

PRE/GCDO15AC to TNCW

172-15G AN APPEAL AND APPRECIATION TO ALL CHURCH ENTITIES AND MEMBERS FROM THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AND DIVISION OFFICERS REGARDING THE 2015 GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION VOTE ON ORDINATION

VOTED, To accept the document, “An Appeal and Appreciation to All Church Entities and Members from the General Conference and Division Officers Regarding the 2015 General Conference Session Vote on Ordination,” which reads as follows:

The essence of all Christian faith is a personal relationship with Christ, faithfulness to His Word and Christ-like relationships in Christian community (John 17:3, 17, 20, 21; 1 John 4:7-11). There are times in the journey of faith when committed Christians may have differences (Acts 6; 15). These instances necessitate mutual respect, thoughtful listening, heartfelt understanding and submission to the Holy Spirit’s leading into unity (Ephesians 4:31, 32). This is certainly true regarding the vote on July 8, 2015, on the subject of ordination at the General Conference Session in San Antonio. Recognizing our differences we express grateful appreciation to church members and entities for their acceptance of the world Church’s decision.

Re-affirming the Role of Women

We re-affirm that the Holy Spirit imparts gifts to all believers and that women play an important role in the life of the church (Joel 2:28; 1 Corinthians 12:11, 18). Their commitment, giftedness, and talents are a blessing to the entire body of Christ. The vote taken in San Antonio does not change the church’s understanding of the role of women in the life, mission and practice of the church as supported by the *Church Manual* and outlined in General Conference and division working policies. Godly, Spirit-filled women are powerfully witnessing for Christ and being used by the Holy Spirit to make major contributions for the advancement of His kingdom.

Moving Ahead Together in Mission

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a worldwide body held together by the Holy Spirit through a commitment to Christ, mutually accepted biblical beliefs, a common mission and worldwide organizational structure (Revelation 12:1; 14:6, 7, 12). General Conference Session actions and voted policies are agreements that the body of Christ make together.

We appeal to all entities to respect the decision by the world body in session since any unilateral and independent action contrary to the voted action paves the way for fracture and fragmentation. We urge all entities to work closely with world division administrations to ensure

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that all actions harmonize with voted policy to foster worldwide church unity and our heavenly-entrusted mission.

In light of the urgency of our time and rapidly fulfilling Bible prophecies, we invite all entities and church members to join us in a continuing commitment to Christ-like relationships, mutual respect, faithfulness to scripture and a single-minded focus in the completion of His prophetic mission entrusted to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We dedicate ourselves to global unity for a global mission in the proclamation of the everlasting gospel of the three angels' messages to prepare a people for the coming of Jesus (Revelation 14:6-12).