

1 PRE/GCDO15AC to TNCW

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3 172-15G AN APPEAL AND APPRECIATION TO ALL CHURCH  
4 ENTITIES AND MEMBERS FROM THE GENERAL  
5 CONFERENCE AND DIVISION OFFICERS REGARDING  
6 THE 2015 GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION VOTE ON  
7 ORDINATION  
8

9 VOTED, To accept the document, “An Appeal and Appreciation to All Church Entities  
10 and Members from the General Conference and Division Officers Regarding the 2015 General  
11 Conference Session Vote on Ordination,” which reads as follows:  
12

13 The essence of all Christian faith is a personal relationship with Christ, faithfulness to His  
14 Word and Christ-like relationships in Christian community (John 17:3, 17, 20, 21; 1 John  
15 4:7-11). There are times in the journey of faith when committed Christians may have differences  
16 (Acts 6; 15). These instances necessitate mutual respect, thoughtful listening, heartfelt  
17 understanding and submission to the Holy Spirit’s leading into unity (Ephesians 4:31, 32). This  
18 is certainly true regarding the vote on July 8, 2015, on the subject of ordination at the General  
19 Conference Session in San Antonio. Recognizing our differences we express grateful  
20 appreciation to church members and entities for their acceptance of the world Church’s decision.  
21

22 *Re-affirming the Role of Women*  
23

24 We re-affirm that the Holy Spirit imparts gifts to all believers and that women play an  
25 important role in the life of the church (Joel 2:28; 1Corinthians 12:11, 18). Their commitment,  
26 giftedness, and talents are a blessing to the entire body of Christ. The vote taken in San Antonio  
27 does not change the church’s understanding of the role of women in the life, mission and practice  
28 of the church as supported by the *Church Manual* and outlined in General Conference and  
29 division working policies. Godly, Spirit-filled women are powerfully witnessing for Christ and  
30 being used by the Holy Spirit to make major contributions for the advancement of His kingdom.  
31

32 *Moving Ahead Together in Mission*  
33

34 The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a worldwide body held together by the Holy Spirit  
35 through a commitment to Christ, mutually accepted biblical beliefs, a common mission and  
36 worldwide organizational structure (Revelation 12:1; 14:6, 7, 12). General Conference Session  
37 actions and voted policies are agreements that the body of Christ make together.  
38

39 We appeal to all entities to respect the decision by the world body in session since any  
40 unilateral and independent action contrary to the voted action paves the way for fracture and  
41 fragmentation. We urge all entities to work closely with world division administrations to ensure  
42 that all actions harmonize with voted policy to foster worldwide church unity and our heavenly-  
43 entrusted mission.  
44

45 In light of the urgency of our time and rapidly fulfilling Bible prophecies, we invite all  
46 entities and church members to join us in a continuing commitment to Christ-like relationships,

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ORDINATION - 2

- 1 mutual respect, faithfulness to scripture and a single-minded focus in the completion of His
- 2 prophetic mission entrusted to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We dedicate ourselves to
- 3 global unity for a global mission in the proclamation of the everlasting gospel of the three
- 4 angels' messages to prepare a people for the coming of Jesus (Revelation 14:6-12).