

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-SECOND CONSTITUENCY SESSION  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**

**MAY 20, 2007**

**WHITE MEMORIAL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH  
401 North State Street, Los Angeles, California 90033**

**DEVOTIONAL SERVICE**

**WELCOME**

The Sixty-second Constituency Session of the Southern California Conference began at 7:55 a.m. with a song service led by Rose King, Valley Crossroads church member, with Roger Gomes at the piano. The congregation sang *"Come, Christians Join and Sing"* and *"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee."*

Elder Benjamin Del Pozo, Senior Pastor of the White Memorial Church extended a warm welcome to the delegation. The delegates were officially welcomed to this session by Elder Larry L. Caviness, Southern California Conference president and session chair.

**OPENING HYMNS**

Elder Caviness remembered Wayne Hooper, well know composer and musician in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination and long time church member in this conference, who passed away a month before. The congregation was invited to sing his memorable composition titled *"We Have This Hope,"* as a group of trumpets led by Craig Mohr, Glendale Adventist Academy Band Director, played the prelude of this and the next song, *"Rise Up, O Church of God."*

**MUSICAL OVERTURE**

A 135-voice mass choir from the five academies of the Southern California Conference brought inspiration as they performed three inspirational anthems led by Lilybeth Hunt, Kristian Leukert, and Brenda Mohr, choir directors for San Gabriel, Newbury Park and Glendale Adventist academies, respectively.

**INVOCATION**

Vine Mauia, Compton Samoan Church Elder, offered the invocation.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

William Fraga performed a flute solo, accompanied by Roger Gomes, San Fernando Valley Academy music teacher.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Elder James G. Lee, Jr., Southern California Conference vice president, lead the assembly in an antiphonal Scripture reading through various passages of thanksgiving, praise, and blessing and exalting the name of the Lord.

## DEVOTIONAL

Elder Thomas J. Mostert, Jr., Pacific Union Conference president, opened his devotional thought by stating that this meeting has been called having in mind just one reason made clear by Jesus Christ: Go and tell the world... and baptize them. After outlining some of the challenges Christians face witnessing for Jesus in this very secularized society, he read an insightful statement found in *My Life Today*, page 103, written by Ellen G. White, where she emphasizes that prayer and sharing our faith with others make the Christian grow spiritually. He concluded by inviting all, lay members, ministers and leaders, to go back to the churches and challenge them "to tell the world, or our spiritual development be stumped."

## PRAYER SESSION

Janet Lui, Southern California Conference Prayer Ministries leader, invited the delegates to divide into small groups for prayer. Elder Mark Papendick, Vallejo Drive Associate Pastor and Conference Prayer Ministries team member offered the prayer of consecration and dedication for the session.

## BUSINESS SESSION

### READING OF THE OFFICIAL CALL

Elder Velino A. Salazar, Southern California Conference secretary, read the official call of the session, which was also published in the April and May 2007 issues of the *Pacific Union Recorder*, as required by the Bylaws of the Southern California Conference. (**Appendix A**)

### SEATING OF THE DELEGATES

The conference secretary reported to the session chair that 586 regular delegates registered that morning, which exceeded the 60 percent (562) of the regular delegates (937) to transact business, as required by the Conference Bylaws. Also, 225 out of 319 delegates at-large registered that morning as well. (A list of delegates present at the session is on file in the office of the conference secretary.) (**Appendix B**)

### OPENING OF THE SESSION

The session chair declared the session officially opened as it was determined that more than 60 percent of the 937 eligible regular delegates, or more than the required 562, were present.

### SEATING OF THE PARLIAMENTARIANS

**Voted** To accept the recommendation of the Conference Executive Committee to invite attorneys  
**01-07** Catherine Lang-Titus, Duane Montgomery, and Robert M. Peterson to serve as session parliamentarians.

### READING OF CONSTITUENCY SESSION RULES AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Robert M. Peterson provided instructions regarding the constituency session rules and the parliamentary procedures governing the session using *Robert's Rules of Order* newly revised version. (**Appendixes C, D**)

**Voted** To accept the recommendation of the Conference Executive Committee to adopt the session rules  
**02-07** and parliamentary procedures to conduct this constituency session as presented and clarified by the parliamentarians.

## NEW CHURCHES ACCEPTED

- Voted 03-07** To accept the San Gabriel Valley Spanish Valley Church, previously organized on November 4, 2006 with a membership of 187, as a member of the sisterhood of churches of the Southern California Conference.
- Voted 04-07** To accept the South Central Los Angeles Spanish Church, previously organized on December 11, 2004 with a membership of 152, as a member of the sisterhood of churches of the Southern California Conference.
- Voted 05-07** To accept the West Hollywood Spanish Church, previously organized on February 11, 2006 with a membership of 195, as a member of the sisterhood of churches of the Southern California Conference.

## SEATING OF DELEGATES FROM NEW CHURCHES

- Voted 06-07** To seat the 13 regular delegates of the three newly accepted churches listed above, bringing to 575 the number of regular delegates seated in the quorum count.

## CHURCHES REMOVED

- Voted 07-07** To remove the Fountain of the World Church as a member of the sisterhood of churches of the Southern California Conference due to an action taken on May 31, 2005 by the Southern Conference Executive Committee dissolving this congregation.
- Voted 08-07** To remove the Pomona Spanish Church as a member of the sisterhood of churches of the Southern California Conference due to an action taken on August 13, 2002 by the Southern Conference Executive Committee dissolving this congregation.
- Voted 09-07** To remove the Ventura Estates Church as a member of the sisterhood of churches of the Southern California Conference due to an action taken on June 29, 2004 by the Southern Conference Executive Committee dissolving this congregation.

## RATIFICATION OF SIXTY-FIRST SESSION MINUTES

- Voted 10-07** To ratify the minutes of the May 18, 2003 Sixty-first Constituency Session as approved by the Southern California Conference Executive Committee at its meeting on May 8, 2007.

## AGENDA FOR THE SIXTY-SECOND CONSTITUENCY SESSION

It was **moved** and seconded to approve the session agenda as presented and recommended by the Conference Executive Committee at its meeting on May 8, 2007.

An **amendment** to the main motion was **moved** and seconded to add to the agenda a discussion of a new position: Senior Vice President for Financial Affairs, when the merger of the Conference and the Association item is addressed.

- Voted 11-07** To amend the agenda for this session adding a discussion of a new position: Senior Vice President for Financial Affairs, when the merger of the Conference and the Association item is addressed.

An **amendment** to the main motion was **moved** and seconded to add to the agenda a discussion on the Conference Region Structure adopted by this constituency in 1996 and revised in 1999.

**Voted 12-07** To amend the agenda for this session adding a discussion of the Conference Region Structure.

**Voted 13-07** To approve the following agenda for the session as recommended by the Conference Executive Committee with the amendments recently voted by this body:

- A. Devotional
- B. Preliminary Business Items
  - 1. Reading of the Official Call
  - 2. Seating of Delegates
  - 3. Declaration of a Quorum/Opening of 62<sup>nd</sup> Session
  - 4. Seating of Parliamentarians
  - 5. Instructions of Parliamentarians
  - 6. Presentation of New Churches
  - 7. Seating of Delegates from New Churches
  - 8. Deletion of Churches
  - 9. Sixty-first Constituency Session Minutes
  - 10. Sixty-second Constituency Session Agenda
  - 11. Recognitions
- C. Session Reports
  - 1. Report of Conference President
  - 2. Report of Conference Secretary
  - 3. Report of Conference Vice President
  - 4. Report of Conference Treasurer
  - 5. Report of General Conference Auditors
- D. Committee Reports
  - 1. Nominating Committee Report
  - 2. Constitution and Bylaws Committee Report
- E. Action Items
  - 1. Conference-Association Merger
  - 2. Senior Vice President for Financial Affairs (**Amendment**)
  - 3. Conference Region Structure (**Amendment**)
- F. Embracing a New Vision
- G. Adjournment

## RECOGNITION FOR RETIREES

The conference president invited the delegation to pay tribute to the denominational employees who worked for this conference and retired during the last quadrennium. To honor the 68 retirees, their names were scrolled on the screen as the delegation respected them in silence. (**Appendix E**)

## SESSION REPORTS

### A. Summary of the Conference President's Report

Elder Larry L. Caviness, Conference president began his report with a video presentation showing the major "energy centers" as he referred to the construction projects of Scholl Canyon Retirement Estates in Glendale, Conejo Adventist Elementary School in Newbury Park, and Antelope Valley Adventist School in Lancaster.

However, he pointed out that the real energizing centers are the churches and the schools where our members worship, serve, work and study. He also presented by video a glance of the thousands of activities the churches and schools had during the past quadrennium.

As part of his presidential report he invited the five Region Directors and the Superintendent of Schools for this conference to briefly report on special events and ministries within their departments. (**Appendix F**)

Elder Kwang R. Chough, Asian Pacific Region Director, highlighted the faithfulness of this Region despite being the smallest and most culturally and linguistically diverse. He gave special recognition to all the pastors in the Region as the ones who mobilized the church members to carry Christ's mission into their communities, resulting in 666 new members.

Elder Adolphus Garnett, Greater Los Angeles Region Director, identified the theme, vision and mission statement of the Region saying that these helped the pastoral and parochial forces to have clarity of direction for this region. Among the initiatives launched by this region, *My Family Matters* has been a top priority within the ministry of the churches, followed by the lay training for ministry and evangelism. Why is family at the top? Garnett asked, and he himself responded: "as long we have strong families we will have strong churches, and as long as we have strong churches we will have a stronger impact on communities."

Elder Alfredo Lee, Hispanic Region Director, briefly noted that the 57 worship centers of different sizes within the Region house almost twelve thousand church members who are committed to preach the gospel using different ministries: youth, women, health, etc. The intentional outreach across the Region led by the pastors has resulted in more churches to house the new members added to the Kingdom of God.

Elder Gerard Kiemeney, Los Angeles Metro Region Director, reported the various outcomes within the Region declaring the mantra and the values which have permeated the innovations launched by the churches like: planting a church for young adults, having a Ministry Boot Camp for young pastors, lay training for evangelism. He concluded by envisioning the iPod ministry as a tool that will help the Region to reach millions of people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Elder Richard Roethler, West Region Director, identified the three key areas of ministry for the Region: equipping, empowering and evangelizing. He singled out the endeavors accomplished by the churches during the quadrennium, like One Church program which links the mission of the local church and the world church, Share Him, an evangelism program, which has ignited pastors and members to proclaim the good news of salvation in their own territories resulting in more than one thousand new members.

Richard Carey, Southern California Conference Superintendent of Schools, enthusiastically said that he had the best job in the conference: “watching every single day kids singing God's word, going on mission trips, and making prayer lists on the board.” He went through many areas of the teaching ministry in the K-12 educational system like achievement test scores, spirituality, community service, mission trips and public musical performances. He also mentioned the special recognitions given to educators and schools for excellence in teaching.

After these reports, Elder Caviness said that the full text of his report is in the notebooks. **(Appendix G)**

At his conclusion the delegates were reminded that we have much to be grateful for, and we need to tell it to the world.

## **EVANGELISM PRESENTATION**

Elder Shawn Boonstra, speaker/director for It Is Written, shared experiences of how God has led masses toward Him in different parts of the world. The leadership of this telecast ministry has longed for those marvelous experiences to be seen here in the Los Angeles basin. After praying over this dream he and his team were convinced of the Lord's leading after the officers of this conference invited the IIW team to join efforts in sharing the Gospel in this huge metropolis. Since that time, both leadership teams are praying, planning and pursuing a five-month evangelistic thrust in 2009. **(Appendix H)**

### **B. Summary of the Conference Secretary's Report**

Elder Velino A. Salazar, Conference secretary, began his report with historical highlights of this conference, beginning with an article written by Daniel Eaton, first Seventh-day Adventist believer in California, wrote to the Review and Herald in 1855 envisioning how the church would grow if the denomination sent missionaries to this developing city. Since this conference was organized in 1901, twenty-three presidents have led God's people in this vast territory, with Elder Larry L. Caviness having the third longest presidential tenure for this conference. These long tenures have coincided with major advances for our church to bring stability to the conference.

He went through the major points of the written report which was included in the delegate notebook. **(Appendix I)**

### **C. Summary of the Conference Vice President's Report**

Elder James G. Lee, Jr., Conference vice president, gave a positive report of the accomplishments in the various ministries overseen by his office like Community Services, ADRA, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, Stewardship, Men's Ministries, and Senior Youth and Young Adults' Ministries.

He gave ample consideration by sharing the most exciting experiences in evangelism in and by the local churches. **(Appendix J)**

#### **D. Summary of the Conference Treasurer's Report**

Elder Sung H. Oh, Conference treasurer, gave an encouraging and exciting report on how God has taken care of His church providing the resources needed to comply with the Great Commission. The financial challenges were faced with faith and confidence in the Lord by applying secure management principles in order to bring this conference back to a solid financial position.

He outlined major improvements made in the following areas: return of tithe, payroll reduction by attrition, management within the budget, improved cash flow, and the required working capital of 86% per policy. He used graphs and statistics to reflect the turnaround by this conference during the past four years from its financial crisis to the present financial stability. (**Appendix K**)

#### **AUDITED UNCONSOLIDATED COMBINED SPECIAL-PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003**

**Voted 14-07** To approve the audited Unconsolidated Combined Special-Purpose Financial Statements of the Southern California Conference and the Southern California Association for the years ending December 31, 2006, 2005, 2004 and 2003 as presented by Chad Giles, chief auditor for the Pacific District of the General Conference Auditing Service. (**Appendix L**)

#### **REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**Noted:** The chairing of the session was turned over to Elder Thomas J. Mostert, Jr., Pacific Union Conference president. The delegates received the report of the Nominating Committee and cast ballots for the senior officers and the superintendent of schools.

**Voted 15-07** To accept the recommendation of the nominating committee to elect the following persons to serve as Senior Officers and the Superintendent of Schools for the 2007-2011 quadrennium:

|                           |                   |          |          |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|
| President                 | Larry L. Caviness | 705 ayes | 79 nays  |
| Secretary                 | Velino A. Salazar | 727 ayes | 67 nays  |
| Treasurer                 | Sung H. Oh        | 771 ayes | 9 nays   |
| Vice President            | James G. Lee      | 707 ayes | 86 nays  |
| Superintendent of Schools | Richard Carey     | 686 ayes | 108 nays |

**Voted 16-07** To approve the recommendation of the Nominating Committee that the following persons serve as members of the Conference Executive Committee for the 2003-2007 quadrennium:

##### **Administrative Members**

President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Vice President  
Superintendent of Schools  
Region Directors:  
*Asian Pacific Region*  
*Greater Los Angeles Region*  
*Hispanic Region*  
*Los Angeles Metro Region*  
*West Region*

### **Non-Administrative Members**

#### Asian Pacific Region

Reijin Fujita  
Lemuel Niere (Pastor)  
Lan Quach

Hacienda Heights Japanese-American Church  
Glendale Filipino Church  
El Monte Vietnamese Church

#### Greater Los Angeles Region

Eleanor Marshalleck  
Kathleen Myers  
Edward Settle  
Stewart Walker (Pastor)

Smyrna Church  
Valley Crossroads Church  
Delaware Avenue Church  
Fifty-four Street Church

#### Hispanic Region

Hilda Carranza  
John Paul Castro  
Raquel Guzman  
Jaime Heras (Pastor)  
Alejandro Pardo  
Rudy Sandres

Spanish American Church  
San Fernando Spanish Church  
Van Nuys Spanish Church  
East Los Angeles Bilingual Church  
Central Spanish Church  
Carson Spanish Church

#### Los Angeles Metro Region

Nora Chan  
Daniel Dik  
Kirk Dunn  
Myriam Salcedo-Gonzalez (Pastor)  
Brent Shakespeare

Long Beach Church  
Alhambra Church  
Eagle Rock Church  
All Nations Church  
West Covina Hills Church

#### West Region

Tim Garrison (Pastor)  
Karen Oi  
Lyn Williams

Moorpark Community Church  
Santa Monica Church  
Canoga Park Church

**Voted 17-07** To approve the recommendation of the Nominating Committee that the following persons serve as members of the Bylaws Committee for the 2007-2011 quadrennium:

John Heczko  
Gregory Hoenes (Pastor)  
Sam Mercado (Pastor)  
Mark A. Papendick (Pastor)  
Robert M. Peterson  
Carlos Rubi  
Alvin L. Taylor  
Roger Wade (Pastor)  
Ewan Wonoprobowo

White Memorial Church  
Santa Clarita Church  
Baldwin Park Bilingual Church  
Vallejo Drive Church  
Glendale City Church  
Central Spanish Church  
Berean Church  
Normandie Avenue Church  
Indonesian American Church



## **AFTERNOON BUSINESS SESSION**

### **ACT OF DEDICATION**

After presenting the spouses of the newly elected officers with bouquets, Janet Lui, prayer coordinator for the Conference, called for any Pacific Union Conference and North American Division officers present to join the Conference Prayer Ministries team to pray and lay hands on the newly elected officers and the superintendent of schools. All delegates were invited to form groups of two or three and pray for the newly elected conference leadership team, affirming them in their posts.

Elder Thomas J. Mosert, Jr., closed this season of prayer for the newly elected officers.

### **MERGER OF THE CONFERENCE AND ASSOCIATION**

Larry L. Caviness, conference president, brought up the recommendation from the Southern California Conference and the Southern California Association Board to merge these two entities as recommended by the Pacific Union Conference and the North American Division.

Attorney Meredith Jobe was asked to explain how the merger would transpire and what it all entails. Attorney Jobe briefly reviewed the description of our existing legal structure, the history of how that structure developed, the events that led to reexamination, why a single corporation is the best form in which to operate, and then the steps to accomplish this merger. (*Appendixes M, N, O*)

Attorney Robert M. Peterson was asked to speak on behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee regarding the merger and new documents. He stated that the committee had the opportunity to review thoroughly the Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation which would replace the existing constitution, and that both new documents were found to be neutral.

After answering questions and listening to comments from delegates on this matter, it was,

**Voted** To accept the resolution of merger the Southern California Conference and the Southern California  
**18-07** Association as recommended by their respective Executive Committee and Board.

### **UPGRADE THE POSITION OF ASSET MANAGEMENT OFFICER TO SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT**

Upon the adoption of merging the Southern California Conference and the Southern California Association, the item added to the agenda to upgrade the position of Asset Management Officer to Senior Vice President for Financial Affairs was addressed.

The delegates had ample opportunity to discuss advantages and disadvantages of such change at this time without a thorough analysis of any implications involved nor a screening by standing committees like the Bylaws, Administrative and Executive.

**Voted** That changing the title of the position of Asset Management Officer to Senior Vice President for  
**19-07** Financial Affairs, in the newly adopted Bylaws, not be adopted.

## CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

Robert M. Peterson, Constitution and Bylaws Committee chair, presented the proposed changes in the bylaws as recommended by such committee. (*Appendix P*)

It was moved and seconded to change Article 2, Section 2.3.1 to add the nominating committee members as delegates-at-large.

**Voted** That the proposed motion be adopted.  
**20-07**

It was moved and seconded to change Article 2, Section 2.3.2 to update the type of licenses and credentials issued for delegates according to latest revision of the North American Division Working Policy.

**Voted** That the proposed motion be adopted.  
**21-07**

It was moved and seconded to change Article 3, Section 3.2.1 to increase the percentage from twenty percent (20%) to twenty-five percent (25%) in order to allow each region to have equal representation in the nominating committee.

**Voted** That the proposed motion be adopted.  
**22-07**

It was moved and seconded to change in Article 3, Section 3.2.4 the word "more" to "less" to give more time for the delegates to address the nominating committee upon its report.

**Voted** That the proposed motion be adopted.  
**23-07**

It was moved and seconded to change Article 5, Section 5.2 to open the possibility of having a non-employee spouse of a denominational employee as a member of the conference executive committee if selected for such capacity, and to replace the word "shall" with "may" in the second sentence added.

**Voted** That the proposed motion be adopted.  
**24-07**

It was moved and seconded to change Article 5, Section 5.6.1 to reduce the number of mandatory regular meetings of the executive committee from six (6) to four (4). It was clarified that at times the committee has teleconference meetings to address routine or minor items.

**Voted** That the proposed motion be adopted.  
**25-07**

It was moved and seconded to change Article 8, Section 8.1.1 to rename the legislative committee from Constitution and Bylaws Committee to Bylaws Committee to be in compliance with the recent action to merge the Conference and the Association, and that the first meeting be no later than two years following the session.

**Voted** That the proposed motion be adopted.  
**26-07**

It was moved and seconded to change Article 8, Section 8.1.2 to replace the word “or” with “and” in order to include the pastors, the delegates and the first elders as recipients of the written proposal submitted by the Bylaws Committee when changes occurred.

**Voted** That the proposed motion be adopted.  
**27-07**

It was moved and seconded to change Article 8, Section 8.2.1 to add three members to the Budget and Finance Committee to have equal representation from each region.

**Voted** That the proposed motion be adopted.  
**28-07**

It was moved and seconded to change Article 9, Section 9.1 to update the name of the denominational entities mentioned to conform to the applicable denominational financial policies and to standardize the language used across the Bylaws.

**Voted** That the proposed motion be adopted.  
**29-07**

It was moved and seconded to change Article 9, Section 9.2 to standardize the language used across the Bylaws for the denominational entities.

**Voted** That the proposed motion be adopted.  
**30-07**

It was moved and seconded to change Article 10, Section 10.1 to standardize the language used across the Bylaws for the denominational entities.

**Voted** That the proposed motion be adopted.  
**31-07**

It was moved and seconded to change Article 11, Section 11.3 to replace the word “disbanded” with “dissolved” to conform to the language used in the Church Manual.

**Voted** That the proposed motion be adopted.  
**32-07**

It was moved and seconded to add Section 12.19 to Article 12, to allow the chairs and secretaries of the conference standing committees the use of electronic ways to communicate and report to the various committee members.

**Voted** That the proposed motion be adopted.  
**33-07**

## REGION STRUCTURE TASK FORCE REPORT

The item added to the agenda to discuss the Conference Region Structure was brought to be addressed. It was **moved** and seconded that the current Region Structure be re-organized by geography rather than ethnicity, following the suggested procedures as shown in the document titled *In Christ There Is No East or West* as presented by its authors Dean Morford, Regular Delegate from the Palmdale Church, and Brent Shakespeare, Regular Delegate from the West Covina Hills Church. (**Appendix Q**)

**Voted 34-07** That the proposal to reorganize the current Region Structure of this conference following the suggested document titled *In Christ There Is No East or West* not be adopted.

## CLOSING REMARKS

Larry L. Caviness, Southern California Conference president, ended the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session by saying this is the right time to pause and think about the future of the Southern California Conference. He added that he is currently visiting with each pastor and teacher in their office or classroom, with the sole purpose of listening to the perspectives of this group and hearing the top four priorities they feel need to be addressed by this conference administration.

He enthusiastically said that those comments have been compiled and will be reviewed and studied by the Conference Administrative and Executive Committees, along with other topics suggested today by delegates.

Elder Caviness challenged the delegation to join the conference leadership during the next four years as together they concentrate on the mission given by Jesus to *Tell the World* and to allow Him to use us as His instruments to finish God's work.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Voted 35-07** To adjourn the Sixty-second Constituency Session of the Southern California Conference.

The benediction was offered by Elder Larry L. Caviness, newly reelected conference president.

**Larry L. Caviness, Chair**  
**Velino A. Salazar, Secretary**