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NEWS

Sandra Roberts Elected President of Southeastern California Conference

On Sunday, October 27, 2013, delegates voted (72%-28%) to elect Sandra Roberts as president of the Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (SECC).

Roberts had served since 2004 as executive secretary of SECC. Previously, she worked as a teacher, chaplain, youth director, and pastor. She received her master’s degree from Andrews University in 1984, and received a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2006 from Claremont School of Theology.

In her new role, Roberts took the opportunity to recognize the new conference officers and to thank the delegates for their involvement in the constituency session. In her address, she expressed her desire and challenged the audience to follow Jesus in the work that needs to be done throughout the territory of SECC.

Referring to the dusty feet that Jesus had during His time on earth, she said, “Following Him means that we are going to get our feet dirty with the dust of Southern California… We must do this without fear that differences will pull us apart. Christ will always be our anchor point.”

Delegates also elected five other key administrators. These included Jonathan Park, executive secretary; Verlon Strauss, treasurer; Elizer Sacay, vice president for Asian/Pacific Ministries; George King, vice president for Black Ministries; and Alberto Ingleton, vice president for Hispanic Ministries.

Prior to the election of Roberts, delegates had the opportunity to speak to the motion on the floor. Many delegates lined up to share their views. There were some opposing opinions, but most people
expressed their support for Roberts as president.

Ricardo Graham, president of the Pacific Union Conference, reminded delegates that the General Conference does not endorse women’s ordination, and he passed on a message from Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the world church, clarifying that the election of a woman as president would not be recognized by the General Conference.

But Graham continued by stating that because delegates to the Pacific Union Special Session voted in 2012 to authorize the ordination of women, that the recommendation of the SECC nominating committee is in harmony with conference and union bylaws and policies.

Before dedicating the new officers, former President Gerald Penick was thanked for his years of service and received a standing ovation from delegates. Penick spoke to the delegates and gave farewell thoughts.

“May God bless us under this new leadership,” he said.

The Constituency Session began with worship. After music, prayer, and Scripture, John Brunt, senior pastor of Azure Hills Church, delivered a homily.

“God doesn’t play favorites,” he said. He challenged the attendees to trust God to lead the way.

Fifteen new churches and companies were voted into fellowship, members of the executive and bylaws committee were affirmed, and changes to the bylaws were brought into effect.

For one of the session reports, Rudy Carrillo, youth ministries director, introduced Carmen Ibanez, director of Pine Springs Ranch. They presented the Pines Springs Ranch report with images of the damage caused by fire earlier this year, as well as a plan to rebuild the camp. Delegates approved a spending request to begin the rebuilding process.

After the officers affirmed that they would listen to their constituency, the session was closed with a benediction.

by Enno Müller, interim communication director, Southeastern California Conference
Source: NADNewsPoints, October 29, 2013

General Conference Responds to Election of Female Conference President

Seventh-day Adventist world church officials today released a statement regarding a local conference that recently elected as president a person who is not recognized by the world church as an ordained minister. Ordination is one of the criteria for being a conference president. The statement, in its entirety, follows:

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has been called by God as an urgent, end-time voice proclaiming God’s love and last day message to the world. He has commissioned us to proclaim the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14:6-12 to people worldwide desperately looking for hope. The message and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is unique and is heaven-sent. Our top priority as a church is knowing Jesus ourselves and sharing His message of redemption. Nothing is to stand in the way of this proclamation as we unite to reach every “nation, kindred, tongue and people” with the “everlasting gospel.”

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a fellowship of believers bound together by a common commitment to Christ, the truths of the Bible, a worldwide church organization and a mission to the world. Each of these elements is vitally important in preserving the unity of the church and keeping it from fracturing. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is not organized as a collection of independent units. Although each Conference/Mission, Union and the General Conference (which includes the divisions) have their own constituencies, they are also united by common commitments, mutual trust and agreed upon policies. The Church, the body of Christ, is inter-related. Actions that affect one part of the body affect the whole. The Apostle Paul stated it succinctly in these words, “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ” (1 Corinthians 12:12).
Working Policy, which is the recording of our agreements as to how we will work together to do the Lord’s work and mission, serves as one of the practical unifying agents that the Holy Spirit uses to bind the church together. Policy is not inflexible. It can be changed but it reflects the understanding of the collective group, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. When personal convictions are placed ahead of the collective policy decisions of the worldwide church, troubling precedents are set. God works in an orderly way and wishes His church to exemplify this sanctified behavior through the power of the Holy Spirit. Humility and submission to God for the good of the church body as outlined in the Word of God and the Spirit of Prophecy are fundamental Biblical principles for the benefit of the church.

At the 2012 Annual Council in a voted action entitled, “Statement on Church Polity, Procedures, and Resolution of Disagreements in the Light of Recent Union Actions on Ministerial Ordination,” the world church strongly indicated that it does not recognize as ordained ministers individuals who do not meet the criteria outlined in policy. It deeply concerns the world leadership of the church that recently a local conference constituency elected as a conference president an individual who is not recognized by the world church as an ordained minister. Ordination to the ministry is one of the criteria set forth for being a conference president. General Conference administration is working with the North American Division administration as they deal with the implications of this local conference action, which is contrary to the 2012 Annual Council action.

The world church is currently working together in a Theology of Ordination Study Committee with participation by all divisions to better understand the functions of ordination as well as the role of women in relation to ordination to the gospel ministry. A careful process is functioning and reports will be given to the 2014 Annual Council with the expectation that this subject will go to the 2015 General Conference Session for a decision under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We have every confidence in the Lord’s leading of His precious remnant church. By God’s grace and through the Holy Spirit’s guidance, the church will find its way through this challenging time as we move forward with the unique message and mission entrusted to the Seventh-day Adventist movement. It is God’s plan that we proclaim His end-time, prophetic truth to every corner of the globe and especially the enormous metropolitan centers of the world through “Mission to the Cities” utilizing every form of comprehensive urban evangelism including comprehensive health ministry and many other methods. We urge all church members and leaders to pray that the Holy Spirit will unite us to fulfill Christ’s promise that “this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:14) United in Christ’s love, bound together in a common Biblical message, linked through a common church organization and committed to one another with mutual respect and trust through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are confident this church will triumph at last and proclaim Christ’s eternal message of truth to the ends of the earth in anticipation of Jesus’ soon second coming.

—The General Conference Executive Officers
Source: NADNewsPoints, October 31, 2013

EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 2
Milton’s Fundraising Concert

Come and support Milton’s fundraising concert
When: November 2, 2013
Where: Milton Christian School, 45 Bruce St, Milton
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Tickets: $10 for adults $5 for children under 12
Performers: Norwil Simmonds, Rexdale Outreach Choir, Lift Him Up, Pretha Radlein and many others.
Contact: 416-294-3689 or 647-928-1413. Refreshments will be on sale.

November 15-17
Health & Children’s Ministries Annual Leadership Training Convention

Annual leadership training convention for leaders in Health and Children’s Ministries (Ontario) and directors/coordinators of Health Ministries from the Seventh-day Adventist Church in
Canada. Location: Trinity Pentecostal Church, 900 King St. East, Oshawa on November 15 & 16, and College Park Church, 1164 King St. East, Oshawa on November 17. Registration: $30 (includes seminar materials and 4 meals). Please register with Ruth Weidner at rweidner@adventistontario.org or on the website - www.adventistontario.org. Registration deadline is November 7, 2013.

November 17
NEW! Family Ministries Leadership Training

Four modules from the NAD Family Leadership Certification Training will be provided in a one-day session this coming November in the Ontario Conference boardroom, 1110 King St. E., Oshawa. These modules are: Human Growth and Development, Understanding the Family as a System, Spiritual Parenting, and Sexuality Education. This training is designed for local church family ministries leaders and their teams.

The training will be presented by Pastor Claudio and Mrs. Pamela Consuegra from NAD Family Ministries, along with Pastor David and Mrs. Joan Rogers from Ontario Conference Family Ministries. Participants that have already completed six modules at the 2012 Festival of the Laity are asked to complete these four courses to receive their certification. New participants will have an opportunity to complete certification in future training sessions. The cost per leader is $25, which includes materials and lunch. Early bird registration is only $20 per leader (ends October 14, 2013). Register by November 4, 2013. Email kbailey@adventistontario.org for registration form or call 905-571-1022, ext. 204.

November 17
Kingsway College Fun(d) Dinner

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our 2013 Fun(d) Dinner on Sunday, November 17, 5:00-8:30 p.m. at 1200 Leland Road at the A.E. King Fitness Complex. Come and join us for an evening of entertainment and a silent auction, all in support of the Worthy Student Fund.

There is something for everyone to enjoy, so be sure to bring your family and friends!

To reserve seats, please contact Ashley at funddinner@kingswaycollege.on.ca or 905-433-1144 ext. 211. Please indicate the first and last name of your guest(s). Registration deadline is Thursday, November 14. Seating is limited.

November 30
“A Time to Heal” Day

Lost your job? Lost your health? Lost a loved one? Join us for a day of healing on November 30, 2013 from 9:15 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at Apple Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church, 700 Apple Creek Blvd. in Markham. Our afternoon workshops will offer coping methods, resources and support. Dr. Steve Willsey, pastor and certified crisis care trainer, will be our keynote speaker during the morning praise service, an opportunity to rejoice and give thanks with those overcoming these challenges.

December 1 & 2
Individual Crisis Intervention

Kingsway College Chapel – Dr. Steve Willsey
“Individual Crisis Intervention” – Registration Online Only
Sunday, Dec. 1: 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 2: 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Early bird registration $65.00 up to November 15th - $70.00 after. Registration includes all handout materials. Bring a pack lunch.
Enquiries contact Verna at vstoraune@adventistontario.org or 905-571-1022, ext. 109

May 23-25, 2014
Crawford Adventist Academy 61st Alumni Homecoming Weekend

We are looking for two representatives for each honoured year as well as volunteers to help in various areas for this event. Please contact the office of advancement, TADSB - Derrick Hall, VP of advancement, (416) 633-0090 / toll free (866) 960-2125 ext. 234 or dhall@tadsb.com; Judy Cardona Gamez, advancement assistant, ext. 248 or jgamez@tadsb.com. Visit our official website www.tadsb.com; follow us on Twitter @TJACAAAlumni; like us on Facebook ‘The Official TJA/CAA Alumni Group’.

OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS & JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Position Available at Canadian University College

CUC has an immediate opening for an Accounting Services Director to fill a temporary medical leave, with the guarantee of an equivalent full-time position for the right person. Duties include meeting internal and external reporting requirements pertaining to accounting records. A four-year business degree or equivalent is required, as well as 5 to 6 years’ related experience. Go to www.cauc.ca/humanresources (after September 9) for a job description and further information about the position, or contact Audrey Haggkvist at audrey@cauc.ca or 403.782.3381, x4147.

If you, your church or someone you know have an ENCOUNTER 1 set of filmstrips and cassette tapes, please contact Pastor Dirk Zinner at dzinner@adventistontario.org.

Please send articles in plain text (NO graphics or photos) to OCN@AdventistOntario.org
(No later than Wednesday afternoon)

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