GC Taps Two NW Leaders

Two Northwest Adventists were elected today to General Conference positions. Ramon Canals, North Pacific Union Conference vice president for Hispanic ministries was elected as an associate director for the Sabbath School and personal ministries department. Julian Melgosa, Walla Walla University professor of education and psychology, was elected as an associate director for the world church education department.
Delegates Approve Fundamental Changes

Seventh-day Adventist world church delegates have approved revisions to the wording of the church’s 28 Fundamental Beliefs. The voted actions took place during the Monday and Tuesday business sessions on the floor of the Alamadome in San Antonio, Texas. A review of the Fundamental Beliefs had been requested following the 2010 world church session. The small committee tasked with this responsibility brought suggested revisions to the 2014 Annual Council which in turn forwarded the recommendations for approval to delegates in San Antonio. A complete list of the newly approved Fundamental Beliefs will be available soon online at AdventistReview.org.

Photo: Enno Mueller/NAD

NW Delegate Perspective

Throughout the session, the Gleaner will provide some video glimpses into our Northwest delegates’ perspectives. Enjoy this short clip featuring Gayle Lasher, North Pacific Union Conference delegate from Washington Conference.
While world church delegates deliberate fundamental beliefs and bylaws during the business session, more than 500 Adventist young adults are engaging with the city for Impact San Antonio. They are partnering with local agencies to serve a homeless shelter, an HIV/AIDS hospice, and a center that works to combat alcohol and drug use. They are working with neighborhood clean-up drives, doing an interactive children’s health expo in a low-income area and partnering with the San Antonio human trafficking coalition for morning training and afternoon awareness events in the city center. Read more online at the Adventist Review.

Photo: Adventist Review
Stop and Go

Ruminations from the Gleaner editor

"I will drive miles out of my way to avoid any hint of stop and go traffic. Life is too short, I reason, to spend valuable moments gazing up someone’s tailpipe. It's exhausting. But today traffic slowed on the delegate floor of the Alamodome. It wasn’t in a crush of humanity toward the exits, although that seemed wistfully attractive at times. No, the stop and go bottleneck was right there among us in the seats, in the lines for the microphones. This is how the wheels turn in our church’s democratic process. Motions are made, questions are asked, points of order are entertained. We lay claim to new horizons an inch at a time." Continue reading on the NPUC Gleaner Facebook page.

Photos from GC Session
Watch Additional Videos from the Gleaner

Watch additional videos the Gleaner is producing from GC Session, online at the Gleaner's Vimeo Collection.
NW Tweet of the Day

Andre M. Wang
@Andre_Wang

#GCSA15 day 6: Sitting in the rowdy kids row. #GC15NW

Pictured left to right: Julie Sanders Keymer, Mark Remboldt, Jeanette Remboldt, Max Torkelsen, Paul Hoover, Andre Wang and Gene Heinrich.
GC Session Podcast

Listen to 15-minute daily podcasts from the 60th General Conference Session. The daily podcasts will provide insight into the world church by explaining issues that the church is discussing and describing the votes taken on those issues. It will also discuss activities at the conference including the parade of nations and the 5K health run, as well as reports and music from various continents. Subscribe and listen to the podcasts on the GC Session website.

Are You Watching From Home?

GC Session will be broadcast straight from the Alamodome in San Antonio to your home or church: morning and evening worship, a series on the Adventist heritage by Jim Nix, Sabbath School, divine service, Adventist News Network, In Perspective with Mark Finley, and World of Hope. Watch it all on Hope Channel Church, Hope Channel app or Glorystar 124. The broadcast schedule is online.

Do you enjoy GleanerWeekly? Don't keep it to yourself. Forward it to a friend and share!
Looking Ahead

July

- **July 2–11:** [General Conference Session, San Antonio, TX](#)
- **July 15:** [Restoration International's NW Family Retreat, Spangle, WA](#)
- **July 17:** [NAARA Annual Retreat, Lillooet, British Columbia, Canada](#)
- **July 21–25:** [UCC Sheridan Meadows Camp Meeting, Republic, WA](#)

More Events Online

InPrint

July

Changes are coming to Adventist education in the Northwest — many of them good and all of them challenging. Through it all, educational leaders are committed to continuing the unique mission of
Adventist schools. What does the future hold for our students? Read more in the July *Gleaner* at [GleanerNow.com](http://GleanerNow.com).
What Got Changed in Fundamental Beliefs

A look at some of the statements that were revised and why.

Posted July 7, 2015

By Ed Zinke, editor-at-large, Adventist Review

The Seventh-day Adventist Church seldom revises its Fundamental Beliefs. So why now?

There are at least six reasons why a denomination might consider a revision to its belief statements. It might wish to

- A. Find smoother language and sentence structure.
- B. Find language that is easier to translate into other languages.
- C. Update terminology when the meaning or usage of language has changed.
- D. Clarify language that may not clearly state where the church stands.
- E. Address new situations that call for clarification.
- F. Add an emphasis that was not mentioned in prior statements.
- G. Change or add new statements that add to or change the meaning of the prior statements.

There were no changes in the beliefs adopted Tuesday that represent category G.

While there were no major additions (category F), there were a few minor ones. For example, belief number 2, “The Trinity,” added the phrase “God, who is love.” Belief number 11, “Growing in Christ,” emphasizes the social dimension of biblical Christianity. Affirming the love of God and emphasizing community welfare has always been important to our church.

Many changes fell in categories A and B. For example, in number 17, Spiritual Gifts, a word changed from “which” to “that”; number 25, The Second Coming, had a phrase changed from “Christ’s coming is imminent” to “Christ’s coming is near.” This change not only has the advantage of using biblical language, but it makes for easier reading and is easier to translate.

There were also many changes under category C, changes in the meaning of language. number 7, which was termed “The Nature of Man,” is now “The Nature of Humanity,” representing gender inclusive language. In number 23, “Marriage and the Family,” the term “partners” was changed to “a man and a woman.” The meaning of the word “partners” with reference to marriage has changed in social usage to indicate a commitment to either same sex or opposite sex marriages. The current meaning was not prevalent in 1980 when the statement was last revised. This editorial change signals that the church will remain true to the Biblical concept of marriage in spite of changes in contemporary culture.

Significant changes took place in category D. In number 9, “The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ,” the term “bodily” was added in front of “resurrected.” We have now clarified that the resurrection of Jesus was not a continuing influence nor a spirit experience, but an actual resurrection of Christ in His total person, including His body. Although Scripture emphasizes this point, it is rejected by many theologians, who do not acknowledge the historicity of the biblical account. Thus it was important to add this word “bodily”—unfinished business, carried forward from concerns raised 35 years ago.
Number 18, “The Gift of Prophecy”: Some felt that the church’s prior statement gave Adventist Church cofounder Ellen G. White authority comparable to that of the Bible. Changes have been made to remove this potential ambiguity. White herself emphasizes that her authority is subject to the Scriptures. The new wording of this statement does not in any way diminish the church’s understanding of the authority of the Bible or the prophetic authority of Ellen G. White.

Number 8, “The Great Controversy”: The previous statement contained a phrase on the “worldwide” nature of the biblical flood. The intent of that statement was to represent the biblical teaching that the flood covered the entire world. It was not anticipated that “worldwide” would be re-interpreted by those who do not accept the historicity of Genesis 1-11 to mean “then known world,” portraying a large regional flood. Thus, this GC session changed the word to “global.”

Number 6, “Creation” was the primary reason that the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs was reviewed at this GC session. The existing statement has been re-interpreted by some to mean almost anything they wish about origins, including theistic evolution. Thus the 2004 Annual Council produced a statement that clarified that life on this Earth took place just as stated in Genesis 1 and 2. Those who chose to re-interpret Fundamental Belief number 6 maintained that the 2004 Annual Council statement was not authoritative since it was not voted at a GC session. Thus, the 2004 statement was affirmed at the 2010 GC session with the request that the substance of the action be worked into the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs. The revised statement passed by this session makes it clear that God created life in six actual days, and with the addition of the Sabbath, it was a week as we know it today.

We reserve the right to approve and disapprove comments accordingly and will not be able to respond to inquiries regarding that. Please keep all comments respectful and courteous to authors and fellow readers.
An organizer of Impact San Antonio talks about a 10-day event unfolding during GC session.

Posted July 6, 2015

By Aimee Grace Tapeceria, Adventist Review/ANN

As the Seventh-day Adventist world church holds the General Conference (GC) session in San Antonio, Texas, about 550 young adults ages 18 to 35 are gathering for Impact San Antonio at the Marriott Rivercenter hotel from July 2 to 11.

The 10-day experience is composed of dynamic worship services and breakout sessions that will be accompanied by community service projects in the afternoons.

Dana Connell, community service project coordinator for Impact San Antonio, spoke to the *Adventist Review* about the event.

Delegates of Impact San Antonio listen and learn from Janina Irving, a North American Division representative from Texas, as she talks about prayer and communication during a training session.

**Q: How would you describe Impact San Antonio in a nutshell?**

A: Impact San Antonio is a 10-day experience with your global Adventist young adult community. Impact is community. Impact is growing in Jesus. Impact is leadership in action. Impact is you.

**Q: Why should young people be excited about it?**
A: Because we were made for community with God and each other. This is a global way to celebrate and grow in both while reaching out to serve the local San Antonio community in creative, meaningful, and helpful ways.

Q: Why community service?

A: It’s one thing to be a tourist in a city and admire the beauty and events; it’s another to engage with the city to take part in helping in areas of personal hardship and struggle.

Q: What are some of the community service projects?

A: We have about 20 service and outreach projects taking place. We are partnering with local agencies to serve a homeless shelter, an HIV/AIDS hospice, and a center that works to combat the root issues of alcohol and drug use. We have some neighborhood clean-up drives, and landscaping and house-painting projects. The Street Art Ministry will be teaching through experience how to paint positive and gospel messages on a few walls in San Antonio. We are also partnering with some local Adventist churches to provide the manpower for some site improvements that will help them connect and serve their community even better.

We are doing an interactive children’s health expo in a low-income area where a lot of people struggle with heart disease and diabetes. We are doing some fun, trendy town-center outreaches like “Free Hugs,” “Free Water,” and “Need Prayer?”

We are also having an outreach bus, each day sponsored by a different Adventist television ministry, to go door-to-door in neighborhoods where the local churches have established “Homes of Hope” and go through a personalized survey get to know them a bit and find out what would be helpful to them. This way we can connect them locally and create greater awareness about the Christian family programming available in their area.

Finally, we are also partnering with the San Antonio human trafficking coalition for morning training and afternoon awareness events in the city center, as San Antonio has one of the highest rates of struggle in the country with this crime against humanity.

Q: What will the worship services and breakout sessions focus on?

A: The theme, “Life,” is about Christ permeating every part of our life and boldly, vibrantly, living that out. We will be talking about our individual calling and talents and how God wants to gift and use each one to bring hope and life to others as we experience it in Him. Our speakers will be sharing not only about living “Life” in Christ and their journey with Him, but also sharing specifically through the week where this intersects individually and challenges personally each of us.
Left to right: Impact San Antonio delegates Alan Joseph, Anil Chander Dass, and Vandana Anil Dass talk about the July 6, 2015, morning worship. All three are from the Seventh-day Adventist Central English Church in Bangalore, India (Southern-Asia Division).

Q: How does Impact San Antonio fit in with the General Conference session?
A: Impact San Antonio runs concurrent with General Conference session. So while everyone is meeting and making decisions, we are worshipping, having discipleship training, and serving the local community. While we don't have combined meetings, we have left free time the first Friday to Sunday afternoons for delegates to enjoy wandering at the Alamodome and convention center, [in order] to visit the meetings and exhibit hall, and tour the city for a bit.

Q: How many confirmed delegates have registered for Impact San Antonio?
A: We have about 550 registered delegates.

Q: Can young adults still register?
A: There may be some people who only find out about Impact San Antonio at GC session and would like to register onsite. We could probably accommodate a few more; but we are full and sold out the International, Exclusive, and most of the Essential packages. (For details, check the Web site http://www.impactsa2015.com.)

Impact San Antonio excites me. The vision of the youth and young adult ministries leaders inspires me. Just last March during Global Youth Day, we experienced just how powerful it is to go out into the community and be the sermon. That was only one day. Impact San Antonio will be 10 days.

I was privileged to attend three world conferences on youth and community service events: Impact Thailand in 2003, Impact Taiwan in 2007, and Impact South Africa in 2013. Personal experience has taught me that these Impact events get me recharged and inspired to serve the Lord even more. I am sure that the effect of the San Antonio program will be felt all around the world as the delegates go back to their homes bringing . . . that spirit of community and service with them.


For more information, visit http://www.impactsa2015.com.

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