Pacific Press Requests Major Change for ABCs

Pacific Press Publishing Association (PPPA) leaders announced this week they will request 17 Adventist Book Center (ABC) stores currently managed by PPPA to transition to a local conference management plan by the end of this year. The decision was made at a Sept. 26 PPPA board meeting. It acknowledges that changes in technology and how people access information were partly responsible for this impending transition. Within the Northwest, the Idaho and Washington ABC stores may be directly affected by the proposed change. The Oregon and Upper Columbia ABCs are already under local conference management. Many supplies and resources such as quarterlies, books and music are readily available online at
Annual Council Brings in an Expert
Gary Hamel, recently ranked by The Wall Street Journal as the “world’s most influential business thinker,” will join Adventist church leaders this week for the annual world church business session commonly called Annual Council. Hamel is expected to participate in the Leadership Education and Development training program during the council which meets Oct. 10–16, in Silver Spring, Md. The meeting agenda will also include a proposed amendment to the church’s fundamental belief on creation. Read more from the Adventist News Network.

Korb Receives PACS Award
Portland Adventist Community Services (PACS) has awarded John Korb the 2013 Barbara Nelson Award signifying his outstanding leadership and support of PACS for the past 23 years. Korb, executive director of the Adventist Health Foundation in Portland, helped PACS develop one of the city’s largest food pantries and was instrumental in creating its primary health clinic. The award was presented to Korb (pictured from left to right: Lynn Snodgrass, feature speaker; Tom Russell, Adventist Medical Center president; Korb; and Paul Cole, PACS executive director) at the annual PACS fundraising dinner on Oct. 6. The dinner event helped raise more than $90,000 toward the PACS ministry.

Adventist Chaplain Speaks Up
U.S. Senate Chaplain Barry Black, a Seventh-day Adventist and former Navy rear admiral, knows he gets the first word at each daily session. While he steers a careful political balance in this divided chamber, his prayers of late are becoming a bit more “sermonesque.” In his opening prayer Wednesday, Black prayed: “Lord, when the federal shutdown delays payments of death benefits to the families of (soldiers) dying on far-away battlefields, it’s time for our lawmakers to say ‘enough is enough.’ Forgive us. Reform us. And make us whole.” The New York Times put Black on its front page this week with the headline “Give Us This Day, Our Daily Scolding.”
Unprecedented Survey to Guide Church Mission

Seventh-day Adventist leaders are making initial recommendations for a global strategic plan based on the results of an unprecedented survey of the opinions, attitudes and spiritual life patterns of church members worldwide. The survey results will guide members of the church’s strategic planning committee as they set priorities for 2015 to 2020. Division presidents have reviewed the draft and offered input ahead of this week’s Annual Council at which some of the initial survey results may be released. “Strategic planning must go far beyond decision-making based on the best orator,” says Mike Ryan (pictured), chair and director of the Strategic Planning process and a general vice president of the Adventist world church. "It must be built upon a solid biblical basis, the best research and information, and, most importantly, the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we choose a direction.” Read more from the Adventist News Network.

WWGH Celebrates Renovation

Walla Walla General Hospital (WWGH) recently held an open house to celebrate completion of its $16 million renovation project. The changes include a new front entrance with spacious lobby that reflects the agricultural roots of the Walla Walla Valley. A centralized registration pavilion within the lobby consolidates all services and allows a single check-in area for hospital guests. Patient rooms in the medical/surgical unit have been enlarged, birth center rooms remodeled and a new gift shop opened. Read more about the project from WWGH online.
Have You Visited the World Church Online Lately?

It's new, it's fresh, it's different. The online presence for the Adventist world church has recently changed to a friendly, public-oriented site. You will now easily find an overview of how Adventist beliefs impact the practical daily life of individuals like you and your neighbors. You’ll find areas of service, spiritual testimonies, helpful information about how the world church organization carries out our mission, and a prominent page for the latest news and videos. If a friend asks you what the Seventh-day Adventist Church is like, give him or her a personal answer, then confidently point them to adventist.org for more information.

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October 18–20, 2013

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October

4–31: Reach Seattle Metro Meetings
10–12: WWU Fall Classic Tournament
11–12: Milo Alumni Weekend
18–20: NPUC Health Ministries Weekend
25–27: UCC Christian Women’s Retreat

More Events

While no one looks forward to a hospital stay, sometimes you need the care a hospital provides. And when you need that care, you want the best available. Adventist Health operates three hospitals, and multiple clinics, throughout the Northwest. This month’s GLEANER looks at how they are ministering to both body and soul. Read more in the October GLEANER.
Spam
Not spam
Forget previous vote
Pacific Press Asks to End ABC Contracts

Conferences will resume ownership; online options available. (Updated: October 9, 2013)

BY MARK A. KELLNER, news editor

A total of 17 Adventist Book Center retail stores servicing 24 conference territories operated by the Pacific Press Publishing Association (PPPA) of Nampa, Idaho, under management agreements with conferences, will transition to local Seventh-day Adventist Church conference administration, officials of the publishing house announced following a September 26, 2013, board meeting.

The board “voted to request termination of the management agreements” for the stores, which it has managed “over the course of nearly 15 years,” a statement from the organization said. The outlets, PPPA said, served “nearly half of the North American Division membership.” A plan to terminate management agreements for the stores should be in place by December 31, 2013, the statement indicated.

“The board recognized that the current business model for these management agreements has experienced challenges due to changing trends in technology and the way people access information,” the PPPA announcement said.

The publishing house said it would not leave any local conferences or members without easy access to church materials.

“We are committed to making all quarterlies, magazines, books, and music easier than ever to order,” says Dale Galusha, PPPA president. “For most products, the local church won’t even notice a change in how they are ordered or delivered.” These materials are available online at www.AdventistBookCenter.com.

Pacific Press is a Seventh-day Adventist publisher based in Nampa, Idaho, that publishes books and magazines for all ages. The company, which has been in operation since 1874, has been based in Nampa, Idaho, since 1984.

CORRECTION: An earlier version of this story misstated the number of Adventist Book Centers involved, as well as the date for transitioning those centers. Both errors have been corrected above.
Adventist world church officials will consider a proposed amendment to the church’s Fundamental Belief on creation, along with other policy changes, during this year’s Annual Council. [ANN file photo]

**Agenda includes proposed amendment to Fundamental Belief on creation**

October 08, 2013 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | Author: ANN staff

A leading expert on business strategy will join Seventh-day Adventist Church officials at the denomination’s world headquarters this week for the church’s October business session.

Author, speaker and business consultant Gary Hamel is slated to present on organizational change at this year’s Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) training program. The program brings church administrators worldwide up to speed on current innovations and best practices in management.

Annual Council, set for October 10 to 16, is the yearly meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Executive Committee, a group of more than 350 world church leaders. Annual Council is the church’s top business meeting other than General Conference Session, which is held every five years.

Hamel is a founder of Strategos, an international management consulting firm based in Chicago. The Wall Street Journal recently ranked Hamel as the “world’s most influential business thinker.” His books include “What Matters Now,” a guide to building organizations that thrive amid uncertainty and shifting priorities.

Annual Council delegates will also receive updates from the church’s Treasury and Secretariat departments. Adventist world church Executive Secretary G. T. Ng is expected to report on 10 of the church’s fastest-growing unions and 10 that are declining in membership.

Along with year-end statistical and financial reviews, this year’s agenda also contains proposed amendments to the church’s Fundamental Beliefs, including clarification of the denomination’s biblical understanding of origins. Delegates will decide whether to move forward with a version of Fundamental Belief Number 6 that merges the current belief with a reaffirmation of a “literal, recent, six-day creation.” Other beliefs may see “minor editorial changes,” said Myron Iseminger, undersecretary for the Adventist world church.

Also on the docket next week is a recommendation to approve administrative status updates for several “union missions,” or local church administrative units that receive appropriations. Delegates are expected to accept the regions’ bid for “union conference” status. Such updates reflect a region’s spiritual maturity and financial stability. As a “union conference,” a region is fully self-sufficient and responsible for electing its own church officers. These officers will be included among delegates to the 2015 General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas.

This year’s Annual Council will also feature, for the first time, the option to replace the bulky binders delegates typically receive at church business meetings with an electronic version of the agenda. The church’s department of International Personnel Resources and Services pioneered the system and recently used it during a meeting at headquarters, saving upwards of $500 on printing costs for the agenda.

“That would buy an iPad,” Iseminger said. “This paperless system is much more efficient and will save us a significant amount of time, effort and money.”
WASHINGTON — The disapproval comes from angry constituents, baffled party elders and colleagues on the other side of the Capitol. But nowhere have senators found criticism more personal or immediate than right inside their own chamber every morning when the chaplain delivers the opening prayer.

“Save us from the madness,” the chaplain, a Seventh-day Adventist, former Navy rear admiral and collector of brightly colored bow ties named Barry C. Black, said one day late last week as he warmed up into what became an epic ministerial scolding.

“We acknowledge our transgressions, our shortcomings, our smugness, our selfishness and our pride,” he went on, his baritone voice filling the room. “Deliver us from the hypocrisy of attempting to sound reasonable while being unreasonable.”

So it has gone every day for the last week when Mr. Black, who has been the Senate’s official man of the cloth for 10 years, has taken one of the more rote rituals on Capitol Hill — the morning invocation — and turned it into a daily conscience check for the 100 men and women of the United States Senate.

Inside the tempestuous Senate chamber, where debate has degenerated into daily name-calling — the Tea Party as a band of nihilists and extortionists, and Democrats as socialists who want to force their will on the American people — Mr. Black’s words manage to cut through as powerful and persuasive.

During his prayer on Friday, the day after officers from the United States Capitol Police shot and killed a woman who had used her car as a battering ram, Mr. Black noted that the officers were not being paid because of the government shutdown.

Then he turned his attention back to the senators. “Remove from them that stubborn pride which imagines itself to be above and beyond criticism,” he said. “Forgive them the blunders they have committed.”

Senator Harry Reid, the pugnacious majority leader who has called his Republican adversaries anarchists, rumps and hostage takers, took note. As Mr. Black spoke, Mr. Reid, whose head was bowed low in prayer, broke his concentration and looked straight up at the chaplain.
“Following the suggestion in the prayer of Admiral Black,” the majority leader said after the invocation, seeming genuinely contrite, “I think we’ve all here in the Senate kind of lost the aura of Robert Byrd,” one of the historical giants of the Senate, who prized gentility and compromise.

In many ways, Mr. Black, 65, is like any other employee of the federal government who is fed up with lawmakers’ inability to resolve the political crisis that has kept the government closed for almost a week. He is not being paid. His Bible study classes, which he holds for senators and their staff members four times a week, have been canceled until further notice.

His is a nonpartisan position, one of just a few in the Senate, and he prefers to leave his political leanings vague. He was chosen in 2003 by Senator Bill Frist, a Tennessee Republican who was the majority leader at the time, from a group of finalists selected by a bipartisan committee. Before that he ministered in the Navy for nearly 30 years.

“I use a biblical perspective to decide my beliefs about various issues,” Mr. Black said in an interview in his office suite on the third floor of the Capitol. “Let’s just say I’m liberal on some and conservative on others. But it’s obvious the Bible condemns some things in a very forceful and overt way, and I would go along with that condemnation.”

Last year, he participated in the Hoodies on the Hill rally to draw attention to the shooting death of Trayvon Martin. In 2007, after objections from groups that did not like the idea of a Senate chaplain appearing alongside political figures, he canceled a speech he was scheduled to give at an evangelical event featuring, among others, Tony Perkins of the conservative Focus on the Family and the columnist and author Ann Coulter.

Mr. Black, who is the first black Senate chaplain as well as its first Seventh-day Adventist, grew up in public housing in Baltimore, an experience he draws on in his sermons and writings, including a 2006 autobiography, “From the Hood to the Hill.”

In his role as chaplain, a position that has existed since 1789, he acts as a sounding board, spiritual adviser and ethical counselor to members of the Senate. When he prays each day, he said, he recites the names of all 100 senators and their spouses, reading them from a laminated index card.

It is not uncommon for him to have 125 people at his Bible study gatherings or 20 to 30 senators at his weekly prayer breakfast. He officiates weddings for Senate staff members. He performs hospital visitations. And he has been at the side of senators when they have died, most recently Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii in December.

He tries to use his proximity to the senators — and the fact that for at least one minute every morning, his is the only voice they hear — to break through on issues that he feels are especially urgent. Lately, he said, they seem to be paying attention.
“I remember once talking about self-inflicted wounds — that captured the imagination of some of our lawmakers,” he said. “Remember, my prayer is the first thing they hear every day. I have the opportunity, really, to frame the day in a special way.”

His words lately may be pointed, but his tone is always steady and calm.

“May they remember that all that is necessary for unintended catastrophic consequences is for good people to do nothing,” he said the day of the shutdown deadline.

“Unless you empower our lawmakers,” he prayed another day, “they can comprehend their duty but not perform it.”

The House, which has its own chaplain, liked what it heard from Mr. Black so much that it invited him to give the invocation on Friday.

“I see us playing a very dangerous game,” Mr. Black said as he sat in his office the other day. “It’s like the showdown at the O.K. Corral. Who’s going to blink first? So I can’t help but have some of this spill over into my prayer. Because you’re hoping that something will get through and that cooler heads will prevail.”
The results of a major survey of the opinions, attitudes and spiritual life patterns of Adventists worldwide are helping church officials shape more effective ministry and mission.

Division presidents to review preliminary draft at next month’s Annual Council

September 25, 2013 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | Author: Elizabeth Lechleitner/ANN

Seventh-day Adventist leaders are making initial recommendations for a global strategic plan based on the results of an unprecedented survey of the opinions, attitudes and spiritual life patterns of church members worldwide.

The survey results will guide members of the church’s Strategic Planning Committee as they identify areas of concern, rank priorities and administer opportunities for 2015 to 2020.

“The church regularly engages in strategic planning to carefully position the organization to best pursue its mission,” said Mike Ryan, chair and director of the Strategic Planning process and a general vice president of the Adventist world church.

“Data collection and analysis are crucial steps in this process,” he said.

In 2011, top church officials first voted to establish an ongoing budget for Adventist research. Since then, eleven research teams have conducted five major surveys. Seven teams worked on a survey of church members, eventually receiving completed surveys from 22,500 Adventists from nine world church divisions. Other research included a survey of more than 4,000 pastors from all thirteen divisions. Including both survey and interview-based research, the study polled a total of 38,000 Adventists worldwide.

“That gives us a lot of rich data to work with,” said David Trim, secretary of the Strategic Planning process and director of the Office of Archives, Statistics and Research for the Adventist world church, which oversaw the research project.

At a planning session in August in the U.S. state of Colorado, committee members—who represent the diversity of global church membership and leadership—began drafting an outline of the Strategic Plan. Division presidents, Trim said, will have the opportunity to review the draft and offer input ahead of this year’s Annual Council, a church business meeting planned for October, at which some of the initial survey results may be released.

“Some of the results might come as a surprise, but [division presidents] already know the nature of the research,” Trim said.

Indeed, division leadership has been instrumental in the research process, Trim said. As well as supporting the work of the research teams, each division was asked to submit an appraisal of the strategic issues it rates most important, both for the world church and its own territory. Each department at Adventist world church headquarters submitted a similar appraisal.

“This research itself was successful largely because it was supported by the divisions and, indeed, many of the unions,” Trim said.

But strategic planning doesn’t end with survey results, or even the best interpretation of those results, church leaders said.

“Strategic planning must go far beyond decision-making based on the best orator. It must be built upon a solid biblical basis, the best research and information, and, most importantly, the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we choose a direction and begin to expend the resources of the church,” Ryan said.

Comprehensive strategic planning, church officials said, should also have a practical side and lead to measurable results.
“Encouraging more Bible reading and prayer will probably be in every Adventist strategic plan until the world ends, but strategic planning doesn’t stop at identifying areas of concern,” Trim said.

“It’s also asking, ‘What can be done to effect positive change?’ and identifying key performance indicators so that in five years, we can go back and measure our progress,” he said.

G. T. Ng, a committee member and executive secretary of the Adventist world church, said that any strategic plan should propel the mission of the church forward.

“We know that strategic planning is important, but it must be a servant to mission,” Ng said. “Planning is valid only when helps the church fulfill the purpose for which it was established.”

The Adventist Church’s current strategic plan is “Tell the World.” The plan is designed to coordinate the church’s efforts to spread its message of hope, and is central to the church’s identity and heritage.

A revised draft of the 2015 to 2020 Strategic Plan will go to delegates of the 2014 Annual Council for approval.
Press Releases

site-icon wwgh.com/rss/article.php
With the recent completion of a hospital-wide, $16 million series of patient-centered capital improvement projects, Walla Walla General Hospital is redefining patient care and the overall hospital guest experience in the Walla Walla Valley. Among the improvements are a new Emergency Center, front entrance & lobby, central registration pavilion, café, and gift shop.

The community is invited to tour the new facility at a ribbon cutting and open house on Wednesday, Sept. 11, from 3-6 p.m. A ribbon cutting ceremony will begin at 3:15 p.m., followed by refreshments and tours of the new hospital and services.

"We're excited about these significant upgrades to Walla Walla General Hospital and what it means for health care in our community," says Monty Knittel, president and CEO. "It's more than just a new look. It's a renewed focus on providing outstanding care with the best patient experience possible."

The hospital's renovations and new construction stem from a master-planning effort spanning the last five years and community research on how to better serve the Walla Walla community. This is the first major hospital renovation since the current building was finished in 1978.

**Highlights of the capital improvements include:**

**Emergency Center:** Twice as big as the hospital's previous emergency room space, the new Emergency Center at Walla Walla General Hospital was developed with patient care and comfort in mind. Defined by modern space and state-of-the-art equipment, the "no wait" Emergency Department features a large comfortable reception area with floor-to-ceiling windows and a welcoming fireplace, private triage and registration areas, modern exam rooms and areas for advanced specialty care, and the latest bedside and diagnostic technology. A new enclosed ambulance bay protects patients from the weather while putting them within seconds of the treatment area.

**Catheterization Lab:** One of the first elements of the hospital improvements was the addition of a state-of-the-art catheterization lab, which now provides lifesaving care here in Walla Walla. Emergency angioplasty and stent procedures, which previously required all patients to be transported more than 60 minutes for care, can now be performed on most patients in the new catheterization lab.

**Front Entrance & Lobby:** Because the patient and visitor experience begins the moment an individual arrives at Walla Walla General Hospital, the hospital's front entrance and lobby were completely remodeled to create a warm, inviting, and light-filled space that comforts guests in a style and color scheme that reflects the agricultural roots of the Walla Walla Valley.

**Central Registration:** The construction of a new central registration pavilion consolidates services, giving patients and guests a single location to check in for all hospital services with the exception of emergency care. New registration offices ensure patient privacy, while a revamped check in process streamlines patient navigation, processing, and wayfinding within the hospital.

**Obstetrics & Surgical Rooms:** Many of the patient rooms have been remodeled and expanded, providing space and easy access to modern equipment while keeping the focus on the patient and giving family members their own beds for overnight stays. Additionally, the new Birth Center nurse’s station now allows staff to monitor new mothers and their babies remotely, giving them additional peace and privacy. The patient room remodel project continues as a donor-funded effort to enhance the healing environment.

**Creekside Café Cafeteria:** The new Creekside Café is a departure from the traditional hospital cafeteria, repositioning the hospital's dining experience as a true restaurant-style facility. The larger facility with expanded serving and eating space is designed to serve as a gathering space for the community, featuring an expanded menu ranging from fresh pizzas, soups, and salads, to vegan and vegetarian...
dishes as well as daily Chef's specials.

**Gift Shop:** A new gift shop features a variety of gifts and other items for patients, families, and employees.

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**About Walla Walla General Hospital**

Walla Walla General Hospital is a 72-bed acute care facility and rural health clinic that has been serving residents of the Walla Walla Valley since 1899. A member of Adventist Health, WWGH is a full-service hospital, including an Accredited Chest Pain Center, Level III trauma center, surgical services, rehabilitation, sleep lab, birthing suites with a Level II nursery, on-site laboratory, and more. The hospital’s recently completed $16 million capital improvement campaign—including a new entrance, new emergency center, new cafeteria, and new admitting areas—improves patient care and convenience. For more information call 509-525-0480 or visit [www.wwgh.com](http://www.wwgh.com).

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