By Sean Pitman The Seventh-day Adventist Church officially holds, as a foundational truth, that God created all life on this planet in just six literal days... and then rested on the seventh-day from his creative work with this planet, creating a holy Sabbath day for us to rest from all of our...

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By Sean Pitman

The Seventh-day Adventist Church officially holds, as a foundational truth, that God created all life on this planet in just six literal days… and then rested on the seventh-day from his creative work with this planet, creating a holy Sabbath day for us to rest from all of our secular activities and usual routines of the week - to step aside and enjoy His works of nature and remember Him as our Creator. This original week has been the model of all subsequent weeks on this planet and appears to be imprinted in our very DNA (Link). The very name “Seventh-day Adventist” is based on this fundamental belief regarding the historically literal nature of the Genesis account of origins. Our church has also upheld the idea that God’s works are evident in nature, showing the very Signature and glory of God. As David pointed out:

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard… I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (Psalms 19:1-3 and Psalms 139:14)

Yet, the teachings of modern evolutionary scientists have made significant inroads into our church schools. The majority of scientists in some of our schools, like La Sierra University, have long been teaching our young people that NeoDarwinism is not just a popular competing naturalistic theory inimical to the Adventist perspective on origins, but that it is in fact the truth story of origins – that life really has existed and evolved on this planet, in a Darwinian manner, over hundreds of millions of years of time. And, LSU is not alone. Several of our “Adventist” schools have started promoting the perspective of popular naturalistic science to one degree or another contrary to the historic Adventist position on origins.

Our church leadership has tried to be clear with regard to what it expects from the professors in our schools. The General Conference Executive Committee at the 2004 Annual Council had asked all professors in SDA schools to also present the SDA perspective on origins in all classrooms:
We call on all boards and educators at Seventh-day Adventist institutions at all levels to continue upholding and advocating the church’s position on origins. We, along with Seventh-day Adventist parents, expect students to receive a thorough, balanced, and scientifically rigorous exposure to and affirmation of our historic belief in a literal, recent six-day creation, even as they are educated to understand and assess competing philosophies of origins that dominate scientific discussion in the contemporary world.

The problem is that this directive has been largely if not entirely ignored by several of our schools. However, at least two of our schools have taken this directive very seriously. Southern Adventist University and Southwestern Adventist University appear to be among the most active of all of our schools in the promotion of the concepts of Biblical creation as a form of science where the Signature of God can be recognized within nature as well as within His written Word. In this effort, they should be actively supported and highly commended as they are working against significant odds and very strong opposing forces – even from within our own school system.

SAU has been very public, especially in its biology department, in the promotion of God’s design in nature. The halls of the biology department are decorated with murals depicting strong evidences for design behind the complexity and intricacy of living biological machines. For example, pictured to the right is Dr. Keith Snyder, department chair, pointing to one of the illustrations in the hallways of the biology department that highlights the amazing intricacy, informational complexity, and intelligent design necessary to produce the biomachines within a single human cell. The science professors at SAU love to explain these evidences to students and visitors alike who ask about the meaning of the paintings on their walls.

Beyond this, SAU has been very explicit in its response to the efforts of many to promote Darwinian thinking and other popular purely naturalistic views of science within our school system. As a university, consider a few representative statements from their numerous affirmations and denials regarding their position on origins:

We affirm the supernatural creation of a perfect and good world in six, consecutive, contiguous, literal, 24-hour days (Gen 1; Ex 20:11) and that creation was complete at the end of creation week (Gen 2:1-2).

We deny that the creation story is parable, saga, metaphor, myth, or any other literary category insofar as they are construed as mutually exclusive to a literal and historical account.
We deny any other theory of origins involving millions of years for the development of life, and the evolution of humans from non-human primates as taught in natural evolution, theistic evolution, and progressive creation.

We deny the view that a literal and historical account of Gen 1-11 is not essential to the belief system of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

We deny that death was part of God’s original creation or that it will be part of God’s new creation.

We deny that the biblical flood was only local or that the covering of the high mountains only involved water in a solid state.

along these same lines, SWAU is keeping right up with SAU in support of the Adventist perspective on origins. At SWAU Drs. Suzanne Phillips and Arthur Chadwick, along with the other science faculty, have been very active in promoting the science of creation in their classes. Dr. Chadwick, in particular, has also been a strong leader in the promotion of the Biblical concept of origins in his lectures on geology and biology and during his field trips to excavate dinosaur fossils in Wyoming. He has published many articles explaining the recent catastrophic origin of much of the fossil record and geologic column and of the very limited creative potential of random mutations and natural selection. He, and many of the other professors at SWAU have been a source of great encouragement and support for the faith of their students and for the church at large.

Consider also the mission statement of SWAU’s Earth History Research Center:

The Earth History Research Center is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization of active scientists. Our mission is to develop a scientifically credible view of earth history consistent with scripture, to conduct scientific research related to this goal and to promote our view through publication and education. (Link)

In short, if truly Adventist education is important to you, if you want yourself or your children to be taught the modern evolutionary theory as well as the truly Biblical perspective on origins from scientists as well as theologians who actually believe what the Bible says as it reads, if you want yourself or your children to be well-educated in what mainstream evolution is all about and to be given something more that goes beyond what is taught as the gospel truth in public schools, you want yourself or your children to be given more information to consider than anyone will get who goes through public school education, if you want to know the reasons why Darwinian arguments are not the most scientifically rational arguments available, reasons showing the clear evidence for very high-level intelligence and design behind the informational complexity of living things and the universe at large, reasons strongly supporting the recent and rapid catastrophic origin of the fossil record and much of the geologic column, strongly consider attending or sending your children to Southern Adventist University or Southwestern Adventist University.
26 Responses to “Creation Science Promoted at Two Adventist Universities”

1. PUC Student Reply February 18, 2012 at 5:32 pm

   How much were you paid by the marketing offices of Southern and Southwest to write this? To say that they are the only schools which teach the Adventist position on origins is preposterous.

   (Quote)

   Hot debate. What do you think? ✋11 👍23

   o Steve Billiter Reply February 19, 2012 at 6:49 am

     @PUC Student

     Where is your corroborating evidence to assist your assertions, PUC Student?

     (Quote)

     Hot debate. What do you think? ✋13 👍6

   o Sean Pitman Reply February 19, 2012 at 7:59 am

     @PUC Student:
I didn’t say that SAU and SWAU were the only schools in our school system actively promoting the Adventist position on origins from a scientific perspective. What I said is that they are the most prominent and active among those that do. As far as I’m aware, neither SAU nor SWAU will hire any professor of science or religion who is not fully supportive of the Adventist perspective on origins and other fundamental issues in the church. Few other schools in our school system can say the same thing…

Now, although I know of science professors at PUC who downplay the worldwide nature of the Noachian Flood and the recent nature of the creation of life on this planet, there is a good chance that I am simply ignorant of all that PUC is doing, as an overall institution, to promote the science behind the Adventist perspective on origins. I would love to have access to this information. If you have such information in the form of written statements from the science department or individual professors or even a video clip to this effect, I would love to promote PUC as well… for free! 😊

Sean Pitman
http://www.DetectingDesign.com

Well-liked: 19  3

- Tom Harebottle Reply February 19, 2012 at 9:23 am

  @Sean Pitman: I attended AU where it was common knowledge in the 1980’s that many professors were evolutionists. I was a pagan at the time and didn’t care. Now I do quite strongly.

  As for PUC, I do not have any knowledge of their evolution stance. I do have a daughter attending who had a Psychology Professor openly scoffing at SDA teaching on homosexuality and scoffing at parents who do not like his views. He in my view is playing the part of a “Jesuit confessor” [edit] Unfortunately our SDA schools are plagued. Fortunately, I take it as a sign of the times and Jesus’ coming is fast approaching.

  (Quote)

  Well-liked: 14  2

- PUC Student Reply February 19, 2012 at 1:38 pm

  @Sean Pitman:

  I could give you copies of syllabi, class recordings and slide print outs that were handed out, but that would be unethical since it is not my own work.

  I could not honestly tell you that every professor at PUC is “fully supportive” of the “Adventist perspective on origins” since I have not taken classes from every science professor at my school.
What I can tell you is that in EVERY class I have taken at PUC, my professors have done nothing but affirm my faith, including my belief in creation week in the recent (if you call thousands of years that…) past.

I would note that one of Adventism’s most prolific defenders of a literal creation week, Earl Aagaard, only recently retired from PUC. During his tenure, he was intimately involved in hiring decisions at the biology department. I think his influence is still felt to a large extent through the hiring decisions that he took part in.

(Quote)

Like or Dislike: 3  1

PUC Alumnus Reply February 19, 2012 at 8:56 am

@PUC Student: As a recent graduate of PUC, I strongly disagree with your assertion. Please provide proof to the contrary. If there’s nothing to hide, then providing it in any form should not be a problem 😁

(Quote)

Hot debate. What do you think? 9  2

2. Lydian Reply February 18, 2012 at 10:32 pm

Which other of our schools support and teach creation as a “FACT” –and give true scientific evidence for it–of which there are many such FACTS. And which one of our other schools show evolution as a worldly “THEORY”–and give the strong scientific evidences showing the weaknesses in it–of which there are many you may be totally unaware of.

And don’t just jump to the conclusion that “money” changed hands to make these schools “look good.” I happen to have several grandchildren who either have attended one of these schools or are even now attending it as well as a daughter who is working on her Masters there.

In addition to that we frequently have groups of other young people attending there here in our home for visits and a good “home cooked meal”. We also have faculty members who are good friends so I believe we have pretty good “first hand knowledge” of what is being taught there. What Sean wrote was accurate.

Be careful how you judge, young friend! Words CAN sometimes come back to “bite” at times. It may not have happened to you yet but sooner or later it will and the repercussion can often be quite unpleasant! (Trust me, at 87 years of age, I’ve “been around the block” a few times and learned some of these lessons the hard way!)

(Quote)

Hot debate. What do you think? 15  6

3. Charles Reply February 19, 2012 at 5:09 am

“How much were you paid by the marketing offices of Southern…”
Actually SAU is blessed with unprecedented demand for seats in their classrooms and in the near future may even be forced to restrict enrollment.

“Southern” boldly embraces the historic SDA position on origins.

(Quote)

Well-liked: 22  3

1. PUC Student  Reply February 19, 2012 at 1:26 pm

   @Charles:

   Sure, but if growth is how you measure success, you should know that among Adventist universities, Washington Adventist University had the most growth, La Sierra second and PUC third going into this school year. Our Campus Chronicle at PUC also reported that our enrollment increased between Fall and Winter quarter.

   This isn’t to bash Southern or SWAU. I support all of our Adventist universities including Southern, SWAU, WAU, La Sierra, PUC and the others.

(Quote)

Like or Dislike: 1  3

4. Wayne Loomer  Reply February 19, 2012 at 7:00 am

   It is so nice to hear of the “other” side of things. Thank you Sean for this positive information. It is good to know that there are some of our schools have not “bowed the knee to Baal”!

   As for the “PUC student”, one day perhaps the wetness behind your ears will dry and you will not be so skeptical. And I would add for you to prove your “preposterous” statement.

(Quote)

Well-liked: 16  4

5. Christine  Reply February 19, 2012 at 8:05 am

   As a life-long SDA, I always assumed my own children would attend an SDA college. However, they would like to stay in-state, and I refuse to pay over $100,000 (times 3 kids) to an Adventist school to teach them that Creation is a myth, so we have toured non-Adventist Christian universities in CA, such as Biola and CalBaptist. We are extremely pleased with their approach to Creationism and will be sending our children there. Unfortunately they will miss out on the benefits of an truly Adventist education, but I don’t want to pay a school to undo all that we have taught them at home about the inerrancy of the Bible. Perhaps after a couple years at an in-state school they will transfer to SAU.

(Quote)

Hot debate. What do you think? 10  3

   PUC Student  Reply February 19, 2012 at 1:17 pm
@Christine:

Did you tour Adventist colleges and give their professors the same opportunity to explain their approach to the issue as you did with Biola and CalBaptist?

(Quote)

Like or Dislike: 4  3

○ Wayne Loomer  Reply February 19, 2012 at 1:33 pm

@Christine:

Christine: You say you don’t want one of our schools to “undo” what you have taught your children. May I say that sending your children to Biola or CalBaptist could definitely undo the state of the dead, the Sabbath, and other of our fundamental doctrines that we all hold so dear as true SDA’s. The secret rapture theory is one of the major belief’s of the Baptist’s. All of us sit at the feet of someone we look up to whether a pastor or teacher, and can be deceived. Our children do not have the experience that a more “seasoned” believer may have to question the teachings of one of these “mentors”. We are living in a time of earths history where we can’t afford to lose our children to the other side whether from evolution or the Sabbath. Remember the Sabbath and State of the Dead will be the two greatest issues in the end times. As “spiritual” as a school may seem and going along with the literal six day creation, remember how Eve was deceived so subtly. It would be like throwing little lambs to the wolves that are in sheeps clothing. If I had it to do all over again, I would send my kids to a Community College for two years then to one of our schools.

We will be praying for you.

(Quote)

Hot debate. What do you think? 8  2

6. Diane Kobor  Reply February 19, 2012 at 8:34 am

Praise God for faithful professors! There are others at different Adventist campuses as well, so we can pray that the tide will turn in leadership at individual schools.

(Quote)

Well-liked: 13  2

7. Bill Eichner  Reply February 19, 2012 at 10:52 am

Thanks Sean for the article. It was refreshing to know that we still have strong instructors that will stay true.

Folks, if you want things to change support those schools that are strong in the faith and dry up your support for those who go contrary to Biblical perspectives. Money talks.

Bill

(Quote)
8. BobRyan  Reply  February 19, 2012 at 2:11 pm

if you want yourself or your children to be well-educated in what mainstream evolution is all about and to be given something more that goes beyond what is taught as the gospel truth in public schools, you want yourself or your children to be given more information to consider than anyone will get who goes through public school education, if you want to know the reasons why Darwinian arguments are not the most scientifically rational arguments available, reasons showing the clear evidence for very high-level intelligence and design behind the informational complexity of living things and the universe at large, reasons strongly supporting the recent and rapid catastrophic origin of the fossil record and much of the geologic column, strongly consider attending or sending your children to Southern Adventist University or Southwestern Adventist University.

I am very happy to see SAU and SWAU getting some of the spotlight regarding their willingness to step up and be counted on the side of good science and sound Bible doctrine when it comes to this issue.

I strongly believe there are other SDA universities and colleges that could promote their science and religion program in that way but have not chosen to do so – perhaps in keeping with Dan Jackson’s theme of not letting any bad news about sister institutions leak out to the constituency, or due to apathy supposing that nobody is taking evolutionism seriously so no need to make this point with SDAs as if it were a “distinctive”.

Yet LSU and perhaps others are challenging those assumptions and creating the need for our colleges and universities to break their code of silence on this subject.

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)

Hot debate. What do you think? 6  4

9. Holly Pham  Reply  February 19, 2012 at 2:16 pm

Tom Harebottle: @Sean Pitman: I attended AU where it was common knowledge in the 1980's that many professors were evolutionists. I was a pagan at the time and didn’t care. Now I do quite strongly. As for PUC, I do not have any knowledge of their evolution stance. I do have a daughter attending who had a Psychology Professor openly scoffing at SDA teaching on homosexuality and scoffing at parents who do not like his views. He in my view is playing the part of a “Jesuit confessor” [edit]. Fortunately, I take it as a sign of the times and Jesus’ coming is fast approaching.

Was this Psychology professor named Aubyn Fulton? He is a very public supporter of “gay marriage” and other heresies. Look on his personal website and you will see some of his favorite movies are “Kill Bill 1 & 2, besides other questionable choices.

And we wonder why are SDA institutions are being destroyed?

(Quote)

Hot debate. What do you think? 7  5
PUC Student: How much were you paid by the marketing offices of Southern and Southwest to write this? To say that they are the only schools which teach the Adventist position on origins is preposterous.

Do you have any information that Sean was paid to for this article? If you, please reveal it to us, so that it may be evaluated. If not, I would suggest that you refrain from you biased, prejudiced opinions against Sean and those who are stating the truth on this website.

(Quote)

Hot debate. What do you think? 💬 6

PUC Student: @Sean Pitman:

I could give you copies of syllabi, class recordings and slide print outs that were handed out, but that would be unethical since it is not my own work.

I could not honestly tell you that every professor at PUC is “fully supportive” of the “Adventist perspective on origins” since I have not taken classes from every science professor at my school.

What I can tell you is that in EVERY class I have taken at PUC, my professors have done nothing but affirm my faith, including my belief in creation week

I for one am glad to hear someone say that about PUC. Apparently the above is coming from someone attending LSU not PUC – is that right?

In any case – here is an outsider’s view of PUC as told by someone that thought they were going to PUC to defend evolutionism against people at PUC that believe in a real 7 day week at Creation in Genesis 1-2 only about 10,000 years ago.

In 2006, Wes Elsberry and I were invited to come to PUC and debate evolution for part of a student-organized speaker series. We were initially hesitant, since we are generally skeptical of debating creationists. However, after some discussion with the organizers, we grudgingly signed up, since it seemed like there was some chance for a reasonable discussion rather than just a Gish-gallop debate. Wes and I drove up to PUC – but, aware of the YECiness of Adventists, we went in as armed to the teeth as academics can be, with huge powerpoint files solely devoted to putting evidence for the age of the earth and common ancestry as bluntly and non-deniably as possible. When I spoke, I popped the slides up one-by-one and used the basic refrain, “Here are the hard facts. If this evidence has been hidden from you before now by your teachers and professors, you should ask yourself why.” It was pretty much a go-in-with-blazing-guns strategy.
However, as the discussion ensued, the students, and some of the professors, had some news for me. “You’ve got us all wrong,” they said. “We’re not all old-fashioned young-earth creationists and anti-evolutionists here, that’s an old stereotype about Adventists.” (Note: this is not a direct quote, rather it is just the gist of what I remember hearing.) Subsequent discussion indicated that many of the students & profs were reasonably well-informed about evolution and not really skeptical of it. After some interesting chats, Wes and I drove home, shaking our heads and commenting that if Seventh Day Adventists were becoming OK with evolution, we should keep our eyes open for flying pigs and freezing hells.

http://pandasthumb.org/archives/2009/11/seventh-day-adv.html#more

So here is the question – how is it that the “Panda’s Thumb” guys did not leave with the impression that they were in a debate with creationists – when they admit that going in to PUC that is exactly what they were expecting?

I suggest you read their comments before attempting to guess at an answer.

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)

Like or Dislike: 2  5


The objective critical reader “Would have expected” the “best outcome” to be that the Panda’s Thumb guys would come away from that debate with the comment

Subsequent discussion indicated that many of the students & profs were reasonably well-informed about evolution and were highly skeptical of it citing example after example where evolutionists have made sweeping claims by merely assuming and wildly extrapolating the salient point of the argument rather than proving the evolutionist claim with observations in nature.

Oh well – maybe PUC was just having “a bad day”??

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)

Like or Dislike: 0  5

13. carl grey Reply February 19, 2012 at 6:59 pm

wayne, did you notice the oblique sunday promotion by the local “public” (baptist) weekly in their latest issue? Not surprising in the grander scheme of things, but surprising to me in that it seemed to come out of nowhere.

(Quote)
14. BobRyan  
Reply February 19, 2012 at 7:25 pm

**Wayne Loomer**: If I had it to do all over again, I would send my kids to a Community College for two years then to one of our schools.

Well the good news is that we do have colleges and Universities that promote the teachings of the Adventist church and that take a strong stand for real observable science, and no appeal to blind faith evolutionism.

Having said that – I did send my two children to a local University for their degrees in the engineering sciences. ( I figured if I had to go through all that physics and calculus – it would not hurt my children to be exposed to it.)

in Christ,

Bob

(Quote)

Like or Dislike: 0  3

15. Bryant Worth  
Reply February 19, 2012 at 9:27 pm

It was a joy to listen to Dr. Art Chadwick from SWAU present 3 different lectures at Monterey Bay Academy this weekend. Besides the wonderful field work and research he is doing and his professor duties at SWAU he loves presenting and sharing the truths of Creation to younger people. I can tell you first hand as a academy teacher many of our young students are wondering what the big deal is concerning the Creation/Evolution debate. Why does it matter? But, at the least, here at MBA, we are trying very hard to educate as to the importance of having a foundation of Adventism in Creation and thus preparing them for the reality also of Christ’s very soon return. I would also encourage our Adventist academies to be very intentional about sharing this critical fundamental belief with their students including inviting guest lecturers to share and present. I know for a fact Dr. Chadwick would love to when time permits.

(Quote)

Like or Dislike: 0  0

16. Charles  
Reply February 20, 2012 at 4:03 am

“PUC student”: “Sure, but if growth is how you measure success, you should know…”

I was not trying to measure success. I was simply rebutting your insinuation that SAU needs to promote themselves by paying for biased reporting.

(Quote)

Like or Dislike: 0  0

17. Wayne  
Reply February 20, 2012 at 6:04 am
Sean, I’m so glad to hear you highlight has gone well in the area of Science in the Adventist Universities! At this point this sort of promotion of those who teach Biblically may do as much good, if not more, as exposing error (and I’m certainly not opposed to exposing error).

(Quote)

Like or Dislike: 0  0
Faculty Statement on Creation

A REAFFIRMATION OF CREATION

September 8, 2004

Introduction

The Faith and Science Conferences that have taken place in the church during the past three years (2002-2004) have shown the wide range of views that exist concerning the origins of life and the early chapters of Genesis.

Despite the fact that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has had a long-held fundamental belief concerning creation, a small but vocal group has:

a. called for a reinterpretation of the longstanding Adventist understanding of creation and the flood and proposed a view that is constructed upon evolutionary presuppositions.

b. argued that the lack of specificity in Fundamental Belief #6 allows for a number of mutually exclusive views to coexist in the Church.

In response to the present focus on origins in the Church, we, the faculty of the School of Religion, Southern Adventist University, offer this reaffirmation of creation with recommendations to be considered by the organizing committee and officers of the General Conference.

Affirmations

According to Scripture:

1. We affirm the primacy of Scripture in all areas of inquiry whether science or other disciplines because it is the inspired Word of God (Is 40:8; 2 Pet 1:19-21; 2 Tim 3:16).

2. We affirm that Genesis 1-11 is a historical, literal, and reliable account since the description found therein is reaffirmed throughout the OT (Exod 20:11; Neh 9:6; Job 26:7,13; Psa 8:3; 33:6; 96:5; 102:25; 104:24,30; 115:15; 121:2; 124:8; 134:3; 136:5; 146:6; 148:4, 5; Prov 3:19; 8:22-30; Eccl 12:1; Isa 37:16; 40:12,26-28; 42:7; 43:7; 44:24; 45:11-18; 51:13,16; Jer 51:15; Zech 12:1); also, every NT writer and Jesus Himself, explicitly or implicitly affirm the historicity of Gen 1-11 (Matt 19:4, 5; 24:37-39; Mark 10:6; Luke 3:38; 17:26, 27; Jn 1:3; Rom 5:12; Acts 17:24-26; 1 Cor 6:16; 11:8-9; 12:15:45-48; 2 Cor 11:3; Col 1:16; Eph 5:31; 1 Tim 2:13, 14; Heb 11: 3, 7; 1 Pet 3:20; 2 Pet 2:5; 3:5-6; James 3:9; 1 John 3:12; Jude 11, 14; Rev 14:7).

3. We affirm that by His word, God created all things out of nothing (ex nihilo) (Gen 1:3; Ps 33: 6, 9; Jn 1:3; Heb 11:3).

4. We affirm the supernatural creation of a perfect and good world in six, consecutive, contiguous, literal, 24-hour days (Gen 1; Ex 20:11) and that creation was complete at the end of creation week (Gen 2:1-2).

5. We affirm that the six-day creation of life on earth took place recently, a few thousand years ago (Gen 5, 11; 1 Chron 1:1-27).

6. We affirm that all things were created by God, both in the heavens and the earth, visible and invisible (Col 1:16).

7. We affirm that death was the result of sin (Rom 6:23), and that therefore there was no death before sin (Gen 2:16-17), and there will no longer be death in the new heaven and the new earth (Rev 21:4).

8. We affirm that death came into the world by the first man, Adam (Gen 3:6; Rom 5:14; 1 Cor 15:22), and that after introducing evil into
the world there was a tremendous increase of wickedness (Gen 6:1-4).

9. We affirm that a subsequent catastrophic, global flood was sent by God as a judgment against wickedness (Gen 6:5-7) “so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered” (Gen 7:20-21), and that this flood destroyed all flesh except that which was preserved on the ark (Gen 7:1-3; 2 Pet 2:5-7).

10. We affirm the gift of the Spirit of Prophecy as manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White to this remnant movement and her specific reaffirmation of the biblical doctrine of creation as taught by the Scriptures: specifically, a literal six-day creation; God’s rest on the seventh day; a universal, global flood; and her reaffirmation of a short chronology of “about 6,000 years.”

11. We affirm that, when properly understood, Scripture and nature are harmonious in their witness to the creation and flood.

12. We affirm the interlocking nature of the doctrine of creation with these doctrines: Scripture, nature and character of God, nature of man, Great Controversy, atonement, remnant and mission, unity of the church, gift of prophecy, law of God, Sabbath, stewardship, Christian behavior, marriage, Second Coming, death and resurrection, and the new earth.

**Denials**

1. We deny that the creation story is parable, saga, metaphor, myth, or any other literary category insofar as they are construed as mutually exclusive to a literal and historical account.

2. We deny any other theory of origins involving millions of years for the development of life, and the evolution of humans from non-human primates as taught in natural evolution, theistic evolution, and progressive creation.

3. We deny the view that a literal and historical account of Gen 1-11 is not essential to the belief system of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

4. We deny that death was part of God’s original creation or that it will be part of God’s new creation.

5. We deny that the biblical flood was only local or that the covering of the high mountains only involved water in a solid state.

6. We deny that Ellen G. White is to be understood only devotionally in the area of origins.

**Recommendations**

Based on these affirmations and denials, we recommend that:

1. The General Conference consider initiating an appropriate process which would enable Fundamental Belief # 6 on creation to speak with greater clarity, regarding the historicity and timing of Gen 1-11.

2. The leadership in our church employ only educators and pastors who are committed to the teachings of Scripture as understood by the Seventh-day Adventist Church and establish procedures that would encourage academic honesty, integrity, and accountability in this regard.

3. The Church continue to foster ways to educate its membership regarding the value and importance of the doctrine of creation.

Ron E. M. Clouzet, D.Min., Dean and Professor of Ministry
Stephen Bauer, M.Div., Associate Professor of Religion
Jack J. Blanco, Th.D., Former Dean and Adjunct Professor of Theology
Norman R. Gulley, Ph.D., Research Professor of Systematic Theology
Michael G. Hasel, Ph.D., Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Archaeology
Douglas Jacobs, D.Min., Associate Professor of Religion
Greg A. King, Ph.D., Professor of Biblical Studies
Judson Lake, D.Min., Th.D., Professor of Pastoral Theology
Donn W. Leatherman, Ph.D., Professor of Old Testament Studies
Carlos G. Martin, Ph.D., Professor of Evangelism and Missions
Edwin Reynolds, Ph.D., Professor of New Testament Studies
Phillip G. Samaan, D.Min., Professor of Applied Theology and Evangelism
Douglas A. Tilstra, M.Div., Associate Professor of Religion