



JESUS IS COMING I WILL GO




**St.
LOUIS
2025**
62nd GENERAL
CONFERENCE
SESSION

Session Agenda

JULY 03 - JULY 12

2025

AMERICA'S CENTER CONVENTION COMPLEX



62ND SESSION OF THE
**GENERAL
CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTISTS**

JULY 3-12, 2025

THE DOME
AMERICA'S CENTER
CONVENTION COMPLEX
ST LOUIS, MISSOURI



NOTICE

The 62nd 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.

62nd 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 Business Center, Room 121.

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 areas. These bodies of water are not for recreational purposes.
3. As you leave the ACD or ACCC, remove your badge, as it 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, please visit one of the following:

- ACCC Level 1: Plaza First Aid Room
- ACD Concourse Level: First Aid Room 126

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 in easily recognizable shirts with the words “EXPLORE ST LOUIS” on their shirts. They patrol on foot around the America’s Center Convention Complex.

3. Additional Safety & Security information is available on the General Conference Session app.

BLACK 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 +1-888-951-4ARM (4267) ACCC, Level 1, Room 100.

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

ACCC Session Management: (240) 463-6035, Level 1, Room 121

ACD Session Management: (240) 463-9948, Level 1, Room 143

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

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

“IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.”

62nd Session of the
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION

Secure Wireless

Secure wireless (Wi-Fi) access has been provided for the delegates in the delegate seating area in the Dome, as well as in the Nominating Committee room in the Convention Center. This Wi-Fi connection is solely for delegate business use, for voting and receiving electronic materials. Access will be given during registration.

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, exhibitor information, etc. This app will be downloadable from the Apple and Android stores prior to Session.

62nd Session of the
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MICROPHONE STATION INSTRUCTIONS

FOR ON-SITE DELEGATES

To Address the Chairperson

1. Proceed to the nearest microphone kiosk.
2. Scan your badge.
3. You are now in the queue to speak.
4. Wait until the Chair recognizes you.

To Raise a Point of Order

1. Proceed to the nearest microphone kiosk and scan your badge.
2. Scan your badge a **second time** and wait for options to appear on screen.
3. Click on the “**Point of Order**” blue button.
4. You are now in the queue to speak.
5. Wait until the Chair recognizes you.

Leave Queue or Cancel Point of Order?

1. Scan your badge a second time and wait for options to appear on screen.
2. Click on the “**Leave**” red button.

POINT OF ORDER, WHAT IS THAT?

A point of order is a way for participants to signal that something may not be following the established rules or procedures of the meeting. It is not used to express opinions or enter into debate, but to ensure the process is fair, orderly, and consistent. When someone raises a point of order, they are respectfully requesting that the chairperson review and address a possible issue with how the meeting is being conducted.

62nd Session of the
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION MANAGEMENT

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Associate Session Manager

George O Egwakhe
Silvia L Sicalo

AGENDA

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Agenda Secretary
Assistant

Hensley M Mooroven
Nichole N Miles

Master Agenda Control

Tamara K Boward

Preparation of Agenda Materials

Nichole N Miles

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Nichole N Miles/Tendani P Severance

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Minutes Approval

Hensley M Mooroven/Lissy Park

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Justin Kim

62nd Session of the
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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62nd Session of the
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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Secretariat Services and Material Approval	Hensley M Mooroven

62nd 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 62nd 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 an 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 12-14, 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 an 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
AIIAS	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
PGTS	Planned Giving and Trust Services
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)
UUC	Ukrainian Union Conference
WAD	West-Central Africa Division
WHT	Ellen G White Estate, Inc.
WM	Women's Ministries
YOU	Youth Ministries

62nd 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) [22] |
| ECK | 103. | 2025 General Conference Session Parliamentarian |
| ECK | 104. | Mission Statement of the Seventh-day Adventist
Church [23] |
| ECK | 105. | Adoption of the Daily Program |
| ECK | 106. | Adoption of Session Agendas |
| ECK | 107. | Steering Committee—General Conference Session -
2025 (128-25GS) [24] |
| ECK | 108. | Standing Committees—General Conference Session -
2025 (129-25GS) [25] |
| HMM | 109. | Orientation of Delegates |
| ECK | 110. | Appointment of the Nominating Committee |
| ECK | 111. | South Sudan Union Mission—New Union Mission
(106-25GS) [27] |
| SS | 112. | Northern Luzon Philippine Union Mission and
Southern Luzon Philippine Union Mission—New Union
Missions (108-25GS) [28] |
| SS | 113. | Southwestern Philippine Union Conference and
Southeastern Philippine Union Mission—New Union
Conference and New Union Mission (109-25GS) [29] |
| SS | 114. | Mid-Ghana Union Conference and North-Central
Ghana Union Mission—New Union Conference and
New Union Mission (111-25GS) [30] |

- SS 115. **North-East Cameroon Union Mission and West-Central Cameroon Union Mission—New Union Missions (110-25GS) [31]**
- GPS 116. **Costa Rica Union Mission and Nicaragua Union Mission—New Union Missions (107-25GS) [32]**
- TNCW 117. President’s Report
- 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 (Tuesday, July 8, 2025, 2:00 p.m.)
- TNCW 122. General Conference Corporation Members Meeting (Wednesday, July 9, 2025, 2:00 p.m.)
- AAS 123. Three Angels’ Messages Report
- MLR 124. I Will Go Strategic Plan 2025-2030
- GEB 125. General Conference Session Witnessing Initiative
- TNCW 126. *Seventh-day Adventist International Bible Commentary*
- AAS 127. Biblical Research Institute Presentation
- ECK 128. *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*
- HMM 129. **Adventist Review Ministries—Entity Name Change (131-25GS) [33]**

62nd Session of the
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AGENDA

HMM	201.	General Conference Sessions - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment (200-25GS) [34]	Con Art V
HMM	202.	Territorial Administration - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment (201-25GS) [36]	By Art I
HMM	203.	General Conference Executive Committee - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment (202-25GS) [37]	By Art XIII
HMM	204.	Appropriations - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment (203-25GS) [39]	By Art XIX
HMM	205.	General Conference Sessions - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment (207-25GSa) [40]	Con Art V
HMM	206.	General Conference Executive Committee - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment (207-25GSb) [42]	Con Art VIII

62nd Session of the
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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

62nd Session of the
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

CHURCH MANUAL AGENDA

GPS	401.	A Divinely Appointed Ministry - <i>Church Manual Amendment (401-25GS)</i> [43]	CM 32-35
GPS	402.	Credentials and Licenses - <i>Church Manual Amendment (402-25GS)</i> [46]	CM 35-36
GPS	403.	Making Changes (Why a <i>Church Manual</i>) - <i>Church Manual Amendment (403-25GS)</i> [47]	CM 18-19
GPS	404.	School Board Meetings - <i>Church Manual Amendment (404-25GS)</i> [49]	CM 139
GPS	405.	Nominating Committee and the Election Process - <i>Church Manual Amendment (405-25GS)</i> [50]	CM 116-120
GPS	406.	Membership Record - <i>Church Manual Addition (406-25GSa)</i> [52]	CM 61
GPS	407.	Transferring Members - <i>Church Manual Amendment (406-25GSb)</i> [54]	CM 57-61
GPS	408.	Members Moving Away and Not Reporting - <i>Church Manual Amendment (406-25GSc)</i> [57]	CM 72-73
GPS	409.	Finance - <i>Church Manual Amendment (407-25GSa)</i> [58]	CM 141-147
GPS	410.	Stewardship - <i>Church Manual Amendment (407-25GSb)</i> [60]	CM 142
GPS	411.	Tithe - <i>Church Manual Amendment (407-25GSc)</i> [61]	CM 142-143
GPS	412.	Offerings - <i>Church Manual Amendment (407-25GSd)</i> [63]	CM 143-145
GPS	413.	Transparency and Accountability - <i>Church Manual Addition (407-25GSe)</i> [66]	CM 147

GPS	414.	To Cooperate With the Conference (Elders) - Church Manual Amendment (407-25GSf) [67]	CM 81
GPS	415.	Treasurer - Church Manual Amendment (407-25GSg) [68]	CM 88-91
GPS	416.	World Health Ministries Sabbath Offering - Church Manual Deletion (407-25GS h) [70]	CM 100-101
GPS	417.	Sabbath School - Church Manual Amendment (407-25GSi) [71]	CM 103-106
GPS	418.	Conducting the Communion Service - Church Manual Amendment (407-25GSj) [73]	CM 131-132
GPS	419.	Regulation of Soliciting Funds - Church Manual Amendment (408-25GS) [74]	CM 145-146
GPS	420.	Relations with Members Confidential - Church Manual Amendment (409-25GS) [75]	CM 91
GPS	421.	Use of “Discipleship” - Church Manual Directive (410-25GS) [76]	Directive
GPS	422.	Church Board and Its Meetings - Church Manual Amendment (411-25GS) [77]	CM 134-138
GPS	423.	Business Meetings - Church Manual Amendment (412-25GS) [81]	CM 134
GPS	424.	To Foster Tithing (Elders) - Church Manual Amendment (413-25GS) [83]	CM 80
GPS	425.	Adventist Youth Ministries - Church Manual Amendment (414-25GS) [84]	CM 110-115
GPS	426.	Set Tithing Example - Church Manual Amendment (415-25GS) [90]	CM 77
GPS	427.	Use of “Thirteenth Sabbath Offering” - Church Manual Directive (421-25GS) [91]	Directive
GPS	428.	Capitalization of Church Departments - Church Manual Editorial Directive (422-25GSE) [92]	Directive

25GCS *Church Manual* Agenda

400-3

GPS 429. **Dissolving or Expelling a Church - *Church Manual*
Amendment (423-25GS) [93]**

CM 40-42

SATISFACTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

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

2025 General Conference Session

Official notice is hereby given that the sixty-second session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held July 3-12, 2025, in the America's Center Convention Complex in St. Louis, Missouri, United States. The first meeting will begin at 2:00 pm, July 3, 2025. All duly accredited delegates are urged to be present at that time.

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 the mission of making disciples through Christ-like living, healing, serving, proclaiming, teaching, and training.

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/25SM to ECK-25GCS

2

3 128-25GS STEERING COMMITTEE—GENERAL CONFERENCE

4 SESSION - 2025

5

6 RECOMMENDED, To approve the 2025 General Conference Session Steering Committee, as
7 follows:

8

9

STEERING

10

11

Ted N C Wilson, Chair

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Hensley M Mooroooven, Secretary

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Members: Timothy H Aka, Harrington S Akombwa, Audrey E Andersson, Stanley E Arco, Guillermo E Biaggi, Mario A Brito, G Alexander Bryant, Roger O Caderma, Ramon J Canals, Abner De los Santos, Sabrina C DeSouza, Paul H Douglas, Karnik Doukmetzian, Daniel Duda, George O Egwakhe, Mark A Finley, Elie Henry, James M Howard, Mikhail F Kaminskiy, Yo Han Kim, Erton C Kohler, Gary D Krause, Elbert Kuhn, Ezras Lakra, Thomas L Lemon,

German A Lust, Geoffrey G Mbwana, Todd R McFarland, Duane McKey, Pierre E Omeler, Robert Osei-Bonsu, Lissy Park, Magdiel E Perez Schulz, Josue Pierre, Karen J Porter, Claude J Richli, Blasious M Ruguri, Michael L Ryan, Saw Samuel, Gerson P Santos, Silvia Sicalo, Artur A Stele, Richard T Stephenson, Glenn C Townend, E Douglas Venn, J Raymond Wahlen II

Invitees: Tamara K Boward, Williams S Costa Jr, Justin Kim

1 SEC/ADCOM/25SM to ECK-25GCS

2
3 129-25GS STANDING COMMITTEES—GENERAL CONFERENCE
4 SESSION - 2025

5
6 RECOMMENDED, To approve standing committees for the 2025 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, Clement J Arkangelo Mawa, Hananiya A Bayawa, Daniel K
17 Bediako, Lesleigh A E Bower, Elias Brasil de Souza, Ramon J Canals, Carlos Cardoso Pinheiro,
18 John Victor Chinta, Orathai Chureson, Robert C Csizmadia, Paul H Douglas, Karnik Doukmetzian,
19 George O Egwakhe, Dwain Esmond, Pavel Goia, Frank M Hasel, Edward Heidinger,
20 Daniel Wang Xin Jiao, Leonard A Johnson, Anthony R Kent, Erton C Kohler,

21
22 Lalnghak Liana, Barna Magyarosi, Wendell W Mandolang, Geoffrey G Mbwana, Richard E
23 McEdward, Musa G Mitekaro, Hensley M Mooroooven, David Kayombo Ndonji, Stanislav V
24 Nosov, Niklas M Rantanen, Gideon P Reyneke, Teddy Romeoz Donald, Saw Samuel, Selom K
25 Sessou, Michael B Sikuri, Michael Sokupa, Artur A Stele, Chizu Takahashi, Ivan I Velgosha, Kay
26 White, Ted N C Wilson. Hiroshi Yamaji

27
28 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

29
30 Ted N C Wilson, Chair
31 Geoffrey G Mbwana, Vice-chair
32 Hensley M Mooroooven, Secretary
33 Nichole N Miles, Recording Secretary

34
35 Members: Kyoshin Ahn, Audrey E Andersson, Yohannes O Beyene, Guillermo E Biaggi,
36 G Alexander Bryant, Merlin D Burt, Dario M Caviglione, John Victor Chinta, Riches Christian,
37 Orathai Chureson, Robert C Csizmadia, Markus M Dangana, Abner De los Santos, Paul H
38 Douglas, Karnik Doukmetzian, Richard H Hart, Edward Heidinger, Elie Henry, Andi Hunsaker,
39 Vincent R Injety, Leonard A Johnson, Mikhail F Kaminskiy, Joshua Soongi Kang,

40
41 Ginger Ketting-Weller, Erton C Kohler, Thomas L Lemon, Barna Magyarosi, Wendell W
42 Mandolang, Todd R McFarland, Duane McKey, Musa G Mitekaro, Ronald Nalin, Hopekings K
43 Ngomba, David Nommik, Pierre E Omeler, Lissy Park, Magdiel E Perez Schulz, Josue Pierre,
44 Gideon P Reyneke, Saw Samuel, Selom K Sessou, Michael B Sikuri, Sugih Sitorus, Artur A
45 Stele, Ivan I Velgosha, Clinton L Wahlen, Lori E Williams, Hiroshi Yamaji,

129-25GS STANDING COMMITTEES—GENERAL CONFERENCE
SESSION - 2025 - 2

- 1 Malachi Yani, Norbert G Zens
- 2
- 3 Invitee: Tamara K Boward.

1 ADCOM/ADCOM/GCDO23AC/23AC/114-23GS/109-24GS to EK-25GCS
2
3 106-25GS SOUTH SUDAN UNION MISSION—NEW UNION
4 MISSION
5
6 RECOMMENDED, 1. To recognize and record union mission status for the South Sudan Union
7 Mission, effective October 10, 2023.
8
9 2. To accept the South Sudan Union Mission (ECD) into the world sisterhood of
10 unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

1 ADCOM/ADCOM/GCDO24AC/24AC/120-24GS to SS-25GCS

2

3 108-25GS NORTHERN LUZON PHILIPPINE UNION MISSION AND

4 SOUTHERN LUZON PHILIPPINE UNION MISSION—NEW

5 UNION MISSIONS

6

7 RECOMMENDED, 1. To recognize and record the reorganization of the former Northern

8 Philippine Union Conference into two union missions, effective January 1, 2025.

9

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

12

13 3. To accept the Southern Luzon Philippine Union Mission (SSD) into the world
14 sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

1 ADCOM/ADCOM/GCDO23AC/23AC/116-23GS/ADCOM/GCDO24AC/24AC/110-24GS to
2 SS-25GCS

3

4 109-25GS SOUTHWESTERN PHILIPPINE UNION CONFERENCE
5 AND SOUTHEASTERN PHILIPPINE UNION MISSION—NEW
6 UNION CONFERENCE AND NEW UNION MISSION

7

8 RECOMMENDED, 1. To recognize and record the reorganization of the former South
9 Philippine Union Conference into a union conference and a union mission known as the
10 Southwestern Philippine Union Conference and the Southeastern Union Mission, effective
11 December 31, 2023.

12

13 2. To accept the Southwestern Philippine Union Conference (SSD) into the world
14 sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

15

16 3. To accept the Southeastern Philippine Union Mission (SSD) into the world
17 sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

1 ADCOM/ADCOM/GCDO24AC/24AC/122-24GS/ADCOM/GCC to SS-25GCS

2

3 111-25GS MID-GHANA UNION CONFERENCE AND NORTH-

4 CENTRAL GHANA UNION MISSION—NEW UNION

5 CONFERENCE AND NEW UNION MISSION

6

7 RECOMMENDED, 1. To recognize and record the reorganization of the former Northern

8 Ghana Union Conference into a union conference and a union mission known as the Mid-Ghana

9 Union Conference and the North-Central Ghana Union Mission, effective January 1, 2025.

10

11 1. To accept the Mid-Ghana Union Conference (WAD) into the world sisterhood of
12 unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

13

14 2. To accept the North-Central Ghana Union Mission (WAD) into the world

15 sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

1 ADCOM/ADCOM/GCDO24AC/24AC/121-24GS to SS-25GCS
2
3 110-25GS NORTH-EAST CAMEROON UNION MISSION AND
4 WEST-CENTRAL CAMEROON UNION MISSION—NEW
5 UNION MISSIONS
6

7 RECOMMENDED, 1. To recognize and record the reorganization of the former Cameroon
8 Union Mission into two union missions known as the North-East Cameroon Union Mission and
9 the West-Central Cameroon Union Mission, effective January 1, 2025.

10
11 2. To accept the North-East Cameroon Union Mission (WAD) into the world
12 sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
13

14 3. To accept the West-Central Cameroon Union Mission (WAD) into the world
15 sisterhood of unions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

1 ADCOM/ADCOM/GCDO24AC/24AC/123-24G to GPS-25GCS

2

3 107-25GS COSTA RICA UNION MISSION AND NICARAGUA

4 UNION MISSION—NEW UNION MISSIONS

5

6 RECOMMENDED, 1. To recognize and record the reorganization of the former South Central
7 American Union Mission into two union missions known as the Costa Rica Union Mission and
8 the Nicaragua Union Mission, effective January 1, 2025.

9

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

12

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

1 ARMiesBd/ADCOM/GCC to TNCW-25GCS
2
3 131-25GS ADVENTIST REVIEW MINISTRIES—ENTITY NAME
4 CHANGE
5
6 RECOMMENDED, To change the name of the entity Adventist Review Ministries to Adventist
7 Review.

1 SEC/Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO24AC/24AC/205-24GS to HMM-25GCS

2
3 200-25GS GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS - CONSTITUTION
4 AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

5
6 RATIONALE: As it is now taking more than a year in some places to apply for and receive a
7 visa to travel to the United States, this item is being recommended to give divisions and their
8 delegates more time to prepare.

9
10 RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution
11 Article V—General Conference Sessions, to read as follows:

12
13 ARTICLE V—GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

14
15 Sec. 1. The General Conference shall hold quinquennial sessions [See 207-25GSa]

16
17 Sec. 2. The General Conference Executive Committee may call special - No change

18
19 Sec. 3. At least one-third of the total delegates authorized hereinafter - No change

20
21 Sec. 4. Generally, regular or specially called General Conference Sessions - No change

22
23 Sec. 5. The election to any office enumerated in Article VI, Sec. 1. and all - No change

24
25 Sec. 6. Minutes of the General Conference Session shall be approved at - No change

26
27 Sec. 7. The delegates to a General Conference Session shall be designated - No change

28
29 Sec. 8. Regular delegates shall represent the General Conference's member - No change

30
31 Sec. 9. Regular delegates shall be allotted on the following - No change

32
33 Sec. 10. Delegates at-large shall represent the General Conference - No change

34
35 Sec. 11. Division administrations shall consult with unions to ensure - No change

36
37 Sec. 12. Credentials to sessions shall be issued by the General Conference - No change

38
39 Sec. 13. Calculations for all delegate allotments, as provided for in this article, shall be
40 based upon:

41
42 a. The membership as of December 31 of the ~~second~~ third year preceding
43 the General Conference Session.

200-25GS GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS - CONSTITUTION
AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT - 2

1 b. The number of denominational entities eligible for inclusion in
2 determining quotas and which are in existence as of December 31 of the ~~second~~ third year
3 preceding the General Conference Session.
4

5 Sec. 14. Parliamentary Authority: The parliamentary authority pertaining - No change

1 SEC/Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO23AC/23AC/209-23GS/201-24GS to HMM-25GCS

2
3 201-25GS TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION - CONSTITUTION AND
4 BYLAWS AMENDMENT

5
6 RATIONALE: Now that the full General Conference Executive Committee is invited to
7 participate in a hybrid Spring Meeting, agenda items previously handled only at an Annual
8 Council are now open for consideration at Spring Meeting.

9
10 RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws,
11 Article I—Territorial Administration, to read as follows:

12
13 ARTICLE I—TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION

14
15 Sec. 1. The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, hereinafter - No change

16
17 Sec. 2. The duly organized divisions are: East-Central Africa Division, Euro-Asia
18 Division, Inter-American Division, Inter-European Division, North American Division, Northern
19 Asia-Pacific Division, South American Division, South Pacific Division, Southern Africa-Indian
20 Ocean Division, Southern Asia Division, Southern Asia-Pacific Division, Trans-European
21 Division, and West-Central Africa Division. The boundaries of these divisions shall be subject to
22 adjustment at a Spring Meeting or Annual Council ~~Annual Councils~~ of the General Conference
23 Executive Committee.

24
25 Sec. 3. If a territorial adjustment is made at ~~an~~ a Spring Meeting or Annual Council, it
26 shall be made only provided each division and other territory affected is represented at the
27 council by at least one of its officers, or in the case of an unorganized territory, by a senior
28 church leader from that territory. An exception to the requirement of such representation shall be
29 made in a condition of emergency. In such a case, the General Conference Executive Committee
30 shall make whatever adjustments are necessary for the conduct of the work in the territories
31 affected.

32
33 Sec. 4. Administrations of all organizations and institutions within a - No change

1 SEC/Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO23AC/23AC/210-23GS/202-24GS to HMM-25GCS
2
3 202-25GS GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -
4 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT
5

6 RATIONALE: Now that the full General Conference Executive Committee is invited to
7 participate in a hybrid Spring Meeting, agenda items previously handled only at an Annual
8 Council are now open for consideration at Spring Meeting.
9

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

13 ARTICLE XIII—GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
14

15 Sec. 1. a. During the intervals between sessions of the General Conference, the General
16 Conference Executive Committee is delegated the authority to act on behalf of the General
17 Conference in session. The membership of the General Conference Executive Committee
18 includes representatives of all the divisions of the world field and the presidents of all unions and
19 therefore speaks for the world Church. Major items affecting the world Church are considered at
20 the Spring Meeting and Annual Council meetings of the General Conference Executive
21 Committee, when all the members of the Committee are invited to be present. The authority,
22 therefore, of the General Conference Executive Committee is the authority of the world Church.
23

24 b. The General Conference Executive Committee shall also - No change

25
26 c. The General Conference Executive Committee shall have - No change
27

28 d. The General Conference Executive Committee shall have - No change
29

30 e. The removal from office by the General Conference - No change
31

32 f. The General Conference Executive Committee shall have - No change
33

34 Sec. 2. a. A meeting of the General Conference Executive - No change
35

36 b. A meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee, known as the
37 Spring Meeting, shall be held annually for the purpose of receiving the audited financial reports
38 of the General Conference and for transacting ~~regular~~ Executive Committee business. ~~business as~~
39 ~~provided for in the General Conference Working Policy relating to Spring Meetings.~~
40

41 Sec. 3. A majority of the full membership of the General Conference - No change
42

43 Sec. 4. Any fifteen members of the General Conference Executive - No change
44

45 Sec. 5. All meetings of the General Conference Executive Committee shall - No change
46

202-25GS GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT - 2

1 Sec. 6. Meetings of the General Conference Executive Committee may be - No change

2

3 Sec. 7. Notice as to time, place, and any other requirements under these - No change.

1 SEC/Con&By/SecC/TreC/GCDO23AC/23AC/211-23GS/203-24GS/Con&By/ADCOM/TreC/
2 GCDO25SM/25SM to HMM-25GCS

3
4 203-25GS APPROPRIATIONS - CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
5 AMENDMENT

6
7 RATIONALE: Now that the full General Conference Executive Committee is invited to
8 participate in a hybrid Spring Meeting, agenda items previously handled only at an Annual
9 Council are now open for consideration at Spring Meeting. The language regarding the process
10 by which appropriations are considered is being updated to reflect current realities.

11
12 RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws,
13 Article XIX—Appropriations, to read as follows:

14
15 ARTICLE XIX—APPROPRIATIONS

16
17 Sec. 1. The General Conference Executive Committee shall make its regular
18 appropriations to the world field at Spring Meetings or Annual Councils. These appropriations
19 are to be based on a methodology that promotes mission priorities to be fulfilled through the
20 work of world divisions and other denominational entities. ~~budget requests from the fields.~~

21
22 Sec. 2. Appropriations shall be made subject to the receipt of the full amount - No change

23
24 Sec. 3. Appropriations for major projects shall be held in trust for the - No change

25
26 Sec. 4. All funds raised in divisions, except the regular funds belonging to - No change

27
28 Sec. 5. To the extent permitted by law, General Conference funds in all the - No change

1 ARMiesBd/Con&By/ADCOM/GCDO25SM/25SM to HMM-25GCS

2
3 207-25GSa GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS - CONSTITUTION
4 AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

5
6 RATIONALE: *Adventist World* magazine will be changed to a rebranded version of *Adventist*
7 *Review* magazine beginning with the August 2025 edition.

8
9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution
10 Article V—General Conference Sessions, to read as follows:

11
12 ARTICLE V—GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS
13

14 Sec. 1. The General Conference shall hold quinquennial sessions at such time and place
15 as the General Conference Executive Committee shall designate and announce by a notice
16 published in the *Adventist Review* ~~or *Adventist World*~~ or other publications voted by the General
17 Conference Executive Committee in three consecutive months beginning at least four months
18 before the date for the opening of the Session. In case special world conditions make it
19 imperative to postpone the calling of the Session, the General Conference Executive Committee,
20 in regular or special council, shall have authority to make such postponement, not to exceed two
21 years, giving notice to all constituent organizations. In the event that the General Conference
22 Executive Committee exercises its authority to postpone a Session, it shall also have the
23 authority to set the subsequent regular Session at such time and place as it shall see fit, not to
24 exceed five calendar years from the date the postponed Session was convened.

25
26 Sec. 2. The General Conference Executive Committee may call special - No change

27
28 Sec. 3. At least one-third of the total delegates authorized hereinafter - No change

29
30 Sec. 4. Generally, regular or specially called General Conference Sessions - No change

31
32 Sec. 5. The election to any office enumerated in Article VI, Sec. 1. and all - No change

33
34 Sec. 6. Minutes of the General Conference Session shall be approved at - No change

35
36 Sec. 7. The delegates to a General Conference Session shall be designated - No change

37
38 Sec. 8. Regular delegates shall represent the General Conference's member - No change

39
40 Sec. 9. Regular delegates shall be allotted on the following - No change

41
42 Sec. 10. Delegates at-large shall represent the General Conference - No change

43
44 Sec. 11. Division administrations shall consult with unions to ensure - No change

45
46 Sec. 12. Credentials to sessions shall be issued by the General Conference - No change

207-25GSa GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS - CONSTITUTION
AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT - 2

- 1
- 2 Sec. 13. Calculations for all delegate allotments, as provided for in this [See 200-25GS]
- 3
- 4 Sec. 14. Parliamentary Authority: The parliamentary authority pertaining - No change

1 ARMiesBd/Con&By/ADCOM/GCDO25SM/25SM to HMM-25GCS

2

3 207-25GSb GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -

4 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

5

6 RATIONALE: *Adventist World* magazine will be changed to a rebranded version of *Adventist*

7 *Review* magazine beginning with the August 2025 edition.

8

9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Constitution

10 Article VIII—General Conference Executive Committee, to read as follows:

11

12 ARTICLE VIII—GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

13

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

15

16 a. Ex Officio Members—1) Those elected as provided for - No change

17

18 2) Presidents of unions - No change

19

20 3) The president-executive director - No change

21

22 4) The editor of each of the following publications: *Adventist*

23 ~~*Review/Adventist World*~~, *Adventist Review*, *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*, *Ministry*.

24

25 5) The director of each of the - No change

26

27 6) The president and board chair of Ellen G White Estate.

28

29 b. Elected Members - No change

30

31 Sec 2. Minutes of the General Conference - No change

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/417-22GS/ChManSub/400-23GS/ChMan/
4 ADCOM(Steering)/23AC/404-23GS/402-24GS to GPS-25GCS

5
6 401-25GS A DIVINELY APPOINTED MINISTRY - *CHURCH*
7 *MANUAL* AMENDMENT
8

9 RATIONALE: This amendment expresses how important it is for pastors to focus on training the
10 local church leadership in the mission and work of the church.

11
12 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 4, Pastors and Other Church
13 Employees, pages 32 to 35, A Divinely Appointed Ministry, to read as follows:

14
15 A Divinely Appointed Ministry
16

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

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

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

44 The New Testament describes how the leadership of the church was established. During
45 His ministry on Earth, Jesus appointed twelve apostles to accompany Him on His travels and
46 sent them out to preach the Gospel and heal the sick (Mark 3:14, 15; Luke 6:13). He also sent out

401-25GS A DIVINELY APPOINTED MINISTRY - CHURCH
MANUAL AMENDMENT - 2

1 a larger group of seventy (Luke 10:1-23). This indicates that the organization of the church was
2 initiated by Jesus Christ Himself in order to fulfill the mission of making disciples and teaching
3 Bible truth (Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:8).
4

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

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

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

40 As a divinely appointed ministry, ministers are “to sow the seeds of truth. Place after
41 place is to be visited; church after church is to be raised up. Those who take their stand for the
42 truth are to be organized into churches, and then the minister is to pass on to other equally

401-25GS A DIVINELY APPOINTED MINISTRY - CHURCH
MANUAL AMENDMENT - 3

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

12
13 These inspired counsels remain just as relevant today. Our ministers have the solemn
14 responsibility of leading their congregations in the mission of reaching others for Christ.
15 As Ellen G. White stated, “The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and
16 women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of
17 ministers and church officers.”—9T 117. And “when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will
18 receive the crown of glory that does not fade away” (1 Peter 1:4).

19
20 ~~“God has a church, and she has a divinely appointed ministry. ‘And He gave some,~~
21 ~~apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the~~
22 ~~perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till~~
23 ~~we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect~~
24 ~~man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. . . .’~~

25
26 ~~“Men appointed of God have been chosen to watch with jealous care, with vigilant~~
27 ~~perseverance, that the church may not be overthrown by the evil devices of Satan, but that she~~
28 ~~shall stand in the world to promote the glory of God among men.”— TM 52, 53.~~

29
30 Conference President—The conference president should be an - No change

31
32 Conference Departmental Directors—Conference departmental directors - No change

33
34 Ordained Pastors—Ordained pastors appointed by the conference committee - No change

35
36 Licensed Pastors—To give individuals an opportunity to demonstrate their - No change

37
38 Bible Instructors—The conference may employ Bible instructors and assign - No change

39
40 Conference Directs Church Employees—The conference president in - No change

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/417-22GS/ChManSub/400-23GS/ChMan/
4 ADCOM(Steering)/23AC/405-23GS/403-24GS to GPS-25GCS

5
6 402-25GS CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES - *CHURCH MANUAL*
7 AMENDMENT

8
9 RATIONALE: This amendment aims to eliminate unnecessary repetition as the information in
10 this deleted paragraph is also found on page 126 of the *Church Manual* under the section,
11 Authorized Speakers. This clarifies the distinction between denominational employees and local
12 church leaders who do not hold credentials.

13
14 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 4, Pastor and Other Church
15 Employees, pages 35 and 36, Credentials and Licenses, to read as follows:

16
17 Credentials and Licenses

18
19 God's work is to be jealously safeguarded by responsible leaders from the local church to
20 the General Conference. Official credentials and licenses are issued to all authorized ~~full-time~~
21 Church employees and are granted by controlling committees for limited periods.

22
23 In a local conference, the committee confers authority upon individuals to represent the
24 Church as pastors and gospel workers. This authority is represented by the granting of
25 credentials and licenses, which are written commissions, properly dated and signed by the
26 officers of the conference. The authority thus conveyed is not personal or inherent in the
27 individual but is inherent in the granting body, which may recall the credentials for cause at any
28 time. Credentials and licenses granted employees are not their personal property and must be
29 returned when employment is terminated or at the request of the organization that issued them.

30
31 ~~No one should be allowed to speak to any congregation unless he/she has been invited by~~
32 ~~the church in harmony with guidelines given by the conference. It is recognized, however, that~~
33 ~~there are times when congregations may be addressed by government officials or civic leaders;~~
34 ~~but all unauthorized persons shall not be given access to the pulpit. (See pp. 126-127.)~~

35
36 Expired Credentials and Licenses—Credentials and licenses are granted - No change

37
38 Retired Employees—Retired employees deserve honor and consideration - No change

39
40 Former Pastors Without Credentials—Individuals previously ordained as - No change

1 SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/23AC/406-23GS/404-24GS to GPS-25GCS

2
3 403-25GS MAKING CHANGES (WHY A *CHURCH MANUAL*?) -
4 *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

5
6 RATIONALE: This provision allows the inclusion of detailed information specific to all world
7 division to be included in the *Church Manual*, without specifying the inclusion of the North
8 American Division.

9
10 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 1, Why a *Church Manual*?, pages
11 18-19, Making Changes, to read as follows:

12
13 Making Changes

14
15 The General Conference through the years voted important changes concerning the
16 *Church Manual*. Realizing the importance of conducting the worldwide work of the Church
17 “decently and in order,” the 1946 General Conference Session voted that “all changes or
18 revisions of policy that are to be made in the Manual shall be authorized by the General
19 Conference Session.”—*General Conference Report*, No. 8, p. 197 (June 14, 1946).

20
21 In 1948, recognizing that local conditions sometimes call for special actions, the General
22 Conference Executive Committee voted that “~~each division, including the North American~~
23 ~~Division of the world field, prepare~~ each division of the world field “prepare a ‘Supplement’ to
24 the new *Church Manual* not in any way modifying it but containing such additional matter as is
25 applicable to the conditions and circumstances prevailing in the division; the manuscripts for
26 these Supplements to be submitted to the General Conference Committee for endorsement before
27 being printed.”—*Autumn Council Actions*, 1948, p. 19.

28
29 The 2000 General Conference Session authorized the reclassification of some existing
30 *Church Manual* material into the Notes section as guidance and examples rather than mandatory
31 ~~material~~, material and approved the process for making changes. Changes in the *Church Manual*,
32 except for the notes and editorial changes, can be made only by action of a General Conference
33 Session, where delegates of the world ~~church~~ Church have voice and vote. If a local church,
34 conference, or union conference/mission wishes to propose a *Church Manual* revision, it should
35 submit its proposal to the next constituent level for counsel and study. If that level approves the
36 proposal, it submits the suggested revision to the next level for additional evaluation. If the
37 various levels approve the proposal, it eventually comes before the General Conference *Church*
38 *Manual* Committee, which considers all recommendations. If the *Church Manual* Committee
39 approves a revision, it prepares it for presentation at an Annual Council and/or General
40 Conference Session.

41
42 Revision of a note follows the same procedure. The General Conference Executive
43 Committee may approve changes to the notes at any Annual Council.

44
45 The *Church Manual* Committee reports proposed nonsubstantive editorial changes to the
46 main content of the *Church Manual* to an Annual Council of the General Conference Executive

403-25GS MAKING CHANGES (WHY A *CHURCH MANUAL*?) -
CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT - 2

1 Committee, which may give final approval. However, in the event the Annual Council
2 determines by one-third vote that an editorial change substantively alters the meaning of a
3 passage, the proposed change must go to the General Conference Session.
4

5 At the final Annual Council of a quinquennium, the General Conference Executive
6 Committee reviews all changes to the notes and coordinates the changes with any proposed
7 amendments to the main content of the *Church Manual*.
8

9 A new edition of the *Church Manual* is published after every General Conference
10 Session. The most recent edition should always be used. This edition incorporates amendments
11 made at the postponed 2020 General Conference Session, which took place in 2022.

1 NAD/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/23AC/409-23GS/407-24GS to GPS-25GCS

2

3 404-25GS SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS - *CHURCH MANUAL*

4 AMENDMENT

5

6 RATIONALE: This amendment restates who is generally appointed as secretary of the school
7 board as it is earlier explained on page 98 of the *Church Manual* under the section, Church
8 School Board.

9

10 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 11, Services and Other Meetings,
11 page 139, School Board Meetings, to read as follows:

12

13

School Board Meetings

14

15 The church school is usually supervised by a church school board. The church elects a
16 chairperson to preside over meetings and a secretary to keep records of meetings and actions.
17 The principal of the school generally is appointed secretary of the board. This board should meet
18 at regular times. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson. Some churches prefer to
19 have the church board, or a subcommittee of the church board, also serve as the school board.
20 (See also pp. 97-98.)

1 SEC/ChManSub/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM/24AC (Steering)/408-24GS to GPS-25GCS
2
3 405-25GS NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND THE ELECTION
4 PROCESS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT
5

6 RATIONALE: This amendment clarifies that the nominating committee recommends names to
7 the church and is not responsible to elect individuals to serve. It also specifies that the the
8 pastor/chair of the noiminating committee and treasurer help determine the eligibility of
9 nominees to hold church office.

10
11 RECOMMENDED, To amend the Church Manual, Chapter 10, Elections, pages 116-120,
12 Nominating Committee and the Election Process, to read as follows:
13

14 Nominating Committee and the Election Process
15

16 Officers are elected every one or two years (See p. 77.) through an appointed nominating
17 committee. In exceptional circumstances, and in consultation with the conference, the term of
18 office may be extended an additional year. This committee brings its report to the church, which
19 then votes on the names presented. This procedure enables the church to give careful study to
20 each name prior to election and avoids the competitive element that may arise when nominations
21 are made from the floor.
22

23 The nominating committee shall study the needs of the church and inquire into the fitness
24 of members to serve in the different offices. This is another reason officers shall not be
25 nominated from the floor or by general ballot.
26

27 The church may decide based on its needs that it would be best served with a standing
28 nominating committee. As such, it may appoint such a committee which would function year-
29 round to ~~make nominations for~~ recommend to the church names to fill vacancies or to fill regular
30 positions identified in the *Church Manual*.
31

32 The size of the nominating committee will range from five members in a small church to
33 a larger number in a large church. The number to be chosen is left to the discretion of each
34 church and should be studied by the board. A suitable recommendation then will be brought to
35 the church, using a minimum of time in the Sabbath worship hour.
36

37 Quorum—The quorum for the nominating committee may be determined - No change
38

39 When and How the Nominating Committee Is Appointed—The nominating - No change
40

41 How the Process Works—The steps of the nominating process - No change
42

43 Who Should Be Members of the Nominating Committee—Only members - No change
44

45 Work of the Nominating Committee—The chairperson should call a meeting of the
46 committee as soon as possible after its election. With earnest prayer the committee should begin

405-25GS NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND THE ELECTION
PROCESS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT - 2

1 preparing a list of nominees for all offices. Nominees must be members in regular standing of the
2 church making the appointments. The returning of a faithful tithe is a prerequisite for holding
3 church office. The pastor or chair of the nominating committee shall work with the treasurer to
4 develop a process by which only members eligible to hold office are nominated. This should be
5 done in such a way that maintains as much confidentiality as possible. The list of nominees will
6 be presented to the church at a Sabbath service or at a specially called business meeting. In
7 making their selections, the committee may counsel with others who are well informed. This
8 committee does not nominate either the pastor or the assistant pastor(s), who are appointed by
9 the conference.

10
11 The list of nominees will be presented to the church at a Sabbath service or at a specially
12 called business meeting. In making their selections, the committee may counsel with others who
13 are well informed. This committee does not nominate either the pastor or the assistant pastor(s),
14 who are appointed by the conference.

15
16 The list of officers to be considered by the nominating committee may vary with size of
17 membership. A larger church may determine it needs more officers. A smaller church may have
18 fewer. The committee deals with all leadership positions except Sabbath School teachers, who
19 are recommended by the Sabbath School council and approved by the board. See Notes, #1, pp.
20 184-185, for a list of possible officers.

21
22 Nominating Committee to Get Consent of Prospective Officers—Having - No change

23
24 Members May Appear Before the Nominating Committee—Members - No change

25
26 Nominating Committee Discussions Are Confidential—All inquiries - No change

27
28 Reporting to the Church—The nominating committee’s report is presented - No change

29
30 Objections to the Report of the Nominating Committee—Members may - No change

31
32 Filling Vacancies Between Elections—If an office of the church becomes - No change

1 SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/409-24GSc to GPS-25GCS

2
3 406-25GSa MEMBERSHIP RECORD - *CHURCH MANUAL*
4 ADDITION

5
6 RATIONALE: This amendment creates a new section regarding the Membership Record that is
7 separate from the section on Transferring Members (see 406-25GSb) and provides more detail
8 on the need for constant redemptive membership review.

9
10 RECOMMENDED, To add a new section, Membership Record, to the *Church Manual*, Chapter
11 7, Membership, following Transferring Members, on page 61, to read as follows:

12
13 Membership Record

14
15 Membership Record—The church should have one current, regularly updated
16 membership record. Names are added or removed only on the vote of the church, at death, or at
17 the member’s request. (See p. 87.) Membership records are subject to review by the conference
18 of which the local congregation is a constituent. This rule, which also applies to every entity or
19 level of the organization, provides the maximum privacy of members’ personal information and
20 shall comply with legal requirements. (See pp. 87-88.)

21
22 Multiple Membership Records—Where it emerges that a church member’s membership
23 record is held at more than one church, the membership record at the local church where the
24 record is most recent will be regarded as the current membership, and any other membership
25 record of that church member will be removed by vote of the relevant church as an adjustment
26 out. This is only to deal with a situation where an additional membership record has
27 inadvertently been recorded; no member is to lose his or her current membership in this way. If a
28 person has been a member of their local church, but their membership record had inadvertently
29 not been recorded, that person can, by vote of the church, be registered as a member as an
30 adjustment in.

31
32 Membership in the Conference Church—Isolated members should unite with the
33 conference church, which is a body organized for the benefit of believers who otherwise would
34 be without church privileges. Aged and infirmed members who live near a church and
35 conference officers and other employees, including pastors, should be members of a local
36 church, not the conference church.

37
38 The conference president is the presiding elder of the conference church, and the work
39 normally carried by the clerk and the treasurer is handled by the conference secretary and
40 treasurer. Since the church has no board, all business normally conducted by a local church
41 board is conducted by the conference executive committee, which also appoints delegates from
42 the conference church to the conference session.

43
44 Redemptive Membership Review—Jesus called His Church to fulfill the Great
45 Commission to make disciples. With this goal in view, local churches should aim to create a

406-25GSa MEMBERSHIP RECORD - *CHURCH MANUAL*
ADDITION - 2

1 warm and caring environment for spiritual growth and to encourage all ministries of the church
2 to be united in making mature and faithful disciples.

3
4 A healthy church develops a nurturing plan that equips every member to be involved in
5 disciple-making using their talents and spiritual gifts. In addition, it should create a strategy to
6 retain and reclaim former and inactive members through (1) a regular redemptive membership
7 review process and (2) reclaiming ministries.

8
9 Redemptive membership review intends to improve pastoral care based on the foundation
10 of accurate membership records. Nevertheless, it must have a redemptive purpose of seeing
11 people rather than numbers. Updating the records should be motivated by the goal of being more
12 effective in pastoral care and reaching the lost.

13
14 In the Bible we find the words, “[N]ot forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as
15 is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day
16 approaching” (Heb. 10:25). There is great need to seek for those who are far away. Ellen G.
17 White says, “If the lost sheep is not brought back to the fold, it wanders until it perishes. And
18 many souls go down to ruin for want of a hand stretched out to save” (COL 191). It is a most
19 needed ministry to review the membership records and to approach this exercise in a Christ-like
20 redemptive way.

21
22 In the unfortunate situation that members may still be missing after every effort has been
23 made to locate them and welcome them back into fellowship, the church may certify that it has
24 tried without success to locate the members, and the members may be removed by a vote of the
25 church. The clerk should record in the membership record: “Location unknown. Voted to
26 designate as missing.” (See pp. 71-72.)

27
28 Resources—For a brief description of the redemptive membership review process, see
29 Notes, #1, p. 179.

1 SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/409-24GSa to GPS-25GCS

2
3 406-25GSb TRANSFERRING MEMBERS - *CHURCH MANUAL*
4 AMENDMENT

5
6 RATIONALE: This amendment clarifies the function of church clerks and the process of
7 membership transfer.

8
9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 7, Membership, pages 57-61,
10 Method of Granting Letters of Transfer, to read as follows:

11
12 Transferring Members

13
14 When members move to a different area, the clerk of the church holding their
15 membership records should write to the secretary of the relevant conference requesting that a
16 pastor in the new locality visit them and help facilitate their membership transfer to the new
17 congregation.

18
19 The clerk of the church holding the membership records also should notify the
20 transferring members of the intention to give their new addresses to the conference.
21 Members who move to another locality for longer than six months should make immediate
22 applications for letters of transfer. Members moving to an isolated area with no church within a
23 reasonable distance should apply to join the conference church.

24
25 Method of Granting Letters of ~~Transfer~~—Members Transfer—The church clerk should
26 encourage those regularly attending his/her church to request a transfer of their membership.
27 Members should apply for their letters of transfer to the clerk of the church with which the
28 members desire to unite (the receiving church). That clerk sends the request to the clerk of the
29 church from which the members desire to transfer (the granting church). (For alternative method,
30 see p. 58.)

31
32 When the clerk of the granting church receives the request, the clerk brings it to the
33 pastor or elder, who in turn presents it to the board. Careful consideration should be given by the
34 granting church and the receiving church to ensure the members in the process of being
35 transferred are living in harmony with the fundamental teachings and related practices of the
36 church. After due consideration, the board votes to recommend, favorably or otherwise, to the
37 church. (See pp. 37-40, 41, 55-61, 71-73, 87.) The pastor or elder then brings the
38 recommendation to the attention of the church for a first reading. Final action is taken the
39 following week, when the request is presented to the church for a vote.

40
41 The purpose of the one-week interval is to give members an opportunity to object to the
42 granting of the letter. Objections ordinarily should not be publicly stated but be lodged with the
43 pastor or elder, who then refers them to the board for consideration. The board should give each
44 objector opportunity to appear to present his/her objection. If the objection is not based on valid
45 grounds, the person raising objection should be admonished to withdraw it. If the objection is

406-25GSb TRANSFERRING MEMBERS - CHURCH MANUAL
AMENDMENT - 2

1 based on valid grounds, it is the duty of the board to investigate. Final action on granting the
2 letter is deferred until the matter has been satisfactorily settled.

3
4 If the objection involves personal relationships, every effort should be made to effect
5 reconciliation. If public offenses are involved, disciplinary measures may be called for. If there is
6 some spiritual lapse, efforts should be made to restore the member.

7
8 Clerk to Prepare Letter—When the church has granted the letter - No change

9
10 Letter Valid Six Months—A letter of transfer is valid for six months from - No change

11
12 Alternative Method for Membership Transfer—A division may approve - No change

13
14 Membership During Transfer—Under no circumstances shall the clerk - No change

15
16 Receiving Members Under Difficult Conditions—World conditions - No change

17
18 Counted in Statistical Reports—When quarterly and annual statistical - No change

19
20 If Member Is Not Accepted—The receiving church must receive the - No change

21
22 Letters Granted Only to Those in Regular Standing—Letters of transfer are granted only
23 to members in regular standing, never to a member under discipline. The pastor, the first elder,
24 and the church board should carefully consider changes to membership status (transfer, baptism,
25 and profession of faith). In the case that full consensus is not reached, the pastor, first elder, or
26 the board should request guidance from the conference. Qualifying statements are out of order
27 except when the pastor or board of the granting church has factual or proven knowledge that the
28 member has been involved as a perpetrator of child abuse. In that case, for the safety of children,
29 the pastor or elder should provide a confidential statement alerting the pastor or elder of the
30 congregation to which the member is transferring.

31
32 If a member who has moved to a new location has grown indifferent, the pastor or elder
33 of the granting church may, to be clear in the matter before the transfer is granted, take up the
34 question with the pastor or elder of the receiving church.

35
36 No Letter Without Member's Approval—In no case should a church vote - No change

37
38 Church Board Cannot Grant Letters—A board has no authority to vote - No change

39
40 ~~Membership in the Conference Church—Isolated members should unite with the~~
41 ~~conference church, which is a body organized for the benefit of believers who otherwise would~~
42 ~~be without church privileges. Aged and infirmed members who live near a church and~~

406-25GSb TRANSFERRING MEMBERS - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT - 3

1 ~~conference officers and other employees, including pastors, should be members of a local~~
2 ~~church, not the conference church.~~

3
4 ~~The conference president is the presiding elder of the conference church, and the work~~
5 ~~normally carried by the clerk and the treasurer is handled by the conference secretary and~~
6 ~~treasurer. Since the church has no board, all business normally conducted by a local church~~
7 ~~board is conducted by the conference executive committee, which also appoints delegates from~~
8 ~~the conference church to the conference session.~~

9
10 ~~Membership Record—The church should have one current, regularly updated~~
11 ~~membership record. Names are added or removed only on the vote of the church, at death, or at~~
12 ~~the member's request. (See p. 87.)~~

13
14 ~~Redemptive Membership Review—Membership records are kept up to date by the local~~
15 ~~church. They are subject to review by the next higher organization. This rule, which also applies~~
16 ~~to every entity or level of the organization, provides the maximum privacy of members' personal~~
17 ~~information and shall comply with legal requirements. (See pp. 87-88.)~~

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

1 SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/409-24GSb to GPS-25GCS

2

3 406-25GS_c MEMBERS MOVING AWAY AND NOT REPORTING -

4 *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

5

6 RATIONALE: This editorial amendment provides clarity and make the wording consistent with
7 section on Redemptive Membership Review (see 406-25GS_a).

8

9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 8, Discipline, pages 71-72,
10 Members Moving Away and Not Reporting, to read as follows:

11

12 *Members Moving Away and Not Reporting*—When members move, they should inform
13 the clerk or elder of their new address. While remaining members of that church, they should
14 report and send their tithe and offerings at least quarterly. If, however, members move without
15 leaving a forwarding address and make no effort to contact or report to the church, and the
16 church cannot locate them for at least two years, then the church may certify that it has tried
17 without success to locate the members and the members may be removed by a vote of the
18 church. The clerk should record in the membership record: “~~Whereabouts~~ Location unknown.
19 Voted to designate as missing.”

1 STW/SPD/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/411-24GSa to GPS-25GCS
2
3 407-25GSa FINANCE - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

4
5 RATIONALE: This amendment expresses the importance of giving offerings as part of worship.
6
7 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 12, Finance, pages 141-147, to read
8 as follows:

9
10 Finance

11
12 The biblical plan for the support of the work of God is by the tithes and offerings of His
13 people. The Lord says, “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My
14 house” (Mal. 3:10). The Church has followed this plan from its earliest days.

15
16 The Bible and Spirit of Prophecy present a beautiful picture of giving as a part of
17 worship. “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for
18 God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you,
19 always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work” (2 Cor.
20 9:7-8).

21
22 “The system of tithes and offerings was intended to impress the minds of men with a
23 great truth—that God is the source of every blessing to His creatures, and that to Him man’s
24 gratitude is due for the good gifts of His providence.”—PP 525.

25
26 “Tithes and offerings for God are an acknowledgment of His claim on us by creation, and
27 they are also an acknowledgment of His claim by redemption. Because all our power is derived
28 from Christ, these offerings are to flow from us to God. They are to keep ever before us the
29 claim of redemption, the greatest of all claims, and the one that involves every other.”—6T 479.
30 “The tithe is sacred, reserved by God for Himself. It is to be brought into His treasury to be used
31 to sustain the gospel laborers in their work.”—9T 249.

32
33 “He has given His people a plan for raising sums sufficient to make the enterprise self-
34 sustaining. God’s plan in the tithing system is beautiful in its simplicity and equality. All may
35 take hold of it in faith and courage, for it is divine in its origin. In it are combined simplicity and
36 utility. . . . Every man, woman, and youth may become a treasurer for the Lord and may be an
37 agent to meet the demands upon the treasury. Says the apostle: ‘Let every one of you lay by him
38 in store, as God hath prospered him.’ ”—3T 388, 389.

39
40 ~~“God has made the proclamation of the gospel dependent upon the labors and the gifts of~~
41 ~~His people. Voluntary offerings and the tithe constitute the revenue of the Lord’s work. Of the~~
42 ~~means entrusted to man, God claims a certain portion—the tenth. He leaves all free to say~~
43 ~~whether or not they will give more than this.”—AA 74.~~

44
45 “Besides the tithe the Lord demands the first fruits of all our increase. These He has
46 reserved in order that His work in the earth may be amply sustained. . . . If all would pay a

1 faithful tithe and devote to the Lord the first fruits of their increase, there would be a full supply
2 of funds for His work.”—6T 384.

3
4 “This matter of giving is not left to impulse. God has given us definite instructions in
5 regard to it. He has specified tithes and offerings as the measure of our obligation. And He
6 desires us to give regularly and systematically. . . . After the tithe is set apart, let gifts and
7 offerings be apportioned, ‘as God hath prospered you.’”—RH, May 9, 1893.

8
9 “God has given special direction as to the use of the tithe. He does not design that His
10 work shall be crippled for want of means. . . . The portion that God has reserved for Himself is
11 not to be diverted to any other purpose than that which He has specified. Let none feel at liberty
12 to retain their tithe, to use according to their own judgment. They are not to use it for themselves
13 in an emergency, nor to apply it as they see fit, even in what they may regard as the Lord’s
14 work.”—9T 247.

15
16 “If we love Jesus, we shall love to live for Him, to present our thank offerings to Him, to
17 labor for Him.”—COL 49.

18
19 “Our heavenly Father did not originate the plan of systematic benevolence to enrich
20 Himself, but to be a great blessing to man. He saw that this system of beneficence was just what
21 man needed.”—3T 405.

22
23 Stewardship [See 407-25GSb]

24
25 Tithe [See 407-25GSc]

26
27 Offerings [See 407-25GSd]

28
29 General Financial Counsel [See 407-25GSe and 408-25GS]

1 STW/SPD/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/411-24GSa to GPS-25GCS
2
3 407-25GSb STEWARDSHIP - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

4
5 RATIONALE: This amendment expresses the importance of stewardship in all areas of life.

6
7 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 12, Finance, page 142,
8 Stewardship, to read as follows:

9
10 Stewardship

11
12 Christians are God’s stewards, entrusted with His ~~goods~~ blessings and, as His partners,
13 responsible to manage them in harmony with His guidelines and principles. The divine counsel is
14 that as His stewards, we are to “be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2) and live according to His will as
15 we worship Him with our whole lives (Rom. 12:1-3, Gen. 12:2-3). Stewardship covers every
16 aspect of Christian life and experience, including the stewardship of our means. (1 Cor. 4:2).
17 ~~Though the question of stewardship covers many aspects of Christian life and experience,~~
18 ~~without doubt the stewardship of our means is vitally important.~~ It concerns the entire Church
19 family and involves our recognition of the sovereignty of God, His ownership of all things, and
20 the bestowal of His grace upon our hearts.

21
22 While this aspect of Christian stewardship concerns our material possessions, it
23 nevertheless ~~reacts upon~~ defines our Christian experience. The Lord requires certain things of us,
24 in order that He may do certain things for us. ~~Our yielding obedience to what our heavenly~~
25 ~~Father requires places this phase of stewardship upon a high spiritual plane. He does not~~
26 ~~arbitrarily demand either that we serve Him or that we recognize Him with our gifts. But He~~ In
27 all areas of our lives, God invites us to obey His word and then trust His promises. Our
28 conscientious stewardship of God’s blessings helps to build our faith. God has so arranged that
29 when we work in harmony with Him in these things there will flow great spiritual blessings to
30 us. ~~to our own hearts great spiritual blessings.~~

31
32 “God desires all His stewards to be exact in following divine arrangements. They are not
33 to offset the Lord’s plans by performing some deed of charity or giving some gift or some
34 offering when or how they, the human agents, shall see fit. It is a very poor policy for men to
35 seek to improve on God’s plan, and invent a makeshift, averaging up their good impulses on this
36 and that occasion, and offsetting them against God’s requirements. God calls upon all to give
37 their influence to His own arrangement.”—9T 248.

1 STW/SPD/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/411-24GSa to GPS-25GCS
2
3 407-25GSc TITHE - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT
4

5 RATIONALE: This amendment expresses that faithfulness in tithing is vital to the work of the
6 Church.

7
8 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 12, Finance, pages 142 and 143,
9 Tithe, to read as follows:

10
11 Tithe
12

13 In recognition of the biblical plan ~~and the believer's experience of salvation, and the~~
14 ~~solemn privilege and responsibility that rest upon members as children of God and members of~~
15 ~~His body, the Church,~~ all are encouraged to faithfully return a tithe, one tenth of their increase or
16 personal income, into the denomination's treasury.
17

18 Tithe shall not be used in any way by the local church, but held in trust and remitted to
19 the conference treasurer. Thus tithe from all the churches flows into the conference treasury, and
20 percentages are forwarded to the next level in accordance with General Conference and division
21 working policies. This allows the Church to be a disciple-making movement in its regions,
22 actively fulfilling its mission of sharing the everlasting gospel to the whole world in preparation
23 for Christ's soon return. ~~next higher level in accordance with General Conference and division~~
24 working policies to meet the expenses of conducting the work of God in their respective spheres
25 of responsibility and activity.
26

27 These policies have been developed for the gathering and disbursing of funds in all the
28 world ~~and for the conducting of the business affairs of the cause. The financial and business~~
29 ~~aspects of the~~ for funding mission and evangelistic initiatives, and for conducting the business
30 affairs of the Church. The financial and business aspects of this work are of great importance.
31 They cannot be separated from the proclamation of the message of salvation. They are indeed an
32 integral part of it.
33

34 Systematic Benevolence and ~~Unity—The~~ Unity—God's word invites all believers to be
35 faithful and systematic in their returning of tithe and giving offerings. The financial plan of the
36 Church serves a larger purpose than appears in its financial and statistical reports. The system of
37 sharing the funds with the world fields, as outlined by General Conference *Working Policy*,
38 serves a wonderful purpose of unifying the Church's spiritual work throughout the world.
39

40 How Tithe Is to Be Used—Tithe is held sacred for the work of the ministry, for Bible
41 teaching, and for the support of conference administration in the care of the churches and of field
42 outreach (missionary) endeavors. Tithe shall not be spent on other work, on paying church or
43 institutional debts, or on building programs, except as approved under General Conference
44 *Working Policy*. For more information on the use of tithe, review Stewardship Ministries
45 Resources, see Notes, #1, p. 190-191.
46

1 “A very plain, definite message has been given to me for our people. I am bidden to tell
2 them that they are making a mistake in applying the tithe to various objects which, though good
3 in themselves, are not the object to which the Lord has said that the tithe should be applied.
4 Those who make this use of the tithe are departing from the Lord’s arrangement. God will judge
5 for these things.”—9T 248.

6
7 How Tithe Is Handled—Tithe is the Lord’s and is to be brought as an act of worship to
8 the conference treasury through the church in which the person’s membership is held. Where
9 unusual circumstances exist, members should consult with conference officers.

10
11 Church and Conference Officers to Set Example—Elders and other officers, as well as
12 the pastor and conference and institutional employees, are expected to set good leadership
13 examples by returning tithe. No one shall be continued as either a church officer or conference
14 employee who does not conform to this standard of leadership.

2
3 407-24GSd OFFERINGS - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

4
5 RATIONALE: This amendment expresses the importance of giving offerings as an act of
6 worship and explains the different offering plans.

7
8 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 12, Finance, pages 143-145,
9 Offerings, to read as follows:

10
11 Offerings

12
13 In addition to the tithe, Scripture emphasizes our obligation to bring offerings to the Lord.
14 Withholding of offerings is classed with withholding tithe and is called robbery (Mal. 3:8). It is
15 our privilege and responsibility to bring offerings to the Lord. We are encouraged to give
16 offerings cheerfully and systematically as an act of worship for all that God has blessed us with,
17 both great and small. Giving offerings is an act of loving sacrifice and a response of gratitude as
18 we follow the Holy Spirit's promptings. Malachi 3:8-12 warns about withholding offerings and
19 tithe and encourages us with the promise of God's blessing that will be poured out in abundance.
20 Since the Church's earliest days, believers have given liberal offerings that have blessed and
21 prospered God's work. Since the Church's earliest days, members have given liberal offerings
22 that have blessed and prospered God's work.

23
24 ~~In addition to the traditional calendar of offerings program, where each offering taken is~~
25 ~~for a specific purpose, the General Conference has approved the combined offering system and~~
26 ~~the personal giving plan. The Church has three offering plans: the Combined Offering Plan, and~~
27 ~~two other plans, the Calendar of Offerings and the Personal Giving Offering Plan. The Combined~~
28 ~~Offering Plan is preferred and is used by the highest percentage of divisions. Each division~~
29 ~~executive committee is authorized to determine which plan(s) will be used in its territory.~~

30
31 Regular and Systematic Offerings—Regular and systematic offerings are given after any
32 income or increase in assets (Proverbs 3:9) as an act of worship, in recognition of God's
33 blessings. They represent a worshiper's chosen proportion of any income or increase in assets
34 (Deut. 16:17; 1 Cor. 16:2). One's expression of worship through financial stewardship begins
35 with tithing and the support of the Church through regular and systematic offerings. Worshipers
36 should be encouraged to distribute their regular and systematic offerings to equitably cover all
37 the mission needs of the Church, locally, regionally, and internationally (Acts 1:8).

38
39 Where the Combined Offering Plan is practiced, worshipers are encouraged to give their
40 regular and systematic offerings as unassigned offerings, that will be equitably distributed by the
41 church according to a pre-arranged formula, covering all the mission needs of the Church,
42 locally, regionally, and internationally (Acts 1:8). All loose offerings, collected at any time or
43 mode, including during Sabbath School, will be distributed according to this same formula. (See
44 p. 89.)

1 “Those churches who are the most systematic and liberal in sustaining the cause of God
2 are the most prosperous spiritually.”—3T 405.
3

4 “If the plan of systematic benevolence were adopted by every individual and fully carried
5 out, there would be a constant supply in the treasury. The income would flow in like a steady
6 stream constantly supplied by overflowing springs of benevolence.”—3T 389.
7

8 ~~Sabbath School Offerings—The Church’s most widely used and successful method of~~
9 ~~regular systematic giving is through Sabbath School offerings, which are devoted to world~~
10 ~~mission work.~~
11

12 ~~Other Offerings—Other offerings may be necessary from time to time for world mission~~
13 ~~work and for local projects. However, such offerings should be limited so as not to detract from~~
14 ~~the purpose and benefit of promoting regular and systematic giving. When such offerings are~~
15 ~~collected, they are to be used for the specific purpose for which it has been given. Those~~
16 ~~offerings should be promoted and given above and beyond regular return of tithe and systematic~~
17 ~~offerings through the local church. (For information regarding offerings collected during Sabbath~~
18 ~~School, see p. 88.) are taken from time to time for world mission work and for general and local~~
19 ~~projects. When any offering is taken, all money collected, unless otherwise indicated by the~~
20 ~~donor, shall be counted as part of that particular offering.~~
21

22 ~~Special Gifts to Fields—The financial support of the worldwide work of the Church is~~
23 ~~based on the budget system. Appropriations are made to the various fields on the basis of~~
24 ~~budgeted needs. This is a fair and equitable method of distributing the funds.~~
25

26 ~~Where special gifts outside the regular budget plan are made to a particular field, a~~
27 ~~disparity is created to the disadvantage of other fields. If such gifts are given for the purpose of~~
28 ~~starting new work, the work thus started may languish when the special gift is used up, or it may~~
29 ~~have to be included in the budget for its future support. Thus other fields, with perhaps greater~~
30 ~~needs but without the opportunity of making them known, would be deprived of their equitable~~
31 ~~part of general funds that would be diverted to the work started by special gifts.~~
32

33 ~~History has proved the wisdom of having members generously and loyally give their~~
34 ~~offerings and gifts through the accepted channels and knowing that every field shares in the~~
35 ~~benefits of their giving.~~
36

37 ~~Assisting the Poor and Needy—Offerings for the poor and needy are may be taken to~~
38 ~~assist the members who require help. A reserve fund should be kept for such emergency cases. In~~
39 ~~addition, the church should take a benevolent attitude toward all in need, and the board may~~
40 ~~make appropriations from this fund to assist the church’s health and welfare work for families in~~
41 ~~the community.~~
42

43 ~~Church Budget for Local Expenses—The most satisfactory method of providing for~~
44 ~~church expenses is the budget plan. Before the beginning of the new budget year, the board~~

1 should prepare a budget of expenses for church activities during the next year. The budget should
2 include all income and expenses, including those related to all departments. It should provide for
3 such projected costs as utilities, insurance, maintenance, janitor service, funds for the poor and
4 needy, and church school expense. (See Notes, #2, p. 191, for sample budget.)
5

6 The budget should be presented to the church for its study and adoption, and for plans to
7 assure that funds shall be provided to balance the budget during the coming year. Funds to meet
8 the church expense budget may be raised by offerings or subscriptions. Members should be
9 urged to support their local church in proportion to their financial circumstances.
10

11 Announcing Tithe and Offerings—Returning tithe and giving offerings is an essential
12 part of the worship service. Great care should be given to announcing the tithe and offering
13 collection during Sabbath School, Sabbath worship service, and, where possible, via church
14 bulletins and other church communications. The announcement should promote biblical
15 stewardship principles, including giving as an act of worship, the clear connection that exists
16 between giving and mission, the value of regular and systematic giving, and the wonderful
17 blessings that result from faithfulness. Resources are available through the offices of Adventist
18 Mission and Stewardship Ministries of the local conference.

1 STW/SPD/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/411-24GSa to GPS-25GCS

2

3 407-25GSe TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY - *CHURCH*

4 *MANUAL* ADDITION

5

6 RATIONALE: This amendment underscores the importance of accountability through
7 transparency and financial reporting.

8

9 RECOMMENDED, To add a new section, Transparency and Accountability, to the *Church*
10 *Manual*, Chapter 12, Finance, following Auditing, on page 147, to read as follows:

11

12 Transparency and Accountability—The church finance committee (see pp. 138-139) is
13 required to prepare quarterly reports that should be publicly accessible and presented to the
14 church members. These reports should include information about the proper governance of
15 funds, the adequate allocation of resources for mission-related purposes, and testimonies
16 highlighting the impact of contributions on advancing the church’s mission. Furthermore, they
17 should present an annual report showing the proportion of members that are systematic in
18 returning tithe and giving offerings.

1 STW/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/411-24GSb to GPS-25GCS

2
3 407-25GSf TO COOPERATE WITH THE CONFERENCE (ELDERS) -

4 *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

5
6 RATIONALE: This amendment expresses the need for local church officers and pastors to
7 support the division offering plan.

8
9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Local Church Officers and
10 Organizations, page 81, To Cooperate With the Conference (Elders), to read as follows:

11
12 To Cooperate With the Conference—The pastor, elders, and all officers should cooperate
13 with conference officers and departmental directors in carrying out approved plans. They should
14 inform the church about the offering plan adopted by the division for their territory and of all
15 regular and special offerings, promote all the programs and activities of the church, and
16 encourage all officers to support conference plans and policies.

17
18 Elders should work closely with the treasurer and see that all conference funds are
19 remitted promptly to the conference treasurer at the time established by the conference. Elders
20 should see that the clerk’s report is sent promptly to the conference secretary at the close of each
21 quarter.

22
23 Elders should regard all correspondence from the conference office as important. Letters
24 calling for announcements should be presented at the proper time.

25
26 In the absence of the pastor, the first elder (see p. 120-121) should see that the church
27 elects delegates to conference sessions and that the clerk sends the names of delegates to the
28 conference office.

1 STW/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/411-24GSc to GPS-25GCS

2
3 407-25GSg TREASURER - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

4
5 RATIONALE: This amendment transfers the information on Sabbath School Offerings from the
6 section on Sabbath School (see 407-25GSi) to this section on the Treasurer, and adds
7 information on how this offering is allocated in different division Offering Plans.

8
9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Local Church Officers and
10 Organizations, pages 88-91, Treasurer, to read as follows:

11
12 Treasurer

13
14 Because of the important functions of the treasurer, it is wise to choose one who can be
15 elected to a new term of office to provide continuity in record keeping and reporting. Large
16 churches may elect assistant treasurers as needed.

17
18 The treasurer can greatly encourage faithfulness in the returning of tithe and deepen the
19 spirit of liberality on the part of the members. A word of counsel given in the spirit of the Master
20 will help members to render faithfully to God His own in tithes and offerings, even in a time of
21 financial stringency.

22
23 Treasurer the Custodian of All Funds—The treasurer is the custodian - No change

24
25 Conference Funds—Conference funds, which include tithe, all regular - No change

26
27 Sabbath School Offerings—Any offering collected during Sabbath School should be
28 accurately recorded by the Sabbath School secretary, who will pass them on to the treasurer as
29 soon as possible. Extension division offerings should be added to the offering regularly collected
30 during Sabbath School.

31
32 In territories that have adopted the Combined Offering Plan, these offerings should be
33 distributed according to the formula voted by the division for that Offering Plan. As part of the
34 promotion of any offering collected during Sabbath School in those territories, the givers should
35 be informed that part of their offerings will fund the quarterly world mission projects sponsored
36 by the General Conference.

37
38 All Sabbath School offerings in territories that use the Calendar of Offerings Plan, and
39 the Personal Giving Plan are for the support of the mission fields and are to be passed on in their
40 entirety to the conference. These funds include the regular weekly Sabbath School offering, the
41 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, Mission Investment, and Birthday-Thank Offering. These Mission
42 funds will then be distributed by the conference according to policy. No mission funds may be
43 retained by the church or conference.

44
45 In territories that have adopted the Personal Giving Plan or the Calendar of Offerings
46 Plan, these mission funds are transmitted to the conference office as outlined in the section above

1 ("Conference Funds"). The regular church budget should make provision for Sabbath School
2 expenses, as for other ministries or departments of the church.
3

4 ~~Sabbath School Funds—All Sabbath School offerings are to be passed over weekly to the~~
5 ~~treasurer by the Sabbath School secretary treasurer, the treasurer keeping a careful record of all~~
6 ~~such offerings. These mission funds are transmitted to the conference office as outlined in the~~
7 ~~previous paragraph. Sabbath School expense funds are held in trust, subject to the orders of the~~
8 ~~Sabbath School council (See pp. 103-104.), to meet the routine expenses of the Sabbath School.~~
9

10 Local Church Funds—Local church funds include church - No change
11

12 Funds of Auxiliary Organizations—Auxiliary organization funds - No change
13

14 Safeguarding the Purpose of Funds—All offerings and gifts contributed by individuals
15 for a specific fund or purpose, under all three offering plans, Funds—When an offering is taken
16 for worldwide missions or for any general or local enterprise, all money placed in the offering
17 plate (unless otherwise indicated by the donor) shall be counted as part of that particular offering.
18 ~~All offerings and gifts contributed by individuals for a specific fund or purpose must be used for~~
19 ~~that purpose. Neither the treasurer nor the board has the authority to divert any funds from the~~
20 ~~objective for which they were given.~~
21

22 The funds of auxiliary organizations, often donations given for specific purposes, are
23 raised for that special part of the church's work for which the auxiliary organization is
24 established. Such funds are held in trust by the treasurer, and they too may not be borrowed or in
25 any way diverted by the treasurer or the board from the objective for which they were raised.
26

27 When an auxiliary organization is discontinued, the church in a regular business meeting
28 may take action indicating the disposition of any balance of funds in the account of the
29 organization.
30

31 Money for Personal Literature Orders—Money for personal orders - No change
32

33 Proper Method for Payment of Money by Members—The treasurer - No change
34

35 Receipts to Members—Receipts should be issued promptly for all - No change
36

37 Proper Method of Remitting Funds to the Conference—In sending - No change
38

39 Preservation of Financial Documents—Financial - No change
40

41 Books Should Be Audited—The conference - No change
42

43 Relations With Members Confidential—The treasurer should [See 409-25GS]

1 STW/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/411-24GSd to GPS-25GCS

2

3 407-25GSh WORLD HEALTH MINISTRIES SABBATH OFFERING -

4 *CHURCH MANUAL* DELETION

5

6 RATIONALE: This section is being removed since this offering is no longer collected.

7

8 RECOMMENDED, To delete the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Local Church Officers and
9 Organizations, pages 100-101, World Health Ministries Sabbath Offering, which reads as
10 follows:

11

12 World Health Ministries Sabbath Offering—The entire World Health Ministries Sabbath
13 Offering is sent to the conference to be distributed according to policy. Upon the church's
14 request to the conference, up to 25 percent of the offering received in the church may revert to
15 the church for health ministries programs.

1 STW/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/411-24GSe to GPS-25GCS

2
3 407-25GSi SABBATH SCHOOL - *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

4
5 RATIONALE: This amendment incorporates making disciples as an important part of Sabbath
6 School and specifies the responsibility of the Sabbath School secretary. The details regarding
7 Sabbath School Offerings are being moved to the section on the Treasurer (see 407-25GSg).

8
9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Local Church Officers and
10 Organizations, pages 103-106, Sabbath School, to read as follows:

11
12 Sabbath School

13
14 The Sabbath School, the primary religious education program of the Church, has four
15 purposes: study of the Scripture, fellowship, community outreach, and world mission emphasis.
16 The General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department distributes the
17 Sabbath School Bible study guide for all age levels, provides designs for Sabbath School
18 programming within the context of the various world division cultures, provides resources and
19 training systems for Sabbath School teachers, and promotes world mission ~~Sabbath School~~
20 offerings. Because it incorporates the core spiritual elements of Bible study, prayer, fellowship,
21 and mission, Sabbath School is an essential part of the church's strategy for making disciples.

22
23 “The Sabbath school is an important branch of the missionary work, not only because it
24 gives to young and old a knowledge of God’s Word, but because it awakens in them a love for its
25 sacred truths, and a desire to study them for themselves; above all, it teaches them to regulate
26 their lives by its holy teachings.”—CSW 10, 11.

27
28 “The Sabbath school, if rightly conducted, is one of God’s great instrumentalities to bring
29 souls to a knowledge of the truth.”—CSW 115.

30
31 Officers of the Sabbath School Council—The church elects - No change

32
33 Sabbath School Superintendent and Other Sabbath School Officers—The superintendent
34 is the leading officer of the Sabbath School and should begin planning for its smooth and
35 effective operation as soon as elected. The superintendent should support the plans and emphases
36 of the conference Sabbath School department and should implement decisions of the Sabbath
37 School council concerning the operation of the Sabbath School. The church may elect one or
38 more assistant superintendents.

39
40 The secretary should complete the quarterly report on the appropriate form immediately
41 after the last Sabbath of the quarter and mail it before the deadline to the conference Sabbath
42 School and personal ministries directors. The secretary also should place a copy in the
43 secretary’s permanent file, give copies to the superintendent and the pastor, and present it at the
44 business meeting. In addition, any offering collected during Sabbath School should be accurately
45 recorded by the Sabbath School secretary, who will pass them on to the treasurer as soon as
46 possible. (See p. 88.)

1
2 The Investment secretary promotes the Investment plan for mission support in all Sabbath
3 School divisions and keeps all members informed as the program progresses.
4

5 The Vacation Bible School (VBS) director leads in organizing, promoting, and launching
6 community evangelism through the annual VBS. The church may assign this responsibility to the
7 children's ministries coordinator.
8

9 The council may appoint a music director for the Sabbath School in consultation with
10 division leaders. As an expression of worship, music should glorify God. Singers and other
11 musicians should be as carefully selected as are the leaders for other parts of the Sabbath School
12 service and should be measured by the same standards. (See pp. 101, 155, 157.) The council also
13 may appoint pianists and organists for the divisions.
14

15 Sabbath School Division Leaders—The church board elects a leader - No change

16
17 Sabbath School Teachers—The Sabbath School council chooses - No change
18

19 ~~Sabbath School Offerings—The Sabbath School secretary should accurately record~~
20 ~~Sabbath School offerings and pass them on to the treasurer as soon as possible. Extension~~
21 ~~division offerings should be added to the regular Sabbath School offerings. Many Sabbath~~
22 ~~Schools take offerings for Sabbath School expense. With the exception of that expense fund, all~~
23 ~~Sabbath School offerings are for the support of the mission fields and are to be passed on in their~~
24 ~~entirety by the treasurer to the conference. These funds include the regular weekly Sabbath~~
25 ~~School offering, the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, Sabbath School Investment, and Birthday~~
26 ~~Thank Offering. Each is to be identified as a separate fund in the financial system of the church.~~
27 ~~Mission funds are distributed according to policy. No mission funds may be retained by the~~
28 ~~church or conference.~~
29

30 ~~The Sabbath School expense offering and the mission offering, where the calendar of~~
31 ~~offerings is being used, shall not be taken as one offering and divided according to an agreed-~~
32 ~~upon formula or percentage. The offerings may be taken as combined offering where the church~~
33 ~~is operating under a division-approved combined offering plan.~~
34

35 Resources—For Sabbath School and personal ministries - No change

1 STW/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/411-24GSf to GPS-25GCS

2
3 407-25GSj CONDUCTING THE COMMUNION SERVICE - *CHURCH*
4 *MANUAL* AMENDMENT

5
6 RATIONALE: This amendment explains that any offering taken following the Communion
7 service would be as an addition to regular and systematic offerings.

8
9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 11, Services and Other Meetings,
10 pages 131-132, Conducting the Communion Service, to read as follows:

11
12 Conducting the Communion Service—Length of Service—Time is not the most
13 significant factor in the communion service. However, attendance can be improved and the
14 spiritual impact increased by (1) eliminating extraneous items from the worship service on this
15 high day, (2) avoiding delays before and after foot-washing, and (3) having the deaconesses
16 arrange the emblems on the communion table well beforehand.

17
18 *Preliminaries*—The introductory portion of the service should be brief, including only
19 short announcements, a hymn, prayer, offering, and a short sermon before separating for the
20 foot-washing and returning for the Lord’s Supper.

21
22 *Foot-Washing*—Each church should have a plan for meeting the needs of its members for
23 the foot-washing service. (See Notes, #5, p. 188.)

24
25 *Bread and Wine*—Following the foot-washing, the congregation comes together once
26 again to partake of the bread and the wine. (See Notes, #6, pp. 188-189.)

27
28 *Celebration*—Communion should always be a solemn, never somber, experience.
29 Wrongs have been righted, sins have been forgiven, and faith has been reaffirmed. It is a time for
30 celebration. Let the music be bright and joyous. The service should end on a high note, such as
31 with a musical feature or congregational singing, followed by dismissal.

32
33 An offering for the poor ~~is often~~ may be taken as the congregation leaves. This offering is
34 promoted as an addition to regular and systematic offerings.

35
36 After the service the deacons and deaconesses clear the table, collect the utensils, and
37 respectfully dispose of any remaining emblems. In no case should these emblems be consumed
38 or returned to common use.

2
3 408-25GS REGULATION OF SOLICITING FUNDS - *CHURCH*

4 *MANUAL* AMENDMENT

5
6 RATIONALE: The paragraph being removed is relevant to international service employees,
7 rather than local church activities, and is unnecessary since the main point is covered in the first
8 paragraph.

9
10 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 12, Finance, page 145 and 146,
11 Regulation of Soliciting Funds, to read as follows:

12
13 Regulation of Soliciting Funds—The following are regulations for soliciting funds:

14
15 1. No conference, church, or institution, without special counsel and arrangement,
16 shall plan work requiring solicitation of funds from outside its territory. Any solicitation within
17 its territory shall be in harmony with local, union, division, and General Conference policies. No
18 authority is granted to denominational employees representing special interests in one part of the
19 field to solicit help in any other part of the field or in any other conference without arrangement
20 with and written authorization from conference officers where the fund-raising would take place.

21
22 2. The following principles protect churches from unauthorized, fraudulent, and
23 undenominational solicitation:

24
25 a. Pastors and officers shall not grant the privilege of the pulpit to persons
26 for fund-raising who have not been recognized or recommended by the conference. (See pp. 126-
27 127.) No permission shall be granted to solicit funds either publicly or privately without such
28 recognition.

29
30 b. All funds contributed for any cause in response to appeals shall be passed
31 through regular church channels.

32
33 c. Conference and church officers shall take such steps as may be necessary
34 to prevent unauthorized or illegal public solicitation.

35
36 3. No campaign other than the Annual Appeal (Ingathering or equivalent appeal),
37 which involves using Appeal literature and containers with authorized Appeal labels, shall be
38 conducted for the solicitation of money for either home or overseas mission work. Unions and
39 conferences should prevent violations of this regulation.

40
41 ~~4. Interdivision employees visiting their home churches or otherwise communicating~~
42 ~~with their home bases are asked to solicit funds only for enterprises included in the budget of~~
43 ~~appropriations, working in cooperation with churches and conferences to raise the funds required~~
44 ~~to meet the appropriations on which our world mission work depends. All such funds shall be~~
45 ~~passed through regular channels.~~

1 STW/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/411-24GSc to GPS-25GCS

2
3 409-25GS RELATIONS WITH MEMBERS CONFIDENTIAL -

4 *CHURCH MANUAL* AMENDMENT

5
6 RATIONALE: This amendment expresses the need for confidentiality regarding the giving
7 practices of members.

8
9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Local Church Officers and
10 Organizations, page 91, Relations With Members Confidential, to read as follows:

11
12 Relations With Members Confidential—The treasurer should always remember that
13 ~~relations with individual members are strictly confidential. The treasurer should never comment~~
14 ~~on personal giving decisions~~ are strictly confidential. The treasurer and the pastor should never
15 disclose individual giving records, except with consent of the giver, as required by law, as
16 needed to audit or review the church’s financial records, or as needed for the nominating
17 committee process (see p. 118). ~~the tithe returned by any member or on the income or anything~~
18 ~~concerning it except to those who share the responsibility of the work.~~ Great harm may be
19 caused by failure to observe this rule.

1 SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/412-24GS to GPS-25GCS
2
3 410-25GS USE OF “DISCIPLESHIP” - *CHURCH MANUAL*
4 DIRECTIVE
5
6 RATIONALE: This amendment intends to highlight the idea of active disciple-making and its
7 evangelistic engagement.
8
9 RECOMMENDED, To approve a directive to amend the *Church Manual*, by replacing
10 “discipleship” with “disciple-making” or “making disciples,” where appropriate.

1 SSPM/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/413-24GS to GPS-25GCS

2
3 411-25GS CHURCH BOARD AND ITS MEETINGS - *CHURCH*
4 *MANUAL* AMENDMENT

5
6 RATIONALE: This amendment intends to highlight the importance of disciple-making,
7 evangelism, and reclaiming ministries in the strategic plans of the church board.

8
9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 11, Services and Other Meetings,
10 pages 134 to 138, Church Board and Its Meetings, to read as follows:

11
12 Church Board and Its Meetings

13
14 Definition and Function—Every church must have a functioning board whose members
15 have been elected during a church business meeting. Its chief concern is having an active and
16 comprehensive plan to fulfill its mission of making disciples, which includes evangelism,
17 outreach to the community, and the spiritual nurture and training of the church. ~~discipleship plan~~
18 ~~in place, which includes both the spiritual nurture of the church and the work of planning and~~
19 ~~fostering evangelism.~~

20
21 ~~Included in church board responsibilities are:~~

- 22
23 1. ~~An active discipleship plan.~~
24
25 2. ~~Evangelism in all of its phases.~~
26
27 3. ~~Spiritual nurturing and mentoring of members.~~
28
29 4. ~~Maintenance of doctrinal purity.~~
30
31 5. ~~Upholding of Christian standards.~~
32
33 6. ~~Recommending changes in church membership.~~
34
35 7. ~~Oversight of church finances.~~
36
37 8. ~~Protection and care of church properties.~~
38
39 9. ~~Coordination of church departments.~~
40

41 In addition to this overarching plan, the church board is to maintain doctrinal purity and
42 uphold Christian standards in the church, recommend changes in church membership, oversee
43 church finances, ensure the protection and care of church attendees and properties, and
44 coordinate the work of the various departments of the church.
45

411-25GS CHURCH BOARD AND ITS MEETINGS - CHURCH
MANUAL AMENDMENT - 2

1 The gospel commission of Jesus tells us that making disciples, which includes baptizing
2 and teaching, is the primary function of the church (Matt. 28:18-20). It is, therefore, also the
3 primary function of the board, which serves as the chief committee of the church. When the
4 board devotes its first interests and highest energies to involving every member in proclaiming
5 the good news and making disciples, most problems are alleviated or prevented, and a strong,
6 positive influence is felt in the spiritual life and growth of members.

7
8 ~~Spiritual Nurture—Christ’s love for the Church needs to be manifested within the Church
9 by His followers. True discipleship entails not only Biblical teaching (Matt. 28:20), but also a
10 passionate commitment to loving our fellow believers unconditionally. This was the heart of
11 Christ’s message to His disciples as He faced the cross (John 15:9-13). Christ’s command to
12 them applies to us: that we “love one another.” Ellen G. White’s powerful insight into this
13 historical scene is still vital for us: “This love is the evidence of their discipleship.”—DA 677,
14 678.~~

15
16 ~~Therefore, it is one of the primary functions of the board to ensure that members are
17 nurtured and mentored in a personal, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ.~~

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

24
25 Disciple-making is based on an ongoing, lifelong relationship with Jesus. The believer
26 commits to “abiding in Christ” (John 15:8), to being trained for fruitful ~~discipleship~~ disciple-
27 making by sharing Jesus with others, as well as to leading other members to also be faithful
28 disciples.

29
30 The Church, individually and collectively, shares responsibility for ensuring that every
31 church member remains part of the body of Christ.

32
33 Membership—The board is elected by the members at the time - No changes

34
35 Officers—The chairperson of the board is the conference-appointed - No change

36
37 Meetings—Because the work of the board is vital to the - No change

38
39 Work of the Board—The board is responsible to: 1. Develop and oversee an active,
40 ongoing disciple-making plan which includes both spiritual nurture and evangelistic outreach.
41 This plan is the most important item for the board’s attention. ~~Ensure that there is an active,~~

411-25GS CHURCH BOARD AND ITS MEETINGS - CHURCH
MANUAL AMENDMENT - 3

1 ~~ongoing discipleship plan in place, which includes both spiritual nurture and outreach ministries.~~
2 ~~This is the most important item for the board's attention.~~

3
4 ~~2. Study membership lists and initiate plans for reconnecting (reclaiming) members~~
5 ~~who have separated from the church.~~

6
7 ~~3. 2. Educate and nurture all members into a personal and dynamic relationship with~~
8 ~~Jesus Christ; one that includes prayer, Bible study, attending Sabbath School, witnessing, and~~
9 ~~intentional spiritual growth. Train local church leadership in how to encourage intentional~~
10 ~~spiritual growth in themselves and others.~~

11
12 ~~4. 3. Evangelize the outreach (missionary) territory of the church. Once each quarter an~~
13 ~~entire meeting should be devoted to plans for evangelism. The board will study conference~~
14 ~~recommendations for evangelistic programs and methods and how they can be implemented~~
15 ~~locally. The pastor and the board will initiate and develop plans for public evangelistic meetings.~~

16
17 ~~5. 4. Coordinate outreach programs for all church departments, although each~~
18 ~~department develops its plans for outreach within its own sphere. To avoid conflict in timing,~~
19 ~~competition in securing volunteers, and to achieve maximum beneficial results, coordination is~~
20 ~~essential. Before completing and announcing plans for any program, each department should~~
21 ~~submit its plans to the board for approval. The departments also report to the board on the~~
22 ~~progress and results of their outreach programs. The board may suggest how departmental~~
23 ~~programs can contribute to the preparation, conduct, and follow-up of a public evangelistic~~
24 ~~campaign.~~

25
26 ~~6. 5. Encourage the personal ministries department to enlist all members and children~~
27 ~~in some form of personal outreach (missionary) service. Training classes should be conducted in~~
28 ~~various lines of outreach ministry.~~

29
30 ~~7. 6. Encourage the interest coordinator to ensure that every interest is personally and~~
31 ~~promptly followed up by assigned laypersons.~~

32
33 ~~7. Study the membership list and initiate plans for reconnecting with (reclaiming)~~
34 ~~members who have separated from the church. A healthy church develops a nurturing plan that~~
35 ~~equips every member to be involved in disciple-making using their talents and spiritual gifts. In~~
36 ~~addition, it should create a strategy to retain and reclaim former and inactive members through~~
37 ~~(1) a regular redemptive membership review process and (2) reclaiming ministries. (See p. 61.)~~

38
39 ~~8. Encourage each department to report at least quarterly to the board and to~~
40 ~~members at business meetings or in Sabbath meetings in regards to spiritual nurture and~~
41 ~~evangelism.~~

411-25GS CHURCH BOARD AND ITS MEETINGS - *CHURCH*
MANUAL AMENDMENT - 4

1 9. Receive regular reports. The board should consider details of church business and
2 receive regular reports of the treasurer on the church's finances. ~~The board should study the~~
3 ~~membership record and inquire into the spiritual standing of all members and provide for visits~~
4 ~~to sick, discouraged, or backslidden members.~~ Other officers should periodically report.

5
6 10. Promote Adventist education.

7
8 Committees of the Board—The board should permit no other business - No change

1 PRE/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/414-24GS to GPS-25GCS

2
3 412-25GS BUSINESS MEETINGS - *CHURCH MANUAL*

4
5 RATIONALE: This amendment allows for church business meetings to be held virtually.

6
7 RECOMMENDED, To amend the Church Manual, Chapter 11, Services and Other Meetings,
8 page 134, Business Meetings, to read as follows:

9
10 **Business Meetings**

11
12 The local church operates within defined roles in Seventh-day Adventist Church
13 structure. Within the context of those roles, the business meeting is the constituency meeting of
14 the local church. (See pp. 28-29.) Members in regular standing are encouraged to attend and are
15 entitled to vote. A member under censure has no right to participate by voice or vote.

16
17 Business meetings shall be held at least once a year. The pastor, or the board in
18 consultation with and support of the pastor, calls the meeting. Business meetings should be
19 announced a week or two in advance at the regular Sabbath worship service, with detail as to
20 time and place. The pastor, an elder chosen by the pastor, or, in some cases, the conference
21 president, or his designee, serves as chairperson of the business meeting.

22
23 Each church decides what the quorum will be for future meetings.

24
25 Where allowed by local law, authorized by the conference executive committee (who
26 shall give guidance on basic principles and technical solutions), and approved by the church
27 board, members may participate in business meetings by means of an electronic conference or
28 similar communication by which all persons participating can communicate with each other at
29 the same time, and participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at such a
30 meeting. Votes by proxy or letter are not permitted.

31
32 Major items should be decided at a regular or specially called business meeting.

33
34 The business meeting has authority over the board and may delegate responsibilities to
35 the board in addition to those already assigned by the Church Manual. (See pp. 134-138.)

36
37 The business meeting agenda should include reports about the work of the church. At
38 least once a year the agenda should include reports covering church activities. Based on those
39 reports, a proposed plan of action for the next year, including an annual budget, should be
40 presented for approval. When possible, reports and plans for the next year should be presented in
41 writing. (See Notes, #7, pp. 189-190.)

42
43 In order to maintain a spirit of cooperation between the church and conference, the
44 church shall secure counsel from conference officers on all major matters.
45 Conference and union officers (president, secretary, treasurer) or their designee may attend
46 without vote (unless granted by the church) any business meeting of any church in their territory.

412-25GS BUSINESS MEETINGS - CHURCH MANUAL
AMENDMENT - 2

- 1 An action to allow voting is not required if the officer is currently a member of that
- 2 congregation.

1 OGC/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/415-24GS to GPS-25GCS

2
3 413-25GS TO FOSTER TITHING (ELDERS) - *CHURCH MANUAL*
4 AMENDMENT

5
6 RATIONALE: This amendment expresses the need for confidentiality regarding the giving
7 practices of members.

8
9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Local Church Officers and
10 Organizations, page 80, To Foster Tithing (Elders), to read as follows:

11
12 To Foster Tithing—By faithfully returning tithes, elders do much to encourage other
13 members to return a faithful tithe. (See pp. 142-143, 175.) Elders can foster tithing by public
14 presentation of the scriptural privilege and responsibility of stewardship and by personal labor
15 with members in a tactful and helpful manner. Elders should regard all personal giving
16 information as strictly confidential.

17
18 ~~Elders should regard all financial matters pertaining to members as confidential and shall~~
19 ~~not give such information to unauthorized persons.~~

1 YOU/BRI/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/416-25GS to GPS-25GCS
2
3 414-25GS ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES - *CHURCH MANUAL*
4 AMENDMENT
5

6 RATIONALE: This amendment expresses the importance of youth disciple-making.
7

8 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Local Church Officers and
9 Organizations, pages 110 to 115, Adventist Youth Ministries, 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~~ Youth Ministries department of the conference. The church works for and with its
15 youth through Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM). Under the AYM, youth are to work together,
16 in 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~~, disciple-making, the goal of AYM should be to bring
20 all youth to a saving relationship with Christ, build them up in His Word to reflect a Christ-like
21 character, train them how to serve the ~~church~~ church, public campuses, and communities using
22 their spiritual gifts, and send them out to reach the communities in the power of the Holy Spirit.
23

24 AYM Mission—To lead young people into a ~~a~~ an authentic saving relationship with Jesus
25 Christ and help them embrace His call to disciple-making and mission involvement. ~~discipleship~~.
26

27 AYM Motto—The love of Christ compels me. ~~us~~.
28

29 AYM Aim—The Advent Message to all the world in my generation.
30

31 AYM Pledge—Loving the Lord Jesus, I promise to take an active part in the youth
32 ministry of the church, doing what I can to help others and to finish the work of the gospel in all
33 the world.
34

35 The ~~youth ministries~~ Youth Ministries program of the church comprises ~~three~~ two broad
36 categories, namely: Junior Youth (Adventurers: ages 4-9 and Pathfinders: ages 10-15) and Senior
37 Youth (Ambassadors: ages 16-21, Young Adults: ages 22-30, and Public Campus Students and
38 Staff (PCM): ages 16-30+). Public Campus Ministry is a specialized Senior Youth Ministry
39 because it caters for both Ambassadors and Young Adults on public campuses. ~~ages 10-15~~,
40 Senior Youth (Ambassadors: ages 16-21 and Young Adults: ages 22-30), and Public Campus
41 Students: ages 16-30+.
42

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

414-25GS ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT - 2

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 “We have an army of youth today who can do much if they are properly directed and
12 encouraged. We want our children to believe the truth. We want them to be blessed of God. We
13 want them to act a part in well-organized plans for helping other youth. Let all be so trained that
14 they may rightly represent the truth, giving the reason of the hope that is within them, and
15 honoring God in any branch of the work where they are qualified to labor.”—GCB, Jan. 29, 30,
16 1893, p. 24.

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

26
27 “With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the
28 message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world!”—
29 MYP 196.

30
31 While there is to be an active Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) in every church, it is
32 important that the youth program not be isolated from the rest of the church. In addition to their
33 AYM participation, youth should be integrated into responsible leadership and in all lines of
34 church work. As young elders, deacons, and deaconesses, for example, they can work with and
35 learn from experienced officers.

36
37 “In order that the work may go forward in all its branches, God calls for youthful vigor,
38 zeal, and courage. He has chosen the youth to aid in the advancement of His cause. To plan with
39 clear mind and execute with courageous hand demands fresh, uncrippled energies. Young men
40 and women are invited to give God the strength of their youth, that through the exercise of their
41 powers, through keen thought and vigorous action, they may bring glory to Him and salvation to
42 their fellow men.”—GW 67.

414-25GS ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES - CHURCH MANUAL
AMENDMENT - 3

1
2 Adventist Youth Ministries Committee—The Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM)
3 Committee is the umbrella organization in the church for the general planning of the youth
4 ministry program. (See pp. 139-140.) The AYM Committee includes the following church-
5 elected officers: Young Adults leader, Public Campus ~~Ministry Ministries~~ leader/coordinator,
6 Ambassador leader, Pathfinder director, Adventurer director, plus the ~~personal ministries~~
7 Personal Ministries leader, youth Sabbath School division leader, ~~children's ministries~~
8 Children's Ministries leader, ~~health ministries~~ Health Ministries leader, principal of the school,
9 the AYM advisor, and the pastor. The Young Adults leader, Ambassador leader, Pathfinder
10 director, Adventurer director, and Public Campus ~~Ministry Ministries~~ leader are members of the
11 church board.

12
13 If there are no distinct Ambassador ~~Ministry or Young Adults Ministry~~ ministry or young
14 ~~adults ministries~~ established in the church, or until such time as they are established, the AYM
15 Committee will plan for the senior youth ministry to include both age groups.

16
17 In parts of the world where there is no Pathfinder or Adventurer ministry, or until such
18 time as they are organized, the AYM Committee will plan for appropriate activities for the junior
19 youth.

20
21 The Young Adults leader may chair the AYM Committee. The committee should meet as
22 necessary to develop short- and long-range goals and plans for a successful ministry. (See Notes,
23 #19, p. 184.)

24
25 Young Adults ~~Ministry Ministries~~ Committee—The Young Adults ~~Ministry Ministries~~
26 Committee is responsible for Young Adult activities and works in coordination with the
27 Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) Committee.

28
29 The church elects the following Young Adults Ministries officers: leader, associate
30 leader, secretary-treasurer, and music director. This group forms the nucleus for the Young
31 Adults ~~Ministry Ministries~~ Committee, which appoints other officers for the respective activities.

32
33 Local churches are encouraged to have Young Adult committees and to establish Senior
34 Youth Societies (SYS). Senior Youth Societies serve as forums where evangelistic plans and
35 senior youth issues are discussed. SYS will encompass the Ambassadors, Young Adults, and
36 Public Campus Students. In these SYS meetings, young professionals should mentor those who
37 are younger than them. The Young Adults Ministry Committee will manage the SYS.

38
39 Public Campus ~~Ministries—Strengthening~~ Ministry—Strengthening the Youth Ministries
40 of the church, Public Campus ~~Ministries~~ Ministry (PCM), in collaboration with the Adventist
41 Ministry to College and University Students (AMiCUS), provides vision and strategic planning

414-25GS ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES - CHURCH MANUAL
AMENDMENT - 4

1 for ministry to and support for Seventh-day Adventist students (ages 16-30+) who attend college
2 or university institutions not operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

3
4 Public Campus ~~Ministries~~ Ministry Leader/Coordinator—The church ~~may~~ should appoint
5 a Public Campus ~~Ministries~~ Ministry leader/coordinator to develop an intentional ministry with
6 the purpose of caring for the special needs of college or university students in nearby institutions
7 not operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and discipling them to fulfil the AYM goal,
8 mission, motto, and aim, in consultation with and support of the Adventist Youth Ministries
9 Committee. Each local church may adopt one or two public campuses to support Adventist
10 students and staff in executing their mission obligations and furthering their education or
11 professional lives.

12
13 Ambassador Ministry—The Ambassador Ministry provides - No change

14
15 Ambassador Committee—The Ambassador Committee is responsible for Ambassador
16 activities and works in coordination with the Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) Committee.

17
18 The church elects the following Ambassador officers: leader, associate leader, secretary
19 treasurer, assistant secretary-treasurer, and music director. This group forms the Ambassador
20 Committee which appoints other officers for the respective activities.

21
22 Pathfinder Club—The Pathfinder Club provides a church-centered outlet for the spirit of
23 adventure and exploration, in the context of spiritual development and soul-winning, for ages 10
24 to 15. Activities are carefully tailored to ~~include~~ include, but not limited to, spiritual growth,
25 leadership skills, witnessing opportunities, disciple-making, outdoor living, nature exploration,
26 crafts, hobbies, or vocations.

27
28 Pathfinder Committee—The Pathfinder Club director and deputy directors are elected by
29 the church. (See pp. 111-112, 184-185.) If two deputy directors are elected, there should be one
30 male and one female. One of the deputy directors may also serve as club secretary and treasurer.

31
32 Additional Pathfinder staff may include instructors of ~~craft and nature~~ honor classes and
33 counselors who are each responsible for a unit of six to eight Pathfinders.

34
35 Resource materials are available from the conference ~~youth ministries~~ Youth Ministries
36 director.

37
38 Everyone involved in work with minor children must meet Church and legal standards
39 and requirements, such as background checks or certification. Local church leaders should
40 consult with the ~~conference,~~ conference AYM, which will ascertain and advise as to what
41 background checks and certifications are available and/or required. (See Notes, #8, pp. 180-181.)
42

414-25GS ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT - 5

1 Adventurer Club—The Adventurer Club provides home and church - No change

2
3 Adventurer Committee—The church elects the club director and associates. (See pp. 111-
4 112, 184-185.) Additional staff members are selected by the administrative staff of the club.
5 Resource materials are available from the conference ~~youth ministries~~ Youth Ministries director.
6 Everyone involved in work with minor children must meet Church and legal standards and
7 requirements, such as background checks or certification. Local church leaders should consult
8 with the conference, which will ascertain and advise as to what background checks and
9 certifications are available and/or required. (See Notes, #8, pp. 180-181.)

10
11 AYM Officers—The leaders/directors of the five youth ministry entities must exemplify
12 Christlike graces and have a burden for soul ~~winning~~ winning and nurturing, and display
13 contagious enthusiasm. The five leaders/directors are members of the church board. In helping
14 motivate youth to work together and take responsibilities, the leaders/directors will be in the
15 background—guiding, counseling, and encouraging youth, helping them gain experience and the
16 joys of achievement. The leaders/directors should study the youth profile of the church and seek
17 to involve every eligible youth in the Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM).

18
19 The leaders/directors will keep in touch with the pastor, advisor, and the conference
20 ~~youth ministries~~ Youth Ministries director, taking advantage of opportunities for in-service
21 training and leading their respective ministry into a cooperative relationship with the church and
22 the conference.

23
24 The associate leaders/deputy directors (if needed) will assist the leaders/directors and
25 perform leadership duties when the leaders/directors are absent. The respective committees may
26 assign additional responsibilities to the associate leaders/directors.

27
28 The secretary-treasurers will keep a record of the activities of their respective ministries,
29 submit monthly reports on forms provided to the conference ~~youth ministries~~ Youth Ministries
30 director, and encourage youth to report their witnessing activities during the ten-minute personal
31 ministries period.

32
33 The respective assistant secretary-treasurers (if needed) assist with the secretary-
34 treasurers' work as assigned.

35
36 AYM Advisor—The Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM) advisor may be an elder or other
37 person on the board who understands the objectives of the AYM, is sympathetic with youth and
38 their involvement in the church's ministries, and will serve as a valued counselor to the youth.
39 The advisor serves as a guide or counselor to AYM officers and joins them regularly in AYM
40 Committee meetings.

414-25GS ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES - *CHURCH MANUAL*
AMENDMENT - 6

1 The ministry leader should become acquainted with the conference ~~youth ministries~~
2 Youth Ministries director and keep the director informed of changes in officer personnel and
3 other AYM matters. Along with AYM leaders, the advisor should attend conference youth
4 training institutes to keep informed about developments in youth ministry.

5
6 For the sake of continuity, the advisor, if possible, should serve multiple terms.

7
8 Everyone involved in work with minor children must meet Church and legal standards
9 and requirements, such as background checks or certification. Local church leaders should
10 consult with the ~~conference~~, conference AYM, which will ascertain and advise as to what
11 background checks and certifications are available and/or required. (See Notes, #8, pp. 180-181.)
12

13 Resources—For ~~youth ministries~~ Youth Ministries resources, see Notes, #20, p. 184.

1 SID/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/417-24GS to GPS-25GCS

2

3 415-25GS SETTING TITHING EXAMPLE - *CHURCH MANUAL*

4 AMENDMENT

5

6 RATIONALE: This amendment expresses the importance of local church officers setting an
7 example in not just returning a faithful tithe, but also in giving offerings to the Church.

8

9 RECOMMENDED, To amend the *Church Manual*, Chapter 9, Local Church Officers and
10 Organizations, page 77, Setting Tithing Example, to read as follows:

11

12 ~~Setting Tithing Example—All officers shall set an example in the matter of returning a~~
13 ~~faithful tithe to the Church.~~ Setting an Example in Tithing and Offerings—All officers shall set an
14 example in the matter of returning a faithful tithe and giving offerings to the Church. Anyone
15 who fails to set such an example shall not be elected to church office.

1 TRE/24AC/423-24GS to GPS-25GCS

2

3 421-25GS USE OF “THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING” -

4 *CHURCH MANUAL* DIRECTIVE

5

6 RATIONALE: Since the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering is collected throughout the quarter, the
7 additional name, “Quarterly Mission Project Offering,” is being added for clarity.

8

9 RECOMMENDED, To approve a directive to amend the *Church Manual*, where appropriate, by
10 replacing “Thirteenth Sabbath Offering” with “Thirteenth Sabbath Offering (also known as
11 Quarterly Mission Project Offering).”

1 SEC/ChManSub/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/424-24GS to GPS-25GCS
2
3 422-25GSE CAPITALIZATION OF CHURCH DEPARTMENTS -
4 *CHURCH MANUAL* EDITORIAL DIRECTIVE
5
6 RATIONALE: This editorial amendment provides consistency and clarity throughout the *Church*
7 *Manual*.
8
9 RECOMMENDED, To approve a directive to amend the *Church Manual*, where appropriate, by
10 capitalizing the names of church departments (e.g. Family Ministries, Youth Ministries, etc).

1 OGC/ChMan/ADCOM(Steering)/24AC/425-24GS to GPS-25GCS

2
3 423-25GS DISSOLVING OR EXPELLING A CHURCH - *CHURCH*
4 *MANUAL* AMENDMENT

5
6 RATIONALE: This amendment clarifies the original purpose of the text.

7
8 RECOMMENDED, To amend the Church Manual, Chapter 5, Organizing, Uniting, and
9 Dissolving Churches, pages 40-42, Dissolving or Expelling a Church, to read as follows:

10
11 Dissolving or Expelling a Church

12
13 “Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and
14 cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a
15 glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and
16 without blemish. . . . For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as
17 the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones” (Eph.
18 5:25-30).

19
20 This spirit should permeate all efforts to help an erring church and all aspects of any
21 discipline that may be applied—always to help and save for the cause of God.

22
23 Church status is not necessarily perpetual. A church may be dissolved or expelled from
24 the sisterhood of churches for the following reasons:

- 25
26 1. Loss of Members—Occasionally, despite efforts to preserve - No change
27
28 2. Discipline—Occasions for expelling a church for disciplinary reasons are rare
29 because the mission of the church is to seek and to save. Where serious problems such as
30 apostasy, refusal to operate in harmony with the *Church Manual*, or rebellion against the
31 conference persist, earnest efforts should be made to avert the need for expulsion. The pastor
32 should seek to deepen the spiritual life of the church through preaching and personal visitation
33 ministries. The conference should encourage a series of revival meetings to lead the members to
34 renew their covenant with their Lord. If these efforts are unsuccessful, the pastor, in cooperation
35 with the conference executive committee, should counsel with the church and its leadership,
36 seeking to bring healing and reconciliation and to preserve the church.

37
38 Such remedial measures are preferable to permitting the deterioration of relationships,
39 which could lead to expulsion of the church.

40
41 However, if all efforts to preserve the church fail, the conference executive committee
42 should give careful study to the question of expulsion. If such action is decided upon, the
43 conference shall follow the following procedure:

- 44
45 a. The decision to recommend expulsion, with supporting - No change
46

423-25GS DISSOLVING OR EXPELLING A CHURCH - *CHURCH*
MANUAL AMENDMENT - 2

- 1 b. If the church does not accept the recommendation, it may respond in one
2 of the following ways:
3
4 1) Eliminating the causes for discipline and - No change
5
6 2) Appeal to the union executive committee, or to the division in case
7 of a union of churches, to ~~arbitrate~~ mediate on behalf of the church.
8
9 c. If the church remains in rebellion, the conference - No change
10
11 d. If the constituency takes action to expel, the conference - No change