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ECCLESIOLOGY AND DIVERSITY

The 58th world session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, convening in St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A., from June 30 to July 9, 2005, seemed like an appropriate occasion for an issue highlighting ecclesiology. Hence the call for papers in the Autumn 2003 issue of *AUSS* “on the intersection of ecclesiology and diversity,” with its implicit concern for the challenge of experiencing and sustaining ecclesiastical unity in the presence of the many dimensions and varieties of human diversity. The responses to that call for papers exceeded our expectations. Besides the nine articles on ecclesiology included here, two more are scheduled for publication in the Autumn 2005 issue of *AUSS*.

Introducing the challenges of seminary education in the face of global diversity is a guest editorial by the Andrews University Seminary Dean Emeritus, Werner Vyhmeister, who is now the founding president of the Adventist University of Africa.

Not to be overlooked are additional articles on science and religion, NT studies, and amillennialism.

Finally, we respectfully dedicate this issue of *AUSS* to Raoul Dederen, beloved professor, administrator, editor, and the “foremost living scholar of Adventist ecclesiology”¹ (see next page). JM

¹Gerald A. Klingbeil, “Ecclesiology in Seventh-day Adventist Theological Research, 1995-2004: A Brief Introduction and Bibliographical Guide,” *AUSS* 43 (2005): 12.