

2
3 144-19G RECOMMENDATIONS RESULTING FROM THE 2018
4 ANNUAL COUNCIL COMPLIANCE ACTION
5

6 The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a worldwide body of believers united through the
7 Holy Spirit in Christ’s love with a divine mandate to share the gospel in the setting of the Three
8 Angel’s Messages to “every nation, kindred, tongue and people” (Revelation 14:6). Writing to
9 the Corinthians, the apostle Paul declares that “there are many members but one body” and adds
10 in his epistle to the Ephesians that in Christ “the whole body is fitly joined and knit together” (1
11 Corinthians 12:20, Ephesians 4:16). Church organization is one of the factors that fosters the
12 unity of a multifaceted, diverse world Church. Since what affects one part of the body affects the
13 whole, adherence to the voted actions of the world Church is the responsibility of all leaders. The
14 recommendations in this document are presented in the spirit of Christian love with the intent to
15 respect the voted actions of both the General Conference in session and subsequent Annual
16 Council actions.
17

18 In light of their responsibility to these voted actions of the world Church, on June 6,
19 2019, the General Conference administration sent a letter to certain division presidents
20 requesting they follow up with perceived non-compliant entities within their territory regarding
21 plans they may have to come into compliance with voted policies and actions of the General
22 Conference Executive Committee. The recipients were requested to provide their reports and
23 recommendations to the General Conference Secretary by August 22, 2019. Pursuant to that
24 correspondence, no satisfactory response as to major progress was received from the reporting
25 entities listed below.
26

27 Because of misinformation about the ADCOM-appointed Compliance Review
28 committees, the General Conference Administrative Committee took an action to “use the
29 normal administrative process generally used for receiving recommendations,” which is implicit
30 in the 2018 Annual Council action since the General Conference Administrative Committee
31 “may” (or may not) use the Compliance Review committees.
32

33 The document entitled “Regard for and Practice of General Conference Session and
34 General Conference Executive Committee Actions,” voted at the 2018 Annual Council, provided
35 for a process based on Christ-centered biblical principles to be followed in situations where non-
36 compliance was determined to exist. Based on that document, in matters where non-compliance
37 continued unresolved, inevitable consequences would ensue. Those consequences included
38 “warnings” and “public reprimands.” As a result of the ongoing non-compliance with the 1990
39 General Conference Session vote not approving the ordination of women to the gospel ministry,
40 the subsequent 1995 decision (denying a request for each division to be granted authority to
41 authorize the ordination of individuals in their territory), the 2015 General Conference Session
42 decision (denying the right of division executive committees to make provision in their territories
43 for the ordination of women to the gospel ministry) regarding the practice of ordination, the use of
44 credentials according to *Working Policy*, and the lack of appropriate achievement of compliance,
45 the following is being recommended:
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1 1. The following entities have taken actions that are not in harmony with *Working*
2 *Policy* and practices on credentials:

- 3
- 4 a. Danish Union of Churches Conference (TED)
- 5
- 6 b. North German Union Conference (EUD)
- 7
- 8 c. Norwegian Union Conference (TED)
- 9
- 10 d. Swedish Union of Churches Conference (TED)
- 11

12 RECOMMENDED, That the above entities be “Warned” as provided for in the 2018 Annual
13 Council voted document.

14

15 2. The following entities have taken actions that are not in harmony with voted
16 actions of the General Conference Session and the General Conference Executive Committee
17 placing them in persistent non-compliance:

- 18
- 19 a. Columbia Union Conference (NAD)
- 20
- 21 b. Pacific Union Conference (NAD)
- 22

23 RECOMMENDED, That the presidents of the above-named entities as the individuals
24 representing the non-compliant entity be given a “Public Reprimand” as provided for in the 2018
25 Annual Council voted document.

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27 It is further noted that each of the named non-compliant entities have the opportunity to
28 appeal this action through processes already provided for in the 2018 Annual Council document
29 and General Conference *Working Policy*. In the event that entities that have been “warned” or
30 their president “reprimanded” take actions that bring their entities into compliance with the
31 policies and practices of the Church as defined by the General Conference Constitution and
32 Bylaws, the General Conference *Working Policy*, and voted actions of the General Conference
33 Executive Committee and/or General Conference Session, recommendation will be made to the
34 General Conference Administrative Committee that these entities or their president be reinstated
35 to regular standing by the General Conference Executive Committee.

36

37 Redemptive discipline is never easy and often painful. When one part of the body hurts,
38 we all hurt with it as we “bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2). Christ’s mandate is to
39 “love one another” as members of the family of God in response to His limitless, sacrificial love
40 for us (1 John 4:7, Ephesians 2:14-21). Our love for one another and Christ’s Church leads us to
41 respect our differences while at the same time adhering to Annual Council actions and those of

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- 1 the General Conference in session. These recommendations are made in the spirit of Christian
- 2 love to preserve as far as possible the unity of the Church for its end time mission.