Publishing Houses End Merger Talks, Review Celebrates 30th Anniversary of Move

After administrators at the General Conference (GC) and North American Division requested that the boards of the Pacific Press Publishing Association (Idaho) and Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., consider a merger in June, a taskforce was formed to study the matter. However, GC officials released a statement today saying the taskforce will not continue.

The statement notes, “the nature of a restructured relationship in whatever future format that may develop requires deeper analysis and modeling. It is felt in the best interest of the publishing work of the church at this time for there to be no change to the governance of the two institutions.” Click here to read the full statement.

Less than two weeks ago, the Review celebrated the 30th anniversary of their move from Washington, D.C. Read that story here. Pictured is Mark Thomas, president of the Review and Herald, addressing employees.—Photo by Kim Peckham
D.C. Area Young Adults Spearhead Praise and Service Outreach

“We were not counting on having rain,” said Jimmy Munoz (pictured left), discipleship pastor at Potomac Conference’s Seabrook church in Lanham, Md. “We moved ahead trusting that God would keep it away, but God allowed a terrific storm. We got soaked. Feelings of sadness and disappointment were real and deep. Would we go home defeated? Not at all!”

After weeks of planning a gospel showcase along with food and clothes distribution to homeless people in Washington, D.C., the organizers could have just given up when it rained. Instead, they remembered what drove them to organize the event in the first place. “We are called to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters, feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Our goal was to feed 500 displaced persons and minister to 1,000 members of the community,” said Jenice Goffe, Seabrook’s Twenties and Thirties (TNT) ministry leader.

And that is just what they did. Calling their event Park ‘N Praise, members of Seabrook church’s Twenties and Thirties group worked with three other area churches to make Sabbath, July 27, a day of praise and service.—Story by Visitor Staff; Photo by Jarvis Jackson

READ MORE

World Church Leaders Recognize WAU’s VP

Leaders for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Youth Ministries department recently recognized Baraka Muganda, EdD, Washington Adventist University’s (WAU) vice president for Ministry, for his outstanding contribution to the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. The
recognition took place in front of 1,000 young people who gathered for the third Youth and Community Service Conference in Pretoria, South Africa, an event Muganda founded while he served as world church Youth Ministries director.

Muganda said of the recognition, “I was humbled and grateful to God for using me to impact the lives of so many youth around the world and leading them to the cross of Calvary.”

He served as the world church’s youth director from 1995 to 2010. During that time, he oversaw activities for 8 million young people around the world and developed programs and strategies for the Adventurer, Pathfinder and Ambassador clubs as well as senior youth. Muganda is pictured receiving the honor with Gilbert Cangy (center), world church youth director, and Jonatan Tejel (right), associate youth director.—Story by Grace Virtue

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Shady Grove’s Golf Classic Raises Over $200K

More than 200 golfers on two courses helped Adventist HealthCare’s (AHC) Shady Grove Campus Golf Classic net nearly $220,000. Proceeds from the 27th annual Golf Classic will support programs at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, Adventist Behavioral Health and Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital of Maryland. The event was held in Ijamsville, Md., at Holly Hills Country Club and Whiskey Creek Golf Club.

Dozens of volunteers from across Adventist HealthCare and the business community assisted
with the day’s events, which included contests on the course, the raffle of an autographed Robert Griffin III jersey and a silent auction. After testing his skills on the course, John Sackett (pictured left with his team), president of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Gaithersburg, Md., joined AHC executives at the tournament’s awards ceremony to thank sponsors and highlight how funds raised will make a difference at their facilities.

“The Golf Classic creates wonderful opportunities for us to serve the community,” says Will Smith, chief development officer. “We are grateful for our generous sponsors, our Foundation board, our golf committee members and everyone who helped make this event a success.”—Story by Laura Cook

Chesapeake Member Named Chief Medical Officer at D.C. Pediatric Hospital

Robert Blake, MD, a member of Chesapeake Conference’s Glen Burnie (Md.) church, was recently named chief medical officer and vice president of medical affairs at The HSC Pediatric Center. The center is a principal provider of rehabilitative and transitional care for children and youth with disabilities and complex medical needs in Washington, D.C. Blake began his new position on July 1. Providing clinical vision in directing inpatient driven programs, his mission will also include working to close the widening gap in community-based services to better support young people in their communities.

“Dr. Blake is an experienced leader and seasoned clinician, and we are thrilled he is returning to our system,” said Thomas W. Chapman, EdD, MPH, president and CEO of The HSC Health Care Foundation. “His commitment to quality, patient-centered care is a tremendous asset to The HSC Pediatric Center.”

Most recently, he was an attending physician at Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital in Baltimore.—Story by Eva Fowler

Potomac Church Hosts Party for Neighbors
“I wasn’t too keen on the idea of a neighborhood party,” admitted Garry Genser, senior pastor for Potomac Conference’s Vienna (Va.) church. “I didn’t think that an upscale suburb of [Washington,] D.C., would be a good location for such an event.”

However, when Matt Miller, Genser’s head elder, approached him with the idea of a dinner and movie church social, Genser says the ‘light came on.’ “I brainstormed ideas with Maurice Battle, pastoral associate, to find things that would draw this particular community. We tried to narrow down the demographics and the needs of the community and finally landed on a traveling zoo and pony rides.”

Two weeks before, the Vienna Pathfinders spent an afternoon distributing flyers to more than 650 homes, and the next week, church members followed up with a second invitation reminding them that the neighborhood party would take place later that day. “When our neighbors came and our church members saw them mingling and relaxing in the shade, enjoying an internationally-themed dinner, there was a feeling of blessedness,” said Genser. —Story by Tiffany Doss

READ MORE ON POTOMAC’S WEBSITE

Baltimore Junior Academy Selected as Title 1 Summer School Site

Allegheny East Conference’s Baltimore Junior Academy (BJA) in Baltimore was one of four religious private schools selected to host the city’s Title 1 summer school. The summer school provides intensive skill development in reading and math for students in grades K to 9. One aspect of the program allows for students to receive tutoring via the Internet. The students received brand new mini computers to keep when they complete the summer school.
Title 1 is a federal program that provides financial assistance to schools with high percentages of at-risk students to support their academic achievement. To ensure separation of church and state, the program was conducted in a trailer on BJA’s campus. Pictured is Christy Dale, a BJA student receiving her new computer.

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**Book Release: *The 21st Century Nehemiah***

In his first published work, Gladwin Mathews, PhD, pulls from his observations as a pastor’s kid to focus on servant leadership. We got in touch with the elder at Potomac Conference’s Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md., and he told us a bit more about what to expect:

**Why did you choose to focus on Nehemiah?**

**A:** I believe Nehemiah is the best example of a servant leader after Jesus Christ. He exhibited true characteristics of a humble, loving, visionary and compassionate leader. He did not care for the comforts of the royal palace or his “royal” job, but left for Jerusalem to comfort and serve His people and build the ruins of the city.
Publishing Houses End Merger Talks

Pick up a copy of the book at the Potomac Adventist Book and Health Food Store in Silver Spring, Md. You can also read more about Adventist principles at Mathews’ website, gladadventistministries.com.—Interview by Beth Michaels

READ MORE

Study Committee Votes Consensus Statement on ‘Theology of Ordination’

By a vote of 86 to 8—a ratio of almost 11:1—delegates at the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Theology of Ordination Study Committee (TOSC) agreed July 23 to approve a consensus statement on an Adventist theology of ordination. The action was an early endorsement of the goal of TOSC leaders to move unitedly through the challenging issues surrounding the church’s discussion of ordination.

According to the statement, “Seventh-day Adventists understand ordination, in a biblical sense, as the action of the church in publicly recognizing those whom the Lord has called and equipped for local and global church ministry.” Biblical examples of ordained persons include elders/supervising elders and deacons, the document says, as well as “elders who were itinerant and supervised greater territory with multiple congregations.”

Explaining the role of an ordained person, the statement continues: “In the act of ordination the church confers representative authority upon individuals for the specific work of ministry to which they are appointed.”—Story by Mark Kellner/Adventist Review; Photo by Ansel Oliver/ANN

READ MORE AT THE ADVENTIST REVIEW
End quote: Was Jesus a Political Dissident?

The newly released book, *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth* is getting a lot of attention. The author, Reza Aslan who is a former Christian turned Muslim, says Jesus was no passive peacemaker, instead he called Him a political rabble-rouser. We asked Columbia Union members what they thought Jesus’ personality was like. Here’s one response:

“The kingdom of heaven and the true character of God the Father were the two overarching main concerns in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Throughout His ministry, Christ stuck to the purpose of revealing these two priorities. His was not a political agenda, but a life-changing agenda, to transform men and women into sons and daughters of God. Others tried to use Him for political purposes, and He constantly thwarted every attempt. Instead, He transformed people from inside out, and through that Divine transformation, Jesus transformed the world.”—Ray Hartwell, president of the Pennsylvania Conference

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UPCOMING EVENTS

*Click here for a complete listing of upcoming events around the Columbia Union Conference.*

MARYLAND

July 27-August 24: Pastor Earl Esdaile comes from Andrews University (Mich.) to present the Amazing Love Bible Series at the Northeast church, located at 1201 Taylor Avenue in Parkville, Md. The program starts at 7 p.m. each evening (except Mondays and Thursdays), and will include inspiring preaching, beautiful music and a Vacation Bible School
August 3: Wintley Phipps, a Grammy-nominated gospel-recording artist will be performing in concert at 7 p.m. at Sligo church in Takoma Park during the church’s annual homecoming weekend. (A free-will offering will be collected.) For further information visit sligochurch.com or call (301) 270-6777.

August 9: The New Hope Young Adult group is inviting you to their campfire vespers (Restore) at 7 p.m. at 12350 Hall Shop Road in Fulton, Md. Bring a camp chair and your favorite chocolate bar for the s’mores potluck. Get more information at www.facebook.com/newhopeyoungadults.

September 6-7: The Potomac Conference is sponsoring SEEDS, a convention for people interested in growing the kingdom of God. This training event will help maximize the impact of volunteers and the overall planting experience. Johnny Wong, who planted 15 churches in Australia with his concept of ‘care groups,’ will be the main speaker. The event will be held at the Community of Hope church in Silver Spring, Md. Click here to register. Deadline: Aug 23.

PENNSYLVANIA
July 28-August 17: The Willow Grove (Pa.) church will host the “Victory!” evangelistic revival from 7:15 p.m. nightly, on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Evangelist Sherry L. Hall will share the message each night. The church is located at 1576 Fairview Avenue. For more information visit willowgroveadventist.org.

Virginia
August 24: Potomac Conference’s EQUIP is an event designed to empower people to lead in their local church more effectively. The event offers more than 20 seminars that cover various topics, such as how to give effective Bible studies, build healthy relationships and be an effective church administrator. The seminar will be held at the New Market (Va.) church from 3-7:45 p.m. Click here to register. Deadline: Aug. 23

September 15-16: Potomac Conference’s Women’s Retreat, will focus on God’s grace to us, how we show grace to others and how to move gracefully as women of God. Come for a weekend of spiritual, mental and physical refreshment in a wooded setting, amid tranquil paths with accommodations at the Westfield Marriott in Chantilly, Va. Click here to register. Deadline: September 4

Having trouble viewing this email? Click here to read it online. For more news and up-to-date information from the Columbia Union Conference, visit columbiaunion.org.
Publishing Houses End Merger Talks


To send us a news story or announcement, email us at visitor@columbiaunion.net. The deadline for all submissions is 12 p.m. each Tuesday.

Stay Connected:

Taashi Rowe, Visitor News Bulletin Editor
5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045
Email: visitor@columbiaunion.net Website: www.columbiaunion.org

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Statement on North American Adventist Publishing Houses

On June 19, 2013 the General Conference and North American Division administrations forwarded to the boards of Pacific Press Publishing Association and Review and Herald Publishing Association a request for the two organizations to consider a merger in the near future. A taskforce was formed to study the matter and prepare recommendations to go to the two boards and to their constituencies.

The taskforce has been diligently meeting, earnestly praying and carefully studying the matter. While there are differing perspectives as to the interpretation of the specific Spirit of Prophecy statements regarding the Review and Herald Publishing Association and Pacific Press Publishing Association in this current setting, all support the importance of the Spirit of Prophecy and the need for a strong publishing ministries involvement in evangelistic outreach. However, the differing perspectives on Spirit of Prophecy statements merits further reflection and the nature of a restructured relationship in whatever future format that may develop requires deeper analysis and modeling. It is felt in the best interest of the publishing work of the church at this time for there to be no change to the governance of the two institutions. Because of this the General Conference and North American Division administrations have requested that the two publishing houses continue to operate under their current structures but that they try to find ways to realize economies through closer cooperation and possible shared services. The taskforce will not continue but the General Conference and North American Division administrations will work closely in conjunction with the publishing house boards and administrations in a cooperative way to facilitate the closest working relationship possible for the accomplishment of the evangelistic, witnessing and nurturing objectives of local churches and members in the North American Division and the world field. The publishing houses are also encouraged to work very closely with and respond to the North American Division's mission-driven publishing needs and cooperate in developing more division-oriented and efficient delivery and distribution systems.

The Church cherishes the Spirit of Prophecy counsel indicating that the publishing ministries are a vital part of the fourth angel's message of Revelation 18 until the end of time. Let us work together for a continually expanding emphasis and use of the Church's print and digital evangelistic and witnessing materials by church members, local churches, church organizations and all of us. Please pray for the public sharing and personal use of printed and electronic materials as we lift up Christ, proclaim His three angels messages of Revelation 14 and announce His soon second coming.
Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists


Review Celebrates 30 Years Since Move

Story by Kim Peckham Published 7/30/13

Review and Herald retirees Frank and Anita Jacobs arrive at a homecoming event celebrating 30 years since the publishing house moved to Hagerstown.

“God changes lives through the power of literature,” Ted N.C. Wilson, General Conference president, told a large group of Review and Herald Publishing Association current and former employees who gathered in Hagerstown to mark the anniversary of the association’s move from Washington, D.C. Thirty years ago, the Review and Herald constructed a state-of-the-art printing and office facility near the intersection of highways 70 and 81. “We built this place to finish the work,” said Harold “Bud” Otis, Jr., president of the organization at the time of the move. The plant’s old location in the city made expansion impossible. A high cost of living also made it hard to attract the young families that the publisher wanted to recruit. The General Conference headquarters, which had been located across the street from the press, moved to the suburbs six years later. “The Review was the first official organization of the church—organized before the General Conference—so it was up to us to lead the way,” says Otis with a smile. The Review and Herald moved all manufacturing equipment and about 400 employees without losing a single day of production. Weekly magazines such as Guide, Insight and the Adventist Review continued to flow to churches and homes without interruption.

The new plant, which won an award for industrial design, provided for an efficient workflow. A railroad spur allows boxcars full of paper to roll up to the back door. Currently the plant prints millions of copies of Steps to Christ and The Great Controversy as well as shorter runs of other books and magazines.

Special guests at the July 20 event included Bill Knott, editor of the Adventist Review and Adventist World. Currently the publishing house prints a total of 1.1 million copies of the Adventist World every month in three languages. Jim Nix, director of the Ellen G. White Estate, spoke in the afternoon about God’s providential hand in establishing the church’s publishing work.

Individual employees gave testimonies of how God led in their lives personally and in the work of the press. At the end of the day, attendees rededicated themselves to service. Wilson expressed the hope that Jesus would return before there was a need for any more anniversary celebrations. He urged the staff to use “every kind of innovative way to draw people’s attention to Christ’s soon coming.”
Ted N.C. Wilson, General Conference president, addresses attendees at the Review and Herald anniversary celebration.

Byron Steele, Bill Kirstein, Bryan Gray, and Daniel Anez represent three generations of designers who worked on Adventist Review magazine.

Editor and publisher of both the Adventist Review and the Adventist World talks about the relationship between the church’s oldest organization and its first magazine.

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Please limit your comments to 500 words or less. Only one comment per person will be published.
Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists


D.C. Area Young Adults Spearhead Praise and Service Outreach

Story by Visitor Staff Published 7/31/13

Young people from four Washington, D.C., area churches praise God even in the rain.

“We were not counting on having rain,” said Jimmy Munoz, discipleship pastor at Potomac Conference’s Seabrook church in Lanham, Md. “We moved ahead trusting that God would keep it away, but God allowed a terrific storm. We got soaked. Feelings of sadness and disappointment were real and deep. Would we go home defeated? Not at all!” After weeks of planning a gospel showcase along with food and clothes distribution to homeless people in Washington, D.C., the organizers could have just given up. Instead, they remembered what drove them to organize the event in the first place. “We are called to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters, feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Our goal was to feed 500 displaced persons and minister to 1,000 members of the community,” said Jenice Goffe, Seabrook’s Twenties and Thirties (TNT) ministry leader. And that is just what they did. Calling their event Park ‘N Praise, members of Seabrook church’s Twenties and Thirties group worked with three other area churches (Potomac’s Restoration Praise Center in Lanham and Takoma Park in Takoma Park, Md., as well as Allegheny East Conference’s Metropolitan church in Hyattsville, Md.) to make Sabbath, July 27, a day of praise and service. The young people decided to not only share music, poetry and devotional thoughts, but also distribute food and toiletries and provide free health screenings. Although each church had their own outreach ministries this event was different. This was the first time they partnered for an event like this. Marquis D. Johns, associate pastor at Metropolitan church, said, “This project gave us the opportunity to collaborate with other churches in the area, something that is relatively rare, to do more than just preach Jesus, but to be the only Jesus some people will ever see.”

Goffe added, “We wanted to hold an event that was ‘without walls.’ The idea was to go where the people are. So often we do concerts and programs in churches and we are often only ministering to each other. We are called to take the gospel to all the world, so we thought that it was a natural fit to have the event in a large, outdoor space where passersby could hear the music and feel welcome to come over and join us. And that is exactly what happened—several homeless men stayed for the singing and a few even shared a song and their testimony.”

Richard Embden, who was previously homeless for seven years, stumbled on the event and happily got up on stage to sing. Embden who was on his way to another performance, said he stayed around because he thought the Park ‘N Praise event “might be better.” He also shared that he had a long relationship with Pastor Jeremiah Green, Seabrook church’s youth pastor. “He’s been praying for me for a little while and I’ve appreciated the prayers of the saints,” Embden said. He also had some words of advice for those who help the homeless. “Food and clothes are plentiful … but being treated with decency and respect—even some places that give you the assistance treat you as less than sometimes, so when you run across genuine Christians, it’s refreshing.” Another passerby also got up on stage to sing. Larry
Edwards said, “Anything that promotes god and peace I’m all apart of more of it needed. Just saw them gathered in a huddle. Walked up Felt I had to do something. Not only do I just love performing something just told me to get up on stage and sing—a gift by God.” Many of the attendees, passersby, homeless people and church members reported receiving a blessing that afternoon even in the rain. “We were all challenged by the reality that we have been gifted to accomplish anything God wants,” Munoz said. “At least one person gave her heart anew to God and 70 asked to be soaked in God’s spirit. They were.”

COMMENTS POLICY: The Columbia Union Conference Visitor encourages quality conversation and welcomes your thoughtful comments. All comments are subject to approval but will not be edited. Please limit your comments to 500 words or less. Only one comment per person will be published.
The Beltsville Adventist Community Center is not yet a year old, but it is already piloting a first-in-the-state program connecting prison inmates with families.

"We're very excited to be piloting this," said Glenn Holland, community pastor for BACC, which is operated through the Beltsville Seventh Day Adventist Church.

The pilot program uses video conferencing software and equipment to allow family and friends to schedule an appointment at BACC to see and speak with inmates at Jessup Corrections Institution eligible for visitation at no cost. Holland said.

Holland said he learned about videoconference visitation being used in Virginia through the regional conference of Seventh Day Adventist churches. Holland said Virginia is the only other state to provide the service.

"It seemed like something we ought to be doing in
Maryland," Holland said.

Holland said he contacted the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and last September, a plan began to create the free pilot program.

“We think this is better for safety and it is easier on families in that they do not have to travel as far,” Martha Danner, 

DPSCS deputy director of Community Supervision Support

Jessup is currently the only prison participating, but if the pilot is successful, it would be expanded to other state prisons, Danner said, adding that several Baltimore area churches have expressed an interest in participating.

Inmates are more likely to be successful after prison if they have strong family support, but many families cannot make the journey on a regular basis, Danner said.

“If somebody can visit from a remote location and maintain closer contact with the inmate, that inmate may well do better when he or she gets out,” Danner said.

There are 22 prisons in Maryland and JCI is closest to Prince George’s County.

Capt. Anthony Lewis, pilot project coordinator for JCI, said the benefits include not having to search visitors for contraband or worry about visitor safety inside the facility.

“Jessup Correctional Institution was pleased to be chosen by the DCPCS to pilot this video visit program," said Lewis. “This is a wonderful program and I would like to see it expand throughout the DPCFS.”

The first video visitation was held July 14.

“It went great,” said Holland. “They were really excited to be the first ones to try it.”

The inmate and visitor wished to remain confidential, Holland said.

Video visitations must be scheduled at least a week in advance, by calling the Beltsville Seventh Day Adventist Church. Currently, they are only scheduled for Sundays, as the church observes the Sabbath on Saturdays and hosts a daycare program weekdays, but if demand increases, it may be extended to weekday evenings as well, Holland said.

Holland said the prison video visitation is just one example of ways churches and government can cooperate.

BACC provides other services such as counseling, a computer lab and a food pantry.

“Both churches and government need to be working together to meet the needs of the community that we both have a mutual interest in serving, and that’s what we’re doing here,” Holland said.

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Potluck

Just like an after church fellowship lunch, **Potluck** is where members of the Columbia Union Conference can share what they’ve cooked up in terms of spiritually-based music, literature and arts. Have a book, recording or project to share? Email us at visitor@columbiaunion.net.

**Book Review: The 21st Century Nehemiah**

**Interview by Beth Michaels Published 7-24-13**

In his first published work, Gladwin Mathews, PhD, pulls from his observations as a pastor’s kid to focus on servant leadership. We got in touch with the elder at Potomac Conference’s Southern Asian church in Silver Spring, Md., and he told us a bit more about what to expect:

**What experiences led you to discuss servant leadership?**
A: I grew up observing many leaders, both in the religious and political world—some with insightful and challenging leadership qualities, and some with no leadership qualities at all. Yet, they would hang on to their position just to seek power, wealth, status and influence with no results. Through this book, I want others to understand the real role of a dedicated, God-fearing leader.

**Why did you choose to focus on Nehemiah?**
A: I believe Nehemiah is the best example of a servant leader after Jesus Christ. He exhibited true characteristics of a humble, loving, visionary and compassionate leader. He did not care for the comforts of the royal palace or his “royal” job, but left for Jerusalem to comfort and serve His people and build the ruins of the city.

Pick up a copy of the book at the Potomac Adventist Book and Health Food Store in Silver Spring, Md. You can also read more about Adventist principles at Mathews’ website, gladadventistministries.com.

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Adventist Review: 20 CN: Study Committee Votes Consensus Statement on "Theology of Ordination"

BY MARK A. KELLNER, News Editor, reporting from Linthicum Heights, Maryland

By a vote of 86 to 8 – a ratio of almost 11:1 – delegates at the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Theology of Ordination Study Committee (TOSC) agreed July 23 to approve a consensus statement on an Adventist theology of ordination. The action was an early endorsement of the goal of TOSC leaders to move unitedly through the challenging issues surrounding the church’s discussion of ordination. [Read the complete statement]

According to the statement, “Seventh-day Adventists understand ordination, in a biblical sense, as the action of the church in publicly recognizing those whom the Lord has called and equipped for local and global church ministry.” Biblical examples of ordained persons include elders/supervising elders and deacons, the document says, as well as “elders who were itinerant and supervised greater territory with multiple congregations.”

Explaining the role of an ordained person, the statement continues: “In the act of ordination the church confers representative authority upon individuals for the specific work of ministry to which they are appointed. These may include representing the church; proclaiming the gospel; administering the Lord’s Supper and baptism; planting and organizing churches; guiding and nurturing members; opposing false teachings; and providing general service to the congregation.”

Unlike the beliefs of some other Christian faiths, however, Seventh-day Adventist ordination “neither conveys special qualities to the persons ordained nor introduces a kingly hierarchy within the faith community.”

The statement concludes by noting “the ultimate model of Christian ministry is the life and work of our Lord, who came not to be served but to serve.”

The approval of the document came on the second day of the second 2013 gathering of TOSC members, who met at a private, non-church conference center near the Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport. Delegates included church pastors, lay
members, scholars and officers from throughout the Seventh-day Adventist global community, with Artur Stele, a general vice president of the world church and director of the General Conference Biblical Research Institute, as chairman. Geoffrey Mbwana, another general vice president, is vice chair.

“This is the first time the church has taken a serious study to develop a theology of ordination,” Mbwana said shortly after the vote. “It’s critical that before we discuss any issue of ordination, we actually understand a theology of ordination. Today, I think a milestone is beginning to happen: that a consensus statement has been accepted to be recommended to the General Conference, the Annual Council and then to the [G.C.] Session to be adopted as a statement of a theology of ordination.”

Agreeing on a theology of ordination is preparatory to the TOSC’s other task, discussing the ordination of women to the gospel ministry. The subject has been debated among Seventh-day Adventists for years, with the worldwide General Conference sessions of 1990 and 1995 declining to permit such ordinations. The TOSC is charged with producing material for discussion and making recommendations that will be acted upon at the church’s July 2015 world session, due to be held in San Antonio, Texas.

According to Bill Knott, *Adventist Review* editor and a member of the TOSC, “If the church can reach consensus on a common theology of ordination, it offers hope that it may also find a solution that honors the strongly held convictions on both sides of this issue.”

Committee meetings continue through Wednesday, July 24.
Visitor News Bulletins

Upcoming Events Around the Columbia Union

MARYLAND
July 27: Akeem James, founder of Ultimate Cry, a ministry that desires to spread the message of Christ's soon return, will lead an afternoon seminar on how the character of Christ can be practically revealed through His people. This free seminar will be held at the Gaithersburg (Md.) Brazilian church at 7412 Muncaster Mill Road from 3-6:30 p.m. Click here to learn more about the ministry.

July 27-August 24: Pastor Earl Esdaile comes from Andrews University (Mich.) to present the Amazing Love Bible Series at the Northeast church, located at 1201 Taylor Avenue in Parkville, Md. The program starts at 7 p.m. each evening (except Mondays and Thursdays), and will include inspiring preaching, beautiful music and a Vacation Bible School program.

August 3: Wintley Phipps, a Grammy-nominated gospel-recording artist will be performing in concert at 7 p.m. at Sligo church in Takoma Park during the church's annual homecoming weekend. (A free-will offering will be collected.) For further information visit sligochurch.com or call (301) 270-6777.

August 24: The registration deadline for those interested in participating in the Christian Storytelling Café’s storytelling contest. The contest takes place in Hagerstown, Md., on September 1 and includes the following age categories and entrance fees: youth, aged 14-19 ($5) and adults, aged 20-plus ($10). For more information about the contest, contact Faith Crumbly at (301) 797-1537 or u storytellers@gmail.com.

September 6-7: The Potomac Conference is sponsoring SEEDS, a convention for people interested in growing the kingdom of God. This training event will help maximize the impact of volunteers and the overall planting experience. Johnny Wong, who planted 15 churches in Australia with his concept of ‘care groups,’ will be the main speaker. The event will be held at the Community of Hope church in Silver Spring, Md. Click here to register. Deadline: Aug 23.

NATIONAL
September 1: Enter the 2014 "Forever Faithful" International Camporee theme songwriting contest by September 1. Click here to enter the contest. If your submission is chosen, you could win two free tickets to the camporee and the honor of having your music become the 2014 Forever Faithful International Camporee official theme song. For more information, contact Justin Yang or Stacy-Ann Thomas.

ONLINE
July 21: A memorial service for Joe Melashenko, former pastor of the Hagerstown, Md., district, will take place at the Paradise church in California on Sunday at 4 p.m. (PDT). The musical service will be streamed live at http://www.ustream.tv/channel/paradiseadventist. He passed away on June 21 at the age of 91. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Voice of Prophecy and/or Quiet Hour radio ministries.

PENNSYLVANIA
July 28-August 17: The Willow Grove (Pa.) church will host the “Victory!” evangelistic revival from 7:15 p.m. nightly, on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Evangelist Sherry L. Hall will share the message each night. The church is located at 1576 Fairview Avenue. For more information visit willowgroveadventist.org.

 VIRGINIA
August 24: Potomac Conference's EQUIP is an event designed to empower people to lead in their local church more effectively. The event offers more than 20 seminars that cover various topics, such as how to give effective Bible studies, build healthy relationships and be an effective church administrator. The seminar will be held at the New Market (Va.) church from 3-7:45 p.m. Click here to register. Deadline: Aug. 23

September 15-16: Potomac Conference’s Women’s Retreat, will focus on God's grace to us, how we show grace to others and how to move gracefully as women of God. Come for a weekend of spiritual, mental and physical refreshment in a wooded setting,

WASHINGTON, D.C.
July 27: The Seabrook, Restoration Praise Center, Metropolitan and Takoma Park churches in Maryland are hosting Park n’ Praise, a free summer gospel showcase at Franklin Square Park in Washington, D.C. The goal is to also feed 500 homeless persons and minister to a thousand. The evening will also feature puppet ministries, singing, poetry, drum corps, prayer teams, health check-up stations and clothing distribution. Patrons need only bring a blanket and a friend. The event lasts from 5:30 to 8 p.m. To volunteer or learn more click here.