

\THIRTEENTH BUSINESS MEETING

Sixtieth General Conference session, July 9, 2015, 9:30 a.m.

DELBERT BAKER: We can say with Psalm 118:24, “This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it” [NKJV]. We’d like to welcome you to the thirteenth business session. After our full day of activity yesterday and the momentous decisions that were made, we anticipate that today will be of a lesser intensity. But we do want to ask God’s blessings on this session, as we have for the 12 before this one. And so at this time we’re asking that you stand together as Pastor Gilbert Wari leads us in prayer. Let us stand together as we pray.

[Prayer.]

We would like to take a moment this morning and give some announcements as well as to introduce the people leading out here. You have seen these meetings, 12 meetings before this one. And each day you will see the recording secretary, lead secretary, and the parliamentarian, as well as the chair. This morning we’re delighted to have the services of Tami Boward as recording secretary, G. Alexander Bryant as the secretary, and the parliamentarian, whom we’ve seen for every session, I believe, Todd McFarland. We want to thank them for the great work they’re doing from session to session. There’s a lot of background activity that goes on, and we thank them for the good work they’re doing.

This morning we have a lot to thank God for. He brought us through yesterday. And there is no question about it—God was with our session. And He blessed us there. Regardless of the outcome, we give God the glory. So I believe that whatever the feelings may be, we take it to God in prayer. And as we were challenged yesterday by Pastor Wilson, we seek a spirit of unity and well-being, trusting God for the outcome. And that’s our prayer this morning even we start the session.

We have passed the midpoint in this General Conference session here in San Antonio. Probably right now you’re thinking about leaving in a few days. Now, if you’re like me, you’ve got a few collections. You’ve got probably the program guide here that you’ll take back as a souvenir to remember all of the different sessions, the various things in there.

Surely you would have the *General Conference Rules of Order*, and we talked a little about that. That's a keepsake you can take back with you and just kind of have around, look at it from time to time, study it, get to know it.

And then, of course, we have here something very, very special. These *Adventist Reviews* have been outstanding journals. You've seen them from day to day. They capture, in this magazine, the events of the preceding day. And I hope you have a collection, the entire collection, of all the journals. That will be your record or diary of what happened in the sessions. So I trust you have these. And then, of course, you want to keep your badge. Your badge kind of reminds you of the role you play in this great meeting here, 2015, San Antonio.

Now there are a few announcements that we want to make this morning that are very, very important.

The first one has been shared several times before. I know I took it to heart. And that is the voting device. That little device that you were given at the beginning of the session is expensive. It's valuable. And they need it back. So they're asking that you take it to the scanners. You may want to do it right during the session. You may want to slip over to the scanners and give them your voting device. They'll scan your card to be sure that you're turning yours in. That can happen. But try not to get in the way. We don't want to overwhelm them with that, so probably that's something you'll want to do in an off time after the meetings, I should say. Bring your badge, voting device, to the session management office. That would be ideal. But you can also give it to the scanners on the way out. You can see it there on the screen, room C, the session management office.

Now, they've asked me to make this announcement three times: at the beginning, during the middle, and at the end. Because quite a few people still have their badges, and we need you to cooperate with us and turn those in. So please turn in the voting devices.

OK. At this time we have an announcement by Williams Costa. He is going to tell us about some of the special features that are available as far as music and various things that can enrich you in the last two days of our session.

Pastor Costa.

WILLIAMS COSTA: Thank you, Pastor Delbert.

We would like to call your attention to some highlights that we'll have during the next days until the end of the session. We have in the gallery, close to the exposition center, presentations of the movie *The Creation: The Earth's Witness* in different languages. We have this movie available in 19 languages. So if you want to take opportunity to see the movie on the big screen with 5.1 surround sound in your language, go there. It's at noon until 2:00 and then from 5:00 to 7:00 today and tomorrow, creation movie, available in Chinese, in Korean, in Romanian, English, in Spanish, in 19 languages.

The other thing is regarding the music. We have in the exposition center concerts from 12:00 noon to 2:00 and from 5:00 to 7:00 from musicians from all the world, beautiful music. Just to highlight some names: Aeolians, Stephanie Campbell, Charles Halbrook, Jennifer LaMountain, Nigerian Adventist, and many other wonderful musicians. So please take the opportunity to go to these places and enjoy beautiful music and the presentation of the creation movie on a big screen with 5.1 surround sound. Thank you very much.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you, Pastor. Thank you for that.

And probably, as you're thinking back, you can be very encouraged by so many powerful messages like the one this morning. Those are some of the special memories you can take away from this sixtieth General Conference session.

Let me just take a moment and share with you some of the high points of our agenda this morning so you'll know what to expect during this particular session.

In a moment we will have the GC Corporation members' meeting, which will be led by Pastor Wilson; we will have a piece on the Amazing Facts anniversary; we will have a report from the Nominating Committee; and then we will have constitution and bylaws agenda items that we'll cover. We have an exciting project that's going on, the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*, and then we will have the *Church Manual* items with the remaining time. That's the agenda for this morning.

We have on microphone 4, Gerry Karst.

GERRY KARST: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

You've already made reference to the *Adventist Review* this morning. But I think it would be nice for this delegation to go on record as giving a vote of appreciation to the immense amount of work that goes into producing these bulletins every single day. These people must be up all night long, and I would like for it to go on record that we appreciate what they're doing.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Excellent.

GERRY KARST: These people are visible because we see their paper. There's another group who are invisible that I think we should pay tribute to as well, and that is those who are up there in the translation booth. I think we ought to express our appreciation to them as well.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. Thank you. Excellent, Pastor Karst. Thank you for that. He's just highlighting the fact that not only do we see the names in the *Adventist Review*, the ones that are visible, but he's talking about the support staff that is behind the scenes. They're giving incredible work, backup, making these possible, these things we will take home and remember the session with.

So we're taking that in the form of a motion.

Is there a second? It's been seconded.

Any discussion of the motion?

All of those in favor of showing support for giving a vote of affirmation for the *Adventist Review* and related items, please show the uplift card.

OK. Those who are opposed, the same sign.

I believe it is unanimous. Thank you. Thank you.

And that will be conveyed on to them.

One other item by way of announcement, someone has found a passport from Madagascar, and you need your passport. You can't get out of the country without your passport. So if you have misplaced or lost a passport from Madagascar, please go to the session management office and pick it up. Fortunately it's there waiting for you if you have misplaced it. Thank you for that.

At this time we'd like to turn the chair over to Pastor Wilson for the GC Corporation meeting at this time.

TED N. C. WILSON: Thank you very much, Pastor Baker. And we will reopen the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists meeting to hear a report from the Nominating Committee regarding the actual recommendation for the board of directors.

So I turn to our secretary and to—actually, the Nominating Committee, and then we'll turn to our secretary of the corporation board.

HOMER TRECARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nominating Committee has looked at the names that were recommended, and we will bring you that report now. Dr. Leslie Pollard, our secretary, will read the report and make the motion.

LESLIE POLLARD: Dr. G. T. Ng, secretary; Dr. Juan Prestol-Puesan, treasurer. Board members: Dr. Guillermo Biaggi, Elder Thomas lemon, Dr. Geoffrey Mbwana, Elder Daniel Jackson, Elder Myron Iseminger, Elder J. Raymond Wahlen, Elder John Thomas, Dr. G. Alex Bryant, Dr. Timothy Aka, Mr. George Egwakhe, Ms. Daisy Orion, Elder G. Thomas Evans, Attorney Robert Kyte.

Brother Chairman, I move these names to serve as members of the GC corporation board.

TED N. C. WILSON: All right. It's been moved and seconded. Any discussion on this item? All right.

All in favor—let's get the voting cards out again.

All those in favor, please show your card. Thank you very much.

Those opposed, the same sign.

Thank you. We appreciate this very much.

Sister Secretary, any other comments that you have?

DAISY ORION: There is no other business, Mr. Chairman, so I move to adjourn the meeting.

TED N. C. WILSON: All right. It's been moved to adjourn. Is there a second? All right.

Any comments?

All in favor of adjournment, please raise your cards.

Thank you very much.

Those opposed, the same.

Thank you. And the corporation meeting is ended.

Just before I turn over the microphone to Pastor Baker to continue, I want to remark that I had an individual, a delegate, from Papua New Guinea, tell me that there were approximately, I believe it was, 650 members who have come from Papua New Guinea, and wherever you might be, we want to welcome you and encourage you to stay faithful in that beautiful country of Papua New Guinea.

[Applause.]

Also, for all delegates, sometime, perhaps at the end of this business session—and perhaps Pastor Baker can remind you—there is available for all delegates a very important book called *New York City, A Symbol*. Ellen White indicated that New York was to be a symbol as to how the rest of the world was to be worked in terms of large cities.

As you know, we had NY13, a very special emphasis during Mission to the Cities in the year 2013. And this book will help you understand how to put together an aggressive plan for your city: *Spirit of Prophecy and Biblical Understanding*. This is a book that is actually being produced by Global Mission Urban Center, and Jairston Santos, who is now transitioning into another area in Secretariat, has been one of the driving forces behind it. This will be available to all delegates, so be sure to get your copy.

And the last item before I turn this back to Pastor Baker is that a church member requested that we welcome God's angels into our building and our meetings. And I think that was a beautiful thought. We thank God for the Holy Spirit that is present with us, for the angels that have been hovering in this particular area and protecting each of us. As we go into this business session and as Pastor Baker leads us, may the angels be especially close to us.

Thank you for your kind cooperation.

DELBERT BAKER: At this time we'll have a continuation of the Nominating Committee report, and following that, we will have special music.

Gentlemen, please.

HOMER TRECARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a partial report. We think the next report will be the last one, but this one is still a partial report. And our secretary, Dr. Leslie Pollard, will read that to us.

LESLIE POLLARD: And, delegates, these names represent the division officers that we're presenting this morning as recommendations of the Nominating Committee. We will present them as an entire slate of officers. From the East-Central Africa Division for the position of secretary: Dr. Alain Coralie. Because of a retirement, he is moving into this position.

The next name, for the East-Central Africa Division treasurer: Elder Jerome Habimana, who is the incumbent.

For the Euro-Asia Division secretary, this is a new appointment to the current position: Elder Viktor Alyeksyeyenko.

For the Euro-Asia Division treasurer: Elder Brent Burdick, who is the incumbent.

For the Inter-American Division secretary position, moving into a new role: Elder Barna Magyarosi.

The Inter-American Division treasurer position: Elder Norbert Zens, who is the incumbent.

Moving into the Inter-American Division for the position of secretary, the incumbent is being recommended by the Nominating Committee: Elder Eli Henry.

The Inter-American Division treasurer: Filiberto Verduzco, who is also the incumbent.

Now we turn to the North American Division position. The incumbent, assuming and continuing the role: Elder G. Alexander Bryant as secretary of the North American Division.

Continuing in the role of North American Division treasurer: Elder G. Thomas Evans, who is an incumbent.

To assume the position of treasurer in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division: Elder German Lust, who is new.

To the position of division secretary, the incumbent has accepted another call. For the South American Division secretary: Elder Edward Heidinger.

For the South American Division treasurer, the incumbent continues in the role as recommended by the Nominating Committee: Elder Marlon de Souza Lopes.

Now to the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean position for the position of secretary. The incumbent is being recommended to continue: Elder Solomon Maphosa.

To the position of treasurer for the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean division, the incumbent continues as recommended by the committee: Elder Goodwell Nthani.

To the South Pacific Division we turn. For the position of secretary, the incumbent is recommended to continue: Elder Lionel Smith.

To the South Pacific Division treasurer position, the incumbent also is also recommended to continue: Elder Rodney Brady.

Now, to the Southern Asia-Pacific Division secretary position, the incumbent is recommended to continue: Elder Saw Samuel.

The Southern Asia-Pacific Division treasurer, the position is being assumed because of a retirement: Elder Max Langi.

To the Southern Asia Division, secretary, a new position, a new appointment to this position: Measapogu Wilson to serve as secretary.

Now to the Trans-European Division. The secretary recommended to continue by the caucus and the Nominating Committee: Mrs. Audrey Andersson as incumbent.

To the Trans-European Division, the treasurer position continues: Elder Nenad Jepuranovic.

To the West-Central Africa Division, the secretary, now moving into the role because of a retirement: Elder Kingsley Anonaba.

And then to the West-Central Africa treasurer position. The incumbent is recommended to continue: Elder Emmanuel Manu.

Brother Chairman, I recommend these names, and I move them.

DELBERT BAKER: OK, it's been so moved. Is there a second? I see quite a few cards.

Discussion? I see two at the microphone. Microphone 6, Boyce Mkhize, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

BOYCE MKHIZE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I just wanted to make an observation, and it is not related to this. It's an inquiry just in the order of proceedings today. And so I would like to stand in the back of the line.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. We have Megan Mole, Trans-European Division, microphone 6.

MEGAN MOLE: Thank you, Brother Chair.

I move to refer this report back to the Nominating Committee because of severe underrepresentation of women and young people. Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. It's moved. Is there a second?

I see seconds over here.

All right. It's debatable. Are there any comments before we take it to the vote, if you want to refer it back?

I see one at the microphone. I'm not sure if it's for this item. It's probably not for this item. OK.

We're ready for the vote.

All those in favor of referring it back to the committee—which means, by the way, just so I'm clear, they will meet with our Nominating Committee members behind stage, so that will take place, and we'll move on with business. But, OK, we're ready for the vote now.

If you want to refer it back to the Nominating Committee, providing opportunity for them to meet with the Nominating Committee leaders behind stage, we will do that.

But I see a speaker first, before we vote.

Microphone 6, Kenaope Kenaope, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

KENAOPE KENAOPE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I wish, Mr. Chair, you can give a rationale for nominations of this nature coming from caucuses. Maybe that may help. I thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: OK.

HOMER TRECARTIN: Mr. Chairman, the recommendations that have been brought to you today have come from the caucuses. You elected members of the Nominating Committee. Those members from each division have caucused and brought these recommendations to us. The Nominating Committee as a whole looked at those recommendations from each division caucus, those that you elected, and have recommended them to you.

If the motion is passed to refer this, the Nominating Committee will have to go and meet again. But the Nominating Committee is not the one that brought these names. These were brought by your delegates that you elected to the caucuses.

So if we go back and discuss it, we will probably have to defer a decision until the caucuses could meet again and see if they would recommend new names to be brought back to the process. So, Mr. Chairman, my feeling is that these have come from the caucuses, and the Nominating Committee has recommended them here. Now we need to see if the body would like that process reconsidered or if you are ready to go ahead and vote on the names that the caucuses have recommended.

DELBERT BAKER: Well, thank you, Pastor Trecartin. That's helpful for us to get that clarification. So the delegates are fully aware that that means, then, that if we, in fact, refer it back, the entire committee must reconvene. So it won't be behind the stage, but the whole committee must deal with this.

So again, repeating, the names were taken to the committee from the caucuses that have met.

OK. I see on microphone 1, James Makinde, West-Central Africa Division. Dr. Makinde.

JAMES MAKINDE: Thank you very much, Brother Chair.

To go back to the Nominating Committee when there is no specific, I wonder which of the divisions would be made to reconsider. Because it's just a general thing. It's like we're referring back the whole thing. I don't believe that this is something that we should actually be mentioning here.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Dr. Makinde, that's a good question. The response, the reply, is that we won't divide it up. We won't take part of the list. The entire list will go back to the Nominating Committee. Thank you for that.

OK. We have a point of order on microphone 5, Chester Clark, point of order.

CHESTER CLARK: Yes, thank you, Chair.

If I'm not mistaken, a motion to refer is not debatable.

DELBERT BAKER: Excuse me. Repeat that, please.

CHESTER CLARK: I believe that a motion to refer is actually not debatable. We just need to vote on it.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. The note is that the motion is definitely referring back to the Nominating Committee, and that's correct.

So we are ready to vote. That's correct.

So we will vote this item on the referral.

OK. We're ready for the vote, meaning that if you vote in favor of the referral, that means that the whole list goes back to the Nominating Committee, not part of it, not behind the stage. The whole list goes back to the Nominating Committee. So we understand it.

All right. We're ready for the vote.

All of those in favor of referring the entire list back to the Nominating Committee, please show by the uplifted card.

OK. Those who are opposed to referring it back.

It's very, very clear. Thank you. OK. It will not be referred back.

OK. We have a point of order on microphone 2, Adwoa Asamoah-Addo from the West-Central Africa Division.

ADWOA ASAMOAH-ADDO: Sorry, Mr. Chairman, but my point needed to have been made before the vote. And it was that if you are making a referral that's on a discussion of an individual, that is

not debatable. But when it's a referral based on the reason my colleague delegates made, then I think that is very much debatable.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. The parliamentarian has counseled that it was proper for us to act on the motion as we did. Thank you for that observation.

I see two. Microphone 3, Shaun Arthur, North American Division.

SHAUN ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to say thank you, Dr. Baker, for your years of service over this past quinquennium. Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: For some reason, I'm not getting clarity on that. Would you repeat that again, please?

SHAUN ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, Dr. Baker, I just want to say thank you for your years of service and dedication—

DELBERT BAKER: Oh. Thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

It's been my pleasure to serve. I love this church, and I love the work of the church. Thank you very much.

OK. We have on microphone 6, Emmanuel Mwale, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

EMMANUEL MWALE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to support the list as it is and also to mention that while it's important for us to include young people, I believe that the positions at the GC division are for people of experience. Young people have to begin the way others have begun. I don't think the intent is that we should involve them at every level, in spite of the position that person is going to occupy. So that list as it is is OK. Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you for that. And he really has highlighted a very important point. I know I chaired one of the caucuses. And at that point that's really where all the discussion occurs; that's where people have the opportunity to make the case for diversity. All of that would come up in that

context. So it's not really the Nominating Committee that would deal with it at that level. So the caucus is the area where that discussion should, in fact, go on.

We have the motion pending, the main motion. So we have a couple more comments, then we want to move right to that unless there is some more pressing items to share.

Microphone 2, Larry Boggess, North American Division. Can you go to microphone 1? Can you jog over there, Larry, if you can?

There you are. OK. Thank you.

LARRY BOGGESS: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I want to commend the leadership who have planned this program and the GC speakers. I think this morning was an excellent demonstration of what young people can do for our devotional speaker. And sometimes I think we have ignored what our young people are trying to tell us, just like the motion to refer. For us to not learn from that little recommendation probably would be a waste of time.

But I would encourage us to start training young people for leadership positions. And I know that's got to start at the conference and division levels. But I really want to stand in support of our young adults and our youth, that we make a better effort to include them in leadership. And as we do that, as they grow in their leadership role, we will see more of them serving in division and General Conference positions. So I'm not sure how you would do that, but I just want to stand in support of the idea.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Clearly, you have informed the audience. It's been so noted. Thank you for sharing that.

Microphone 3, Sampson Maudbochi, General Conference.

SAMPSON MAUDBOCHI: Mr. Chairman, mine is an inquiry concerning the action that was taken yesterday. I would like to inquire specifically if the world territories and the action taken yesterday also applies to unions and conferences.

DELBERT BAKER: We're having a little problem with the transmission up here.

OK. Thank you for that question. That's not the item we're dealing with now, but surely you can check with some people after the program on that question.

Microphone 6, Bertold Hibner, Trans-European Division.

BERTOLD HIBNER: Brother Chairman, I fully trust that that Nominating Committee has done their job well, I believe that the Lord is working, so I stand to move the motion from the Nominating Committee.

DELBERT BAKER: Are you moving the previous question, sir?

BERTOLD HIBNER: Yes, Brother Chairman.

DELBERT BAKER: All right. It's been moved. Is there a second? OK. It's clearly seconded.

Any discussion on that?

All of those in favor, show by the uplifted card.

Opposed.

OK. It's carried. Thank you.

I think we're clear on the names. They are clearly ready. Now we're ready for the main vote. It's been moved, seconded, there's no further discussion, ready for the vote.

All of those in favor, show by the uplifted card.

OK. All of those opposed, same sign.

It's clearly, clearly carried. Thank you, gentlemen, for the fine work—

HOMER TRECARTIN: Mr. Chairman, we have another partial report that we would like to present at this time.

LESLIE POLLARD: And these are the names, delegates, for the GC departments as recommended by the Nominating Committee.

The General Conference Health Ministries associate director, Dr. Fred Hardinge. He is an incumbent and being recommended for continuation.

The next name, General Conference Health Ministries associate director—

HOMER TRECARTIN: Trying to get the pictures up for everybody.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. We're waiting for the picture. Here we go. All right.

LESLIE POLLARD: Dr. Fred Hardinge, who is an incumbent returning to the General Conference Health Ministries Department.

A new name is being recommended for participation for service into the General Conference Health Ministries Department, an associate director. There was a retirement that took place, and the name being recommended is Mrs. Katia Reinert, currently the North American Division health ministries director.

The other associate being recommended for the General Conference Health Ministries—for the General Conference Health Ministries Department as associate director, Dr. Zeno Lancelot Charles-Marcel. He is new to the position. And he's being recommended.

For the General Conference Communication Department, two associate directors are being recommended. The first is an incumbent, Mr. Andre Brink. The second incumbent is also being recommended for continuation in the GC Communication Department is Mr. Garrett Caldwell.

The final name of this slate of officers that we are presenting—of associates that we are presenting this morning—is for the GC Publishing Ministries associate director position: Mr. Wilmar Hirle, as an incumbent.

Brother Chairman, I move these names.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. It's been moved. Is there a second? I see quite a few seconds here.

OK. All right. Discussion on the list just shared. I see one, microphone 2, Louis Torres, North American Division.

LOUIS TORRES: Mr. Chairman, I kind of sense, on the part of some delegates, that they don't understand how to move to divide the question, and so they come up and they're trying to say something about, well, can we vote on one?

Can you explain to the delegates how to divide the question in the event that they want to separate the names and move on one name at a time? I don't want to delay it, but I think they should understand how that goes. Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you, Pastor. That's a good observation. We won't deal with that now. It's not to the main motion. We have got to come back to this one.

I see a person at microphone 3, Vivencio Bermudez, Southern Asia-Pacific Division.

VIVENCIO BERMUDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It is not my intention to refer back to the committee, but I'd like to praise the Lord for the new setup of the publishing leadership of the General Conference. I love them, and I respect them. And the Lord will use them.

However, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make an observation. I wish and pray that in the future, there could be equal distribution of leadership so that the world field would be represented. Thank you very much.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much.

OK. I don't see any further speakers, so we are now ready to vote on the main motion.

All right. All those in favor, show by the uplifted card.

Thank you.

Those opposed, same sign.

It is carried. Thank you for that.

HOMER TRECARTIN: Mr. Chairman, we would like to introduce the two groups to you. The first group that we would like to introduce are the division secretaries and treasurers who were just voted. If they could come out, we will introduce them to you.

[Applause.]

OK. Can we give them a hearty amen? Thank you. Thank you very much. God bless you all.

[Applause.]

HOMER TRECARTIN: And then we would like to bring out the newly elected associate directors for some of the departments.

[Applause.]

I see this is the second group of the division officers, not the department coordinators.

DELBERT BAKER: Amen for the treasurers. Thank you.

[Applause.]

HOMER TRECARTIN: OK. Now I think we're ready for the department associate coordinators.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Let's give them an amen. Thank you for the opportunity here. Yes.

Thank you. God bless them all.

HOMER TRECARTIN: Mr. Chairman, that is all we have for right now, but we will be back in a little while with another report.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you, Pastor. Good word.

At this time, we're going to have a music break. We have C. A. Murray who will sing for us. And we'll continue with our business after that.

[Song.]

Thank you, Pastor Murray. Thank you very much. At this time we'll have Pastor Wilson, who will present the Amazing Facts anniversary.

TED N. C. WILSON: Thank you, Brother Chairman. What a marvelous voice Pastor C. A. Murray has, and what a beautiful message in his song. Jesus reaches down, He lifts me, and He reaches me. What a wonderful message.

Pastor Murray works with Three Angels Broadcasting Network, 3ABN. I want to give a wonderful encouragement to that ministry, a supporting ministry. They are a powerful way in which the gospel and the Adventist message are reaching thousands of people. I praise God for 3ABN, for other supporting ministries that penetrate airwaves, LLBN, and many others. We are grateful for Hope Channel and its central role in guiding in our church. But these other supporting ministries are a great blessing, and we cooperate together with them. Thank you, Pastor Murray and the team from 3ABN.

It's a privilege to talk about another organization that brings in tremendous evangelistic emphasis to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the public. Amazing Facts is celebrating their fiftieth anniversary. Amazing Facts is amazing. It reaches into the far corners of the earth with messages that bring hope and encouragement.

They preach a Bible-based message in a powerful way.

Doug Batchelor is, of course, the president of Amazing Facts and has done much to bring it into a very international setting.

We have a short video that we want to show in honor of their anniversary and the work that is being done. Let us pray for all our media ministries, those that are reaching out, either supporting ministries or those part of the church, and Amazing Facts is a part of the organized denominational structure. Let's pray for these as they reach the huge cities of the world and penetrate into the homes and hearts of people everywhere. Let's watch the special video of commemoration.

[Playing of video.]

[Applause.]

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. Thank you for that.

Moving on, we have a speaker at microphone 6, Boyce Mkhize, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

BOYCE MKHIZE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to applaud the level of preparedness that has been evident in this session and the professional organization.

However, I do have an observation to make; and that is that we seem to be sliding away from the principle that says the General Conference in session is the highest authority. And that is basically supported by the fact that there seems to be a shifting of focus from the GC session floor to administration.

Examples quickly. The reduction of vice presidents issue was never dealt with here. It was dealt with elsewhere.

The delegates yesterday pleaded for an extension of time. That was never granted to them.

And I think that it is an issue that we need to look at carefully, because if we continue in this trend, this house will no longer be the highest authority, as established in the policy.

The second observation I wish to make is that the reporting today says the church votes against women's ordination. That's inaccurate, because the vote yesterday was to say that we do not authorize divisions to vote or to deal with this matter of women's ordination. And so the reporting is not accurate.

Last, there seems to be some level of intolerance, particularly from the chairpersons. "Some" chairpersons, I must emphasize.

Is it appropriate for a chairperson to rule on a point of order before the speaker has articulated the point of order in its fullest? Because some of the chairpersons have been ruling speakers off. And while the speaker is—

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Time.

You made a number of points. And I think you have made note of the first several points. The last one about the ruling of the chairperson on the point of order: I think clearly it's the prerogative of the chair to listen to the point of order, and if he or she feels that they understand the gist of it, they can rule on it.

Now, the assumption is that they have heard it, they understand it, and they can speak to it, especially if it is going on. So that's the response to that.

And your other points were so noted.

Moving to microphone 2, Louis Torres, North American Division.

LOUIS TORRES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't wish to belabor the point. My name was actually up last time before the motion came up, but the young man canceled out when you asked him to clear the list. And so I still feel that the delegation should be at least informed as to how to divide the question, because it would have also affected that motion that was presented. Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you, Pastor. I think we have addressed that, but I appreciate your comment.

Microphone 2, Kwasi Aniagyei, West-Central Africa Division.

KWASI ANIAGYEI: Mr. Chair, I just want to thank Amazing Facts for the global thrust. When I became an Adventist, I had a very strong Protestant background. My mama spent some time with me, she

passed some comments. And she went back to the city, and [Joe Crews] was conducting a crusade. The next time, my mama was baptized, and she's now a Seventh-day Adventist.

In addition to that, my auntie, who was also a non-Adventist, joined the same church, the Amazing Facts church. And today I can proudly say that almost all my family are Seventh-day Adventists.

I just want to appreciate the work Joe Crews started in Ghana and what Doug Batchelor is continuing to do. Amazing Facts is great. And let's all support them. Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you for the wonderful testimony. Thank you for that.

At this time, we're moving on to our constitution and bylaws agenda. Well, I see—it just came up. Pastor Iseminger can come on up as we prepare for that.

But we have a speaker on microphone 6, David Ripley, Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

DAVID RIPLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not wanting to bring back the discussion tomorrow. But one of the things that it showed us is that we have a world church looking at the same Scriptures and coming up with very different interpretations. I think that points out that this church has very divided hermeneutics or rules of interpretation. And I would like to make a motion that this world church will take time to study and to help us bring together what our hermeneutic really is, because we're using two very different ones.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ripley, for that observation. While we're not accepting the motion, we definitely do take note of what you said. And so your recommendation will be referred to Steering Committee.

DAVID RIPLEY: When would it be proper to bring that motion?

DELBERT BAKER: Well, we're not taking new business from the floor. It has been noted that it will be referred to Steering Committee, who will look at your item and take note of it. That's the process in which it's done.

DAVID RIPLEY: You have accepted other motions; why not mine?

DELBERT BAKER: Well, it's new business. That's the reason we're saying that. It's not the fact that it's not being dealt with. It will be dealt with. But the proper way to do this is to refer this to the Steering Committee, who makes the agenda, and they will look into the hermeneutic item that you just raised.

DAVID RIPLEY: I don't understand why you're not accepting this.

DELBERT BAKER: The point is that all items that are not on the agenda should be referred properly to the Steering Committee. Now, what you could do is you can move to refer this to the Steering Committee. How do you feel about that? Is that good?

DAVID RIPLEY: I would like to move that this goes to the Steering Committee—

DELBERT BAKER: OK.

DAVID RIPLEY: —and it's reported back this session.

DELBERT BAKER: You can refer to the Steering Committee. We'll take note of the fact that it is your wish to get some word back to it. We know you want to get the word back. We'll try to get the word back. Is that OK with you?

DAVID RIPLEY: You need to assure me that it will be reported back.

DELBERT BAKER: I can't assure you, but I will pass it on. I mean, everyone hears it, it's a public item, you have made the point clearly. You referred to the Steering Committee, they can take action on it, and we will definitely take note that you would like to get word back on that in terms of how that's being handled. OK?

DAVID RIPLEY: Thank you. Because I think it's very important for us to have a united church, and right now we're divided.

DELBERT BAKER: Your point is well taken. It's been moved. Is there a second? OK. I see a second.

All right. Is there discussion on that?

OK. All of those in favor, show by the uplifted card.

OK. All those opposed.

I think it's carried. OK. So it will be referred to the Steering Committee, and the note will be attached that they're wanting word back this session in terms of how that will be addressed.

OK. At this time we're moving to constitution and bylaws with our undersecretary, Myron Iseminger.

MYRON ISEMINGER: Thank you, Brother Chair. I would like you to turn to page 16 in your agenda materials. This is the agenda that we are hoping to get through this morning. There are also a couple items that were referred by the Constitution and Bylaws Standing Committee that met last week, and so I will note those at the proper time.

Let me just say: If you're using the electronic devices for your agenda, I noticed some of you maybe are having problems keeping up. I hope to move quite quickly on that today. And so I want to encourage you to look for an app that would allow you to jump quickly to the items. If it's in blue, you can jump directly to that item and then back and back and forth to the agenda.

So the first item—I will be taking these in order—is actually on page 74 of your agenda.

The rationale behind this is the fact that we have added a research component to the functions of the General Conference Office of Archives and Statistics, and the new name that we are using is the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research. And so the proposal changes the title wherever it is mentioned in the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws.

You'll note in the heading on line 4, we call this an "editorial directive." It would be impractical to list every instance with a strike-out and the new title, so this is how we accomplish that.

So, Mr. Chair, I recommend to approve the directive to amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws where appropriate by replacing "Archives and Statistics" with "Archives, Statistics, and Research."

DELBERT BAKER: OK, it's been moved. Is there a second? All right. That's a pretty basic fundamental issue here. I see a speaker at microphone 5, Clinton Wahlen, General Conference.

CLINTON WAHLEN: Thank you, Brother Chair.

I'd just like to appreciate the work of the Department of Archives, Statistics, and Research. I speak in favor of this motion. Over the past quinquennium, during our study, they have been of immense value in the study of ordination that we've concluded. And so I want to express appreciation and support of this motion.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you. Thank you, Doctor. That is so noted, and that is a noted affirmation for the good work that Archives is doing. Thank you.

All right. There's no further discussion. Then we are ready for the vote on the changing of the name in the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws.

OK. All those who are in favor, show by the uplifted card.

All right. Those who are opposed.

It is clearly carried. Thank you.

MYRON ISEMINGER: OK. Brother Chair, on page 75, the next item is also an editorial directive. And the rationale behind this is that in some regions of the world the title "chief financial officer" is preferred over the title "treasurer." So this proposal endorses the use of either title and inserts the dual language in the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws wherever the title "treasurer" is mentioned, reflecting the change that's already been voted by the General Conference Executive Committee and reflected in *Working Policy*.

So I would move to approve this directive to amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws where appropriate by replacing "treasurer" with "treasurer/chief financial officer."

DELBERT BAKER: It has been moved. Do I see a second? There is a second.

I see a speaker on microphone 6, Megan Mole.

MEGAN MOLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I know we're not currently taking amendments for unamended text, and I know we're currently talking about treasurers, but I just wanted to raise a point that was also raised at the Trans-European Division annual council. We're replacing the word "treasurer" with "chief financial officer," but the word "secretary," especially in translation, is also quite a confusing term. So I'd like to suggest to the

Constitution and Bylaws Committee that we consider replacing the word “secretary” with, for example, “chief operating officer.” Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. I just checked, and they will take that. They have so noted your suggestion, and they’ll look into that.

OK. We’re ready for the vote.

All those who are in favor, would you please show by the uplifted card.

Thank you.

Those who are opposed.

OK. So noted. Thank you. [Voted.]

Next item.

MYRON ISEMINGER: Page 76, the next one, the rationale actually is split in two distinct items that are being changed here. The background of the first is this past April the *Adventist Review* went from a weekly to a monthly publication. And Article V has been adjusted to tie the publication of notices for the General Conference session to a time period rather than to specific issues of the *Adventist Review*, as used in the current wording. So the new wording also allows for the notices to be placed in other publications if deemed appropriate.

And those changes are noted on lines 20 and 21, and I won’t take the time to read them. I think it’s fairly clear, and they are on the screen.

The second item that’s being changed in Article V relates to Section 8(f), which codified the practice that the General Conference Executive Committee has been doing, and that is to define the process and the distribution for the one category of session delegates at large that it appoints. So you can see down on line 39 of page 76, this is the section relating to delegates at large representing the General Conference, its institutions, divisions of the General Conference, and the division institutions.

And then it talks about how they are appointed.

If you go to the next page, page 77, you will see the wording. Actually, the changes begin on line 9, but I will read from line 7. “Those representatives of the General Conference and division institutions

and other entities, and those employees, field secretaries, laypersons, and pastors who are selected by the Executive Committee of the General Conference and its divisions, by a process and distribution as defined by the Executive Committee of the General Conference.”

And so this simply clarifies the process for selecting delegates at large who represent the General Conference. I move the motion.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. It's been moved. Is there a second? It's a pretty basic item, but very important.

All right. I see a second.

Is there discussion?

No discussion.

Then we're ready for the vote. All those in favor—

Ah, I see one. We have microphone 3, Leezel Deza, North American Division, please.

LEEZEL DEZA: As a female, a young married mother, visible minority, who loves God, Mr. Chair, I understand people are very tired and want things to move along quickly. But I ask that the note is taken that there be a better representation of young people and women who represent our church in the future.

Women comprise more than half of our church, and people under 30 represent around 45 percent, and this is clearly not evident in the church organizational level. Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. It's not speaking to the motion at hand, but your concern is noted. Thank you.

We have a speaker on microphone 6, Berit Elkjaer, Trans-European Division.

BERIT ELKJAER: I support those words.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. So noted. It's been stated and reaffirmed. OK. Thank you.

Microphone 4, Danijela Schubert, South Pacific Division.

DANIJELA SCHUBERT: I would just like to request to be clarified that now that we are voting constitution and bylaws, we need a two-thirds majority vote? Is that correct?

DELBERT BAKER: That is correct. And we have been receiving that. Yes. Thank you. We are, in fact, receiving more than two thirds, in fact.

OK. Any other comments? I don't want to rush, but we do want to move.

All right. We're ready for the vote.

All those in favor, please show by the uplifted card.

OK. Opposed, same sign.

Thank you. All right.

MYRON ISEMINGER: OK, Brother Chair, I would like to refer now to a handout that you should have received. Did you receive a three-page handout? OK. If there is need for a handout, you can wave your voting cards, and our ushers will help you with that. But I'm taking these in the order that they appear in the constitution just for organization's sake.

And so now I'm referring to page 2 of the handout that you received. It looks like we have a section back here, the materials distribution people for your area. Could you please see that they get this? In the meantime, we will project this on the screen as well.

I believe that's the only section that did not receive them.

This item deals with the expression "general field secretaries." And as some background, we actually have not elected people with the designation of a "general field secretary"—that's different than "field secretary"—as their assignment for a number of years. And so we propose to remove that designation from Article VI.

You'll see in the rationale up at the top I also contrasted this "field secretaries," which we will speak to when we get to Article IX of the bylaws. And these are dealing with persons who are appointed by a specific board and, by virtue of that position, become field secretaries. So they have a specific role rather than a general role.

So because we no longer are using the expression "general field secretaries," we propose on line 21 to strike that word from the process here.

So, Mr. Chair, I move to amend the General Conference Constitution, Article VI, to read as indicated.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. It's been moved. Is there a second? There's a second.

Discussion on that?

OK. We're ready for the vote. I don't want to rush if anyone wants to speak. We want to note that.

Ready for the vote now.

All those in favor, show by the uplifted card.

All right. Thank you.

Those who are opposed? Very clear. [Voted.]

Next item?

MYRON ISEMINGER: All right. I'd like to move back to page 78 of your agenda items. This is dealing with Article VIII. And the rationale behind this is that two of our General Conference institutions, Oakwood University and Pacific Press, were transferred to the North American Division during the past year, 2014. So their presidents would no longer qualify as ex-officio members of the General Conference Executive Committee, as these entities are no longer General Conference institutions. So the proposed change removes these leaders and reorganizes the remaining positions into separate categories.

And I will speak to that as we move through the items here. And, second, it adds a provision that an organization must remain classified as a General Conference-sponsored institution or entity in order to qualify for their executive director or president to be an ex-officio member of the General Conference Executive Committee.

So you can see on line 25 and onward this was the current wording. In addition to these two institutions I just mentioned, Oakwood University and Pacific Press, there is one other entity that is being removed from the list, and that is Griggs University. This no longer operates or exists as a separate entity, because it was adopted by Andrews University and is administered through the Andrews University administration.

So I would draw your attention to line 39. And in the first section we have, “The president/executive director of each of the following organizations”—and here’s the term that was added—”provided the respective organization remains classified as a General Conference-sponsored entity.” And then we go through the list. We have ADRA, IAF, ARM, and so forth.

If you turn to page 79, the second area is dealing with the editors of the following publications: the *Adventist Review* and so forth. These are all currently listed already, but they are grouped together as editors. Line 4—that’s number 5—the directors of Archives, Statistics, and Research, the Biblical Research Institute, Geoscience, again, these are currently listed but they are grouped together, related organizations.

And finally, on line 7, the president and board chair of the Ellen G. White Estate. So, Mr. Chair, I would move to amend the General Conference Constitution, Article VIII, with these changes that have been noted.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. It’s been moved and seconded. So we now are going to discussion. Any discussion specifically relating to these items? If so, please go to a microphone. If not, we’ll wait a minute, and then we will move to the vote.

We have a point of order on microphone 6, Gift Mpofo, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

GIFT MPOFU: Mr. Chair, we would like to request that the temperature in the dome be regulated to comfortable levels.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. That’s not speaking to the motion, but point taken. Thank you. So noted. We have conveyed that message on. They’ve heard it.

Back to the motion at hand.

All those in favor, please show by the uplifted card.

It’s clear. Thank you.

Those opposed.

All right. Thank you very much. [Voted.]

Next item.

MYRON ISEMINGER: Going on to page 80, Article X, this is dealing with the terms of office. And the proposal makes some editorial changes in the beginning of this article and then also clarifies how the term of office for division officers relates to the mandatory retirement policies or legislation in their division.

So you can see, for instance, starting on line 17, “other termination” is changed to “termination for other reasons.” These are the editorial items on lines 17, 18, 19, and 22.

But then I would like to read beginning on line 26. The proposed change would read, “The current term of office for those elected under Article VI, Section 1”—these are the division officers—“or elected by the Executive Committee between General Conference sessions to fill such office for a remainder of a term, unless government requirements dictate otherwise, is not subject to division retirement policies, which may determine specific ages for mandatory retirements. This provision does not override the service credit limitations, if any, of a retirement plan in which the person participates. Those who have passed the age of mandatory retirement, as determined by their division or legislation, shall not be eligible for election to a new term of office for positions indicated in Article VI, Section 1, in that division.”

Mr. Chair, I move that we amend Article X as indicated.

DELBERT BAKER: All right. It’s been moved.

Is there a second? I see one.

Just moving to discussion. To some delegates, this may seem like a bit of tedium going on here, but each item is very important. I have served on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. They put a lot of time and effort into this, Secretariat, legal. So all of these items are very important.

So any discussion on that before we are ready for the vote?

OK, microphone 6, we see Boyce Mkhize, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

BOYCE MKHIZE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m in support generally of the proposed amendments. I am just inquiring if there isn’t a contradiction between the sentence that reads “The current term of office for those elected under Article VI, Section 1, or elected by the Executive Committee

between General Conference sessions to fill such office for the remainder of a term, unless government requirements dictate otherwise, is not subject to division retirement policies, which may determine specific ages for mandatory requirements” and the sentence that says “Those who have passed the age of mandatory retirement, as determined by their division or legislation, shall not be eligible for election to a new term of office,” if there isn’t any contradiction between those two. Because in the earlier statement, they are not subject to retirement policies, but on the latter statement, they cannot be elected. And so I’m not sure if we don’t need some harmonization in those two.

MYRON ISEMINGER: OK. Thank you for the opportunity to clarify that. Maybe it would be best with an example.

Suppose you are living in a country that has a mandatory retirement age of 65 years old. At the General Conference session you elect an officer of that division to, say, the president, who is 63 years old. He’s elected—or she—to a five-year term. This first item on line 29 is saying that they will not be forced to retire in the middle of their term when they turn 65.

However, the provision at the end on line 33 means that they would not be eligible for election to a new term when their five-year term ends.

I hope that’s enough of a distinction to clarify it in your mind.

DELBERT BAKER: Yes. Thank you. Thank you for the astute observation you made. And so you’ve heard the response.

We have a speaker on microphone 4, Mario Veloso, General Conference, and then one more after that.

MARIO VELOSO: Thank you, Brother Chairman. I stand to support the motion and to ask a question. Is it possible to introduce in some place of this policy the concept of limitation of terms of service? Because we have so far unlimited service, and sometimes we have somebody 20, 25 years in service for five periods, and that seems to be too long. Could we somehow limit the terms to, for example, three terms or something like that? I’m not moving anything, just putting this concept for the conversation of the group that studies these matters.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you, Doctor. Appreciate your observation.

All right, we have on microphone 1 Kabila Ilunga, East-Central Africa Division. We need a translator, please, French. Dr. Wari, would you help us, please? Thank you.

KABILA ILUNGA [translated]: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to speak. Those of us who are speaking French, we don't get the translation, so we are more or less lost. Is it possible to find a good translator for us, because we don't know what is going on and we don't know how to vote.

DELBERT BAKER: Well, Pastor Wari, perhaps you can translate this for me to him.

Let him know we've heard his concern and it is legitimate. We appreciate him sharing it. The staff has heard his point in the back, and they will look into this matter.

KABILA ILUNGA [translated]: Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: All right. OK, we have on microphone 4 Stoy Proctor, General Conference.

STOY PROCTOR: Yes. We claim to be a Bible-believing church. I don't think there's many references to limitations of service for the characters of the Bible. I think we should be more concerned about the ability—the health—of the individual, the job that they're doing. If they're doing a great job, limiting their service, time, is, I think, unbiblical, and we're not respecting the experience that they have received. So I'd like for us to be at least fair about this issue.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you, Doctor. We have at microphone 6, Walter Alaña Huapaya, South American Division.

WALTER ALAÑA HUAPAYA: I would like to support the comment of Dr. Veloso, and I would like to read a couple of statements of the Spirit of Prophecy. "The question is asked me if it is not a mistake to remove the president of a state conference to a new field when many of the people under his present charge are unwilling to give him up. The Lord has been blessed to give me light on this question. I have been shown that ministers should not be retained in the same district year after year, nor should the same man long preside over a conference. A change of gifts is for the good of our conferences and churches [*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 9, p. 143].

“If a laborer is spiritually strong, he is, through the grace of Christ, a blessing to the churches, and his labors are needed in different conferences” [*ibid.*, p. 144].

So I think this is a very important issue, and I support this idea.

DELBERT BAKER: Well, I thank you for the comments. We have like a subtext going on with that. I think the concerns have been noted.

As you know, some divisions, conferences have term limitations; others do not. But this is not directly relating to the motion. I appreciate it. Even though the comments are good observations, let's stick with the motion at hand.

We have microphone 4, Lois Peters, General Conference.

LOIS PETERS: I just wanted to speak to the thought—I hope this is on a motion, but if it's not, bear with me—that we need to be bringing young people, training them, working with them with the older leaders so that, as we move forward, our young people will have the experience to step into roles, and we will provide a place for our aging population to be able to give valued encouragement to the younger leaders and give the young people a chance to lead this church.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you. I think the delegates have heard a number of comments speaking about the age, diversity issue, the need for sensitivity, and I think it's noted. It's not specifically germane to the motion, but I think the concerns have been voiced. This is an opportunity for the delegates to share that, and I think we picked that up.

I will say, though, that on a regular basis, in the General Conference and even in this session, there has been a deliberate effort to incorporate more young people as delegates participating in the various functions. We've heard a number of delegates speak here on the floor. So there is that sensitivity. But I hear everyone saying “We need more.” That's what the point is, we need more, and that is being noted.

Now I'm going to ask the speakers remaining if they would specifically speak to the motion at hand, because we have been here for some time, we've had a number of comments, some of them were

not directly tying in with it. So help me with that. If you're speaking to it, speak directly to the motion that's on the floor now. Thank you very much.

Stefan Giuliani, microphone 3.

STEFAN GIULIANI: Mr. Chairman, I guess I'm one of the young people. I concur with the chair that a lot of comments were not directly to the motion. And so I would like to move the previous question.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. It's been moved, the previous question. Is there a second? All right. It's been seconded.

Any discussion? No discussion.

OK. All in favor, show by the uplifted card.

Those opposed.

It's carried.

Let's go back to the main motion now that's at hand. If you're in favor, please show by the uplifted card the motion on the floor to amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Article VIII, as presented.

Thank you. The cards.

Those opposed.

OK. It's clearly carried. Pastor.

MYRON ISEMINGER: Thank you. Page 81 in your agenda materials or page 1 in your handout. These are basically the same item. The only change is in line 1. In the handout, the routing line on line 1 has been updated to indicate the additional committees, including our session Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

The background or rationale behind this is that this reflects the name change of the Euro-Africa Division to the Inter-European Division. And the reason for this is that the territories in North Africa were assigned to the Middle East and North Africa Union Mission. So you'll see on lines 17 and 18 the old name is struck out and the new name, Inter-European Division, is added.

I would move to amend the bylaws Article I with that adjustment.

DELBERT BAKER: I think that's straightforward. It's been moved and seconded. Any discussion on that?

I see two speakers. Are you speaking directly to this item?

Microphone 3, Eliasib Fajardo, North American Division.

ELIASIB FAJARDO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm not speaking specifically directly to that item—

DELBERT BAKER: Could you hold it there if it's not speaking directly with that.

ELIASIB FAJARDO: Yes, sir.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you very much.

Microphone 4, Stephan Sigg, Inter-European Division.

STEPHAN SIGG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I just wanted to note that, with the name change, we do not change the abbreviation.

DELBERT BAKER: That's correct.

STEPHAN SIGG: It's still EUD. It happened in the past couple of months that it has often referred to as IED, even in correspondence from the General Conference. So it is still EUD, and it should be communicated that way.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you for that good observation. People should take note of that.

Ready for the vote on the motion at hand. We're ready.

All those in favor please, show with the uplifted card.

Thank you.

Those who are opposed.

It's clear. Next item. [Voted.]

MYRON ISEMINGER: Page 82 of your agenda session materials, this is bylaws, Article II, and this is relating to the session committees. There's been some confusion at past sessions as to whether certain delegates should caucus with the division or with the General Conference delegation.

So we have added additional wording to clarify that the delegates appointed by the General Conference administrative could should be assigned to the appropriate designation at the time of their selection by the General Conference Administrative Committee.

You can see an example starting on line 26. I will read just one example and then point out the others.

“Each division and each attached union shall be entitled to select for membership on the Nominating Committee 10 percent of its delegation to the session, after excluding any delegates at large employed by the General Conference or its institutions and any delegates selected by the General Conference Administrative Committee and assigned by the Administrative Committee to meet with the General Conference and institution delegation.”

This same phrase is repeated on lines 42 through 44.

Then on the next page, page 83, lines 2 through 4. It’s the same wording, the same principle.

I would move that we amend the bylaws, Article II, with this clarified wording.

DELBERT BAKER: All right. It’s been moved and seconded.

Discussion on that item?

I see Ed Galan, North American Division, at microphone 2. Are you speaking to this item?

ED GALAN: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I’m in favor of moving forward with a motion.

I did have a question. As a delegate, I notice that in the North American Division we had only, oh, I think four laypeople that were assigned to the Nominating Committee. And I just wanted to make an observation that sometimes we don’t understand that. And out of 24 delegates. You know, it was just an observation.

The other thing was that I see that there’s maybe an omission of language here. In the Mid-America Union, we lost our president. We thanked Elder Tom Lemon for being our union president, but he will be moving on. We noticed, though, we were encouraged to have all of the union presidents to be a delegate that would go the Nominating Committee. Therefore, that kind of minimized things.

Interestingly enough, when he was asked to be GC vice president, he was not replaced. The Mid-America Union then only had one representative on the Nominating Committee, and no substitutes were made. I was just curious about language to that effect. Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: I think, Dr. Bryant, you want to speak on that?

ALEXANDER BRYANT: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much.

The way many of the divisions, at least the North American Division, elected its delegates to the Nominating Committee was by caucus, by unions, and those names came from there. But when Tom Lemon took the assignment for the vice presidency for the General Conference, he was replaced on the Nominating Committee with a member from the Mid-America Union. It was president of the Central States Conference, Maurice Valentine.

MYRON ISEMINGER: This is specifically relating to the General Conference caucus. That's difference than the division caucuses, so I think we can proceed—

DELBERT BAKER: Point noted. Lante Thompson, microphone 1.

LANTE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Is it possible at the end of the session to indicate the breakdown of delegation from each division?

DELBERT BAKER: So noted.

LANTE THOMPSON: Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: You said it. So noted. Thank you.

OK. We're ready for the motion. No more speakers.

All of those in favor, please show by the uplifted card.

Thank you.

Opposed, same sign.

It is carried.

Thank you. Next item, please.

MYRON ISEMINGER: Page 84. This is a small change, but it comes as a request from a division to specify more clearly that the references in Article VI apply to a division secretary. We had that in the heading on line 12, but it's just adding that to lines 19 and 21 for clarity's sake.

So I would move we amend Article VI as noted.

DELBERT BAKER: All right. Is there a second? I see a second. OK.

Discussion on the motion?

I do have microphone 6, Mbulelo Nqumse, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

MBULELO NQUMSE: Thank you, Pastor Chair. It is just a minor observation. Elder Ted Wilson a few days ago made a statement that the division presidents are also vice presidents of the General Conference. Would it not be then necessary that you reflect that in the constitution specifically that division presidents are also vice presidents of the GC?

DELBERT BAKER: Pastor Iseminger is looking for that item, but I think it's there.

Thank you for your observation, but it is there.

We're ready for the motion.

And all those in favor, show by the uplifted card.

All right. Thank you.

Those opposed, same sign.

Good. [Voted.]

Next item.

MYRON ISEMINGER: OK. Page 85. This is very similar to our editorial directive in item 202, but this is relating to the division treasurers. And the recommendation here is to amend the bylaws, Article VI, division treasurers, to include the terminology "chief financial officers" or "treasurers." Either term is acceptable. I would move that.

DELBERT BAKER: It's been moved. It's seconded as well. A discussion on that specific item?

I see no one coming to the microphone. Not to rush, but to move on. Ready for the vote.

All those in favor, show by the uplifted card.

Thank you.

Those opposed, same sign.

OK. It is carried.

Next one.

MYRON ISEMINGER: Page 86 relating to Auditing Service in the constitution and bylaws.

During this quinquennium we had quite a major rewrite of the section dealing with Auditing Service in the *Working Policy*. We would also like to incorporate the updated terminology that is now generally accepted. Also we've added some nonconstituency-based entities that are included in the *Working Policy* that we want reflected here, and there's some editorial wording changes as part of this amendment.

So on line 18 is an example. Page 86, line 18. You'll see there, "Administer a program to provide assurance and related services as part of the worldwide financial oversight program for the Seventh-day Adventist Church." The older terminology was to conduct audits. And so the new terminology, "provide assurance and related services," is what is commonly used in the profession. That's reflected in several places here.

I would like to incorporate a recommendation that has come for lines 43 and 44 of page 86, and I believe we have the new wording up on the screen. And so I want you to note that this is actually taken from the *Working Policy*, section SA-0540. And it's just adding the phrase—it is striking "consultation with the administrations of the respective divisions" and adding the phrase "taking into consideration work performance and feedback from a variety of sources."

Going on to page 87, you'll see here on line 13 one of the instances where we have added, near the end of line 13, "regions/mission stations." These are nonconstituency-based organizations under a mission field or conference. And we have included those in the *Working Policy* and would also like to note that these would be entities that would be normally audited through the General Conference Auditing Service.

So I would move to amend the bylaws, Article VIII, with these changes.

DELBERT BAKER: It's been moved. Is there a second? I see a second.

We have a point of order on microphone 2, Blesson Adolphine, West-Central Africa Division. Dr. Wari, could you help us again, please? You can stand there; she can speak. That's fine.

BLESSON ADOLPHINE: I think, when we were talking about treasurers some minutes ago, I heard "officer," and from our French background, "officer" is a military term, so would you mind clarifying it for us?

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. We will make that note. And this is a part of discussion. It's not a point of order, but it is a discussion item.

MYRON ISEMINGER: Sure. As used in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the word "officer" relates to the president, secretary, or treasurer.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. We have a speaker on microphone 3, Jean-Pierre Mulumba, East-Central Africa Division. Please.

JEAN-PIERRE MULUMBA: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Mine is just to report a lot of things for the cordial relationship that has been going on between the administrators of different entities and General Conference Auditing Service. There are those years where GCAS people were regarded as terrorists when they come to your place, and people are fearing them. And it was a very tense relationship between administrators of entities and GCAS. But nowadays the relationship is very cordial, and I want to thank GCAS for reforming the people. And this is very, very good. Thank you very much.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you for that observation.

Again speaking directly to the motion, we have microphone 6, Megan Mole, Trans-European Division.

MEGAN MOLE: I'm sorry. It's me, again. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I had a question about the phrase "the Client" on page 87, line 11. Is that capitalized because it's a technical term or is that a typo? "Client" with a capital C, page 87, line 11.

MYRON ISEMINGER: I'm just looking here. This is what came to us from the auditing board. It looks like it could be a small "C" on that item. With your permission, we will change that, if appropriate.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. All right.

So let's get the vote now. We have finished the discussion items. We're ready to vote.

All those in favor, show by the uplifted card.

Thank you.

Those opposed?

Clearly carried.

We do have our general counsel, Karnik Doukmetzian, who will speak about the item about the vice presidents and the division presidents. Microphone 2, please.

KARNIK DOUKMETZIAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Article III says the following: "Section 1. General vice presidents of the General Conference shall be elected to assist the president with general administrative work of the General Conference. In addition, a vice president shall be elected to serve as president of each division of the General Conference."

And then in Section 4 it says, "The vice presidents of the General Conference elected for the divisions shall serve as chairs of the division executive committees," and then it goes on from there.

So clearly in the bylaws, at this point, there's reference to general vice presidents and also division vice presidents who serve as division presidents.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. That's helpful.

MYRON ISEMINGER: The next item, reflected on page 88 of your agenda, is actually replaced by page 3 of your handout, so I would like to refer to the more updated version of that on page 3 of the handout. This is relating to Article IX, General Conference and division field secretaries.

I alluded to this a little bit earlier in the morning, and this is where we are defining "field secretary" instead of "general field secretary." And the page that is in your agenda, we got some feedback that it was a bit confusing. So the Constitution and Bylaws Committee looked at that again. It went through Adcom and the session Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

You can see here from the rationale on line 7 that it's proposed that Article IX be adjusted to include General Conference or division field secretaries that report to an officer other than the president.

In the past, especially for general field secretaries, it's always gone to the chief administrative officer or the president.

The wording also reflects the current practice whereby the Executive Committee appoints as field secretaries those individuals who, by virtue of leadership positions in specific organizations, also have important relationships with the General Conference and/or division administrations.

So the new wording begins on line 23 of page 3 of the handout.

“The term ‘field secretary’ shall be used to designate the role of persons elected/appointed to assist the officers the General Conference or division in a range of general or specific responsibilities.”

Continuing on line 32: Section 2, “A General Conference field secretary ordinarily carries another portfolio of responsibility, the nature of which involves frequent interactions with global church leadership. In the role of field secretary this person works under the direction of the president or another designated officer. Field secretaries shall be elected by the General Conference Executive Committee after having been appointed to their primary responsibility by their respective board, the General Conference Executive Committee, or the General Conference Administrative Committee as appropriate. Their term of service as field secretaries is contingent on the term of service in the individual’s primary responsibility.”

And then in Section 3, we have also included similar terminology when it relates to a division field secretary.

So, Mr. Chair, I would move that we accept the amendment to the bylaws, Article IX, as noted.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. It's been moved. Is there a second? I see a second.

Discussion?

I think we're moving rapidly. And I don't see anyone moving to the microphones, so I'm going to go ahead and call for the vote.

All those in favor, show by the uplifted card.

Thank you.

Those opposed.

Clearly carried.

Next item, please.

MYRON ISEMINGER: Page 89 again comes as a request by a division, because they often reproduce most of the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws in their *Working Policy*. So the recommendation is that in Article XIII, Section 1(f), line 27, we add “General Conference Executive Committee” to clarify that it’s not referring to a division executive committee.

I move the bylaws, Article XIII, amendment as presented.

DELBERT BAKER: It’s been moved. Is there a second?

Is there a second? I see it.

Discussion?

I see no one moving to the mikes.

All those in favor, show by the uplifted card.

Thank you.

Those opposed?

It is carried. Thank you.

Next item.

MYRON ISEMINGER: And I believe our final item is on page 90. And, again, I referred earlier that we have two new nonconstituency-based administrative levels. Many of you had these, but the terminology, I should note, is new. And we have added these into the *Working Policy*, so we want to also reflect them in our bylaws.

In addition, there is some flexibility given in this amendment for the funds to flow through whichever denominational channel is appropriate. It’s difficult to word it such that it would be specific in every case.

So you can see the change on line 18 of page 90, where we have added, in addition to “local conference, mission, and field,” the two new words “region” and “field station,” and then noting that tithe

receipts would be forwarded through denominational channels in accordance with the General Conference *Working Policy*.

I would like to move the amendment to Article XVII as presented.

DELBERT BAKER: It's been moved. Is there a second? I see it.

Discussion. Specifically to this item, we have microphone 2, Larry Boggess. No, not to this item.

Then we are ready for the vote.

All those in favor, show by the uplifted card.

Wow.

Those opposed? Those opposed. [Voted.]

Thank you. You are all very alert. You're on top of it. Thank you very much for responding.

Thank you, Pastor, for all of the items, all the work that that represents. That completes the section.

And, Larry, do you want to speak before we go to the next item? But while Larry Boggess is coming up, we want to say that the next item we're looking at is the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*. This is a very exciting project, one that's going to open a whole new era of information and accessibility to the members of our world church. And so David Trim and his associate will come before us. And I think we have a lot to look forward to with this.

All right. Larry Boggess first.

LARRY BOGGESS: Just a question, Mr. Chairman, concerning the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws.

I think that we were urged to follow or to adopt the—I forget what the term is—model constitution and bylaws. Do the local divisions or local unions or local conferences have the power not to adopt the model constitution? And if they do adopt the model constitution, do they have to abide by it?

DELBERT BAKER: OK.

MYRON ISEMINGER: Perhaps our legal counsel would also like to weigh in on this. But in the model constitutions, which are printed in our *Working Policy*, there are two elements. There is a part in bold print, which we have determined are important and are to be followed. There are also parts of the

sections in lighter print, and in those areas there is some flexibility and room to include them or not include them.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Karnik? Please. Microphone 2, general counsel.

KARNIK DOUKMETZIAN: First of all, divisions do not have constitutions and bylaws, because they are divisions of the General Conference. There are model bylaws for unions, unions of churches, conferences, missions, etc.

And there is a paragraph in the *Working Policy* that requires, regardless of the organization, that the model constitution shall be followed. And as Brother Iseminger indicated, the sections that are in bold print are essential to the unity of the church worldwide and shall be included in the bylaws as adopted by each of those entities.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you for that. I do want to note, too, that before we get to our next presentation, there was a speaker on mike 3 who had a comment. Eliasib Fajardo, North American Division.

ELIASIB FAJARDO: I'm thankful to the leadership of the church that allows [6] percent of young people to participate actively in these meetings. However, in light of the comments made this morning that deal with the lack of women, young adult, equal field representation, I move to amend the constitution and bylaws regarding fair gender and fair age representation of the officials of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists and also this body.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. Thank you for your observation. I think the entire delegation, as well as all of our leaders here, are really impressed with the number of comments that have been made about the whole issue of young people, diversity. These issues are very, very important, and we have heard you. It's in the record, so noted. Thank you for your observations.

At this time we're moving on the item from the Archives Department in the General Conference. We're excited about the work they're doing. And please note this special presentation they're going to make as it relates to the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*. I see, very quickly, we just had a

speaker come up to the microphone, Jay Gallimore on microphone 2. Is it speaking in general, or are you speaking to this item?

JAY GALLIMORE: Brother Chairman, you've been accepting general comments on this age thing—

DELBERT BAKER: OK.

JAY GALLIMORE: —etc. I have just a quick comment, if I could make it.

DELBERT BAKER: OK. All right.

JAY GALLIMORE: There's a lot of misunderstanding as to the structure of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This is a representative form of government. We love our young people. We love the gender-inclusiveness. But we must understand there are elections from the ground up, and these need to be represented, of course, in the General Conference session. So like the Congress of the United States, you can't just go to the Congress of the United States and say, You will have so many X's so many Y's and so many Z's. They have to come from where those folk are elected. You have to keep that in mind and understand this is a representative form of church government, and we must not undermine that.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. Thank you for that observation. Leezel Deza on microphone 3.

LEEZEL DEZA: Thank you so much. We do not wish to undermine, Mr. Chair.

I would just like to thank the body for verbalizing the unsaid standard that young men and women need to hold office and leadership positions of our organization in order for us to have a voice. So I'd like to thank you all in advance for patiently and effectively mentoring young people and for noting our concerns. Thank you so much.

DELBERT BAKER: Yes, yes, we got that. Thank you. You're welcome. Very well.

Gentlemen, please. The time is yours.

DAVID TRIM: Brother Chairman, thank you very much. Brother and sister delegates, a brief flashback in Adventist history. In 1966 the fiftieth General Conference session convened in Detroit, Michigan, nearly 50 years ago. And you can see on the screen that we needed a much smaller venue than

the Alamodome, because we were a much smaller church. There were 1,495 delegates representing a world church whose membership totaled only 1.7 million.

Also in 1966 a new one-volume *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia* was published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association. And I know many of you will fondly remember that book with its green binding and its red lettering.

Its stated purpose was as follows: “The *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia* is a compendium of facts about Seventh-day Adventists, their work, beliefs, organization, methods, and philosophies. The work is intended to inform not only church members but non-SDAs as well who may be inquiring about the church’s work and beliefs.”

In 1976, 10 years after the appearance of the *SDA Encyclopedia*, a revised edition was published, this time in brown; and 20 years after that, in 1996, a second revised edition was published, this time in two volumes. And, Brother Chairman, I know that many people here will have copies of one of these editions, whether in brown or green, on their shelves.

Twenty years after that third edition of the *SDA Encyclopedia*, nearly after a century after the publication of the first edition, world church leaders see the need for a completely new encyclopedia of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the following reasons: Number one is growth. When the *SDA Encyclopedia* first appeared in 1966, the church was working in 190 countries or regions. Today Seventh-day Adventist work is established in 215 countries and regions.

Back in 1966 there were 441 organizational units and 1.7 million members. Today there are 771 organizational units, and our reported membership is a little more than 18.5 million. And you’ll see on the screen that growth from 1966 to the end of last year.

So the number of organizational units—conferences, missions, unions—has nearly doubled. The number of Seventh-day Adventists has grown tenfold. Thanks be to God.

So growth is the first reason we need a new encyclopedia. But the second is changing dynamics. Although the 1976 and 1996 editions of the encyclopedia made some alterations to the existing text, the second and third editions mostly just added to the first edition rather than revising it. That means that the

great bulk of the original text has not been revised for 50 years. It has become a bit like the sign you see up on the screen, out of date.

We have found that the *SDA Encyclopedia* is not reliable on key facts, such as the date the Adventist work started in a country, the first official missionaries in the country, biographical details, and the foundation dates of organizational units. Furthermore, during the past 20 years, Adventist history has been transformed by new studies based on primary sources. Our new understanding of our past and of how God has led in it needs to be taken into account.

And finally, Brother Chairman, there is also the matter of innate biases, biases that slant—indeed, distort—some of the articles. Those biases reflect the nature of our church when the encyclopedia was drafted in the early 1960s.

The church then was overwhelmingly Western. So we understand those biases. But those biases, frankly, are not acceptable today. So we need an encyclopedia that reflects today's worldwide church.

The third reason is technology. Currently you can't get the encyclopedia on a tablet. Although the 1966 and, indeed, 1996 encyclopedias sold fairly well, the vast majority of our membership has never seen it and never read it. It is not available online, so the information is not accessible to our members or the general public.

And so when new church members or prospective members try to find out information on some aspect of the Adventist Church, they are forced to fend for themselves on the Internet, where they can end up at sites that are unreliable or highly distorted, if not actually hostile to the church.

Taking all this into account, on April 14, 2015, the General Conference Executive Committee, at its Spring Meeting, approved a budget for the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*, a new encyclopedia, a five-year world church initiative directed by and based on the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research. I am directing that project. And I introduce to you Dr. Benjamin Baker, who is the managing editor.

BENJAMIN BAKER: The *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists* had drawn on the expertise of thousands of Adventist scholars worldwide, with each organizational unit of the church participating.

It has six goals: 1. Supply reliable and authoritative information on Adventist history, crucial events and themes, people, organizations, entities, and institutions.

2. Strengthen identity in a fast-growing global movement, heightening awareness of distinctive doctrinal and prophetic beliefs.

3. Provide a reference work for those new to our faith, mature in the faith, and not of our faith, to learn about all aspects of Adventism.

DAVID TRIM: 4. This goal is to bring out the role of denominational organization and structure in fulfilling the church's mission. And, Brother Chair, I think even here we find that the church's organization is not always fully understood, even by delegates.

5. We want to highlight the missional challenges still remaining in order to reach the world. Remember, that is our goal, our strategic plan. We need to reach the world with the gospel and prophetic truth.

And so every article on a conference, mission, or union, every article on a country, city, or region, will end with a summary of the mission challenge still facing the church in that territory. It will summarize statistically and with other analytical tools what needs to be done if we are to reach that territory with the gospel and instinctive prophetic truths of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. That will be a major addition to the old encyclopedia.

And, 6, the encyclopedia will reflect the nature of the world church today, both in its subject matter and in those who write articles for the encyclopedia.

BENJAMIN BAKER: The new encyclopedia will, first and foremost, be available as an online edition that is regularly updated, edited, and amplified, and will include Web-only content, such as video and audio; and additional articles will be added as the denomination grows.

DAVID TRIM: Brother Chairman, we want this online encyclopedia to become the authoritative source of information on the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the first place anyone checks online, whether they are Adventist or not. And we will build toward that goal even before the full completed edition is ready. We plan to have the encyclopedia Web site live and online this winter, thanks partly to the support

of Bill Knott and his team at *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World*. We will, with them jointly, create a Web site that not only will host the encyclopedia but will also provide a place for church members to help preserve and highlight our wonderful Adventist heritage. And we appreciate very much the *Adventist Review*'s enthusiasm for working collaboratively with us to that end. So the online presence will come soon, in due course, as articles are written, and then go through what will be a rigorous editorial review process. We will start to make them available online.

We hope to start that in 2017, maybe even 2016, but certainly 2017, and then we'll make more of them available through 2018 and 2019 before the full Web edition is launched in 2020. That's our 2020 vision, if I may say that.

As of early next year, the Web site that we're constructing at *Adventist Review* will include pages that church members can go to upload copies of historic documents, photographs, film, video and audio recordings, and your own memory statements about the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and your personal history in God's remnant church. And we hope that other Adventist media outlets will join ASTR and the *Adventist Review* in making that Web site the online place for knowledge, about the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the place to go to learn about and to celebrate Adventist heritage so that we don't forget the way the Lord has led us and His teaching in our past history. You all know that famous statement from the Spirit of Prophecy.

Because the encyclopedia will have an ongoing, continuous existence online, no future major revision process will be required because the Web edition will be regularly updated.

And so, Brother Chairman, while the production of a new encyclopedia will be time-consuming and will not be cheap, a similar outlay of resources will never be needed again. The full online edition with all articles, as well as the materials contributed by church members, will be introduced to the public at the 2020 General Conference session in Indianapolis, and a print edition will also appear in 2020. And you see on the screen how we imagine that might look. We envisage four volumes, but we expect this to be the final print edition.

BENJAMIN BAKER: The *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists* is a world church project. The support of every division, union, conference, and mission, every institution—indeed, all church members—is essential for this to be a success.

Here is what you can do to assist: First, realize that the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists* is your project. Pray for it. Tell your constituents about it. Support it in your institutions, administrations, and churches.

DAVID TRIM: Second, we would like you, especially those of you who are institution presidents or board chairs, to prioritize granting research time and assistance to faculty or staff or assistant editors and authors. During the next five years I will make this plain to you. You have independent boards; it's your decision. But I make the plea to you: For the next four years, people working on the encyclopedia should be the priority for receiving institutions' own research funding. The General Conference is funding this generously, but we really need the whole world church to be involved.

And we're grateful, I may say, Brother Chairman, for the divisions who are already working with us. But if every institution can say to their faculty for the next four or five years, we are going to make requests for assistance or sabbaticals, or whatever it may be, a priority for those who are working on the encyclopedia, that can really make this happen.

Third, if you are so moved, consider donating to the project. As I said, the General Conference has approved a budget, and the budget will make this an outstanding resource, but your donations could make it a superlative resource that could help to establish additional editorial offices around the world so that every area and region are represented comprehensively. And to enable us to do that requires extra mission-related analysis so that the encyclopedia becomes an invaluable resource for every Adventist evangelist, church planter, pastor, and Seventh-day Adventist Church member.

BENJAMIN BAKER: Fourth, you know a person, institution, or theme that should be included in the encyclopedia, don't hesitate to contact the GC Archives. The e-mail address is encyclopedia@gc.adventist.org.

Fifth, you are requested, please write an article for the encyclopedia. We will be asking you. And if you are a leader of an organizational unit or an institution, encourage your staff to write articles if requested.

Finally, sixth, when the encyclopedia Web site goes live, link to it on your own Web sites, promote it on social media, mass e-mails, periodicals, television, and radio. Visit the site often, and give us your input and feedback. When the print edition is published, purchase sets for your institutions, churches, administrative offices, and libraries, and for your non-Adventist contacts.

DAVID TRIM: In conclusion, Brother Chair, acting together as a global church and by God's grace, we can produce an extraordinary and enduring resource that will strengthen Adventist identity and inspire mission around the world. Thank you, Brother Chair.

I move that we receive this report.

ALEXANDER BRYANT: Second.

DELBERT BAKER: It's been moved and seconded. This sounds like a very exciting project.

Is there any discussion on receiving this report? You've heard it. Is there any discussion on that? I see two, and I'm not sure if they're speaking to this specifically.

Microphone 6, Megan Mole, Trans-European Division.

MEGAN MOLE: I see a plan for a Web-based encyclopedia, and I'd like to commend the committee for that vision. I just want to speak to making this Web site the place for knowledge about Seventh-day Adventists. And with that in mind, I was wondering if there were any plans for cooperation with open-source encyclopedia platforms like Wikipedia, which are currently widely preferred over paper, e-book, or even Web site encyclopedias. And I think this is especially vital if we're actually serious about reaching non-Adventists with this encyclopedia. Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you.

DAVID TRIM: Brother Chairman, may I respond briefly?

DELBERT BAKER: Please. Absolutely.

DAVID TRIM: Thank you. I appreciate the question, the point.

We are trying something interesting, which is almost a kind of hybrid between a traditional encyclopedia and an open-sourced. To have complete coverage of the articles that are important and to have them done to the highest standard, they do need to be done by experts and to be rigorously edited by scholars. But at the same time, there are subjects that people who don't have expertise on that nobody knows about, and that's where the open source comes in.

This has been a particular passion of Bill Knott's and the *Adventist Review* staff's. And in cooperating with them, that's what we hope to have: a section that will be an authoritative collection of articles, but then also a crowd-sourcing section that will allow people to contribute themselves. And we'll distinguish those quite clearly so that people are aware. But nevertheless, we really believe that this can become something that can draw together church members and inspire them all around the world by getting them involved rather than simply making them people who sort of come to a fountain of knowledge to drink. They are actually putting something in as well.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. We have on microphone 2 Jay Gallimore, North American Division.

JAY GALLIMORE: I want to support the motion, Brother Chairman. And I would also like to ask if one of the goals is objectivity. Something like this could be really wonderful, but could also be a vehicle for people to use their own agenda.

So what kind of goal do you have here to make sure that we get objective information on those Web sites?

DAVID TRIM: Brother Chairman, may I?

DELBERT BAKER: Please.

DAVID TRIM: We have constructed a rather elaborate editorial structure over this, because it is vital that we work through church structure. Our goals are to be objective, but we also want to be truthful and accurate. At the same time, we want something that will build up faith. I realize some people here may say, "Well, can you do both?" I believe we can. I really do believe that.

It does require care and attention and time, but I believe that can be done. That is our goal. And church leaders will have ways to input to ensure that this is something that is building up faith. But objectivity is very much the end.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. Here's the situation. We have the Nominating Committee coming in. We do want to recognize the speakers. We simply ask, seeing how this is not really a debate we're looking at here, that if you have some quick points you'd like to share, could you please make them rapidly so we can get the other speakers in, and not even take your full two minutes? That way we will be able to finish this off and then go right to the Nominating Committee after.

So please, with your indulgence, we'll go to microphone 4, Stephan Sigg, Inter-European Division.

STEPHAN SIGG: Thank you for this great effort. I just have question.

Since this encyclopedia here is dealing with history and history is always subject to interpretation, can you specify what authoritative information it should provide? What is "authoritative information"?

DAVID TRIM: Brother Chairman, we mean well-researched, using comprehensive sources. If the brother would like more information, then I invite him to talk to me.

DELBERT BAKER: Microphone 1, Luis Tavares, West-Central Africa Division.

LUIS TAVARES: Thank you, Brother Chairman.

I support the motion. I was overwhelmed by the first part of the presentation. I am here just to present a few suggestions, not concerning what we going to vote now.

I was overwhelmed with the division's reports. It motivates the work. And I hope we won't be here in the next five years. But if we are, I'd like our church to be working with objectives. So every division should have a number, how many souls you need to achieve in your division. So the reports in the next GC section would be to see how divisions are reaching their goals. And those historical marks should be kept for our evangelistic sake. We should be dealing with numbers and not only those words in how to do things, how many things are done.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. Thank you very much.

If we could do it rapidly, I'll get the other speakers. If not, I'll have to rule that we cut it off and go to the Nominating Committee report. If you can make it short, you will be kind to the people following you, and that way we can get these in.

Microphone 3, Pintoko Tedjokusumo, Southern Asia-Pacific Division.

PINTOKO TEDJOKUSUMO: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

I would just like to commend highly the initiative. And may I make a suggestion that the divisions be given the responsibility to translate into the various languages. And all published material or information should be prolific in my opinion. Because in the country where I come from, Indonesia, Adventists are still considered pork-eating and alcoholic-drinking Christians. So this information is very important, and I congratulate you. Thank you.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. David, a quick response to that?

DAVID TRIM: Brother Chairman, thank you for that suggestion. We've already agreed with one division to translate it. But it's an excellent suggestion, and we hope to work with all division administrations to have it translated into local languages.

DELBERT BAKER: We're going to hold the speakers at this time. We have to hold the ones we have here. No more speakers, but we'll try to give the ones who have comments at this point.

Microphone 4, Mainka Holger, Inter-European Division.

MAINKA HOLGER: I very much like this project and acknowledge that it will be a lot of work that lies ahead of you. I just wonder if you can say some words about this generous budget that the General Conference has assigned to it. So how much is it?

DAVID TRIM: Brother Chairman, it's \$1.6 million over the five years.

DELBERT BAKER: That's over the five years, Dr. Trim?

DAVID TRIM: Over five years.

DELBERT BAKER: All right. Quickly, Alberto Timm, a couple of comments. The Nominating Committee is here.

ALBERTO TIMM: I would like to highly commend the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research for this major project, but I would like to highlight an additional point. We are a worldwide church with a strong SDA missionary movement. The previous editions of the encyclopedia functioned very much as blocs; what happened in one division was treated in isolation of other ones. So if we could work more in an integrated way, of not reading just what is related to my division but to other ones from where missionaries came, I think that many inconsistencies can be solved.

And I have just one question. I understand that the encyclopedia will not be an open forum where different agendas will be placed. But if I have a point where I see there is an inconsistency, where should I send that information?

DELBERT BAKER: OK.

ALBERTO TIMM: Because you mentioned that something could be added to it. But if it's something that's already available, where can I try to correct it or to revise it?

BENJAMIN BAKER: We will have a page on the Web site for you to send your input and feedback, but for now, encyclopedia@gc.adventist.org.

ALBERTO TIMM: And it will not be exposed to the whole public?

BENJAMIN BAKER: Not initially, no. It will be reviewed, however, by our staff.

DELBERT BAKER: Thank you. I have to call it. Sorry to the ones at the microphone. We don't have time for the additional ones.

We're ready for the vote, then, on receiving this report.

You've heard the discussion. A wonderful project and also collaboration with the *Adventist Review*.

So with that in mind, all those in favor of the Adventist report as you've heard it, please show by the uplifted card.

Thank you. Thank you.

Those opposed, same sign? [Voted.]

Excellent. Thank you. Thank you, gentlemen. Excellent report.

ALEXANDER BRYANT: You may have noticed one of the speakers resembled our chairperson. It wasn't the shorter one.

DELBERT BAKER: That was no accident. Thank you. Thank you very much.

At this time we have a report from the Nominating Committee. Gentlemen, the time is yours.

HOMER TRECARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the final report of the Nominating Committee, and our secretary, Dr. Leslie Pollard, will share that with us.

LESLIE POLLARD: Thank you, Brother Chairman. This is our final report of the Nominating Committee. And we are presenting today this last report, report 10.

There will be two recommendations of personnel to fill open positions, and then we will also have a request, a recommendation to defer certain unfilled positions, certain vacant positions, to the GC Executive Committee. And where there are persons currently in those positions, the incumbents will continue until Executive Committee.

So the first name we are recommending is for the General Conference Youth Ministries associate director: Mr. Jonatan Tejel. He is an incumbent.

Then the next person being recommended to the General Conference Youth Department as associate director is Elder Pako Edson Mokgwane. He is currently the youth ministries director of the Botswana Union Mission.

The positions to be deferred we are recommending will be the GC Planned Giving and Trust Services. The incumbent will continue until Annual Council. The GC Stewardship Ministries. Incumbents will continue until Executive Committee and/or Annual Council. GC Publishing Ministries associate director. That position is vacant. It will be filled by the Executive Committee. GC associate treasurer. That position is vacant and will be filled. GC Youth Ministries associate director, public campus ministries. The incumbent is to continue until Annual Council and/or Executive Committee.

Southern Asia Division treasurer. That position is vacant. It will be filled at the same time. And then the Northern Asia-Pacific Division secretary will be filled. That position currently is vacant.

Brother Chairman, I move these final recommendations of the Nominating Committee.

DELBERT BAKER: It's been moved. Is there a second? I see one for sure.

Any discussion? I see none. No one moving toward the microphone.

With that, we'd like to go to the vote now. All those in favor of this final report, show it by the uplifted card. Excellent.

Thank you.

Those opposed.

It's clearly carried.

Obviously, the Nominating Committee has done wonderful work, but Pastor Wilson is going to say some words about them right now.

TED N. C. WILSON: On behalf of the General Conference, we want to express deep appreciation to the Nominating Committee that you have selected through your caucuses. We have greatly appreciated the work of Homer Trecartin and Les Pollard, who are here with us, the chair and secretary. We also have other officers who have participated, and we're grateful to them as well.

And I want to express appreciation to you for your willingness to work with the Nominating Committee to bring to us individuals who will truly serve the Lord and help to propel this great Seventh-day Adventist movement toward its ultimate goal of reaching heaven through the grace of Jesus. May God bless the new team that has been assembled. And, again, on behalf of the General Conference, we thank you for the extensive work and time that you have put into this, both as officers and as members of the Nominating Committee.

[Applause.]

HOMER TRECARTIN: Thank you. And you gave us a wonderful team to work with. We have some to bring in and introduce to you now, who were just voted.

[Applause.]

DELBERT BAKER: OK. Thank you very much. Thank you to the delegation for your patience and good work in the session. We have been able to accomplish all of our business.

Before we end the session, we have an announcement from Dr. Bryant. But also we want to, once again, highlight the voting devices. We need them back, please, anyone who has them. Or if you see someone with one, say, “You must return that voting device.” We’re asking that you take it to the session management room. It’s open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. today and Friday, room C, on the field level right out there, the door to the right, right there. So thank you for that.

Dr. Bryant.

ALEXANDER BRYANT: There have been some questions about the North American Division caucus meeting at 2:00 today. The caucus will not meet today. The NAD caucus will not meet.

DELBERT BAKER: With that said, that completes our business for today, for the thirteenth business session. We thank you very much. At this time, we have prayer. Pastor Maveni from the South Pacific Division. And we’d like you to stand together as we pray and close out our session.

MAVENI KAUFONONGA: I will be praying today in our tongue and language, where we have a different language when we address our king, a different language when we address our nobles, and a different language used for our commoners. Today I will be using our kingly language in addressing the king of the whole universe. Let us pray.

[Prayer.]