointed position, or
2 from membership on the General Conference Executive Committee, shall include but not be
3 limited to 1) incompetence; 2) persistent failure to cooperate with duly constituted authority in
4 substantive matters and with relevant employment and denominational policies; 3) actions which
5 may be the subject of discipline under the *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual*; ~~or~~ 4) failure to
6 maintain regular standing as a member of the Seventh-day Adventist ~~Church~~. Church; 5) theft or
7 embezzlement; or 6) conviction of or guilty plea for a crime.
8

9 d. The General Conference Executive Committee shall have - No change

10 e. The removal from office by the General Conference - No change

11 f. The General Conference Executive Committee shall have - No change

12
13 Sec. 2. a. A meeting of the General Conference Executive - No change

14
15 b. A meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee - No change

16
17 Sec. 3. A majority of the full membership of the General Conference - No change

18
19 Sec. 4. Any fifteen members of the General Conference Executive Committee, including
20 an officer of the General Conference, shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee for
21 the disposition of routine items, and shall be empowered to transact business that is in harmony
22 with the general plans outlined by the Executive Committee. A quorum of forty members is
23 required for the disposition of non-routine items such as major financial decisions, the dismissal
24 of elected and appointed employees, and the election of General Conference president, secretary,
25 treasurer/chief financial officer, and vice presidents. ~~presidents of divisions and of general vice~~
26 ~~presidents.~~ All meetings require notice to members as per ~~Sec. 8.~~ Sec. 7. below.
27
28
29

30 Sec. 5. All meetings of the General Conference Executive Committee - No change

31
32 Sec. 6. Meetings of the General Conference Executive Committee - No change

33
34 ~~Sec. 7. Local conference/mission/field presidents shall be invited to attend Annual~~
35 ~~Council meetings of the General Conference Executive Committee when it is held within the~~
36 ~~territory of their division. Unless an executive session, which consists of members only, is called,~~
37 ~~such invitees shall be extended the privilege of participation in all discussions of the meeting, but~~
38 ~~without vote.~~
39

40 ~~Sec. 8.~~ Sec. 7. Notice as to time, place, and any other requirements under these Bylaws of
41 all General Conference Executive Committee meetings shall be provided to all members in a
42 reasonable manner at least three (3) days prior to the meeting if the meeting is to take place by

205-22GS GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT - 3

1 ~~telephone~~ electronic conference or similar communications, or at least fourteen (14) days if it is
2 to take place in person, unless the meeting is held during a General Conference Session. If
3 General Conference Executive Committee meetings are called during a General Conference
4 Session, notice given during a business session shall constitute notice to all members, and all
5 other notice requirements are waived. These notice requirements are waived in the case of a
6 General Conference Executive Committee meeting convened during a General Conference
7 Session since all General Conference Executive Committee members are expected to be in
8 attendance at the Session.

1 OGC/Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO17AC/17AC/209-17GS/202-18GS/Con&By/ADCOM/
2 SecC/GCDO19AC/19AC/201-19GS/SEC/Con&By/ADCOM/PreC/SecC/TreC/GCDO20AC/
3 SEC/ADCOM(Steering)/20AC/201-20GSa/201-21GSa/22GCS(Special)/Con&By/ADCOM/
4 Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO22SM/22SM to HMM-22GCS

5
6 202-22GSa GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS - CONSTITUTION
7 AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT
8

9 RATIONALE: This amendment accomplishes the following:

- 10
11 1. Allows the General Conference Executive Committee to review and extend the
12 postponement of General Conference Sessions and determine the timing for a subsequent
13 Session after a postponement (page 1, lines 34-40).
14
15 2. Emphasizes the security of voting practices (page 2, lines 7-11).
16
17 3. Provides an approval process for the minutes of the General Conference Session
18 (page 2, lines 13-14).
19
20 4. Defines the parliamentary authority of General Conference Sessions (page 2, lines
21 30-32).
22

23 RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution
24 Article V—General Conference Sessions, to read as follows:
25

26 ARTICLE V—GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS
27

28 Sec. 1. The General Conference shall hold quinquennial sessions at such time and place
29 as the General Conference Executive Committee shall designate and announce by a notice
30 published in the *Adventist Review* or *Adventist World* or other publications voted by the General
31 Conference Executive Committee in three consecutive months beginning at least four months
32 before the date for the opening of the Session. In case special world conditions make it
33 imperative to postpone the calling of the Session, the General Conference Executive Committee,
34 in regular or special council, shall have authority to make such postponement, not to exceed ~~two~~
35 years one year. This postponement may be reviewed and extended by the General Conference
36 Executive Committee as world conditions necessitate, giving notice to all constituent
37 organizations. In the event that the General Conference Executive Committee exercises its
38 authority to postpone a Session, it shall also have the authority to set the subsequent regular
39 Session at such time and place as it shall see fit, not to exceed five calendar years from the date
40 of the postponed Session.
41

42 Sec. 2. The General Conference Executive Committee may call - No change
43

44 Sec. 3. At least one-third of the total delegates authorized hereinafter - No change
45

46 Sec. 4. Generally, regular or specially called General Conference Sessions are to be held

202-22GSa GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS - CONSTITUTION
AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT - 2

1 in person and onsite. However, when requested by the General Conference Executive
2 Committee, delegates may participate by means of an electronic conference or similar
3 communications by which all persons participating can hear each other at the same time, and
4 participation by such means shall constitute presence in person and attendance at such a meeting.
5 Votes cast remotely shall have the same validity as if the delegates met and voted onsite
6

7 Sec. 5. The election to any office enumerated in Article VI, Sec. 1. and all other voting
8 shall be as defined by the *General Conference Rules of Order*. Voting electronically or by secret
9 ballot must be in a manner that ensures the highest integrity, privacy, and confidentiality, as
10 verified by General Conference Secretariat and General Conference Auditing Service, in
11 consultation with the General Conference's legal counsel.
12

13 Sec. 6. Minutes of the General Conference Session shall be approved at the first Annual
14 Council of the General Conference Executive Committee following a regular or special session.
15

16 ~~Sec. 5.~~ Sec. 7. The delegates to a General Conference Session shall be - No change
17

18 ~~Sec. 6.~~ Sec. 8. Regular delegates shall represent the General Conference's - No change
19

20 ~~Sec. 7.~~ Sec. 9. Regular delegates shall be allotted on the following - No change
21

22 ~~Sec. 8.~~ Sec. 10. Delegates at large shall represent the General - No change
23

24 ~~Sec. 9.~~ Sec. 11. Division administrations shall consult with unions to ensure - No change
25

26 ~~Sec. 10.~~ Sec. 12. Credentials to sessions shall be issued by the - No change
27

28 ~~Sec. 11.~~ Sec. 13. Calculations for all delegate allotments, as provided - No change
29

30 Sec. 14. Parliamentary Authority: The parliamentary authority pertaining to all rules and
31 procedures for General Conference Sessions not covered by its constitution and bylaws shall be
32 based on the *General Conference Rules of Order*.

1 SEC/Con&By/ADCOM/PreC/SecC/TreC/GCDO20AC/20AC/201-20GSb/201-21GSb to HMM-
2 22GCS

3
4 202-22GSb SESSION COMMITTEES - CONSTITUTION AND
5 BYLAWS AMENDMENT

6
7 RATIONALE: This amendment accomplishes the following:

- 8
9 1. Allows for Session committees to meet by electronic means (page 1, lines 22-23).
10
11 2. Clarifies that only credentialed delegates may be members of the Session
12 Nominating Committee and makes the language consistent with General Conference
13 Constitution, Article V, Sec. 10 (page 1, line 36).

14
15 RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws
16 Article II—Session Committees, to read as follows:

17
18 ARTICLE II—SESSION COMMITTEES

19
20 Sec. 1. At each regular session of the General Conference, such - No change

21
22 Sec. 2. Session committees may convene by means of an electronic conference or similar
23 communications by which all persons participating can hear each other at the same time.

24
25 ~~Sec. 2.~~ Sec. 3. *Church Manual* Committee: The chair of the *Church Manual* - No change

26
27 ~~Sec. 3.~~ Sec. 4. Constitution and Bylaws Committee: The chair of the - No change

28
29 ~~Sec. 4.~~ Sec. 5. Nominating Committee: a. The membership of the - No change

30
31 b. The members of the Nominating Committee - No changes

32
33 c. Each group (named in Sec. 4. b. 1) and 2) above) - No change

34
35 d. Those chosen as members of the Nominating Committee must be duly
36 credentialed delegates ~~accredited delegates in attendance~~ at the General Conference Session.

37
38 e. Delegates holding elected positions under the - No change

39
40 f. No delegate shall nominate more than one person - No change

41
42 g. The Nominating Committee shall elect its own chair - No change

43
44 h. The Nominating Committee shall limit its nominations - No change

45
46 i. In order to expedite the work of the Nominating - No change
47

202-22GSb SESSION COMMITTEES - CONSTITUTION AND
BYLAWS AMENDMENT - 2

1 ~~Sec. 5.~~ Sec. 6. Steering Committee: The Steering Committee shall be - No change

1 ASTR/Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO19AC/19AC/219-19GSa/205-20Gsa/205-21GSa to
2 HMM-22GCS

3
4 206-22GSa DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF ARCHIVES, STATISTICS,
5 AND RESEARCH - CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
6 AMENDMENT
7

8 RATIONALE: In June 2011, the Office of Archives and Statistics became Archives, Statistics,
9 and Research. This amendment is adding the research function to the description of this office.

10
11 RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws
12 Article XII—Director of Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research, to read as follows:

13
14 ARTICLE XII—DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF ARCHIVES,
15 STATISTICS, AND RESEARCH
16

17 At the first Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee following a
18 regular session, the General Conference shall appoint a director of ~~Office~~ of Archives, Statistics,
19 and Research whose duties shall be to administer the General Conference Office of Archives,
20 Statistics, and Research and the records management program of the world headquarters, to
21 compile and report the statistics of the world ~~work~~, Church, and to conduct research projects
22 globally on behalf of General Conference administration, and who shall serve under the direction
23 of the General Conference secretary and the General Conference Executive Committee.

1 OGC/Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO19AC/19AC/219-19GSb/205-20GSEb/205-21GSEb to
2 HMM-22GCS

3

4 206-22GSEb APPOINTMENT - CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
5 EDITORIAL AMENDMENT

6

7 RATIONALE: This is an editorial amendment removing “Office” from Archives, Statistics, and
8 Research.

9

10 RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution
11 Article VII—Appointment, to read as follows:

12

13

ARTICLE VII—APPOINTMENT

14

15 The following shall be appointed at the first Annual Council of the Executive Committee
16 following a regular session: a director of ~~Office~~ of Archives, Statistics, and Research, a director
17 and associate directors of the Biblical Research Institute, a director and research scientists of the
18 Geoscience Research Institute, editors and associate editors for the principal denominational
19 journals prepared at the General Conference, and any other non-departmental positions which have
20 been established and filled by General Conference Executive Committee appointment. This
21 Annual Council shall also appoint the membership of standing committees and various operating
22 boards which have been established and filled by General Conference Executive Committee
23 appointment.

1 ASTRCOM/Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO19AC/19AC/224-19GS/209-20GS/209-21GS to
2 HMM-22GCS

3

4 210-22GS USE OF “UNION MISSION” AND “LOCAL MISSION” -
5 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS DIRECTIVE

6

7 RATIONALE: In areas where the word “mission” is a point of sensitivity which would inhibit
8 the work of the Church, the word “section” may be substituted in the name of either a local field
9 or a union. In such cases, it is understood that section carries the same meaning as mission and
10 that in all cases where the Constitution and Bylaws refer to a local mission or union mission, the
11 same also applies to a local section or union section. Another English-language alternative for a
12 local mission is “field.”

13

14 RECOMMENDED, To approve a directive to amend the General Conference Constitution and
15 Bylaws, where appropriate, by including “section” as a substitution for “mission” when
16 referencing “union mission” or “local mission/field.” For example, “union mission” would
17 become “union mission/section,” “local mission/field” would become “local mission/field/
18 section,” and “conference/mission/field” would become “conference/mission/field/section.”

1 SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/401-12GS/ChManSub/401-13GS/ChManSub/ChMan/GCDO14AC/
2 14AC/ChMan/14AC/401-14GS/ChMan/15GCS/ChMan/400-15GS/ChManSub/ChMan/ 400-
3 16GS/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/17AC/400-17GS/400-18GS/400-19GS/400-20GS/
4 400-21GS to GPS-22GCS

5
6 400-22GS UNAUTHORIZED SPEAKERS - *CHURCH MANUAL*
7 AMENDMENT

8
9 RATIONALE: This item clarifies who may be invited to speak in the church and addresses
10 confusion caused by the implication that a layperson could not preach because they do not hold
11 credentials.

12
13 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings,
14 pages 120-121, Unauthorized Speakers, to read as follows:

15
16 ~~Unauthorized Speakers—Under no circumstances should a pastor, elder, or other officer~~
17 ~~invite strangers or any unauthorized persons to conduct services. Individuals who have been~~
18 ~~removed from the ministry or who have been removed from membership in other places, or~~
19 ~~designing persons who have no authority from the church, should not be given access to the~~
20 ~~pulpit. Those worthy of confidence will be able to identify themselves by producing proper~~
21 ~~credentials.~~

22
23 Authorized Speakers—Only speakers worthy of confidence will be invited to the pulpit
24 by the local church pastor, in harmony with guidelines given by the conference.* The local elders
25 or church board may also invite speakers, in consultation with the pastor, and in harmony with
26 conference guidelines. Individuals who are no longer members, or who are under discipline,
27 should not be given access to the pulpit.

28
29 At times it is acceptable for government officials or civic leaders to address a
30 congregation, but all others should be excluded from the pulpit unless permission is granted by
31 the conference. Every pastor, elder, and conference president must enforce this rule. (See pp. 34,
32 118, 119.)

33
34 _____
35
36 * See “Terms Used in the *Church Manual*” p. 18

1 SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/16AC/406-16GS/404-17GS/403-18GS/
2 403-19GS/403-20GS/403-21GS to GPS-22GCS

3
4 403-22GS CHURCH SCHOOL BOARD - *CHURCH MANUAL*
5 AMENDMENT

6
7 RATIONALE: This amendment removes the confusing term “union school board” and replaces
8 it with “multiconstituent school board” to be more consistent with the rest of the section.

9
10 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and
11 Organizations, pages 90-92, Church School Board, to read as follows:

12
13 Church School Board—The administrative body of every elementary (primary) school
14 and junior academy (partial high school) operated by one church shall be a church school board
15 elected by the church or a school committee appointed by the church board. Thus this body may
16 be a separate school board, the church board, or a school committee of the church board
17 appointed for this purpose. Division working policies explain the functions of school boards.

18
19 School board members should be chosen for their consecration, their belief in and loyalty
20 to the principles of Christian education, their good judgment and tact, their experience in school
21 matters, and their financial judgment and ability. They should believe in and be willing to follow
22 denominational educational policies and recommendations.

23
24 If two or more churches jointly operate what is known as a multiconstituent school, the
25 administrative body shall be drawn from the constituent churches.

26
27 One or more members of the school board should be chosen from among the members of
28 the church board, so that the school board may be closely related to the church board.
29 The pastor should be a member of the school board. If the school is operated by more than one
30 church, generally the pastors of the participating churches concerned are members of the board.

31
32 In junior academies and elementary schools, the principal or head teacher should be a
33 member of the board.

34
35 Some members of the board may be parents of children attending the school, so the board
36 may profit from parental viewpoints and counsel resulting from close observation and
37 experience.

38
39 The school board officers shall be a chairperson and a secretary. If the school is operated
40 by one church, the church elects the chairperson.

41
42 In multiconstituent school boards, additional officers shall include a treasurer, a vice
43 chairperson, and an assistant secretary. At its first meeting after its election, a ~~union~~
44 multiconstituent school board elects its own chairperson from among its members. In the event
45 that agreement between the churches is not possible, the appointment will be made by the

403-22GS CHURCH SCHOOL BOARD - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT - 2

1 conference board of education or the conference committee. The principal of the school
2 generally is appointed secretary of the board.

3
4 Any action of a multiconstituent school board that involves the supporting churches in
5 financial obligations must be submitted to their respective boards for approval.

6
7 Where a separate school board is elected, one of two plans may be followed to establish
8 time of election and term of office: (1) all the members may be elected at the close of the
9 calendar or fiscal year and function for one year; (2) the members of the first board may be
10 chosen for terms of one, two, and three years, respectively, with replacement members being
11 chosen each succeeding year for a term of three years. The purpose of this plan is to have a
12 nucleus of experienced members on the board to ensure a continuity of policy. When a midterm
13 vacancy is filled, the new member serves the remainder of the original term.

14
15 The school board or school committee should meet at a regular time and place at least
16 once each month during the school year.

17
18 The school board chairperson calls meetings, presides, sees that the actions of the board
19 are carried out, and countersigns all financial orders issued by the secretary. The chairperson is a
20 member ex officio of the elementary school and junior academy inspection committee, which
21 surveys and evaluates the school and its work.

22
23 The secretary keeps a permanent record of meetings, issues orders for money to pay
24 accounts or obligations, and carries on correspondence for the board.

25
26 Where one church operates a school, the work of the treasurer is usually carried by the
27 church treasurer or an assistant church treasurer, who receives tuition and other money, pays out
28 money on the order of the secretary (countersigned by the chairperson), keeps a careful account
29 of all transfers, and at each monthly meeting gives a detailed report to the board. In a
30 multiconstituent board, a treasurer is appointed by the union board.

1 SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/16AC/407-16GS/405-17GS/404-18GS/
2 404-19GS/404-20GS/404-21GS to GPS-22GCS

3
4 404-22GS USE OF “BAPTISMAL CEREMONY” - *CHURCH*
5 *MANUAL DIRECTIVE*

6
7 RATIONALE: This directive will make the terminology more consistent throughout the *Church*
8 *Manual*.

9
10 RECOMMENDED, To approve a directive to amend the *Church Manual* where appropriate, by
11 replacing “baptismal ceremony” with “baptismal service.” In areas of the world where
12 “baptismal ceremony” is preferred due to differences in other languages, “baptismal ceremony”
13 may be retained as long as the term is used consistently throughout the text of the *Church*
14 *Manual*.

1 SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/18AC/421-18GS/421-19GS/421-20GS/420-21GS
2 to GPS-22GCS

3
4 420-22GS MEETINGS (CHURCH BOARD AND ITS MEETINGS) -
5 *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

6
7 RATIONALE: This amendment allows for electronic participation in church board meetings.

8
9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings,
10 page 131, Meetings, to read as follows:

11
12 Meetings—Because the work of the board is vital to the life, health, and growth of the
13 church, it is recommended that it meet at least once each month, more frequently if needed. It is
14 well to fix the monthly meeting time for the same week and the same day each month.

15
16 The board meeting is announced at the regular Sabbath worship service, and all board
17 members are urged to attend.

18
19 Each church should determine at a business meeting the number of board members who
20 must be present to constitute a quorum at future meetings. Where allowed by local law, board
21 members may participate in meetings by means of an electronic conference or similar
22 communication by which all persons participating can communicate with each other at the same
23 time, and participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at such a meeting.

24
25 Votes by proxy or letter are not permitted.

1 ESD/ChManSub/SAD/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/19AC/428-19GS/428-20GS/
2 427-21GS to GPS-22GCS

3
4 427-22GS BUSINESS MEETINGS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

5
6 RATIONALE: This amendment clarifies some of the organizational aspects of the church
7 business meeting.

8
9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings,
10 page 128, Business Meetings, to read as follows:

11
12 Business Meetings

13
14 The local church operates within defined roles in Seventh-day Adventist Church
15 structure. Within the context of those roles, the business meeting is the constituency meeting of
16 the local church. (See p. 27) Members in regular standing are encouraged to attend and are
17 entitled to vote. A member under censure has no right to participate by voice or vote.

18
19 Business meetings shall be held at least once a year. The pastor, or the board in
20 consultation with and support of the pastor, calls the meeting. Business meetings should be
21 ~~typically are~~ announced a week or two in advance at the regular Sabbath worship service, with
22 detail as to time and place. The pastor, an elder ~~arranged~~ chosen by the pastor, or, in some cases,
23 the conference president, or his designee, serves as chairperson of the business meeting.

24
25 Each church decides what the quorum will be for future meetings.

26
27 Votes by proxy or letter are not permitted.

28
29 Major items should be decided at a regular or specially called business meeting.

30
31 The business meeting has authority over the board and may delegate responsibilities to
32 the board in addition to those already assigned by the *Church Manual*. (See pp. 129-132.)

33
34 The business meeting agenda should include reports about the work of the church. At
35 least once a year the agenda should include reports covering church activities. Based on those
36 reports, a proposed plan of action for the next year, including an annual budget, should be
37 presented for approval. When possible, reports and plans for the next year should be presented in
38 writing. (See Notes, #7, pp. 183, 184.)

39
40 In order to maintain a spirit of cooperation between the church and conference, the
41 church shall secure counsel from conference officers on all major matters.

42
43 Conference and union officers (president, secretary, treasurer) or their designee may
44 attend without vote (unless granted by the church) any business meeting of any church in their
45 territory. An action to allow voting is not required if the officer is currently a member of that
46 congregation.

1 TED/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/16AC/412-16GSa/410-17GSa/409-18GSa/ChManSub/ChMan/
2 ADCOM(Steering)/19AC/409-19GSa/409-20GSa/409-21GSa to GPS-22GCS

3
4 409-22GSa ORDINATION OF ELDERS - *CHURCH MANUAL*
5 AMENDMENT

6
7 RATIONALE: This amendment allows for consistency of wording between the sections on
8 elders and deacons/deaconesses and addresses some confusion in areas where women are
9 ordained as elders.

10
11 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and
12 Organizations, page 73, Ordination of Elders, to read as follows:

13
14 Ordination of Elders—Election to the office of elder does not in itself qualify one as an
15 elder. Ordination is required before an elder has authority to function. When a church in a
16 business meeting votes the election of new elders, it also authorizes their ordination. Between
17 election and ordination, the elected elder may function as church leader but not administer the
18 ordinances of the church.

19
20 The ordination service is performed only by an ordained pastor currently credentialed by
21 the conference. As a courtesy, a visiting ordained pastor may be invited to assist. However, only
22 on the specific request of conference officers would a visiting ordained pastor or a retired
23 ordained pastor conduct the ordination.

24
25 The sacred rite of ordination should be simply performed in the presence of the church
26 and may include a brief outline of the office of elder, the qualities required, and the principal
27 duties the elder will be authorized to perform. After the exhortation, the ordained pastor, assisted
28 by other ordained pastors and/or local elders who are participating in the service, will ordain the
29 elders by prayer and the laying on of hands. (See p. 37.)

30
31 Once ordained, elders need not be ordained again if reelected, or upon election as elders
32 of other churches, provided they have maintained regular membership status. They are also
33 qualified to the deaconate. ~~serve as deacons.~~

1 TED/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/16AC/412-16GSb/410-17GSb/409-18GSb/409-19GSb/
2 409-20GSb/409-21GSb to GPS-22GCS

3
4 409-22GSb ORDINATION SERVICE FOR DEACONESSES -
5 *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

6
7 RATIONALE: This change is being recommended in order to keep the text in line with the
8 *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, page 78, Deacons Must
9 Be Ordained.

10
11 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and
12 Organizations, page 80, Ordination Service for Deaconesses, to read as follows:

13
14 Ordination Service for Deaconesses—Such a service, like the ordination of deacons,
15 would be carried out by an ordained pastor currently credentialed by the conference. The
16 ordination service should be characterized by simplicity and performed in the presence of the
17 church.

18
19 If they retain church membership, deaconesses do not have to be ordained again if they
20 move their memberships to other churches. When the term for which they were elected expires,
21 they must be reelected if they are to continue to serve as deaconesses.

22
23 Elders subsequently elected as deaconesses should not be ordained as deaconesses
24 because ordination as elder covers this office.

1 PRE/BRI/MIN/401-17GS/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/419-17GS/BRI/ChManSub/ChMan/
2 ADCOM(Steering)/18AC/418-18GS/NAD/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/ChMan/
3 19AC/418-19GS/418-20GS/417-21GS to GPS-22GCS

4
5 417-22GS PASTOR AND OTHER CHURCH EMPLOYEES -
6 *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

7
8 RATIONALE: This amendment expresses how important it is for pastors to focus on training the
9 local church leadership in the mission and work of the church. It also explains the role of
10 conference leadership and explains who may be invited to speak at the local church.

11
12 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 4, Pastor and Other Church
13 Employees, pages 31 to 35, to read as follows:

14
15 Pastors and Other Church Employees

16
17 A Divinely Appointed Ministry

18
19 Seventh-day Adventist ministers bear the God-given responsibility of proclaiming the
20 everlasting gospel, making disciples, and equipping the saints according to their spiritual gifts in
21 order to equip them for service (Eph. 4:11, 12; 2 Tim. 4:2). As Ellen G. White stated: “It was at
22 the very beginning of His ministry that Christ began to gather in His helpers. This is a lesson to
23 all ministers. They should constantly be looking for and training those who they think could help
24 them in their work. They should not stand alone, trying to do by themselves all that needs to be
25 done” (Letter 53, 1905). In addition, pastors are commanded to do the work of an evangelist,
26 reading God’s word publicly and teaching obedience to it (1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; 4:2, 5).
27 They are to encourage and exhort the believers (1 Tim. 5:1, 2; 6:2), and rebuke sinners (1 Tim.
28 5:20); ordain elders (1 Tim. 5:22; Titus 1:5); uphold the truth and take a firm stance against false
29 doctrines (1 Tim. 1:3, 4; 4:7; 6:20, 21; Titus 1:9). They should be examples to the believers in all
30 matters of faith and practice (1 Tim. 4:12; 1 Peter 5:3). Another important part of the pastoral
31 work is the visitation ministry. Ellen G. White stated: “Remember that a minister’s work does
32 not consist merely in preaching. He is to visit families in their homes, to pray with them, and to
33 open to them the Scriptures. He who does faithful work outside the pulpit will accomplish
34 tenfold more than He who confines his labors to the desk” (9T 124).

35
36 “Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion
37 but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you,
38 but being examples to the flock” (1 Peter 5:1-3).

39
40 All believers have the privilege of being part of “a royal priesthood” that proclaims “the
41 praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:5-9). To
42 support and guide this work God “gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists,
43 and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the
44 edifying of the body of Christ” (Eph. 4:11-13).

417-22GS PASTOR AND OTHER CHURCH EMPLOYEES -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT- 2

1 The New Testament describes how the leadership of the church was established. During
2 His ministry on Earth, Jesus appointed twelve apostles to accompany Him on His travels and
3 sent them out to preach the Gospel and heal the sick (Mark 3:14, 15; Luke 6:13). He also sent out
4 a larger group of seventy (Luke 10:1-23). This indicates that the organization of the church was
5 initiated by Jesus Christ Himself in order to fulfill the mission of making disciples and teaching
6 Bible truth (Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:8).

7
8 Soon after Christ’s ascension, the apostles faced increasing demands with the
9 fast-growing church in Jerusalem. To cope with these challenges, they divided the leadership
10 responsibilities in the local church into different areas. Seven men were chosen to “serve tables,”
11 caring mainly for the practical and material needs of the church, while the apostles confined
12 themselves “to prayer and the ministry of the Word” (Acts 6:2, 4). Both leadership groups were
13 involved in serving or ministering, but the manner of their involvement differed significantly.
14 These avenues of ministry reflect the offices of deacon and elder/overseer described in Paul’s
15 writings (Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:6-9). While most elders and deacons ministered in
16 local settings, some elders, such as Timothy and Titus, were itinerant and supervised greater
17 territory with multiple congregations (1 Tim. 1:3, 4; Titus 1:5).

18
19 In harmony with the leadership model of the Jerusalem church, the apostles appointed
20 elders as spiritual leaders in every church (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5). This practice explains why
21 apostles, when they left Jerusalem to preach the Gospel, did not leave a leadership vacuum in
22 this major center of the early church. Several years later, Barnabas and Saul delivered to the
23 elders the relief contributions they had collected from far-flung churches for the needy believers
24 in Judea (Acts 11:29, 30). As Ellen G. White indicates, the “organization of the church at
25 Jerusalem was to serve as a model for the organization of churches in every other place where
26 messengers of truth should win converts to the Gospel.”—AA 91.

27
28 These New Testament principles of church organization guided Seventh-day Adventists
29 in the years prior to and the decades following its official organization as a church in 1863.
30 During this time, ministers were employed by the various conferences as administrators and
31 evangelists, raising up churches, and visiting established churches that needed counsel.
32 Following the model of ministry of Timothy and Titus, Conference-employed ministers almost
33 never functioned as resident or “settled” pastors of a local church, in contrast to the practice in
34 most Protestant churches then and now. In this regard, Ellen G. White wrote: “Instead of keeping
35 the ministers at work for the churches that already know the truth, let the members of the
36 churches say to these laborers: ‘Go work for souls that are perishing in darkness. We ourselves
37 will carry forward the services of the church. We will keep up the meetings, and, by abiding in
38 Christ, will maintain spiritual life. We will work for souls that are about us, and we will send our
39 prayers and our gifts to sustain the laborers in more needy and destitute fields.’”—6T 30. “As a
40 general rule, the conference laborers should go out from the churches into new fields, using their
41 God-given ability to a purpose in seeking and saving the lost.”—Ev 382.

417-22GS PASTOR AND OTHER CHURCH EMPLOYEES -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT- 3

1 As a divinely appointed ministry, ministers are “to sow the seeds of truth. Place after
2 place is to be visited; church after church is to be raised up. Those who take their stand for the
3 truth are to be organized into churches, and then the minister is to pass on to other equally
4 important fields.”—7T 20 “Just as soon as a church is organized, let the minister set the members
5 at work. They will need to be taught how to labor successfully. Let the minister devote more of
6 his time to educating than to preaching. Let him teach the people how to give to others the
7 knowledge they have received. While the new converts should be taught to ask counsel from
8 those more experienced in the work, they should also be taught not to put the minister in the
9 place of God. Ministers are but human beings, men compassed with infirmities. Christ is the One
10 to Whom we are to look for guidance.”— 7T 20. “Our ministers should plan wisely, as faithful
11 stewards. They should feel that it is not their duty to hover over the churches already raised up,
12 but that they should be doing aggressive evangelistic work, preaching the Word and doing
13 house-to-house work in places that have not yet heard the truth. . . . They will find that nothing is
14 so encouraging as doing evangelistic work in new fields.”—Ev 382.

15
16 These inspired counsels remain just as relevant today. Our ministers have the solemn
17 responsibility of leading their congregations in the mission of reaching others for Christ.
18 As Ellen G. White stated, “The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and
19 women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of
20 ministers and church officers.”—9T 117. And “when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will
21 receive the crown of glory that does not fade away” (1 Peter 1:4).

22
23 ~~“God has a church, and she has a divinely appointed ministry. ‘And He gave some,~~
24 ~~apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the~~
25 ~~perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till~~
26 ~~we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect~~
27 ~~man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. . . .’~~

28
29 ~~“Men appointed of God have been chosen to watch with jealous care, with vigilant~~
30 ~~perseverance, that the church may not be overthrown by the evil devices of Satan, but that she~~
31 ~~shall stand in the world to promote the glory of God among men.”—TM 52, 53.~~

32
33 ~~Conference President—The conference president should be an ordained pastor of~~
34 ~~experience and good report. He stands at the head of the gospel ministry in the conference and is~~
35 ~~the chief elder, or overseer, of all the churches. He works for their spiritual welfare and counsels~~
36 ~~them regarding their activities and plans. He has access to all the churches and their services,~~
37 ~~business meetings, and boards, without vote unless granted by the church, or unless he is a~~
38 ~~member of that congregation. He may, by virtue of his office, preside over any meeting of any~~
39 ~~church when necessary. He has access to all church records.~~

40
41 ~~The conference president does not have authority to set aside the duly elected officers of~~
42 ~~the church, but will work in cooperation with them. They in turn are bound, in recognition of the~~

417-22GS PASTOR AND OTHER CHURCH EMPLOYEES -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT- 4

1 ties of conference fellowship, to counsel with him over all that pertains to the welfare of the
2 church. They should not attempt to exclude him from a proper discharge of his duties.

3
4 ~~Conference Departmental Directors—Conference departmental directors foster important~~
5 ~~lines of denominational work under the general direction of the conference committee in~~
6 ~~consultation with the conference president. In order to successfully carry on the work assigned to~~
7 ~~them, these employees must have access to the churches so they can present and develop their~~
8 ~~plans. These employees will have sympathetic consideration for all church plans, even outside~~
9 ~~their respective departments.~~

10
11 ~~Departmental directors are not vested with administrative or executive authority, so their~~
12 ~~relation to local churches is advisory. Their work does not bear the same relationship to the~~
13 ~~churches as that of the conference committee or president. In the promotion of their specific~~
14 ~~kinds of work, they labor throughout the entire conference. However, they are not expected to~~
15 ~~counsel churches regarding elections and other administrative duties or any other line of service,~~
16 ~~unless especially requested to do so by the conference president.~~

17
18 ~~Ordained Pastors—Ordained pastors appointed by the conference committee - No change~~

19
20 ~~Licensed Pastors—To give individuals an opportunity to demonstrate their - No change~~

21
22 ~~Bible Instructors—The conference may employ Bible instructors and assign - No change~~

23
24 Conference President—The conference president should be an ordained pastor of
25 experience. He stands at the head of the gospel ministry in the conference and is the chief elder,
26 or overseer, of all the churches. He works for their spiritual welfare and counsels them regarding
27 their activities and plans. He has access to all the churches and their services, business meetings,
28 and boards, without vote unless granted by the church, or unless he is a member of that
29 congregation. He may, by virtue of his office, preside over any meeting of any church when
30 necessary. He has access to all church records.

31
32 The conference president does not have authority to set aside duly elected officers of the
33 church but will work in cooperation with them. They in turn are bound, in recognition of the ties
34 of conference fellowship, to counsel with him over all that pertains to the welfare of the church.
35 They should not attempt to exclude him from a proper discharge of his duties.

36
37 Conference Secretary—The conference secretary, associated with the conference
38 president as an executive officer, should be a person with ministerial and denominational
39 experience. The conference secretary, for example, is responsible for keeping the minutes of the
40 proceedings of the conference constituency sessions and meetings of the conference executive
41 committee, publishing official notices of key meetings, maintaining correspondence with local
42 churches, and overseeing conference records and collecting statistical data and conference

417-22GS PASTOR AND OTHER CHURCH EMPLOYEES -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT- 5

1 membership records. The conference secretary also fosters mission for the expansion of God's
2 kingdom.

3
4 Conference Treasurer—The conference treasurer, associated with the conference
5 president as an executive officer, is the chief financial officer of the conference and should have
6 appropriate finance-related experience. The conference treasurer is responsible for keeping the
7 accounts, financial records and investments of the conference, and to keep safe all monies which
8 may be deposited with it. These monies consist of the tithes and offerings received from
9 individuals through the local congregations of the conference, which are remitted by local church
10 treasurers at regular intervals, and of gifts, legacies, and bequests made to the conference.

11
12 Conference Departmental Directors—Conference departmental directors foster important
13 lines of denominational work under the general direction of the conference committee in
14 consultation with the conference president. In order to successfully carry on the work assigned to
15 them, these employees must have access to the churches so they can present and develop their
16 plans. These employees will have sympathetic consideration for all church plans, even outside
17 their respective departments.

18
19 Departmental directors are not vested with administrative or executive authority, so their
20 relation to local churches is advisory. Their work does not bear the same relationship to the
21 churches as that of the conference committee or president. In the promotion of their specific
22 kinds of work, they labor throughout the entire conference. However, they are not expected to
23 counsel churches regarding elections and other administrative duties or any other line of service,
24 unless especially requested to do so by the conference president.

25
26 Conference Directs Church Employees—The conference president in - No change

27
28 Credentials and Licenses

29
30 God's work is to be jealously safeguarded by responsible leaders from the local church to
31 the General Conference. Official credentials and licenses are issued to all authorized ~~full-time~~
32 Church employees and are granted by controlling committees for limited periods.

33
34 In a local conference, the committee confers authority upon individuals to represent the
35 Church as pastors and gospel workers. This authority is represented by the granting of
36 credentials and licenses, which are written commissions, properly dated and signed by the
37 officers of the conference. The authority thus conveyed is not personal or inherent in the
38 individual but is inherent in the granting body, which may recall the credentials for cause at any
39 time. Credentials and licenses granted employees are not their personal property and must be
40 returned when employment is terminated or at the request of the organization that issued them.

417-22GS PASTOR AND OTHER CHURCH EMPLOYEES -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT- 6

1 Only speakers worthy of confidence will be invited to the pulpit by the local church
2 pastor, in harmony with guidelines given by the conference.* The local elders or church board
3 may also invite speakers, in consultation with the pastor, and in harmony with conference
4 guidelines. No one should be allowed to speak to any congregation unless he/she has been
5 ~~invited by the church in harmony with guidelines given by the conference.~~ It is recognized,
6 however, that there are times when congregations may be addressed by government officials or
7 civic leaders; but all unauthorized persons shall not be given access to the pulpit. (See pp. 118-
8 121.)

9
10 Expired Credentials and Licenses—Credentials and licenses are granted - No change

11
12 Retired Employees—Retired employees deserve honor and consideration - No change

13
14 Former Pastors Without Credentials—Individuals previously ordained as - No change

15
16 _____
17
18 *See “Terms Used in the *Church Manual*” p. 18.

1 MIN/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/18AC/423-18GS/423-19GS/423-20GS/422-21GS
2 to GPS-22GCS

3

4 422-22GS BOARD OF ELDERS - *CHURCH MANUAL* ADDITION

5

6 RATIONALE: The *Church Manual* references a board of elders, but there has been no additional
7 information or definition. This new section explains the organization and purpose of this board.

8

9 RECOMMENDED, To add a new section, Board of Elders, to the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8,
10 Local Church Officers and Organizations, following Religious Leaders of the Church, on page
11 73, to read as follows:

12

13 Board of Elders—Where a church has a number of elders, it should organize a board of
14 elders chaired by the pastor or his/her designee and with the first elder or another elder serving as
15 secretary. Such a body provides a way to distribute responsibility and coordinate their
16 contributions for the well-being of the congregation. It also provides a training ground where
17 elders are instructed in their duties. The board of elders is accountable to the church board.

1 SAD/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/19AC/435-19GS/435-20GS/433-21GS to GPS-
2 22GCS

3

4 433-22GS TO FOSTER BIBLE STUDY, PRAYER, AND A RELATIONSHIP
5 WITH JESUS (ELDERS) - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

6

7 RATIONALE: This amendment encourages elders to focus on the nurture and spiritual growth
8 of members.

9

10 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and
11 Organizations, page 75, To Foster Bible Study, Prayer, and a Relationship with Jesus (Elders), to
12 read as follows:

13

14 To Foster Bible Study, Prayer, Nurture, and Spiritual Growth of Members—As and a
15 Relationship With Jesus—As spiritual leaders, elders are responsible for encouraging members
16 to develop a personal relationship with Jesus by strengthening their habits of personal Bible
17 study and prayer. Elders should model a commitment to Bible study and prayer and should
18 support all ministries and promote programs of the local church and the local conference. They
19 should also be committed to nurture and to inspire the spiritual growth of church members.
20 ~~prayer. An effective personal prayer life of every member, supporting all ministries and~~
21 ~~programs of the local church, and the local conference, will enhance the church’s mission.~~ Elders
22 may ask the board to appoint a council to assist in this role of development and encouragement.

1 SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/19AC/443-19GS/443-20GS/441-21GS to GPS-
2 22GCS

3
4 441-22GS RELATIONSHIP TO THE PASTOR (ELDERS) - *CHURCH*
5 *MANUAL* AMENDMENT
6

7 RATIONALE: This amendment clarifies the process by which an elder can chair the church
8 board.

9
10 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and
11 Organizations, pages 73 and 74, Relationship to the Pastor (Elders), to read as follows:

12
13 Relationship to the Pastor—If the conference committee assigns a pastor or pastors to the
14 congregation, the pastor, or senior pastor if more than one, should be considered the ranking
15 officer and the local elders as assistants. Since their work is closely related, they should work
16 together harmoniously. The pastor should not assume all lines of ~~responsibility~~, responsibility
17 but should share these with the elders and other officers. The pastor regularly serving the church
18 acts as the chairperson of the board. (See pp. 32, 131.) There may be circumstances, however,
19 when it would be advisable for an elder to act as chairperson, with the approval of the pastor or,
20 if the church is without a pastor, the conference president. ~~chairperson~~. The pastoral work of the
21 church should be shared by the pastor and the elders. In counsel with the pastor, the elders
22 should visit members, minister to the sick, foster prayer ministries, arrange or lead out in
23 anointing services and child dedications, encourage the disheartened, and assist in other pastoral
24 responsibilities. As undershepherds, elders should exercise constant vigilance over the flock.

25
26 If the pastor is a licensed minister, the church or churches served should elect the pastor
27 as an elder. (See p. 33.)
28

29 Because the pastor is appointed to the position in the church by the conference, the pastor
30 serves the church as a conference employee, is responsible to the conference committee, and
31 maintains a sympathetic and cooperative relation to and works in harmony with all the plans and
32 policies of the local church. Elders, who are elected by the church, are responsible to that body
33 and to its board. (See below.)

1 SEC/ChManSub/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/19AC/438-19GSa/438-20GSa/
2 436-21GSa to GPS-22GCS

3
4 436-22GSa NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND THE ELECTION
5 PROCESS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

6
7 RATIONALE: This amendment provides for a standing nominating committee.

8
9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Elections, pages 110-113,
10 Nominating Committee and the Election Process, to read as follows:

11
12 Nominating Committee and the Election Process

13
14 Officers are elected every one or two years (see p. 72) through an appointed nominating
15 committee. In exceptional circumstances, and in consultation with the conference, the term of
16 office may be extended an additional year. This committee brings its report to the church, which
17 then votes on the names presented. This procedure enables the church to give careful study to
18 each name prior to election and avoids the competitive element that may arise when nominations
19 are made from the floor.

20
21 The nominating committee shall study the needs of the church and inquire into the fitness
22 of members to serve in the different offices. This is another reason officers shall not be
23 nominated from the floor or by general ballot.

24
25 The church may decide based on its needs that it would be best served with a standing
26 nominating committee. As such, it may appoint such a committee which would function year-
27 round to make nominations for vacancies or to fill regular positions identified in the *Church*
28 *Manual*.

29
30 The size of the nominating committee will range from five members in a small church to
31 a larger number in a large church. The number to be chosen is left to the discretion of each
32 church and should be studied by the board. A suitable recommendation then will be brought to
33 the church, using a minimum of time in the Sabbath worship hour.

34
35 Quorum—The quorum for the nominating committee may be determined by the church at
36 the same time the committee is elected. (See pp. 128, 131.)

37
38 When and How the Nominating Committee Is Appointed—The nominating committee
39 should be appointed early in the closing quarter of the church year and should report at least
40 three weeks before the final Sabbath of the church year, except in the case of a standing
41 nominating committee, which functions year-round. year.

42
43 The pastor or district leader or, in the absence of the pastor or district leader, the elder
44 should bring the matter to the attention of the church. The church shall then appoint an
45 organizing committee responsible to nominate the nominating committee. This organizing
46 committee may be chosen in one of two ways:

436-22GSa NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND THE ELECTION
PROCESS - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT - 2

1
2 1. By nominations, verbal or written, from the floor. If verbal nominations are made,
3 no member may nominate more than one person. The effort of one individual or a small group to
4 dictate to the entire membership is disapproved. Every effort should be made to ensure fair
5 representation in the composition of the organizing committee. Everything of a political nature
6 should be avoided. The pastor or district leader shall serve as chairperson of this organizing
7 committee. If a pastor or district leader has not yet been appointed to serve as church leader, the
8 chairperson of this organizing committee shall be appointed by the board from among the
9 members of the organizing committee. The size of the organizing committee should be five to
10 seven more than the number of board members.

11
12 2. By the church authorizing the board, together with five to seven additional
13 persons chosen by the church (see preceding paragraph), to function as the organizing
14 committee. If this method is adopted, the chairperson of the board normally serves as chairperson
15 of the organizing committee (see p. 32).

16
17 3. In the case of a standing nominating committee, the board may fill any vacancies
18 in their membership, or the organizing committee may choose to nominate a new list of members
19 for the nominating committee.

20
21 How the Process Works—The steps of the nominating process are:

22
23 1. The church appoints by vote an organizing committee by one of the two methods
24 listed above.

25
26 2. The organizing committee recommends names to the church for the nominating
27 committee, with a recommendation for secretary. Every effort should be made to ensure fair
28 representation in the composition of the nominating committee representing a range of age
29 groups and both genders and limiting familial representation to one or two members from the
30 same family. committee.

31
32 3. By vote, the church appoints the nominating committee and the secretary.

33
34 4. The pastor or district leader is an ex officio member and serves as chairperson of
35 the nominating committee. Should the pastor or district leader choose not to serve as chairperson,
36 or if a pastor or district leader has not been appointed to the church, the organizing committee
37 shall recommend the name from the proposed nominating committee to serve as chairperson.

38
39 5. The nominating committee meets to prepare the list of officers that it will present
40 to the church for approval.

436-22GSa NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND THE ELECTION
PROCESS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT - 3

1 6. By vote, the church appoints its officers for the ensuing year(s) who continue to
2 serve until their resignation, replacement, or the beginning of the new term. year.

3
4 Who Should Be Members of the Nominating Committee—Only members - No change

5
6 Work of the Nominating Committee—The chairperson should call - No change

7
8 Nominating Committee to Get Consent of Prospective Officers—Having - No change

9
10 Members May Appear Before the Nominating Committee—Members - No change

11
12 Nominating Committee Discussions Are Confidential—All inquiries - No change

13
14 Reporting to the Church—The nominating committee’s report is presented - No change

15
16 Objections to the Report of the Nominating Committee—Members may - No change

17
18 Filling Vacancies Between Elections—If an office of the church becomes vacant during
19 the term of office because of death, removal, resignation, or any other reason, and there is no
20 standing nominating committee to fill the nominations, the board may nominate the board
21 nominates a successor to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term of office and submits the
22 nomination to the church for election.

1 ChManSub/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/19AC/438-19GSb/438-20GSb/436-21GSb
2 to GPS-22GCS

3
4 436-22GSb TERM OF OFFICE - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

5
6 RATIONALE: This amendment allows for three-year terms of office in exceptional
7 circumstances, if approved by the conference.

8
9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and
10 Organizations, page 72, Term of Office, to read as follows:

11
12 Term of Office

13
14 The term of office for officers of both the church and its auxiliary organizations shall be
15 one year, except where the church in a business meeting votes to have elections every two years
16 in order to facilitate continuity and development of spiritual gifts and eliminate the work
17 involved in having yearly elections. In exceptional circumstances, and in consultation with the
18 conference, the term of office may be extended an additional year.

19
20 While it is not advisable for one person to serve indefinitely in a particular position,
21 officers may be reelected.

1 SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/20AC/444-20GS/442-21GS to GPS-22GCS

2

3 442-22GS USE OF “REELECT” - *CHURCH MANUAL* DIRECTIVE

4

5 RATIONALE: Since there is no “reelection” with the church, this directive removes this
6 terminology.

7

8 RECOMMENDED, To approve a directive to amend the *Church Manual* where appropriate, by
9 replacing “reelect” with “elect to a new term of office.”

1 MIN/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/ChMan/19AC/439-19GSa/439-20GSa/437-21GSa
2 to GPS-22GCS

3
4 437-22GSa DUTIES OF DEACONS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

5
6 RATIONALE: This amendment encourages deacons to assist members with special needs.

7
8 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and
9 Organizations, page 79, Duties of Deacons, to read as follows:

10
11 Duties of Deacons—The work of deacons involves a wide range of services for the
12 church, including:

- 13
14 1. Assistance at Services and Meetings—Deacons are usually - No change
15
16 2. Visitation of Members—In many ~~churches~~ churches, visitation is arranged by
17 distributing membership by districts and assigning a deacon to each district with the expectation
18 that he will visit each home at least once a quarter.

19
20 Deacons should also assist members with special needs. It is important to learn how to
21 effectively communicate with them and where needed church facilities and transportation should
22 be made accessible. When those with special needs are not able to attend services, they should be
23 visited in their homes.

- 24
25 3. Preparation for Baptismal Services—Deacons make necessary - No change
26
27 4. Assistance at Communion Service— At the service of foot - No change
28
29 5. Care of the Sick and Aiding the Poor and Unfortunate—Deacons - No change
30
31 6. Care and Maintenance of Property—In churches where the responsibility for the
32 care and maintenance of church property is not assigned to a building committee, deacons and
33 deaconesses have this responsibility. (~~See Notes, #3, p. 173.~~) (See Notes, #4, pp. 173-174.)

1 MIN/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/ChMan/19AC/439-19GSb/439-20GSb/437-21GSb
2 to GPS-22GCS

3
4 437-22GSb DUTIES OF DEACONESSES - *CHURCH MANUAL*
5 AMENDMENT

6
7 RATIONALE: This amendment encourages deaconesses to visit members and to assist members
8 with special needs.

9
10 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and
11 Organizations, page 81, Duties of Deaconesses, to read as follows:

12
13 Duties of Deaconesses—Deaconesses serve the church in a wide variety of activities,
14 including:

15
16 1. Greeting and Visiting Guests and Members—In many - No change

17
18 2. Visitation of Members—In many churches, visitation is arranged by distributing
19 membership by districts and assigning a deaconess to each district with the expectation that she
20 will visit each home at least once a quarter.

21
22 Deaconesses should also assist members with special needs. It is important to learn how
23 to effectively communicate with them and where needed church facilities and transportation
24 should be made accessible. When those with special needs are not able to attend services, they
25 should be visited in their homes.

26
27 ~~2. 3.~~ Assistance at Baptisms—Deaconesses ensure that female candidates - No change

28
29 ~~3. 4.~~ Arrangements for the Communion Service—Deaconesses and - No change

30
31 ~~4. 5.~~ The Care of the Sick and the Poor—Deaconesses assist deacons in - No change

32
33 ~~5. 6.~~ Care and Maintenance of Property—In churches where the - No change

1 MIN/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/19AC/439-19GSc/439-20GSc/437-21GSc to GPS-
2 22GCS

3
4 437-22GSc ORGANIZING A COMPANY - *CHURCH MANUAL*
5 AMENDMENT

6
7 RATIONALE: Since a company does not ordain deacons and deaconesses, this amendment
8 provides guidance for these leadership positions.

9
10 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 5, Organizing, Uniting, and
11 Dissolving Churches and Companies, pages 37 and 38, Organizing a Company, to read as
12 follows:

13
14 Organizing a Company

15
16 Where a number of isolated believers reside near one another or where they belong to a
17 small group, house church, or church planting core group, they should consider forming a
18 company of believers for fellowship, worship, and mission with the objective of growing into an
19 organized church or multiplying house churches in that geographical area.

20
21 Company status is approved by vote of the conference committee, which, should it
22 become necessary, may subsequently dissolve the company. The division and/or conference
23 should have written guidelines for organizing companies within its territory.

24
25 Church members who are part of small groups or house groups may form the nucleus of a
26 new company. Membership of all those who want to be part of a company should be held in
27 either the conference church or a local church (mother church). If membership for those who
28 want to be part of a company is to be held in the conference church, the conference committee
29 will vote their membership transfers to the conference church and indicate that they are part of
30 the new company.

31
32 When the conference committee approves establishment of a company, a leadership team
33 should be appointed, including a leader, a clerk, and a treasurer. The appointment should be
34 carried out by the district pastor, or other pastor appointed by the conference committee, in
35 counsel with the group being established as a company.

36
37 All other company appointments should be made by vote of those who are part of the
38 group that is forming the company. The district pastor or other person authorized by the
39 conference committee shall preside at such a meeting. Only members of the Seventh-day
40 Adventist Church in regular standing shall be appointed.

41
42 The leader of a company shall not be ordained to that office and does not have the
43 authority to perform those functions that are vested in an elder of a church. However, where
44 exceptional circumstances warrant, the conference committee may appoint a person of church
45 experience and leadership ability to serve as elder of the company.

437-22GS_c ORGANIZING A COMPANY - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT - 2

1 Since ordination does not take place in companies, deacons and deaconesses should not
2 be elected, but men and women should be voted in the local congregation as “company
3 assistants.” Their duties will be similar to those performed by the deacons and deaconesses of
4 organized churches where activities do not require ordination. (See p. 79.)
5

6 The clerk of the company shall keep record of all activities and meetings of the company
7 and shall send regular statistical reports to the mother church or the conference executive
8 secretary. These reports should include statistics on attendance and activities of the company,
9 including outreach ministries conducted during the week or on Sabbath.

10
11 The treasurer of the company shall keep record of all money received and disbursed and
12 shall send promptly, at the time established by the conference, all tithes and offerings, other than
13 funds collected for local purposes, to the conference treasurer, who also is treasurer of the
14 conference church.

15
16 If the members of an organized company are members of the conference church, the
17 company does not possess the right to administer discipline or transfer or receive members. All
18 such matters must be referred to the conference committee, which constitutes the board of the
19 conference church. The conference president is the elder of the conference church.

20
21 If the conference organizes a company through a neighboring mother church instead of
22 through the conference church, the functions listed above (such as reporting and membership)
23 would be cared for by/through the mother church.

24
25 Since a company should want to grow and eventually be recognized as a church, its
26 leadership should prepare members for church status by promoting all activities generally carried
27 on by a church.

1 SEC/ChManSub/427-18GS/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/ChMan/19AC/426-19GS/426-20GS/
2 425-21GS to GPS-22GCS

3

4 425-22GS SPIRIT OF PROPHECY WRITINGS - *CHURCH MANUAL*
5 ADDITION

6

7 RATIONALE: This addition to the *Church Manual* emphasizes the importance of the Spirit of
8 Prophecy and creates the position of a Spirit of Prophecy Writings Coordinator in the church.

9

10 RECOMMENDED, To add a new section, Spirit of Prophecy, to the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8,
11 Local Church Officers and Organizations, following Personal Ministries, on page 102, to read as
12 follows:

13

14

Spirit of Prophecy Writings

15

16 The Scriptures testify that one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an
17 identifying mark of the remnant church and we believe it was manifested in the ministry of
18 Ellen G. White. Her writings speak with prophetic authority and provide comfort, guidance,
19 instruction, and correction to the Church. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by
20 which all teaching and experience must be tested. (Num. 12:6; 2 Chron. 20:20; Amos 3:7; Joel
21 2:28, 29; Acts 2:14-21; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 12:17; 19:10; 22:8, 9.)

22

23 Spirit of Prophecy Writings Coordinator—The church elects a Spirit of Prophecy
24 writings coordinator with the responsibility of promoting the importance and right use of the
25 Spirit of Prophecy writings, in collaboration with the publishing ministries coordinator.

1 APM/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/19AC/431-19GSa/431-20GSa/430-21GSa to GPS-
2 22GCS

3

4 430-22GSa ADVENTIST POSSIBILITY MINISTRIES - *CHURCH*
5 *MANUAL* ADDITION

6

7 RATIONALE: This addition to the *Church Manual* emphasizes the importance of including all
8 church members in ministry.

9

10 RECOMMENDED, To add a new section, Adventist Possibility Ministries, to the *Church*
11 *Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, following Departments and Other
12 Organizations, on page 87, to read as follows:

13

14

Adventist Possibility Ministries

15

16 The Adventist Possibility Ministries initiative was established to extend the
17 compassionate and inclusive ministry of Jesus and seeks to inspire, equip, and mobilize those
18 with special needs and those who are deaf. These opportunities are defined as deafness,
19 blindness, physical mobility limitations, and mental/social development. It also includes
20 ministry for orphans and vulnerable children, widows and widowers, and caregivers. The goal is
21 to foster understanding with the exploration of ministry possibilities for those with special needs
22 and the Deaf.

23

24 All are in search of wholeness. All are gifted, needed, and treasured. All are created in the
25 image of God with an inherent dignity regardless of any limitation they may have. This global
26 initiative encompasses a ministry for those with special needs and the Deaf, along with seeking
27 opportunities to minister *with* them. While some disadvantages may be present, greater emphasis
28 is placed upon their possibilities. This educational mission of the Church strategically gives
29 focus to three main values: *awareness* of needs; *acceptance* of the individuals who are deaf or
30 who have special needs; and the development of specific *action* plans to be implemented to
31 provide opportunities for these individuals to find purpose and fulfillment in life and ministry.

32

33 The following statement by Ellen G. White underscores the importance of this work, “I
34 saw that it is in the providence of God that widows and orphans, the blind, the Deaf, the lame,
35 and persons afflicted in a variety of ways, have been placed in close Christian relationship to His
36 church; it is to prove His people and develop their true character. Angels of God are watching to
37 see how we treat these persons who need our sympathy, love, and disinterested benevolence.
38 This is God’s test of our character.”—3T 511.

39

40 The Deaf as a Unique Culture—The Deaf are internationally recognized as having their
41 own set of social beliefs, behaviors, art, history, literary traditions, values, and languages just as
42 other cultures. While they are often considered as having “special needs,” the Church recognizes
43 their deafness as more of a cultural characteristic than of a disability.

44

45 Adventist Possibility Ministries Leader—It is recommended that the board appoint a
46 local possibility ministries leader. While it is preferable for the leader to have direct experience

430-22GSa ADVENTIST POSSIBILITY MINISTRIES - *CHURCH*
MANUAL ADDITION - 2

1 or education with possibility ministries, it is not mandatory. It is best if the leadership for this
2 ministry is chosen from within the groups they represent. While working together with other
3 leaders, it is critical that planning be done by the groups themselves. This is done so they may
4 serve God and community as expressed in the mission statement of the Seventh-day Adventist
5 Church. It is imperative for the leader to be compassionate, and to serve with an approach that
6 fosters empowerment and participation.

7
8 Adventist Possibility Ministries Committee—The church board should establish a
9 committee for possibility ministries to encourage members with special needs and to learn how
10 to effectively communicate with them. It should create witnessing programs, recommend how to
11 make church facilities more accessible, help solve transportation programs, and recommend
12 ways to assist in the discovery of roles or ministries that bring a sense of meaning and
13 fulfillment. The committee is chaired by the possibility ministries leader(s). If not serving as the
14 chairperson, the pastor should be an ex officio member.

15
16 Resources—For possibility ministries resources, see Notes #9, pp. 175.

1 SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/19AC/431-19GSb/431-20GSb/430-21GSb to GPS-
2 22GCS

3

4 430-22GSb MINISTRY TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES - *CHURCH*
5 *MANUAL* DELETION

6

7 RATIONALE: A new section on Adventist Possibility Ministries is being added resulting in this
8 section being deleted.

9

10 RECOMMENDED, To delete from the *Church Manual* the section, Ministry to People with
11 Disabilities, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, page 102, which reads as
12 follows:

13

14 Ministry to People With Disabilities—This ministry functions under the personal
15 ministries council and develops programs for members and others with disabilities. It should
16 create witnessing programs, recommend how to make church facilities more accessible, help
17 solve transportation problems, and recommend ways to involve members with disabilities. The
18 coordinator of Ministry to People With Disabilities serves as a liaison with organizations
19 providing services for people with disabilities, such as Christian Record Services, and promotes
20 Christian Record Services programs.

1 YOU/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/20AC/445-20GS/443-21GS to GPS-22GCS
2
3 443-22GS YOUTH MINISTRIES - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT
4

5 RATIONALE: This amendment is coming as a recommendation from General Conference
6 Youth Ministries in consultation with the divisions
7

8 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and
9 Organizations, pages 104-109, to read as follows:
10

11 Adventist Youth Ministries
12

13 The various youth organizations of the church should work closely with the youth
14 ministries department of the conference. The church works for and with its youth through
15 Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM). ~~the AYM.~~ Under the AYM, youth are to work together, in
16 cooperation with the wider church community, towards the development of a strong youth
17 ministry that includes spiritual, mental, and physical development of each individual, Christian
18 social interaction, and an active witnessing program that supports the general soul-winning plans
19 of the church. In the quest for discipleship, the goal of AYM should be to *bring* all youth to a
20 saving relationship with Christ, *build* them up in His Word to reflect a Christ-like character, *train*
21 them how to serve the church and communities using their spiritual gifts, and *send* them out to
22 reach the communities in the power of the Holy Spirit.
23

24 ~~Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM)—The church works for and with its youth through~~
25 ~~the AYM. Under the AYM, youth are to work together, in cooperation with the wider church~~
26 ~~community, towards the development of a strong youth ministry that includes spiritual, mental,~~
27 ~~and physical development of each individual, Christian social interaction, and an active~~
28 ~~witnessing program that supports the general soul-winning plans of the church. The goal of~~
29 ~~AYM should be to involve all youth in activities that will lead them to active church membership~~
30 ~~and train them for Christian service.~~
31

32 *AYM Mission*—To lead young people into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and
33 help them embrace His call to discipleship.
34

35 *AYM Motto*—The love of Christ compels us.
36

37 *AYM Aim*—The Advent Message to all the world in my generation.
38

39 The youth ministries program of the church comprises three broad categories, namely:
40 Junior Youth (Adventurers: ~~ages 6-9~~ ages 4-9 and Pathfinders: ages 10-15), Senior Youth
41 (Ambassadors: ages 16-21 and Young Adults: ~~ages 22-30+~~ ages 22-30), and Public Campus
42 Students: ages 16-30+.
43

44 God said to Moses, “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.
45 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your
46 house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind

1 them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write
2 them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates” (Deut. 6:6-9).

3
4 The apostle Paul added, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the
5 believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12).

6
7 “We have an army of youth today who can do much if they are properly directed and
8 encouraged. . . . We want them to be blessed of God. We want them to act a part in well-
9 organized plans for helping other youth.”— GCB, Jan. 29, 30, 1893, p. 24.

10
11 “When the youth give their hearts to God, our responsibility for them does not cease.
12 They must be interested in the Lord’s work, and led to see that He expects them to do something
13 to advance His cause. It is not enough to show how much needs to be done, and to urge the youth
14 to act a part. They must be taught how to labor for the Master. They must be trained, disciplined,
15 drilled, in the best methods of winning souls to Christ. Teach them to try in a quiet, unpretending
16 way to help their young companions. Let different branches of missionary effort be
17 systematically laid out, in which they may take part, and let them be given instruction and help.
18 Thus they will learn to work for God.”—GW 210.

19
20 “With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the
21 message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world!”—
22 MYP 196.

23
24 While there is to be an active Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) in every church, it is
25 important that the youth program not be isolated from the rest of the church. In addition to their
26 AYM participation, youth should be integrated into responsible leadership and in all lines of
27 church work. As young elders, deacons, and deaconesses, for example, they can work with and
28 learn from experienced officers.

29
30 “In order that the work may go forward in all its branches, God calls for youthful vigor,
31 zeal, and courage. He has chosen the youth to aid in the advancement of His cause. To plan with
32 clear mind and execute with courageous hand demands fresh, uncrippled energies. Young men
33 and women are invited to give God the strength of their youth, that through the exercise of their
34 powers, through keen thought and vigorous action, they may bring glory to Him and salvation to
35 their fellow men.”—GW 67.

36
37 Adventist Youth Ministries Committee—The Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM)
38 Committee is the umbrella organization in the church for the general planning of the youth
39 ministry program. (See pp. 133, 134.) The AYM Committee includes the following church-
40 elected officers: Young Adults leader, Public Campus Ministries leader/coordinator, Ambassador
41 leader, Pathfinder director, Adventurer director, plus the personal ministries leader, youth
42 Sabbath School division leader, children’s ministries leader, health ministries leader, principal of
43 the school, the AYM advisor, sponsor, and the pastor. The Young Adults leader, Ambassador

1 leader, Pathfinder director, Adventurer director, and Public Campus Ministries leader are
2 members of the church board representing Adventist Youth Ministries.
3

4 If there are no distinct Ambassador ministry or young adults ministries established in the
5 church, or until such time as they are established, the AYM Committee will plan for the senior
6 youth ministry to include both age groups.
7

8 In parts of the world where there is no Pathfinder or Adventurer ministry, or until such
9 time as they are organized, the AYM Committee will plan for appropriate activities for the junior
10 youth.
11

12 ~~The AYM leader (formerly known as the AYS director), who is a member of the board,~~
13 ~~chairs this committee. The Young Adults leader may chair the AYM Committee.~~ The committee
14 should meet as necessary to develop short- and long-range goals and plans for a successful
15 ministry. (See Notes, #18, pp. 177, 178.)
16

17 Young Adults Ministries Committee—The Young Adults Ministries - No change
18

19 Public Campus Ministries—Strengthening the Youth Ministries - No change
20

21 Public Campus Ministries Leader/Coordinator—The church may - No change
22

23 Ambassador Ministry—The Ambassador Ministry provides - No change
24

25 Ambassador Committee—The Ambassador Committee is responsible - No change
26

27 Pathfinder Club—The Pathfinder Club provides a church-centered - No change
28

29 Pathfinder Committee—The Pathfinder Club director and deputy directors are elected by
30 the church. (See pp. 105, 179.) If two deputy directors are elected, there should be one male and
31 one female. One of the deputy directors may also serve as club secretary and treasurer. ~~The~~
32 ~~director is a member of the board and the Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) Committee.~~
33

34 Additional Pathfinder staff may include instructors of craft and nature classes and
35 counselors who are each responsible for a unit of six to eight Pathfinders.
36

37 Resource materials are available from the conference youth ministries director.
38

39 Everyone involved in work with minor children must meet Church and legal standards
40 and requirements, such as background checks or certification. Local church leaders should
41 consult with the conference, which will ascertain and advise as to what background checks and
42 certifications are available and/or required. (See Notes, #7, pp. 168, 169.)
43

1 Adventurer Club—The Adventurer Club provides home and church programs for parents
2 with ~~6 to 9 year old~~ 4- to 9-year-old children. It is designed to stimulate the children’s curiosity
3 and includes age-specific activities that involve both parents and child in recreational activities,
4 simple crafts, appreciation of God’s creation, and other activities that are of interest to that age.
5 All is carried out with a spiritual focus, setting the stage for participation in the church as a
6 Pathfinder.

7
8 Adventurer Committee—The church elects the club director and associates. (See pp. 104,
9 178.) Additional staff members are selected by the administrative staff of the club. ~~The director~~
10 ~~is a member of the Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) Committee.~~

11
12 Resource materials are available from the conference youth ministries director.

13
14 Everyone involved in work with minor children must meet Church and legal standards
15 and requirements, such as background checks or certification. Local church leaders should
16 consult with the conference, which will ascertain and advise as to what background checks and
17 certifications are available and/or required. (See Notes, #8, pp. 174, 175.)

18
19 AYM Officers—The leaders/directors of the ~~four~~ five youth ministry entities must
20 exemplify Christlike graces and have a burden for soul winning and contagious enthusiasm. The
21 five leaders/directors are members of the church board. In helping motivate youth to work
22 together and take responsibilities, the leaders/directors will be in the background— guiding,
23 counseling, and encouraging youth, helping them gain experience and the joys of achievement.
24 The leaders/directors should study the youth profile of the church and seek to involve every
25 eligible youth in the Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM).

26
27 The leaders/directors will keep in touch with the pastor, ~~their respective sponsors,~~
28 advisor, and the conference youth ministries director, taking advantage of opportunities for in-
29 service training and leading their respective ministry into a cooperative relationship with the
30 church and the conference.

31
32 The associate leaders/deputy directors (if needed) will assist the leaders/directors and
33 perform leadership duties when the leaders/directors are absent. The respective committees may
34 assign additional responsibilities to the associate leaders/directors.

35
36 The secretary-treasurers will keep a record of the activities of their respective ministries,
37 submit monthly reports on forms provided to the conference youth ministries director, and
38 encourage youth to report their witnessing activities during the ten-minute personal ministries
39 period.

40
41 The respective assistant secretary-treasurers (if needed) assist with the secretary-
42 treasurers’ work as assigned.

1 AYM Advisor—~~The Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) advisor~~ ~~Sponsor~~—~~The~~
2 ~~Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) sponsor~~ may be an elder or other person on the board who
3 understands the objectives of the AYM, is sympathetic with youth and their involvement in the
4 church’s ministries, and will serve as a valued counselor to the youth. The ~~sponsor~~ advisor serves
5 as a guide or counselor to AYM officers and joins them regularly in AYM Committee meetings.
6 ~~The sponsor will work with the AYM leader to present the ministry’s needs to the board.~~

7
8 The ~~sponsor~~ ministry leader should become acquainted with the conference youth
9 ministries director and keep the director informed of changes in officer personnel and other
10 AYM matters. Along with AYM leaders, the ~~sponsor~~ advisor should attend conference youth
11 training institutes to keep informed about developments in youth ministry.

12
13 For the sake of continuity, the ~~sponsor~~, advisor, if possible, should serve multiple terms.

14
15 Everyone involved in work with minor children must meet Church and legal standards
16 and requirements, such as background checks or certification. Local church leaders should
17 consult with the conference, which will ascertain and advise as to what background checks and
18 certifications are available and/or required. (See Notes, #7, pp. 168, 169.)

19
20 Resources—For youth ministries resources, see Notes, #17, p. 171.

1 SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/19AC/436-19GS/ChManSub/ChMan/
2 ADCOM(Steering)/20AC/436-20GS/434-21GS to GPS-22GCS

3
4 434-22GS MEMBERSHIP (CHURCH BOARD AND ITS MEETINGS) -
5 *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

6
7 RATIONALE: This proposed amendment updates the membership list of the church board in
8 accordance with other *Church Manual* additions and amendments being brought to the 2022
9 General Conference Session.

10
11 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings,
12 pages 130 and 131, Membership (Church Board and Its Meetings), to read as follows:

13
14 Membership—The board is elected by the members at the time of the regular election
15 officers. (See pp. 71, 72.) In addition to conference-appointed pastors, the church should elect a
16 representative board that includes the following officers:

- 17
18 Elders
19 Head deacon
20 Head deaconess
21 Treasurer
22 Clerk
23 Interest coordinator
24 Adventist Community Services leader or Dorcas Society leader
25 Adventist Men’s coordinator
26 Adventist Possibility Ministries leader
27 Adventist Youth Ministries
28 Adventurer Club director
29 Ambassador Club leader
30 Pathfinder Club director
31 Public Campus Ministries leader/coordinator
32 Young Adults leader
33 ~~Adventist Youth Ministries leader~~
34 ~~Adventurer Club director~~
35 ~~Ambassador Club leader~~
36 Bible school coordinator
37 Children’s ministries leader
38 Church music coordinator
39 Communication committee chairperson or communication secretary
40 Education secretary/church school principal or head teacher
41 Family ministries leader
42 Health ministries leader
43 Home and School Association leader
44 ~~Pathfinder Club director~~
45 Personal ministries leader and secretary
46 ~~Public Campus Ministries leader/coordinator~~

434-22GS MEMBERSHIP (CHURCH BOARD AND ITS
MEETINGS) - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT - 2

- 1 Publishing ministries coordinator
- 2 Religious liberty leader
- 3 Sabbath School superintendent
- 4 Stewardship ministries leader
- 5 Women's ministries leader
- 6 ~~Young adults leader~~

7
8 In some cases, depending on the size of the membership, the board may not include all of
9 this list or may add additional members. The pastor appointed by the conference to serve the
10 church always is a member of the board.

1 TED/ChManSub/BRI/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/18AC/420-18GS/420-19GS/
2 420-20GS/419-21GS to GPS-22GCS

3
4 419-22GS NO WALL OF PARTITION (CHURCH OF THE LIVING
5 GOD) - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

6
7 RATIONALE: This amendment adds a direct quotation from the referenced text.

8
9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 2, Church of the Living God, pages
10 20 and 21, No Wall of Partition, to read as follows:

11
12 No Wall of Partition

13
14 Christ sought by precept and example to teach the truth that with God there was to be no
15 dividing wall between Israel and other nations (John 4:4-42; 10:16; Luke 9:51-56; Matt. 15:21-
16 28). The apostle Paul writes, “The Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and
17 partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel” (Eph. 3:6).

18
19 Nor is there to be among Christ’s followers any preference of caste or nationality or race
20 or color, for all are of one blood. The elect of God are a universal ~~brotherhood~~, body, a new
21 humanity, “all saved by the blood of Christ, which is available to all. “There is neither Jew nor
22 Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in
23 Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:28).

24
25 “Christ came to this earth with a message of mercy and forgiveness. He laid the
26 foundation for a religion by which Jew and Gentile, black and white, free and bond, are linked
27 together in one common brotherhood, recognized as equal in the sight of God. The Savior has a
28 boundless love for every human being.”—7T 225.

29
30 “No distinction on account of nationality, race, or caste is recognized by God. He is the
31 Maker of all mankind. All men are of one family by creation, and all are one through
32 redemption. Christ came to demolish every wall of partition, to throw open every compartment
33 of the temple, that every soul may have free access to God. . . . In Christ there is neither Jew nor
34 Greek, bond nor free. All are brought nigh by His precious blood.”— COL 386.

1 ACMS/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/404-16GS/ChManSub/402-17GS/ChManSub/
2 ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/18AC/401-18GS/401-19GS/401-20GS/401-21GS to GPS-22GCS

3

4 401-22GS MEMBERSHIP RECORD - *CHURCH MANUAL*
5 AMENDMENT

6

7 RATIONALE: This amendment removes the confusing term, “retired membership list,” and
8 clarifies that there should only be one membership record.

9

10 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Membership, page 55,
11 Membership Record, to read as follows:

12

13 Membership Record—The church should have one current, regularly updated
14 membership record. Names are added or removed only on the vote of the church, at death, or at
15 the member’s request. (See pp. 81, 82.) ~~church or at death. (See pp. 81, 82.) Under no~~
16 ~~circumstances should a church keep a retired membership list.~~

1 SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/417-17GS/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/18AC/416-18GS/
2 416-19GS/416-20GS/415-21GS to GPS-22GCS

3

4 415-22GS CHURCH BOARD CANNOT REMOVE MEMBERS -
5 *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

6

7 RATIONALE: This amendment simplifies the language of this section.

8

9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 7, Discipline, page 65, Church
10 Board Cannot Remove Members, to read as follows:

11

12 Church Board Cannot Remove Members—The board may recommend to a business
13 meeting the removal of members, but under no circumstance does the board have the right to
14 take final action, except to record removal at death or at the member's request. (See pp. 55, 66,
15 81-82.) ~~action. Except in the case of the death of members, the clerk can remove a name from the~~
16 ~~records only after a vote of the church in a business meeting.~~

1 PRE/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/19AC/442-19GS/442-20GS/440-21GS to GPS-22GCS

2

3 440-22GS CHURCH BOARD CANNOT GRANT LETTERS -

4 *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

5

6 RATIONALE: This amendment allows the church business meeting to be informed of a
7 member's request to be removed from membership.

8

9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Membership, page 54, Church
10 Board Cannot Grant Letters, to read as follows:

11

12 Church Board Cannot Grant Letters—A board has no authority to vote letters of transfer
13 or to receive members by letter. The board's authority is limited to making recommendations to
14 the church. Action on all transfers of membership, favorable or otherwise, must be taken by the
15 church. (See pp. 51, 52.) The clerk has no authority to remove names from or add names to the
16 membership record except by vote of the church, unless a member requests in writing to be
17 removed from church membership, in which case the church board must act on the request. The
18 church may be informed of the member's request, but no discussion will take place. Efforts
19 should be made to restore the individual to the church family. When a member dies, the clerk
20 records the date of death in the membership record, and no action by the church is necessary.

1 SEC/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/18AC/425-18GS/425-19GS/425-20GS/424-21GS to GPS-
2 22GCS

3

4 424-22GS REDEMPTIVE MEMBERSHIP AUDITING - *CHURCH*
5 *MANUAL* ADDITION

6

7 RATIONALE: This new section on redemptive membership auditing is being added as a
8 recommendation of the Nurture and Retention Committee.

9

10 RECOMMENDED, To add a new section, Redemptive Membership Auditing, to the *Church*
11 *Manual*, Chapter 6, Membership, following Membership Record, on page 55, to read as follows:

12

13 Redemptive Membership Auditing—Membership records are kept up to date by the local
14 church. They are subject to audit by the next higher organization. This rule, which also applies to
15 every entity or level of the organization, provides the maximum privacy of members’ personal
16 information and shall comply with legal requirements. (See p. 82.)

17

18 In the Bible we find the words, “[N]ot forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as
19 is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day
20 approaching (Heb. 10:25). There is great need to seek for those who are far away. Ellen G. White
21 says, “If the lost sheep is not brought back to the fold, it wanders until it perishes. And many
22 souls go down to ruin for want of a hand stretched out to save” (COL 191). It is a most needed
23 ministry to review the membership records and to approach this exercise in a Christ-like
24 redemptive way.

1 SEC/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/18AC/428-18GS/427-19GS/427-20GS/426-21GS to GPS-
2 22GCS

3

4 426-22GS CHURCH RECORDS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

5

6 RATIONALE: This amendment provides for the auditing of church membership records.

7

8 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and
9 Organizations, page 82, Church Records, to read as follows:

10

11 Church Records—The clerk keeps church records, which should be carefully preserved.

12 All records and account books of all officers are the property of the church and are to be
13 surrendered to the newly elected clerk at the expiration of the term of office of the previous
14 clerk, or to the church at any time during the term on request of the pastor or elders. Church
15 records, within the privacy limitations of local law, are subject to audit by the next higher
16 organization. (See p. 55.)

1 AM/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/19AC/430-19GSa/430-20GSa/429-21GSa to GPS-
2 22GCS

3

4 429-22GSa MAKING DISCIPLES - *CHURCH MANUAL* ADDITION

5

6 RATIONALE: This is a new chapter on the importance of discipleship.

7

8 RECOMMENDED, To add a new chapter to the *Church Manual*, Chapter 6, Making Disciples,
9 following Chapter 5, Organizing, Uniting, and Dissolving Churches and Companies, on page 43,
10 to read as follows:

11

12

Making Disciples

13

14 Making disciples is a continuous process by which a person becomes a disciple of Jesus
15 Christ, matures as His disciple, and makes more disciples. Baptism is an essential part of the
16 discipleship process, but it is not the end result of that process.

17

18 Seventh-day Adventists accept with honor and humility the command of Jesus contained
19 in the Gospel Commission to “go therefore and make disciples of all the nations” (Matt. 28:19).
20 We are to obey this Commission, as we live in these last days, within the context of the Three
21 Angels’ Messages (Rev. 14:6-12).

22

23 The Gospel Commission’s main emphasis to “make disciples” contains three parts:

24

25 1. “Go therefore” is more literally translated as “going therefore.” Making disciples
26 should be our way of life. We are to make disciples “as we are going” about our lives in our
27 homes, our work, our schools, and in our everyday interactions with others. We are to make
28 disciples of every nation, tribe, tongue, and people. The goal of witnessing and evangelism is
29 disciple-making.

30

31 2. “Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”
32 is not the end goal but an important part in the process of discipleship as people acknowledge
33 Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, become part of His church, and commit to making more
34 disciples. Disciples are baptized into Christ’s body, the church. Their commitment to obey Christ
35 in making disciples should be demonstrated before baptism.

36

37 3. “Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you,” indicates that
38 teaching is a vital and ongoing experience of maturing in the experience of discipleship.
39 “Teaching” should take place before and after baptism.

40

41 Making disciples is a continuous process with its purpose being grown “in the grace and
42 knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18) into Christian maturity and
43 multiplication of disciples.

44

45 Growing as a disciple and making disciples to prepare them for the second coming of
46 Jesus, is not optional; it is the essence of our last-day commission as Seventh-day Adventists.

Contd

Revised 03-02-22tkb

1 Genuine discipleship only happens as a result of the amazing grace of Jesus Christ. We can take
2 comfort that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him, and He promises to be
3 with us to the end of the world (Matt. 28:18, 20). Further, He promises us the Holy Spirit as our
4 Teacher, Guide, and Power (John 16:7-16; Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:4, 5, 8; 2:37-39).

6 What is a Disciple?

8 In Jesus' time, disciples were followers whose instruction was wholistic and
9 comprehensive. The disciples of Jesus spent so much time with Him that they received His
10 teachings and learned valuable lifestyle lessons. A disciple is one whose choices, decisions, and
11 worldview are being transformed by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God.

13 Christian disciples pattern their faith, character, and mission after the faith, character, and
14 mission of their Teacher, Jesus. A disciple is one who has made a commitment to follow Christ
15 and bring their life under the Lordship of Christ.

17 A disciple is a person who is becoming more like Jesus Christ in every way (Eph. 4:15).
18 The process of disciple-making is a continuous process. It also entails teaching new believers
19 how to bring their lives into conformity with the Word of God through various programs such as
20 mentoring, small group ministries, Bible studies, service, etc.

22 1. Thus, discipleship impacts every area of our lives: our beliefs, character, lifestyle,
23 relationships, work, entertainment, finances, health, witness, and our burden to see others in
24 God's kingdom.

26 2. "Is becoming" indicates that discipleship is an ongoing activity of following
27 Jesus.

29 3. "More like Jesus Christ" means that Christ is our Savior and Lord and the only
30 perfect example for us to follow.

32 Growth of a Disciple

34 The discipleship journey starts when one takes the first steps toward Jesus (see John 1:35-
35 2:2). Abiding in Him daily and following His Word, one can continue to grow in Christlikeness.
36 Some of the key areas in which Scripture indicates disciples must mature in personal
37 development, as well as part of a community of believers, are listed below:

39 1. *Worship/Personal Devotion*: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your
40 heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matt. 22:37 ESV). Worship is our response
41 to God's initiating work in our lives. True worship is not focused on us but on God (Ps. 150:6;
42 John 4:23; Rev. 14:7).

1 “We need to cherish and cultivate a spirit of true worship, a spirit of devotion upon the
2 Lord’s holy, sanctified day. We should assemble together believing that we shall receive comfort
3 and hope, light and peace from Jesus Christ.”—FLB 35.
4

5 “Personal religion will reveal itself in bearing good fruit, sanctification is not the work of
6 a day, but a lifetime. . . . There should be in the heart of everyone grace which can bloom in the
7 garden of God. Selfishness will cut out every precious likeness of Christ, will expel humility and
8 self-denial and devotion.” —PM 91.
9

10 2. *Ministry to Others:* “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:39
11 ESV). Every disciple is called and gifted by God for the benefit of the church and to take the
12 gospel message to the world (1 Peter 2:9; 4:10).
13

14 “[The disciples’] office was the most important to which human beings had ever been
15 called, second only to that of Christ Himself. They were to be workers together with God for the
16 saving of men.”—AA 19.
17

18 3. *Witnessing/Need-Based Evangelism:* “Go therefore and make disciples of all
19 nations” (Matt. 28:19 ESV). Witness and evangelism happen best when following Christ’s
20 method of ministry to the whole person.
21

22 “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour
23 mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered
24 to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”—MH 143.
25

26 4. *Obedience:* “. . . . teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you”
27 (Matt. 28:20 ESV). A primary indication of true discipleship is faithfulness to Christ and His
28 Word and submission to Him as our Lord. Jesus said, “If you love Me, you will keep My
29 commandments” (John 14:15 ESV).
30

31 “Obedience—the service and allegiance of love—is the true sign of discipleship. Thus,
32 the Scripture says, ‘This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments’”—SC 60.
33

34 A faithful disciple is one who recognizes the Shepherd’s voice and continually seeks
35 to learn in order to obey more completely. Reflecting Christ’s character and laboring for the
36 enlargement of His kingdom is to be our overriding passion. This includes growth in character,
37 stewardship and service (Eph. 4:13-15; Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:17, 18; 1 John 3:2).
38

39 5. *Community/Outreach:* “. . . . baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the
40 Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19 ESV). True discipleship only happens within a
41 community that is built on the foundation of Jesus Christ and His Word, where worship,
42 ministry, evangelism, and obedience are given the highest priority (Rev. 14:6-12).
43

1 “Let small companies assemble in the evening, at noon, or in the early morning to study
2 the Bible. Let them have a season of prayer, that they may be strengthened, enlightened, and
3 sanctified by the Holy Spirit. This work Christ wants to have done in the heart of every worker.
4 If you yourselves will open the door to receive it, a great blessing will come to you. Angels of
5 God will be in your assembly. You will feed upon the leaves of the tree of life. What testimonies
6 you may bear of the loving acquaintance made with your fellow workers in these precious
7 seasons when seeking the blessing of God.”—7T 195.

8 9 Practical Steps

10
11 The grace of Jesus Christ is not cheap. It cost Him His life. Anyone who accepts Jesus
12 Christ as both Lord and Savior needs to know that being His disciple also comes at a cost.
13 “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me”
14 (Mark 8:34, NIV).

15
16 Disciples grow Christlike in character amid the routines of day-to-day life. Through the
17 intentional practices of daily Bible study, prayer, service, and mission, we grow ever deeper in
18 our discipleship commitment. A fully committed disciple continually “walks” with Christ, being
19 with Him, modeling one’s life after Him, and obeying Him in one’s ordinary daily activities.

20
21 The work of making disciples is ongoing. “The Saviour’s commission to the disciples
22 included all the believers. It includes all believers in Christ to the end of time.”—DA 822.
23 Therefore, patterning one’s life after Jesus’ example is a personal responsibility as well as a
24 teaching responsibility that every church member owes to those who are young in the faith.
25 Church membership and even church activity by themselves are insufficient. Ongoing personal
26 growth as a disciple is necessary to have an impactful and lasting relationship with God.

27 28 Love, The Defining Mark of a Disciple

29
30 Loving others as God loves us, which is intimately connected to unity, is the ultimate
31 indication of true discipleship. “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you
32 have love one for another” (John 13:35, ESV).

33
34 “Christ has given us a pattern in his own example. He would bind his followers to one
35 another and to himself. Their oneness with Christ makes them love one another, for love is the
36 sure fruit of unity with Christ. Christ declared that their love for one another was a sure badge of
37 their discipleship”—Ms 51, 1894.

38
39 True love for Jesus means more than His disciples loving each other; they must share
40 God’s love with others. If we love God, we will obey his command to “Go therefore and make
41 disciples of all the nations. . . .” (Matt. 28:19).

1 God’s love is the defining mark of a disciple because in love all other characteristics of
2 discipleship are complete. Christ “mentioned only one condition of discipleship and service.
3 ‘Lovest thou Me?’ He said. This is the essential qualification”—DA 815. “The love of Christ is
4 not a fitful feeling, but a living principle, which is to be made manifest as an abiding power in
5 the heart. . .”—RC 345.

1 ChManSub/SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/19AC/430-19GSb/430-20GSb/
2 429-21GSb to GPS-22GCS

3
4 429-22GSb DISCIPLESHIP (CHURCH BOARD AND ITS
5 MEETINGS) - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

6
7 RATIONALE: This amendment makes the wording of this section consistent with the new
8 mission statement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as voted by the 2018 Annual Council.

9
10 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings,
11 page 130, Discipleship, to read as follows:

12
13 Making Disciples—The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, who
14 live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Three
15 Angels’ Messages in preparation for His soon return (Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Rev. 14:6-12).
16 The purpose of the Church as the body of Christ is to intentionally make disciples so that they
17 continue in an active and fruitful relationship with Christ and His Church. Discipleship—The
18 purpose of the Church as the body of Christ is to intentionally disciple members, so that they
19 continue in an active and fruitful relationship with Christ and His Church.

20
21 ~~Discipleship~~ Disciple-making is based on an ongoing, lifelong relationship with Jesus.
22 The believer commits to “abiding in Christ” (John 15:8), to being trained for fruitful discipleship
23 by sharing Jesus with others, as well as to leading other members to also be faithful disciples.

24
25 The Church, individually and collectively, shares responsibility for ensuring that every
26 church member remains part of the body of Christ.

1 SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/16AC/411-16GS/409-17GS/408-18GS/
2 408-19GS/408-20GS/408-21GS to GPS-22GCS

3
4 408-22GS NO ADDITIONAL TESTS OF FELLOWSHIP - *CHURCH*
5 *MANUAL* AMENDMENT

6
7 RATIONALE: This amendment simplifies the language of this section.

8
9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 7, Discipline, page 64, No
10 Additional Tests of Fellowship, Process of Discipline, to read as follows:

11
12 No Additional Tests of Fellowship—The authority to establish tests of fellowship rests
13 with the General Conference Session. Fellowship—No minister, congregation, or conference has
14 authority to establish tests of fellowship. This authority rests with the General Conference
15 Session. Anyone seeking to apply tests other than those herein set forth does not, therefore,
16 properly represent the Church. (See 1T 207.)

1 SAD/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/19AC/434-19GS/434-20GS/432-21GS to GPS-
2 22GCS

3

4 432-22GS FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE MEMBERS - *CHURCH*
5 *MANUAL* AMENDMENT

6

7 RATIONALE: This amendment clarifies that written notice should be given prior to both the
8 church board meeting and church business meeting before voting to discipline a member.

9

10 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 7, Discipline, page 65,
11 Fundamental Rights of the Members, to read as follows:

12

13 Fundamental Rights of the Members—Members have a fundamental right to prior
14 notification of the disciplinary ~~meeting~~ meetings (see p. 128) and the right to be heard in their
15 own defense, introduce evidence, and produce witnesses. No church should vote to discipline a
16 member under circumstances that deprive the member of these rights. Written notice must be
17 given at least two weeks before the ~~meeting~~ church board meeting and two weeks before the
18 business meeting and include the reasons for the disciplinary hearing.

1 TED/ChManSub/BRI/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/17AC/418-17GS/417-18GS/
2 417-19GS/417-20GS/416-21GS to GPS-22GCS

3
4 416-22GS SABBATHKEEPING - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

5
6 RATIONALE: This amendment adds a direct quotation from the referenced text.

7
8 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 12, Standards of Christian Living,
9 pages 144 and 145, Sabbathkeeping, to read as follows:

10
11 Sabbathkeeping

12
13 The Sabbath is a token of God’s love to humanity. It is a memorial of God’s power in the
14 original creation and also a sign of His power to re-create and sanctify our lives (Eze. 20:12), and
15 its observance is an evidence of our loyalty to Him and of our fellowship with Him.

16
17 The Sabbath holds a special place in our lives. The seventh day of the week, from sunset
18 Friday to sunset Saturday (Lev. 23:32), is a gift from God, a sign of His grace in time. It is a
19 privilege, a special appointment with the One who loves us and whom we love, a sacred time set
20 aside by God’s eternal law, a day of delight for worshipping God and sharing with others (Isa.
21 58:13). We welcome the Sabbath with joy and gratitude.

22
23 “The Sabbath—oh!—make it the sweetest, the most blessed day of the whole week.”—
24 FLB 36.

25
26 “The Sabbath . . . is God’s time, not ours; when we trespass upon it we are stealing from
27 God. . . . God has given us the whole of six days in which to do our work, and has reserved only
28 one to Himself. This should be a day of blessing to us—a day when we should lay aside all our
29 secular matters and center our thoughts upon God and heaven. . . .

30
31 “We are not to teach our children that they must not be happy on the Sabbath, that it is
32 wrong to walk out of doors. Oh, no. Christ led His disciples out by the lakeside on the Sabbath
33 day and taught them. His sermons on the Sabbath were not always preached within enclosed
34 walls.”—HP 152.

35
36 “God’s love has set a limit to the demands of toil. Over the Sabbath He places His
37 merciful hand. In His own day He preserves for the family opportunity for communion with
38 Him, with nature, and with one another.”—Ed 251.

39
40 The Sabbath hours belong to God and are to be used for Him alone. Honor God by “not
41 going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words” on the Sabbath day
42 (Isa. 58:13 NIV). ~~Our own pleasure, words, business, and thoughts should find no place in the~~
43 ~~observance of the Lord’s day (Isa. 58:13).~~ Let us gather in the family circle at sunset and
44 welcome the Sabbath with prayer and song, and let us close the day with prayer and expressions
45 of gratitude for His wondrous love. The Sabbath is a special day for worship in our homes and
46 churches, a day of joy to ourselves and our children, a day in which we can learn more of God

1 through the Bible and the great lesson book of nature. It is a time we can visit the sick and work
2 for the salvation of souls. We should lay aside the ordinary affairs of the six working days and
3 perform no unnecessary work. We should not let secular media occupy our time on God's holy
4 day.

5

6 “The Sabbath is not intended to be a period of useless inactivity. The law forbids secular
7 labor on the rest day of the Lord; the toil that gains a livelihood must cease; no labor for worldly
8 pleasure or profit is lawful upon that day; but as God ceased His labor of creating, and rested
9 upon the Sabbath and blessed it, so man is to leave the occupations of his daily life, and devote
10 those sacred hours to healthful rest, to worship, and to holy deeds.”—DA 207.

11

12 A program of activities in harmony with the spirit of true Sabbathkeeping will make this
13 blessed day the happiest and best of all the week for ourselves and for our children—a veritable
14 foretaste of our heavenly rest.

1 FM/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/ChMan/19AC/429-19GS/429-20GS/428-21GS to
2 GPS-22GCS

3

4 428-22GS PREMARITAL EDUCATION/COUNSELING - *CHURCH*
5 *MANUAL* ADDITION

6

7 RATIONALE: This addition to the *Church Manual* emphasizes the importance of premarital
8 education/counseling.

9

10 RECOMMENDED, To add a new section, Premarital Education/Counseling, to the *Church*
11 *Manual*, Chapter 13, Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage, following Courtship, on page 154, to
12 read as follows:

13

14

Premarital Education/Counseling

15

16 Considering that marriage is the most important and challenging of all relationships,
17 premarital education/counseling is designed to help couples planning to marry to be better
18 prepared for this important step in their lives. The main purpose of premarital education/
19 counseling is to prepare couples for the challenges they will encounter in married life. Premarital
20 education/counseling is also to strengthen and improve the future happiness of married couples
21 and reduce the potential rate of divorce. Premarital education/counseling should be offered by a
22 professional counselor or specifically trained individuals, including specifically trained spiritual
23 leaders. (For more detailed information regarding premarital education/counseling see the
24 *Elder's Handbook*.)

3
4 439-22GS PURPOSES OF ORGANIZATION - *CHURCH MANUAL*
5 AMENDMENT

6
7 RATIONALE: This amendment expresses the importance of finding new ways to reach the
8 varied and diverse cultures of the world with the Seventh-day Adventist message, including the
9 forming of new mission groups.

10
11 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 3, Organization and Authority,
12 pages 25 and 26, Purposes of Organization, to read as follows:

13
14 Missionary Purposes of Organization

15
16 Our mission remains unchanged wherever we find ourselves in the world. The Seventh-
17 day Adventist Church has been organized for the purpose of mission. However, the way in which
18 we fulfill that mission will of necessity take a variety of forms due to different cultural and
19 societal norms. As we seek to share the gospel in cross-cultural contexts, we will encounter
20 societies where particular religious bodies deem other writings as sacred, where restrictions to
21 religious freedom sometimes exist, where diverse points of view and practices occur, as well as
22 other challenges. To fulfill the mission in such diverse contexts, we rely on the guidance of the
23 Holy Spirit and employ a flexible approach to sharing God’s love in a manner that reaches
24 hearts, while preserving our unique calling and identity as Seventh-day Adventists.

25
26 The conditions Seventh-day Adventists face in sharing the message of Jesus to people of
27 other religions largely parallel those that the apostles encountered. How they went about the
28 mission is instructive for us today. Although they modified their approach in keeping with the
29 audience, they never deviated from proclaiming the uniqueness of Jesus as the hope of the world.
30 They never suggested that they had come to help their hearers find a deeper spiritual experience
31 within their own religions; on the contrary, they challenged them to turn to the salvation
32 provided in Christ.

33
34 Groups should be formed to lead the people from a non-Christian religion into the
35 Seventh-day Adventist Church. In forming such groups, a theologically sound, culturally
36 informed plan of action should be prayerfully developed and followed to guide these new
37 believers into membership. These groups should be established and nurtured in collaboration
38 with local administration and guidelines of the world Church. Leaders of these groups should
39 make every effort to lead the people into membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

40
41 The church is a missionary community and it exists to fulfill this purpose.

42
43 “As our numbers increased, it was evident that without some form of organization there
44 would be great confusion, and the work would not be carried forward successfully. To provide
45 for the support of the ministry, for carrying the work in new fields, for protecting both the
46 churches and the ministry from unworthy members, for holding church property, for the

439-22GS PURPOSES OF ORGANIZATION - CHURCH MANUAL
AMENDMENT - 2

1 publication of the truth through the press, and for many other objects, organization was
2 indispensable.”—TM 26.

3

4 “As members of the visible church, and workers in the vineyard of the Lord, all professed
5 Christians should do their utmost to preserve peace, harmony, and love in the church. Mark the
6 prayer of Christ: ‘That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also
7 may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.’ The unity of the church is
8 the convincing evidence that God has sent Jesus into the world as its Redeemer.”—5T 619, 620.

1 SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/16AC/405-16GS/403-17GS/402-18GS/
2 402-19GS/402-20GS/401-21GS to GPS-22GCS

3
4 402-22GS PROPER METHOD FOR PAYMENT OF MONEY BY
5 MEMBERS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT
6

7 RATIONALE: This amendment includes the use of electronic payments as a proper method of
8 returning tithes and offerings.

9
10 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and
11 Organizations, pages 84 and 85, Proper Method for Payment of Money by Members, to read as
12 follows:
13

14 Proper Method for Payment of Money by Members—The treasurer should urge that all
15 money paid in by members, other than the regular church collection, be placed in tithe and
16 offering envelopes, unless an alternative method approved by the conference, such as electronic
17 payments, has been implemented. ~~method has been implemented by the conference.~~ Members
18 should list the various items and amounts on the envelope as indicated and to make sure that the
19 money enclosed equals the total shown. They should also sign their names and give their
20 addresses, and place the envelopes in the offering plate or hand them to the treasurer, who should
21 preserve the envelopes to serve as vouchers until all accounts are checked by the conference
22 auditor.
23

24 Members who return their tithes and offerings by check or postal notes should, where
25 legally possible, make such checks or notes payable to the church, rather than to any individual.

1 MIN/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/17AC/420-17GS/419-18GS/419-19GS/419-20GS/418-21GS to
2 GPS-22GCS

3
4 418-22GS TERMS USED IN THE *CHURCH MANUAL* - *CHURCH*
5 *MANUAL* AMENDMENT

6
7 RATIONALE: This amendment allows for the counsels and principles addressed in the *Church*
8 *Manual* to be followed by a company, in the same manner as in the local church, without the
9 need to repeat “company” throughout the Manual.

10
11 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 1, *Why a Church Manual?*, pages
12 18 and 19, Terms Used in the *Church Manual*, to read as follows:

13
14 Terms Used in the *Church Manual*

15
16 Church—For editorial and printing economy, “Church,” with a capital C, in these pages
17 is used in place of the full term “Seventh-day Adventist Church” and refers to the overall Church
18 organization rather than to a local church or congregation, with the exception of when it is
19 referred to within a quotation. References to a local church will also generally apply to a
20 company.

21
22 Conference, mission, section, delegation, field, union of churches—For purposes of
23 editorial and printing economy, “conference” in these pages means “conference, mission, field,
24 section, delegation, or union of churches,” as the administrative context indicates. Generally,
25 each congregation is a member of the sisterhood of churches known as a conference, but until the
26 local organization achieves conference status, under General Conference *Working Policy* it may
27 be identified as a mission, section, delegation, or field. In some world divisions, unions of
28 churches in a particular country function as a conference for local-church purposes and as a
29 union for other Church organizational purposes. (See Chapter 3, “Organization and Authority.”)

30
31 Pastor and minister—Most areas of the world Church use “pastor” to identify a member
32 of the clergy, so that term is used in these pages rather than “minister,” regardless of the
33 responsibilities assigned by the local conference. Use of the term here is not intended to mandate
34 that usage where the custom is to use “minister.” Pastors referred to in this manual are those who
35 have been appointed by the conference to oversee the affairs of the local church or district.

36
37 Abbreviations of Ellen G. White’s books are identified on p. 186.

38
39 Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version unless otherwise
40 indicated, with the exception of when referred to within a Spirit of Prophecy quotation.

