

1 ORDINATION OF WOMEN – POSITION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

2 VOTED, To approve the position statement of the Inter-American Division on the Ordination
3 of Women in the Seventh-day Adventist Church as follows:

4 The Biblical Research Committee (BRC) of the Inter-American Division (IAD), following
5 the indications from the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) World Church and the IAD Executive
6 Committee, dedicated time in prayerful and careful study of the issue of ordination of women
7 within the SDA Church. The Scripture was the foundation of the main considerations and
8 with lengthy discussion on the spiritual leadership and the hermeneutical challenge that the
9 Church is facing in the context of the end time. The following points of consensus were
10 reached and are recommended to the IAD Executive Committee as the position of the Inter-
11 American Division on the theology and practice of the ordination in our Church:

- 12 1. All the members of the Church of Christ are a "royal priesthood" to announce or
13 proclaim the gospel of salvation.
- 14 2. We are all one body and God shows no partiality: we are all sons and daughters of
15 God with the same access to salvation given by Christ.
- 16 3. God has distributed his gifts to both men and women without making any distinction.
- 17 4. God grants opportunities and field for service to women in a wide range of ministries.
- 18 5. The designation of deacons and deaconesses is grounded in Scripture.
- 19 6. There is no explicit mandate in the Bible for the ordination of women or men to
20 church leadership, yet there is no command against the same.
- 21 7. The Inter-American Division is willing to accept the ecclesiastical decision taken by
22 the SDA Church in plenary session.