

Conference Business
203rd Session of the SDB General Conference
Lancaster Bible College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
July 26 - August 1, 2015

Monday, July 27, 2015

First Business Session

The 203rd Annual Session of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference of USA and Canada, Ltd. was called to order at 9:32 a.m. at Lancaster Bible College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania by President Bill Probasco. Conference Pastor, Dave Taylor, led the delegation in prayer.

Pastor Ken Chroniger, Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church, President-elect, introduced his assistant, SCSC member Nathan Crowder, to introduce the procedural motion. It was seconded and carried and became the procedure for the business at Conference.

Procedural Motion, First Session, July 27, 2015

Mr. President, I'm Nathan Crowder from the Boulder, Colorado Seventh Day Baptist Church and I move that the following procedures be adopted:

1. The rights and privileges of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference of the USA and Canada, Ltd. are extended to all guests, visitors, and fraternal delegates. The right to participate in debate and to vote on denominational business is reserved for **official delegates of member churches** as determined by the Credentials Coordinator subject to approval by General Conference.

In extending the privileges of this Conference to delegates, guests and visitors, it is understood that in Conference Interest Committee meetings, the chair shall grant participants of all ages the right to speak on the same basis as Seventh Day Baptist delegates.

2. All matters referred to a Conference Interest Committee from the floor of General Conference shall be addressed by a recommendation to the Conference in the Interest Committee's report.

3. Persons addressing the chair shall identify themselves by name and church.

4. No motion shall be entertained for adoption by the General Conference which requires additional clarification outside the language of the motion to make its intent understood.

5. When General Conference Interest Committees deal with items of budget and program, representatives of the General Council, and denominational related agencies concerned with the particular issue, must be involved in attempting to achieve a joint resolution before recommendations regarding the issue are presented on the floor of General Conference for action. All motions coming to

the floor for final vote containing allocation of funds should clearly state their effect on recipients and any impact on other projects.

6. All major motions for the consideration of General Conference shall be presented in written form and shall be given to the Recording Secretary before being moved. They shall be provided to the delegates in written form (on paper or projected on screen) prior to discussion.
7. Andrew Camenga shall be the Parliamentarian of the 203rd session.
8. The following rules shall apply to discussion of motions on the floor of General Conference:
 - (a) Debate shall be limited to five minutes per person.
 - (b) Those speaking for and those speaking against a motion shall alternate as much as is practicable.
 - (c) No person shall speak twice to any question if there are others who have not spoken who wish to speak.
9. No main motion relating to new business shall be entered on the floor of Conference which will not have time for referral to and consideration by one of the Conference Interest Committees. Specifically, this time is prior to the conclusion of the 1:00 p.m. business session, Wednesday, July 29th, 2015.
10. Nominations “All candidates for the respective offices shall be presented to General Conference by the Committee on Nominations, or may be nominated from the floor upon prior consent to serve, and shall be elected by vote of the delegates present and voting.” (*Bylaw – Article V, Paragraph 3, sentence 1*)

The Nominations Committee report shall be available and distributed by no later than 5:00 p.m. of the day prior to action of General Conference.
11. Definitions of terms used in proposals which come before Conference shall be governed by those found in the approved glossary presented to Interest Committee chair.
12. Three (3) printed copies presented to the President-Elect and one (1) electronic copy of every conference Committee Report shall be presented to the Recording Secretary.
13. The Recording Secretary shall be empowered to have published the minutes of these sessions, along with the reports of the boards, agencies and committees, as part of the Yearbook of the Seventh Day Baptist Conference of the USA and Canada, Ltd.
14. Photography of the plenary and worship sessions of General Conference shall be the responsibility of the American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council.

Mr. President, I move that this motion and its procedures be adopted.

Donna Bond, of the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church, NJ, read the Obituary Coordinator Report for 2015. A motion was made and seconded to accept this report. The motion carried.

Obituary Coordinator Report

There were 9 pastors, pastors' wives, deacons, denominational executives, and missionaries who have passed away during the past year whose obituaries were included in the *Sabbath Recorder*. These servants of God are as follows:

Bee, Ernest K. Jr., Pastor, Executive Director of the Board of Christian Education. Passed away February 28, 2015 at age 79. *(April 2015 SR)*

Bond, W. Allen, Pastor. Passed away October 18, 2014 at age 94. *(February 2015 SR)*

Bowen, Grace Arline Stearns, Deaconess. Passed away April, 3, 2015 at age 88. *(July/August 2015 SR)*

Heinig, Florence Marguerite Striegl, Deaconess. Passed away September 7, 2014 at age 89. *(November 2014 SR)*

Kenyon, Raymond M., Deacon. Passed away April 24, 2014 at age 86. *(December 2014 SR)*

King, Eddie Hugh, Deacon. Passed away February 2, 2015 at age 78. *(March 2015 SR)*

Spencer, Frederick A. Jr, MD, Deacon. Passed away February 27, 2015 at age 83. *(May 2015 SR)*

Steele, Richard L., Deacon. Passed away April 17, 2015 at age 91. *(July/August 2015 SR)*

Williams, Louella Jane Smith, Deaconess. Passed away February 7, 2015 at age 96. *(May 2015 SR)*

Respectfully submitted, Donna S. Bond, Coordinator of Obituaries

President Probasco asked if there was any new business. There was none.

Susie Fox, Chairman of the General Council, led the presentation of the 2015 General Council Report. Portions of the report were also given by Rod Noel, Dale Thorngate, Dave Davis, and Dannette Montague. The President entertained a motion to refer the recommendations of General Council as indicated on the referral grid. The motion was made, seconded, and carried.

General Council Report

General Council met in person five times during this year:

- September 19-21, 2014 at Shiloh, NJ
- December 5-7, 2014 at Colorado Springs, CO
- February 20-22, 2015 at Daytona Beach, FL

- May 29-31, 2015 at Ashaway, RI
- July 26, 2015 at Lancaster, PA.
- Video Conference calls were held on August 24, 2014, November 25, 2014, March 19, 2015 and July 7, 2015.

In addition to reviewing progress reports from each of the Directors and standing committees every two months, the General Council also assigned and managed 41 action items from last year's Conference Business sessions (see end of report for specific details). Denominational staff and responsibilities were re-evaluated in light of the pending Board of Christian Education and Historical Society mergers, the 2014 Conference action for a dedicated Church Development person, and the resignation of COM Director, Gordon Lawton, following last year's Conference session. As a result, three new Director positions were defined and filled. We have focused on effective and open communication between the General Council, the Directors, and the 6 Councils (previous called boards & agencies). We also prayerfully evaluated the work and ministry of Executive Director Rob Appel and have offered him another contract extending his service to SDBs through 2019.

The feedback gathered through the survey taken at last year's Conference was very valuable. We ask you to provide us with additional feedback on this year's Conference by returning the survey in your registration packet.

A significant amount of prayer, time, and discussion was spent developing a Vision Map which describes the long term vision of Seventh Day Baptists in USA and Canada. This information has been shared with the Directors, the Councils, and Pastors attending Pastor's Conference. We look forward to further communication and feedback from this week and throughout the coming year.

Along with the Standing Committee on Faith & Order and our Executive Director, we worked with four churches we are recommending for membership in our Conference this year.

The role of the General Council is to keep the business of General Conference running between annual sessions. We ask you to continue to dialogue with us to let us know how we can best support your church and its mission. We will be hosting a Roundtable discussion on **Thursday** where you can submit questions by Wednesday night to any General Council member or in one of the collection boxes in the lobby or at the General Council display table.

We bring the following information and recommendations to General Conference:

Recommendation A:
 The General Council **recommends** that the West Palm Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church, West Palm Beach, FL be accepted as a member church of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, USA & Canada, Ltd.

Recommendation B:

The General Council **recommends** that the Full Gospel Seventh Day Baptist Church, Cumberland, MD be accepted as a member church of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, USA & Canada, Ltd.

Recommendation C:

The General Council **recommends** that the Remembrance Seventh Day Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX be accepted as a member church of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, USA & Canada, Ltd.

Recommendation D:

The General Council **recommends** that the Agape SDB Church of the South, Orlando, FL be accepted as a member church of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, USA & Canada, Ltd.

Recommendation E:

The General Council **recommends** that Rev. Nicholas Kersten (The Connecting Church; SDB Director of Education and History), Rev. David Fox (SpringsLife Church), Rev. Paul Manuel (German SDB Church) and Rev. Helmer Umaña (SDB Christian Church) be accredited as Seventh Day Baptist Ministers.

Recommendation F:

The General Council **recommends** that Rev. John Pethtel (SpringsLife Church; SDB Director of Church Development & Pastoral Services), Rev. Matthew Berg (Next Step Christian Church; Federal Bureau of Prisons), Rev. Kenneth Burdick (Seattle Area SDB Church), Rev. Robert Babcock (Marlboro SDB Church), Rev. Donald Chroniger (Shiloh SDB Church), Rev. Matthew Olson (Berlin SDB Church), Rev. Nathan Crandall (Milton SDB Church), Rev. Rodney Henry (Next Step Christian Church), Rev. Oscar Burdick (Bay Area SDB Church) and Rev. Leland Davis (Metro Atlanta SDB Church) have their accreditation renewed as Seventh Day Baptist Ministers.

Recommendation G:

In response to the suggestion from the Ministerial Interest Committee at the 2014 General Conference sessions that years of service be considered in deciding Emeritus status in relation to the process of renewing the accreditation of a minister, we **suggest** the following changes to H-16 of the SDB Manual of Procedures in the third paragraph:

An Accredited minister will be considered Emeritus and will not be required to participate in the continuing education every 5 years if that minister *meets at least one of the following conditions*:

- retires due to disability (health)
- ~~retires after age 60~~
- is age 70 or more
- *has maintained accreditation for 30 or more years*

Recommendation H:

The General Council **recommends** that the General Conference accept and adopt three documents which support the merger of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference of the United States and Canada, Ltd. with the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society, the Conference being the surviving entity.

The complete documents include both the legal merger documents, ***Articles of Merger*** and ***Plan of Merger of Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society, Inc. and Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, USA and Canada, Ltd.*** and also a supplementary ***“Merger Agreement,”*** all of which were approved by the Historical Society membership at their annual meeting, 17 May 2015.

The Articles of Merger will change the **Articles of Incorporation of the General Conference** to include in its **purpose** the following wording:

“...to preserve and communicate Seventh Day Baptist history and heritage and to develop and maintain a repository for safekeeping of archival and research materials relating to the history and culture of the Sabbath and Sabbath keeping Baptists worldwide and to take appropriate measures to make the collection available to Seventh Day Baptists and others.”

The **Bylaws of the General Conference** will need to be amended to add a new subsection under Article VIII: Agencies of the General Conference. Current subsections are (a) The American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council, (b) the Council on Ministry, (c) the Women’s Society, and, by 2014 Conference action, (d) the Christian Education Council. Under each heading, there is a one- or two-sentence description of the agency and how its members are elected. The **new subsection**, drafted to parallel the others, would read:

“(e) the **Council on History**

An agency of the General Conference established to oversee the historical work of the Conference: preserve and communicate Seventh Day Baptist history, develop and maintain a repository of archival and research materials to support such

preservation and communication, and maintain a system for providing access to the materials by Seventh Day Baptists and others. The council members shall be elected by the General Conference.”

Conference Bylaws further need to be amended to remove the Historical Society section which reads:

“Article IX. Allied Societies

(c) The Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society

A society incorporated in Wisconsin to preserve and expound Seventh Day Baptist history and heritage”

The supplementary “Merger Agreement” includes

(a) agreements about the dispositions of Historical Society assets,

(b) the constituent members of the new five-member Council on History and the election process for new members of the Council on History(one each year for a five-year term), beginning at General Conference 2016,

The constituent members of the Historical Society Directors and the new Council on History and the year each will be up for re-election are as follows: Rev. Paul Green (2016), Rev. Helmer Umaña (2017), Kim Merchant (2018), Judith Parrish (2019),Janet Thorngate (2020).

(c) responsibilities of the Council on History,

(d) conversion of Society memberships into new history support groups with the comparable privileges and benefits

Because the membership of the Historical Society has already voted to adopt these documents, the adoption of this recommendation would affect the corporate merger of the two legal entities represented between the conclusion of General Conference 2015 and the beginning of General Conference 2016. The second reading of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaw changes would take place at General Conference 2016.

Recommendation I:

We **recommend** the adoption of attached document, "Seventh Day Baptist Summary of 2016 Operating Expenses"

Recommendation J:

General Council **recommends** the following site for Conference 2016:

Houghton College, Houghton, NY to be held July 31– August 6, 2016

Recommendation K: *Second Reading*

After a suggestion from the floor of the 2013 General Conference sessions and an agreement between the General Conference and the SDB Missionary Society on a change in nomenclature of the work that each organization is primarily responsible for, we **recommend** the following bylaw changes as a ***second reading*** under Article XI, Section 2, Special Committees, letters f and g:

(f) Committee on Missions, ~~International~~

*(g) Committee on ~~Missions, National~~ **Church Development***

Recommendation L: *Second Reading*

Recognizing the importance of historical work to *remember the past to inform the present and envision the future*, we **recommend** the following addition to our bylaws as a ***second reading*** under Article XI, Section 2, Special Committees:

(m) Committee on Historical Work

Recommendation M: *Second Reading*

Recognizing the importance of the completion of business during our annual General Conference sessions and the limited amount of time for our Special Committees to discharge their work, along with the significant program demands of the President of General Conference, we **recommend** the following bylaw changes as a ***second reading*** under Article V, Section 1, The President of General Conference and Article XI, Section 2, Special Committees:

Article V, Section 1 Suggested Deletion

The president shall serve from one session of General Conference through the next scheduled session. He shall, with the assistance of the General Council, plan and present the program for the annual General Conference session during his term of office. ~~He shall appoint such Conference interest committees as are listed in Article XI, Section 2.~~ Insofar as may be practical, during the year of his presidency, he shall visit the churches of the denomination encouraging their active participation in the General Conference sessions. His reasonable and necessary expenses in this effort shall be paid by General Conference. The president, president's designee, or president-elect shall preside over and conduct the business sessions of General Conference.

Article XI, Section 2 Suggested Change

*Interest committees are special committees of the General Conference business sessions with areas of concern which have been delegated to them. ~~The President of General Conference~~ **General Council** shall appoint a chairman for each committee and five additional members to the Committee on Budget and Finance. With the exception of the Nominations Committee, anyone attending the annual General*

Conference session may also attend and participate in the discussions of each committee; however, only a member of a Seventh Day Baptist church may vote. The following interest committees shall be appointed for each annual Conference, but additional committees may be created by General Conference or General Council action.

Recommendation N:

Since last year's Conference sessions, the General Council has employed the following personnel and requests **confirmation** of these Directors:

- John Pethtel, Director of Church Development & Pastoral Services
- Jeremiah Owen, Director of Communications
- Nicholas Kersten, Director of Education and History
- Robert Appel, Executive Director (to a new 3 year contract ending 2019)

Reports of Standing Committees to Interest Committees (see Referral Grid).

1. **Faith and Order** to the Reference and Counsel Interest Committee
2. **Christian Social Action and Disaster Relief** to the Interest Committee on Christian Social Action
3. Support And Retirement (**COSAR**) to Ministerial Interests and Budget & Finance

Representatives from General Council to Conference Committees:

General Council names these representatives to the following Interest Committees:

1. **Dale Thorngate** to the General Conference **Budget and Finance** Interest Committee.
2. **Rod Noel** to the General Conference **Reference and Counsel** Interest Committee.
3. **Rod Noel**, Chairman and **Dannette Montague** as representatives to the **Disciplinary Committee** for the 2015 General Conference sessions.
4. The remaining General Council and CLT members will be available to attend any of the Interest Committees on request.

Your General Council is thankful for the opportunity to serve the people and churches of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference. This has been a busy year and we are excited to see the will of God unfold among Seventh Day Baptists! We look forward to continued service to our people, our local churches, and our God. We are grateful for the many prayers offered on our behalf by Seventh Day Baptists and ask that you continue in such prayers. Please let us know what concerns and hopes you have for Seventh Day Baptists. We look forward to meeting and hearing from as many of you as we can this week in beautiful Lancaster, PA!

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Fox, Chairman
Rod Noel, Vice-Chairman
Dannette Montague
Dale Thorngate

Dave Davis, Recording Secretary
Ex officio members:
Rob Appel, Executive Director
Ron Ochs, Financial Officer

2015 Interest Committee

Referral Grid

Director/Council/Committee	Interest Committees											
	Budget and Finance	Christian Education	Christian Social Action	Communications	Ministerial	Missions	Church Development	Historical Work	Reference and Counsel	Young Adult	Youth	Women's
Christian Education Council	X	X								X	X	
Christian Social Action and Disaster Relief	X		X									
COSAR	X				X							
Council on Ministry	X				X		X					
Church Planting Task Force							X					
Faith and Order									X			
General Council	X								X			
Recommendations A, B, C, D, G, H, J, K, L, M, N									X			
Recommendation E, F					X							
Recommendation I	X											
Historical Society	X							X				
Memorial Fund	X											
Missionary Society	X					X						
Tract & Communication Council	X			X								
Women's Society	X											X

Action Items

*Drawn from the Minutes of the 202nd Annual Session of the
Seventh Day Baptist General Conference of USA and Canada, Ltd.
Bethel University, St. Paul, Minnesota*

Summary

There were 41 action items received from the 2014 General Conference Business sessions. As of July 15, 2015, 28 are completed, 9 are started and still in progress and 4 have been deferred due to current lack of resources at this point.

Specific Details

- 1. Use Typical Accounting Terms in Conference Budgeting Process (completed)** – *This has been completed by Conference Treasurer, Ron Ochs, and the SDB Center staff*
- 2. Pursue all avenues of deficit reduction (completed)** – *This has been completed with all areas reviewed by Conference Treasurer, Ron Ochs. This is also an ongoing process.*
- 3. Develop a Historical Society touring display (deferred)** – *This action item has been reviewed by Historian Nick Kersten. After considering other items currently being handled by Nick in his new responsibility as Director of Education and History, the General Council has conveyed this is a lower priority and has recommended soliciting additional help for this item, but due to lack of resources, there is no one currently working on this item.*
- 4. Connect with inactive SDB locations to examine the possibility of showing SDB heritage in that area (deferred)** – *This action item has been reviewed by Historian Nick Kersten. After considering other items currently being handled by Nick in his new responsibility as Director of Education and History, the General Council has conveyed this is a lower priority and has recommended soliciting additional help for this item, but due to lack of resources, there is no one currently working on this item.*
- 5. Participate in BWA Commission on Identity and Heritage (deferred)** – *This action item has been reviewed by Historian Nick Kersten and determined not feasible due to cost and timing. No further action will be taken on this.*
- 6. Take and keep minutes for CSADR meetings (in progress)** – *This action item has been assigned to the Committee for Social Action and Disaster Recovery and still being worked on. There were some conference calls and communication, but no formal minutes were taken.*
- 7. Review past and current positions on social issues (in progress)** – *This action item has been assigned to the Committee for Social Action and Disaster Recovery, but they are still working on this.*
- 8. Establish content for new CSADR website (in progress)** – *Craig Mosher from CSADR is working with Jeremiah Owen on this but it has not been completed yet*

9. **Use EducatingChristians.com as a guideline for new SDBCE website (in progress)** – Nick Kersten is working with Jeremiah Owen to complete this as part of the new website redesign.
10. **Continue Evangelism Workshop (deferred)** – Nick Kersten has reviewed this and the information and materials are available, but we need a current resource for facilitating and visiting churches requesting this workshop.
11. **Appoint Technology Production Taskforce (completed)** – The General Council appointed Jeremiah Owen (chair), Doug Mackintosh, and Joel Osborn as the new Technology Production Taskforce.
12. **Appoint Hispanic Communication Taskforce (in progress)** – There will be a Spanish Speaking Summit (S-cubed) held this week at Conference to fulfill this action item.
13. **Emeritus status for Accreditation should be linked to years of service in addition to age (completed)** -- The Council on Ministry submitted what is Recommendation G in the General Council report.
14. **Educate older adults on ways to serve in missions (completed)** – The Missionary Society has completed this and the information is available on their website.
15. **Have missions be a topic at the next Pastors Conference (completed)** – A session on missions was held at this year's Pastors Conference.
16. **Allow Perspectives on World Missions to be an allowable CE course for pastors (completed)** – COM has added this to the Continuing Education options for pastors.
17. **Have a section of the MS website dedicated for children's missions information (in progress)** – The Missionary Society has begun looking at this, but it is still in progress.
18. **Have students mail at least 10 hardcopy letters for SCSC/SG (completed)** – This was completed by the Women's Society.
19. **Use Women's page to clearly list requirements for SCSC/SG (completed)** – The Women's Society has completed this and has the information available on their website.
20. **Send brochure to churches before application deadline with requirements for SCSC/SG and ask for donations (completed)** – The Women's Society sent posters to each church in March to publicize and encourage donations for SCSC/SG. There were also several items requesting donations online through social media.
21. **Award Robe of Achievement yearly, if qualified applicant is submitted (completed)** – The Women's Society reviewed this and there were several worthy applicants this year. They voted to continue if quality applicants are submitted.
22. **Define and tithe WB income and report back at 2015 General Conference (completed)** – The Women's Society discussed this and defined their income, etc. and will report our action back to the 2015 Conference Women's Interest committee.
23. **Evaluate SCSC craft table (completed)** – The Women's Society considered this and decided not to have an SCSC craft table at 2015 Conference.

- 24. Develop a database to refer to SDB spiritual gifts and talents for service (in progress)** – *A CRM is in the process of being created for use in all SDB ministries. We are beginning to collect data at this year's Conference session at the kiosk in the display area.*
- 25. Update MORE program (in progress)** – *John Pethtel and COM are doing research and working on this with a target completion by the end of 2015.*
- 26. Create ministry area for Church Development (completed)** – *The Council on Ministry has taken responsibility for the area of Church Development.*
- 27. Entrust this ministry area to at least one person (completed)** – *John Pethtel has been hired as Director of Church Development & Pastoral Services*
- 28. Determine means by which the 5 ministry areas for Church Revitalization can be carried out (in progress)** – *John Pethtel, Nick Kersten, and COM are currently working on this.*
- 29. Develop program for Church Planting team members to be possibly funded (completed)** – *A joint effort by the COM, Church Planting Task Force, and John Pethtel resulted in the Church Planting Co-Worker program.*
- 30. Logan Curran as representative to the Disciplinary Committee (completed)** – *no further action needed*
- 31. Rebecca Olson and Eliana Chroniger as co-editors of the Beacon page (completed)** – *no further action needed*
- 32. Create Beacon Facebook page (completed)** – *This was completed and has been utilized throughout the year.*
- 33. Promote online tutorial for first time Conference attendees (completed)** – *Jeremiah Owen and Rob Appel created a video tutorial was completed and released on social media in June.*
- 34. Zach Floyd and Gabi Alonzo as YA Activity Coordinators (completed)** – *no further action needed*
- 35. Karissa St. Clair as YA Coffeehouse Coordinator (completed)** – *no further action needed*
- 36. Willy Villalpando as YA column editor for SR (completed)** – *SR articles were submitted through the year.*
- 37. Letters of thanks to 2014 Conference Hosts (completed)** – *Rob Appel completed this.*
- 38. Letters of thanks to 2014 Conference speakers (completed)** – *Rob Appel completed this.*
- 39. Letters to retired pastors and missionaries not in attendance at 2014 Conference (completed)** – *Karen Payne and Rob Appel prepared and sent these letters.*
- 40. Changes to what is reported by COM annually (completed)** – *John Pethtel and COM discussed and have made revisions.*
- 41. COM proactive in their ministry areas (completed)** – *COM has been meeting monthly since the beginning of the year and are actively engaged with both the Director of Church Development and Pastoral Support and the Director of Education and Training since they have areas which fall under these two areas.*

Seventh Day Baptist
 Summary of 2016
 Operating Income & Expense Budget

Operating Income	Conference Services	Building Operations	COSAR /PROP	Christian Social Action	Ecumenical Affairs Fund	Church Development	Communication	Women's Society	Historical	Christian Education Council	Budget	Missionary Society
	147,420.00	16,000.00	58,000.00	1,390.00	440.00	77,600.00	43,200.00	39,020.00	7,430.00	46,850.00	437,350.00	25,300.00
Investment	18,200.00	4,600.00	25,600.00	1,500.00	200.00	0.00	35,600.00	2,940.00	26,400.00	37,200.00	152,240.00	105,000.00
Sales / Services	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,850.00	8,300.00	3,850.00	42,900.00	74,900.00	0.00
Host	125,000.00	5,000.00									130,000.00	143,000.00
Committee/bldg												
Total Operating	305,620.00	25,600.00	83,600.00	2,890.00	640.00	77,600.00	83,650.00	50,260.00	37,680.00	126,950.00	794,490.00	273,300.00

Additional Funding Sources												
Assets Used	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	45,875.00	9,090.00	0.00	5,830.88	60,795.88	56,485.00
Grants	48,000.00	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23,400.00	8,000.00	4,500.00	200.00	21,000.00	111,100.00	1,600.00
Loans	0.00	0.00	16,970.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,970.00	0.00
Total Funding	48,000.00	6,000.00	16,970.00	0.00	0.00	23,400.00	53,875.00	13,590.00	200.00	26,830.88	188,865.88	58,085.00
Sources												
Total Income	353,620.00	31,600.00	100,570.00	2,890.00	640.00	101,000.00	137,525.00	63,850.00	37,880.00	153,780.88	983,355.88	331,385.00

Operating Expenses	Conference Services	Building Operations	COSAR/PROP	Christian Social Action	Ecumenical Affairs Fund	Church Development	Communication	Women's Society	Historical	Christian Education Council	Budget	Missionary Society
Programs	0.00	0.00	100,120.00	0.00	0.00	34,900.00	46,150.00	54,500.00	7,600.00	100,250.00	343,520.00	29,900.00
Compensation	141,932.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60,600.00	60,000.00	0.00	28,834.12	41,030.88	332,397.02	119,385.00
Travel	45,300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,700.00	5,000.00	3,500.00	3,000.00	4,000.00	71,500.00	31,000.00
Facilities	6,200.00	24,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,400.00	22,000.00
Overhead	17,937.50	0.00	450.00	350.00	350.00	5,575.00	26,375.00	5,850.00	9,960.00	8,500.00	75,347.50	1,100.00
Host												
Committee/bldg	125,000.00										125,000.00	128,000.00
Total Operating Expense	336,369.52	24,200.00	100,570.00	350.00	350.00	111,775.00	137,525.00	63,850.00	49,394.12	153,780.88	978,164.52	331,385.00
Operating Income/(Loss)	(30,749.52)	1,400.00	(16,970.00)	2,540.00	290.00	(34,175.00)	(53,875.00)	(13,590.00)	(11,714.12)	(26,830.88)	(183,674.52)	(58,085.00)
Total Income/(Loss)	17,250.48	7,400.00	0.00	2,540.00	290.00	(10,775.00)	0.00	0.00	(11,514.12)	0.00	5,191.36	0.00

Monday, July 27, 2015

Second Business Session

The second business session opened at 2:02 p.m. President Probasco asked if there was any new business.

John Pethtel, Springs Life Church, CO presented a resolution on Child Protection and a motion was made to refer this resolution to the Interest Committee on Christian Education for review and to be brought back to the floor for consideration before business ends, it was seconded and carried.

John Pethtel, Springs Life Church, CO presented a resolution affirming the previous SDB statements on Marriage and a motion was made to refer the resolution to the Interest Committee on Christian Social Action for review and to be brought back to the floor for consideration before business ends, it was seconded and carried.

John Pethtel, Springs Life Church, CO, made a recommendation for the Standing Committee on Faith and Order to examine the possibility of adding an amendment to the Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Beliefs concerning the topics of Human Sexuality, Family, and/or Marriage to identify a General Conference statement with regards to the topics of homosexuality, adultery, fornication, procreation, and civil unions for same-sex couples. A motion was made to refer this request to the Interest Committee on Christian Social Action, it was seconded and carried.

John-Mark Camenga, Lost Creek, WV presented a proposal for an alternate by-law change regarding who has the responsibility of appointing the chairs of Interest Committees, including the addition of a Moderator position responsible for choosing the chairs and also conducting business during the General Conference sessions. A motion was made that the proposal be referred to Reference and Council to be considered alongside General Council Recommendation M, with the understanding that any recommendation from Reference and Council in reference to that Recommendation will fully discharge the responsibility of the committee with respect to this referral. The motion was seconded and carried.

President Probasco asked for any further new business. None was brought forward. The delegates were dismissed to interest committees at 2:12 p.m.

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Third Business Session

After Conference Pastor Dave Taylor lead the delegation in prayer, President Bill Probasco called the third business session to order at 1:38. The minutes of the last two business sessions were read and approved.

Virginia Evans, of the Seattle Area Seventh Day Baptist Church, presented a partial report of the interest committee for Reference and Council. A motion was made and seconded to deal with each recommendation separately. Recommendation 1, regarding Emeritus status for Accredited ministers,

was seconded and carried. Recommendation 2, regarding the merger of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society, was seconded and carried. Recommendation 3, regarding the site of General Conference in 2016, was seconded and carried.

Recommendation 4, regarding General Council recommendation K, was seconded and carried.

Recommendation 5, regarding General Council recommendation L, was seconded and carried.

Recommendation 6, regarding confirmation of the employment of the Director of Church Development & Pastoral Service, the Director of Communications, the Director of Education and History and the Executive Director, was seconded and carried. A motion was made to accept the partial report of the interest committee for Reference and Council. It was seconded and carried.

Partial Report of the Interest Committee on Reference and Counsel

We **commend** the General Council and our conference executives for their continued hard work on behalf of Seventh Day Baptists.

Recommendation 1:

The Committee **recommends** the adoption of General Council recommendation G, referring to

Recommendation 2:

The Committee **recommends** the adoption of General Council recommendation H, referring to the merger of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society and including the first readings of proposed Bylaw amendments.

Recommendation 3:

We **recommend** adoption of General Council recommendation J, for the Conference site in 2016.

Recommendation 4:

The Committee **recommends** that the General Conference adopt as second and final reading General Council recommendation K.

Recommendation 5:

The Committee **recommends** that the General Conference adopt General Council recommendation L as a second and final reading.

Recommendation 6:

The Committee **recommends** the adoption of General Council recommendation N, referring to the confirmation of the employment of the Director of Church Development & Pastoral Service, the Director of Communications, the Director of Education and History and the Executive Director.

The president asked if there was any new business, and seeing that there was none, adjourned the delegates to interest committees at 1:48 pm.

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Fourth Business Session

President Bill Probasco called the fourth business session to order 9:50 a.m. with prayer lead by conference pastor Dave Taylor.

Dean Fox, Pataskala Seventh Day Baptist Church, presented the report of the interest committee on Communications. A motion was made to accept the report, it was seconded and carried.

Report of the Interest Committee on Communications

The members of the Communications Interest Committee reviewed the 2014-15 Annual Report of the American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council. We had the opportunity to meet with Jeremiah Owen and Patricia Cruzan. These faithful servants of God answered the committee's questions regarding the Sabbath Recorder and the recommendations made last year.

We *commend* the General Council for appointing a Technology Production Taskforce consisting of Jeremiah Owen, Doug Mackintosh, and Joel Osborn.

We *commend* the General Council and Tract and Communication Council for considering last year's recommendation to create a "Hispanic Communication Taskforce", and initiating the Spanish Speaking Summit (S-Cubed) to be held later this week.

We *commend* Patricia Cruzan for her outstanding work as Interim Sabbath Recorder Editor, and congratulate her on her new position as the Sabbath Recorder Editor.

We *commend* Jeremiah Owen for creating multiple electronic-formats of the Sabbath Recorder including a PDF, a page-flip, and a blog style format available at www.sabbathrecorder.com

We *urge* that whenever possible, articles within the Sabbath Recorder include a photo and short biographical insert about the author.

We *urge* that whenever any pictures of members of the conference are included within the Sabbath Recorder and other denominational publications that, when it is practical and/or possible, names be included in order to identify the individual.

We further *suggest* that conference photographers when taking individual or small group photographs, obtain the names of the subjects in order that they may be included within the Sabbath Recorder and other denominational publications.

Because of legal considerations, we *urge* that consideration be given to obtaining permission for photographs and videos taken of individuals, so that such photographs and videos may be used for denominational publications.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dean Fox, *Chairman*
Willy Villalpando, *Secretary*
Dale Rood

A motion was made to allow the food service company of Lancaster Bible College to take a photograph of our group while eating for their promotional purposes, it was seconded and carried.

President Probasco asked for new business and seeing none, dismissed the delegates to interest committees at 9:59 a.m.

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Fifth Business Session

The fifth business session was called to order by President Bill Probasco at 1:32 p.m. The minutes of the last two business sessions were read and approved.

Emily Watt, Central Seventh Day Baptist Church, read the report of the Historical Interest Committee. A motion was made to adopt the report and it was seconded and carried.

Report of the Historical Interest Committee

The committee reviewed the 2014 annual report of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society and the six-month update.

We were pleased to hear of the many excellent things that have been done by members and board members of the Historical Society. The committee would like to **commend**:

- Nick Kersten on his Sabbath Recorder column entitled, 'In the Nick of Time.' These articles are very enjoyable and serve to pique the interests of readers in regards to the fascinating history of Seventh Day Baptists. We **urge** Mr. Kersten to continue writing these articles in the coming year.
- The members of the Historical Society Board of Directors for their years of dedicated service and for their excellent stewardship of the resources of the Society. We especially commend Paul Green for 25+ years of service as treasurer of the Historical Society. Thank you, Paul Green!
- Brent Hannah for his years of service to the Society as a board member.
- Kim Merchant for agreeing to fill an unexpected vacancy in the Board.
- Rinald Kersten for his years of service to the Society and his excellent organizational work in the archives.
- Dean Fox for his work in digitizing historic slide photos from the annals of the Historical Society's archives. We greatly appreciate the work that he did, which has already been utilized in this year's World Federation report.

- Janet Thorngate for her work to further the reach of Seventh Day Baptists and to inform the world about the rich history of Seventh Day Baptists as she waits for the publication of her book, *Baptists in Early North America Vol. III: Newport Seventh Day Baptist Church*, which is part of a larger series written by a variety of authors from various denominations. It was an honor for Janet Thorngate to be asked to write this volume, and we are pleased and proud to see her work of five years in the final stages of publication.
- Norma Rudert for coordinating the efforts of the Centennial Fund Drive.

In addition, the committee was very pleased to hear about the ongoing efforts of the Library to scan the archived volumes of the Sabbath Recorder and other historical periodicals, and to make those copies available to members through the archives on the Historical Society website.

The committee had several questions regarding the logistics of the merger between the Society and the General Conference, especially in regards to membership. The committee thanks Janet Thorngate and Nick Kersten for their insight into these matters and their willingness to answer the committee's questions.

The Centennial Fund drive was also a topic of interest. The committee urges all members of the denomination to work together to honor the value of Seventh Day Baptist history by donating generously to this fund. The committee urges all member churches to appoint a key person who would be charged with raising awareness and coordinating fundraiser events to support this worthy cause. The goal of the Centennial Fund drive is to raise an additional \$300,000 in endowments to support the Society as a whole. We feel that this is achievable, as long as we work together at the local church level to raise awareness for the Fund and the benefits of this endeavor. Contributions can be made by contacting Nick Kersten (Director of History and Education), or by visiting the website at www.sdbhistory.org.

As a result of the conversations held by this committee, we bring forth the following:

We **urge** the Director of History and Education to collaborate with the Director of Communications to facilitate the creation of a video presentation to highlight Seventh Day Baptist history for the benefit of local churches, to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Historical Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Burdick, *Chairperson*

Emily Watt, *Secretary*

Timothy Lawton

Ron Heres

Norma MacLuskie

Kim Merchant

Norma Rudert
Janice Kenyon
Karen Denman

Dorothy Noel, Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church, read the report of the Interest Committee on Christian Social Action and Disaster Relief and the Resolution Affirming Previous SDB Statements on Marriage and Sexuality. A motion was made to accept the report and consider its recommendations separately. A motion to accept recommendation 1 regarding creating links between the SDB website and the SDBCSA website was seconded and carried. A motion to accept recommendation 2 regarding the adoption of the Resolution Affirming Previous SDB Statements on Marriage as well as providing additional information to all associated churches was seconded and carried. A motion to accept recommendation 3 regarding amending the Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Beliefs to include a statement concerning the topics of Human Sexuality, Family, and/or Marriage was seconded and carried. A motion to adopt recommendation 4 regarding educational materials concerning biblical sexuality for use within our local congregations was seconded and carried. A motion was made to adopt recommendation 5 regarding layout and navigation changes to the SDB website was seconded and carried. The motion to accept the report with its recommendations was seconded and carried.

Report of the Interest Committee on Christian Social Action and Disaster Relief

The Interest Committee on Christian Social Action and Disaster Relief (CSADR) reviewed the 2015 Annual Report of the CSADR and the related financial statement in the 2014 Yearbook.

We thank the Standing Committee on Christian Social Action and Disaster Relief for their dedicated work this last year on behalf of all Seventh Day Baptists for the Lord Jesus Christ and our Seventh Day Baptist brothers and sisters.

We express our thanks to CSADR Standing Committee Representatives, Daniel Lovelace and Paula Reynolds, for answering our questions.

We thank the Director of Church Development and Pastoral Services, John Pethtel, for coming and answering our questions regarding the statements he referred to us.

We commend the Standing Committee for responding to disasters in the Philippines and the USA.

We commend our people for contributing to the SDB United Relief Fund, and we urge everyone to give generously to the Fund so that assistance may continue in the future.

We are glad the Standing Committee is using its Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/SDBCSADR>) to encourage churches and individuals to give toward disaster relief.

We strongly encourage the standing committee to take minutes and store these electronically to be used for future meetings and for historical records.

We encourage the standing committee to continue to review past or current denominational position statements on social issues.

Recommendation 1: We recommend that the Standing Committee on CSADR, in connection with the SDB Director of Communications, create reciprocal links between the Seventh Day Baptist website and the new www.sdbcsa.org website.

Recommendation 2: We recommend the adoption of the Resolution Affirming Previous SDB Statements on Marriage. We further recommend that upon adoption of this resolution that the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference of USA and Canada, Ltd. mail every member church, sponsored church, and applicant for membership a copy of this resolution along with a list of resources pertaining to this matter and an encouragement for them to contact their liability insurance provider concerning protection for their religious liberties concerning this issue.

Recommendation 3: We recommend that the Standing Committee on Faith and Order examine the possibility of amending the Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Belief to include a statement concerning the topics of Human Sexuality, Family, and/or Marriage.

Recommendation 4: We recommend that the Director of Education and History explore educational materials concerning a holistic understanding of biblical sexuality for use within our local congregations.

Recommendation 5: We recommend that the Director of Communications rearrange the About drop down menu on the www.seventhdaybaptist.org website to move Social Issues to directly below Sabbath, for ease of discovery.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Noel, Chairman

Committee attendees:

Yorleen Palmer	Yonette Thomas	Vivian Allen
Dorothy Noel	Deryck Thomas	Jeremy Evans
Patricia Palmiter	Jeffrey Lawton	Paula Reynolds, CSADR Standing Committee
Carolyn M Jacob	Eric Inabnit	Amanda Snyder
Matthew Jacob	Dave Alldredge	Steven James
Sylvia Clark-Smith	Norman Fearon	Daniel Lovelace, CSADR Standing Committee
Marcela Figueroa	Josiah Kenyon	
Ken Burdick		

Resolution Affirming Previous SDB Statements on Marriage

WHEREAS, God in His divine wisdom created and intended marriage to be the covenanted, conjugal union of one man and one woman (Genesis 2:18–24; Matthew 19:4–6; Hebrews 13:4); and

WHEREAS, Seventh Day Baptists through action at their General Conference sessions in 2003 and 2004 strongly affirmed “that the Divinely instituted union of marriage is solely between a man and a woman.”; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that states shall be required to grant legal recognition as “marriages” to same-sex partnerships; and

WHEREAS, The redefinition of marriage to include same-sex couples is apt to continue to erode the religious liberty and rights of conscience of all who remain faithful to the idea of marriage as the conjugal union of husband and wife; and

WHEREAS, The Bible affirms the value of all human beings as “created in His image” and calls us to love our neighbors, including those who disagree with us about the definition of marriage; now, therefore,

LET IT BE RESOLVED, That the delegates to the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference session in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, July 26-August 1, 2015, continue to “strongly affirm that the Divinely instituted union of marriage is solely between a man and a woman.”

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, That the religious liberty of individual citizens or institutions should not be infringed as a result of believing or living according to the biblical definition of marriage;

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, That Seventh Day Baptists love our neighbors and extend respect in Christ’s name to all people, including those who may disagree with us about the definition of marriage.

Ruth Burdick, Seattle Area Seventh Day Baptist Church, presented the report of the nominating committee. President Probasco opened nominations from the floor, there were none. A motion was made to elect those who were nominated, it was seconded and carried.

The delegates were adjourned to seminars at 1:52 p.m.

Thursday, July 30, 2015

Sixth Business Session

The sixth business session was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by President Probasco. Conference Pastor Dave Taylor opened the session with prayer and a scripture reading from Daniel 6. The minutes of the last two business sessions were read and approved.

Virginia Evans, Seattle Area Seventh Day Baptist Church, read the second part of the report of Reference and Council interest committee. A motion was made to consider each recommendation separately.

A motion was made to accept recommendation 7 regarding the adoption of Faith and Order committee report, it was seconded and carried. A motion was made to accept recommendation 8 regarding accepting the West Palm Beach SDB church as member church of the General Conference, it was seconded and carried. A motion was made to accept recommendation 9 regarding accepting the Full Gospel SDB Church as member church of the General Conference, it was seconded and carried. A motion was made to accept Recommendation 10 regarding accepting Remembrance SDB Church as member church of the General Conference, it was seconded and carried. A motion was made to accept Recommendation 11 regarding accepting the Agape SDB Church of the South as a member church of the General Conference, it was seconded and carried. A motion was made to table recommendations 12 and 13 of the report and refer them back to General Council for review, it was seconded and, after a standing vote, it was carried. A motion was made to accept recommendation 14, regarding accepting the report of general council as amended by committee action, it was seconded and carried. A motion was made to accept the partial report as adopted it was seconded and carried.

Second Partial Report of the Interest Committee on Reference and Counsel

Recommendation 7:

The Committee **recommends** the adoption of the 2015 Report of the Committee on Faith and Order.

Recommendation 8:

The Committee **recommends** the adoption of General Council recommendation A, accepting the West Palm Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church, West Palm Beach, FL, as a member church of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, USA & Canada, Ltd.

Recommendation 9:

The Committee **recommends** the adoption of General Council recommendation B, accepting the Full Gospel Seventh Day Baptist Church, Cumberland, MD, as a member church of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, USA & Canada, Ltd.

Recommendation 10:

The Committee **recommends** the adoption of General Council recommendation C, accepting the Remembrance Seventh Day Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX, as a member church of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, USA & Canada, Ltd.

Recommendation 11:

The Committee **recommends** the adoption of General Council recommendation D, accepting the Agape SDB Church of the South, Orlando, FL, as a member church of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, USA & Canada, Ltd.

Recommendation 12:

The committee recommends that we not accept the General Council recommendation M.

Recommendation 13:

The committee recommends that the General Conference adopt as first reading the alternative recommendation presented by Johnmark Camenga as amended by the committee.

Article V. Section 1. President of General Conference. The president shall serve from one session of General Conference through the next scheduled session. He shall, with the assistance of the General Council, plan and present the program for the annual General Conference session during his term of office. ~~He shall appoint such Conference interest committees as are listed in Article XI, Section 2.~~ Insofar as may be practical, during the year of his presidency, he shall visit the churches of the denomination encouraging their active participation in the General Conference sessions. His reasonable and necessary expenses in this effort shall be paid by General Conference. ~~The president, president's designee, or president elect shall preside over and conduct the business sessions of General Conference.~~

Section 3. Moderator. *The Moderator or Moderator's designee shall preside over and conduct the business sessions of General Conference. The Moderator shall work with the President and General Council to ensure that adequate time is scheduled for General Conference business. While this section permits the separation of business and program responsibilities for General Conference sessions, the president may be elected as moderator. The moderator will have a two-year term with the opportunity to be re-nominated for one consecutive term. No moderator may serve for more than ten consecutive years. The moderator may not concurrently serve on General Council or any executive position for the General Conference or its Allied Societies.*

Article XI. Section 2. Special Committees. Interest committees are special committees of the General Conference business sessions with areas of concern which have been delegated to them. The ~~President~~ Moderator of General Conference shall appoint a chairman for each committee and five additional members to the Committee on Budget and Finance. With the exception of the Nominations Committee, anyone attending the annual General Conference session may also attend and participate in the discussions of each committee; however, only a member of a Seventh Day Baptist church may vote. The following interest committees shall be appointed for each annual Conference, but additional committees may be created by General Conference or General Council action.

Recommendation 14:

We move to accept the report of General Council as amended by committee action.

Respectfully Submitted,

James A. Skaggs – Chairman

Virginia Evans – Secretary

25 members:

Natasha Ashley

Katy Bofinger

Ken Burdick

C. Justin Camenga

Merlin Condison

George Cruzan

Glenn Denman

Michael S. Graves

Gayle Heres

Philip Lawton

Rose Mcfarlane

Annette Murray

Cindy Nadeau

Brian Payne

Holly Pontier

Linnette Reynolds

Ruth Reynolds

Diane Rhoden

Steve Rogers

Lorna Samuels

Andrew Samuels

Steve Saunders

Melvin F. Stephan

Charles Lee Thomas

David Thorngate

Levi Bond, Portland Area Seventh Day Baptist Church, read the report of the Committee on Ministerial Interests. A motion was made to adopt the report with its recommendations, it was seconded and carried.

Report of the Committee on Ministerial Interests

We thank the Rev. Gordon Lawton for his 11 years of ministry as the Director of Pastoral Services and Dean of the School of Ministry. We especially appreciate his oversight of the Seminary Education Program, promotion of the students involved in the program, and effort toward increasing the amount of giving designated to support the program. He served well as a pastor to pastors, bringing a caring, listening ear to the job, and recognizing important events in the lives of pastors and their families.

We thank the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Chroniger and the Rev. Robert Van Horn for their years of service as members of the Council on Ministry and acknowledge their resignations. We appreciate the work of General Council to recruit new members to fill the vacancies left by those resignations. We thank the Rev. Carl Greene and Pastor Ericessen Cooper for agreeing to serve as new members of the Council on Ministry and pray that God will continue bringing this whole group together as it seeks to guide and execute the various ministries that have been assigned to it.

We congratulate Owen Lynch for completing his Seminary education.

We are grateful to see that churches of the Conference continue to seek and to recognize those called by God into pastoral ministry. We congratulate the SpringsLife Church, First SDB Church of Hebron, and First SDB Church of Genesee for their ordinations of the Rev. David Fox, the Rev. Carl Greene, and the Rev. Kevin Palmiter. We thank these recently ordained for listening to the call of God upon their lives and their willingness to serve as under-shepherds of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We congratulate the Rev. John Pethtel for his appointment as the Director of Church Development and Pastoral Services.

We congratulate the Rev. Nick Kersten for his appointment as the Director of Education and History and Dean of the School of Ministry.

We understand the factors that led General Council to divide responsibility among executive positions for various aspects of the ministry overseen by COM. We appreciate the deliberate steps that are being taken to ensure good communication between the Conference Directors appointed to these tasks. We encourage all those involved to be diligent in evaluating how this division of labor is working and to be actively looking for ways to improve how services are delivered.

We thank the Boulder Seventh Day Baptist Church, the Council on Ministry, and the multitude of people involved in planning for, hosting, and running an excellent Pastors Conference in 2015.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1. We **recommend** the adoption of the 2014 Council on Ministry Annual Report and July 2015 report of activity between conference sessions.

Recommendation 2. We **recommend** the adoption of the Annual Report of the Committee on Support and Retirement (COSAR). We thank COSAR for emphasizing the continuing need for financial support of the old retirement plan. We echo the committee's plea to support our retired pastors.

Recommendation 3. We **recommend** that General Conference accredit the Rev. Nicholas Kersten, the Rev. David Fox, the Rev. Dr. Paul Manuel, and the Rev. Helmer Umana by adopting Recommendation E of the General Council report.

Recommendation 4. We **recommend** that General Conference renew the accreditations of the Rev. John Pethtel, the Rev. Matthew Berg, the Rev. Kenneth Burdick, the Rev. Robert Babcock, the Rev. Donald Chroniger, the Rev. Matthew Olson, The Rev. Nathan Crandall, the Rev. Rodney Henry, the Rev. Oscar Burdick, and the Rev. Leland Davis by adopting Recommendation F of the General report Council.

Recommendation 5. We **recommend** that the Council on Ministry review the education and service section of the accreditation process, in particular reviewing the kinds of service that count toward accreditation.

Recommendation 6. General Council considered many factors as they decided to allow Conference Directors to reside in places that are not close to the Conference Center. We note that they are actively monitoring the effectiveness of communication between the Directors and communication with the Conference as a whole. General Council is evaluating the kind of impact proximity of Directors to the Conference Center has on the provision of services to Conference members and churches. We believe that it is in the best interest of the General Conference to allow General Council to continue their work to discern the best arrangement for Conference Directors with respect to their proximity to the Conference Center.

The committee discovered that in 2002, General Conference adopted a recommendation to require the Director of Pastoral Services to “occupy and utilize the offices in Janesville that are designated for use on a daily basis” (Report of the Interest Committee on Ministerial Interests, 2002, Recommendation 4). We observe that dramatic improvements in communication technology in the last decade make many communication tasks—without respect to the distance between the participants—easier and faster than they have ever been. The committee is convinced that this requirement, for technological reasons alone, is no longer needed. We are further convinced that the requirement should be removed in order to allow General Council the ability to complete its discernment process without having to factor in this particular expression of the will of General Conference.

Therefore, we **recommend** that General Conference rescind Recommendation 4 of the 2002 Report of the Interest Committee on Ministerial Interests.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrew J. Camenga, chair
Levi Bond, secretary
Perry Cain, Kevin Butler, Jerry Vaught, Ed Sutton, Kory Langley, Lawrence Watt, Johnmark Camenga

Cindy Nadeau, Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church, presented the report of the Credentials Coordinator. A motion was made to accept the report with the provision that it may be updated through the end of the conference, it was seconded and carried.

Report of the Credentials Coordinator

Part I Delegates From Member Churches

The Credentials Coordinator submits the following report to the Conference. Official delegates who have been certified by action of the local church or by the authority vested in the chairman of the representative delegations are as follows:

ARKANSAS

Texarkana: Jennifer Brown, Amanda Langley, Kory Langley, Dawn Richards, Daniel E. Richards, Lauren Telford

CALIFORNIA

Bay Area: Doug Mackintosh, Micah Mackintosh

Foothill: Dannette Montague, Jeremiah Owen

Maranatha: Elizabeth Lawson, William Villalpando

Riverside: Gabriel E. Bejjani, Hayat Bejjani, Norman K. Burdick, Victoria L. Burdick, Ruby H. Hambleton, Norma H. Macluskie, Catherine M. Pradetto

CANADA

Toronto: Natasha Ashley, Merlin Condison, Winsome Gilmore, Gayle Heres, Owen Lynch, Rosie McFarlane, Anne Murray, Linnette Reynolds, Paula Reynolds, Ruth Reynolds, Lorna Samuels

COLORADO

Boulder: Nathan Crowder, Philip Lawton, Angie Osborn, Michaela Osborn, Stephen Osborn, Pat Williams, Gretchen Zwiebel

SpringsLife: Linda Harris, Robert Harris, Danita Lee, Danny Lee, John J. Pethtel, Tabatha Pethtel

CONNECTICUT

Pine Street Gospel Chapel: David Thorngate

Waterford: LeRoy Burdick, Teresa Johnson

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington, D.C.: Diane R. Andries, Gabrielle E. Andries, Joshua J. Andries, Paul R. Andries, Christopher Joseph, Georgette Scott-Nash

FLORIDA

Bradenton: Linda Cain, Perry Cain

Daytona Beach: Richard Bond, Susan Bond, Ewald Fick, Jan Graffius, James Jacob, Marjorie Jacob, Donald Rudert

Fort Lauderdale: Norman Fearon

Miami: Jasmine Lynch, Andrew Samuels, Velma Taylor

Putnam County: Carolyn Jacob, Matthew Jacob

GEORGIA

Metro Atlanta: Daniel Lovelace, Luis D. Lovelace

Southeast Atlanta: Marlene Campbell, Barry Dailey, Sharon Dailey, Kathlene Gordon, Carol Samuels

MARYLAND

Central: Ruth Hazen, Diane Hibbard, Earl Hibbard, Margaret P. Taylor, Dakota Watt, Emily Watt, Lawrence O. Watt

SDB Christian: Gabriela L. Alonzo

MICHIGAN

All Nation's: Haywood Floyd, Zack Floyd

Battle Creek: Lorrana J. Bird, Judith Parrish

White Cloud: Ed Cruzan, Trish Nagle, Norma Rudert, Marva Shears, JR Shick, Sarah Schick, Patti Wethington

MINNESOTA

Dodge Center: Louie Brown, Marlene Brown, Madelyn Neher, Richard Neher, Doug Payne, Althea G. Rood, Dale E. Rood, Bill Shobe, Stephanie Sholtz, Jenni Wangsness

NEBRASKA

North Loop: Helen Goodrich, James Goodrich, Katrina Goodrich, Scott Hausrath, Amy Palermo, Nicholas Palermo, Irene Saunders, Stephen Saunders

NEW JERSEY

Marlboro: Nelta Babcock, Robert Babcock, Chris Bond, Joanna Bond, Dottie Cruzan, Joanne Davis, Sharon Davis, Thomas Davis, Ajea Dumas, Katie Moncrief, Lorian Rosborough

Plainfield: Egbert Downes

Raritan Valley: Adrienne Graffius, Gabriel C. Graffius, Melvin F. Stephan

Shiloh: Katy Bofinger, Debbie Bond, Donna S. Bond, Jan Bond, Philip Bond, Ronald Bond, Timothy Bond, Ward Bond, Carla Burlingame, Ronald Campbell, Sharon Campbell, Bethany Chroniger, Charlotte Chroniger, Donald Chroniger, Julia Coleman, Cathy Dixon, George Cruzan, Pat Cruzan, Cynthia P. DuBois, Jane Jernoske, Sandra Layton, Dodie Moncrief, Stephen Moncrief, Holly Probasco, Owen Probasco, Ruth Probasco, Valerie Probasco, William Probasco, Miriam Richardson, Carol Scull

NEW YORK

Agape: Sylvia Clarke-Smith, Yonette Thomas

Alfred Station: Elianna Chroniger, Kenneth Chroniger, Madge Chroniger, Peggy Chroniger, Abigail Noel, Dorothy Noel, Melissa Noel, Rod Noel

Berlin: Jasonnah Bink, Ellen Olson, Matthew Olson, Rebecca Olson

First Genesee: Kevin Palmiter, Patti Palmiter

New York City: Ericessen Cooper, Pauline James, Christian Murphy, Olivia Murphy, Othneil Murphy, Caroline Shorter

Verona: Marleigh Fiaco, Debbie James, Steven James, David Stamp, Ken Stover, Rebecca Stover

OHIO

Pataskala: Linda Camenga, Dean Fox, Susan Fox, Judith Houts

OREGON

Portland: Levi Bond, Jerry Vaught, Martha Vaught

PENNSLVANIA

Bell: Bryan Baker, Ed Sutton, Pat Sutton

German: Perry Barbee, Andrew J. Camenga, Verne Fuller, Linda Graffius, Ed Rosenberry

Hebron: Carl P. Greene, Cynthia J. Greene, Allen D. Hauber

RHODE ISLAND

First Hopkinton: C. Elizabeth Brown, Clinton R. Brown, Melissa Brown, Cassandra N. Lawton, Jeffrey G. Lawton, Timothy W. Lawton

Pawcatuck: Cindy L. Nadeau

TENNESSEE

Shepherd's Fold Ministry: Nathan Crouch, Shay Rankhorn, Charles Thomas

TEXAS

Houston: Nina Creel, Peter Osborn, Holly Pontier

WASHINGTON

Central: Glenn Denman, Karen Denman

Seattle Area: David Alldredge, Kenneth Burdick, Ruth Burdick, David Davis, Virginia Evans, Ben Figueroa, Erin Inabnit, Karen Uhlich

WEST VIRGINIA

Lost Creek: Johnmark Camenga, M. Catherine Camenga, Donald Graffius, Cindy Lawrence, Larry Lawrence

Salem: Duska Davis, Paul Davis, Brent Hannah, Brock Hannah, Carleen Hannah, Conor Hannah, Greg Randolph, Julia Randolph Josephine Rogers, Leeann Rogers, Stephen Rogers, Dale D. Thorngate, Janet Thorngate

WISCONSIN

Madison: C. Justin Camenga, James A. Skaggs

Milton: Cheri Appel, Rob Appel, Janet Butler, Kevin Butler, Barbara Green, Dale Green, Elizabeth Green, Faith Green, Frank Green, Mark Green, Josh Harris, Margot Harris, Nicholas Kersten, Doneta Osborn, Joel Osborn, Brian Payne, Kristina Payne, Renee Sanford, Karissa St. Clair, Marian van Dalen Anderson

New Auburn: Brandon Gumness, Devon Merz, Hunter North, Kansas North, Kristine North, Wayne North, Beth Rihn

PART II Official Delegates

Official delegates from other Seventh Day Baptist Conferences and Churches:

We have no official delegates from other Seventh Day Baptist Conferences.

PART III Visitors

Visitors from other Seventh Day Baptist Conferences, Churches and other Organizations:

Rev. Dave Bailey, Sr.--- Ranch Hope for Boys and Girls, Alloway, NJ

Barry Clapper

Mark Hamilton---Young Life Belarus and the Baltic States (Vicnius Lithuania)

Amos King---Director of Mid-Atlantic Christian School Association Bible Quizzing

Pastor Garfield Miller—Jamaica SDB Conference

PART IV Statistics

Total Registration	571
Registered Delegates	273
Churches Officially Represented	51
Ministers and Pastors present	49
Students preparing for ministry	4
TIME students	1
Visitors	5
Associated Conferences	
Grades 7 and 8	10
Grades 4, 5 and 6	21
Grades 2 and 3	14
Grades K and 1	8
Preschool	11
Nursery	12
Pre-Conference Retreats	
Youth Campers	24
Staff	5
Young Adult Campers	23
Staff	3

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy L. Nadeau, Credentials Coordinator

The delegates were adjourned to lunch at 11:42

Thursday, July 30, 2015

Seventh Business Session

The seventh business session was called to order at 2:47 p.m. by President Bill Probasco. Pastor Dave Taylor opened the session with prayer.

The report of the Budget and Finance committee was read by Jim Goodrich, North Loop, NE. A motion was made to accept the report with its recommendations; an amendment was added as follows, "The committee gratefully acknowledges the *steadfast* work of Ronald Ochs in streamlining and clarifying the budgeting process," it was seconded and carried.

Report of the Interest Committee on Budget and Finance

It appears to us that there is difficulty in getting budgets prepared because of the time lapse between the fiscal year and the timing of conference when budgets are approved. It is our understanding that some discussion has taken place in General Council and elsewhere about

changing the fiscal year. We suggest that such conversations continue so that at some point the fiscal year be changed to allow for more accurate budgeting.

Recommendation 1:

We recommend the acceptance of the following audited reports for 2014: General Conference (Conference Services), Ecumenical Affairs Fund, Christian Social Action and Disaster Relief Fund, Building Operations Fund, Council on Ministry, Committee on Support and Retirement, American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council, Denominational Budget, Historical Society, Women’s Society, and 2013 and 2014 reports for the Board of Christian Education. The financials for the Missionary Society and Memorial Fund for 2014 have been audited or are in process and we anticipate that they will be available to be reviewed by next year’s committee.

Recommendation 2:

In reference to Recommendation I of General Council’s report, we recommend that the Seventh Day Baptist Summary of 2016 Operating Income and Expense, specifically the column labeled “Budget” be adopted as the denominational budget for 2016.

Recommendation 3:

We note that in the past we have supported several ecumenical organizations. In lieu of that practice we recommend that when funds are available in the Ecumenical Affairs Fund that priority be given to the support of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation, at the discretion of the General Council and Executive Director.

Recommendation 4:

Since the payments to fund the retirement of pastors and others under the old retirement plan through COSAR amounts to about one-third of the programming budget for the General Conference for 2016, and that money is being borrowed from the Memorial Fund to accomplish that, we recommend that high priority be given to raising funds for the SDB Retirement Fund, sometimes referred to as PROP.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Goodrich, Chairperson
Norman Burdick
Ewald Fick
Don Graffius
Earl Hibbard
Nick Palermo
Karen Payne
Doug Payne
Owen Probasco

Consultants:
Rev. Dale Thorngate, General Council
Ron Ochs, Conference Treasurer

The report of the interest committee on Church Development was read by Steve Osborn, Seventh Day Baptist Church of Boulder, CO. A motion was made to accept the report with its recommendations, it was seconded and carried.

Report of the Interest Committee on Church Development

The Interest Committee on Church Development reviewed the Council on Ministry's annual report and six-month update. We commend them for taking on the important ministry of church development, comprised of both church revitalization and church planting. We appreciate their diligent efforts to advance these focus areas. We thank the Council on Ministry (COM), along with the General Council, for approving the new Church Planting Co-Worker Program in response to this committee's recommendation last year.

We commend the General Council for creating the new position of Director of Church Development in response to our recommendation last year. We are pleased with their selection of Pastor John Pethtel for this role and commend his work thus far. We also appreciate his visiting the Committee to answer questions. We further commend General Council for facilitating the creation of a database (CRM) of individual SDBs in response to our urging this idea last year, and urge its speedy completion.

We commend the members of the Church Planting Task Force for their ongoing work to move SDBs forward in this area. The Task Force includes Pastor Steve Osborn (Chairman), Pastor George Lawson, Pastor Greg Olson, Pastor Chuck Meathrell, and Patty Petersen.

We commend Patty Petersen for her work as a national missionary serving a church plant in the past year in Cumberland, Maryland (Full Gospel SDB) and encourage her to continue on in this ministry to Seventh Day Baptists.

We commend John Pethtel, Nick Kersten and Jeremiah Owen for their initial engagement in their new roles as directors, their commitment to seeking and following God's will, and their enthusiasm in sharing their vision for how God can use them to advance the mission of SDBs. We appreciate the way they have all embraced and prioritized church development, responding quickly to the expressed desires of the Conference. We have noted already their willingness to allow God to work through them, their passion, and their responsiveness to inquiries, offering support to churches and church planters.

We commend Rob Appel for his commitment to church development and for his persistence in prioritizing it and bringing it to our attention for several years.

We commend, thank and encourage those who are currently serving in the areas of church planting and revitalization.

We are excited about the upcoming "Multiply" Seventh Day Baptist Church Development Conference October 22-25, 2015 and thank Director Pethtel for planning and coordinating it. We look forward to regular ongoing training and collaboration opportunities as we move forward in the areas of church revitalization and church planting.

We suggest that the Directors of Church Development and Emerging Media continue to promote the stories of successes in church development and to disseminate this information for the encouragement and inspiration of our churches through a variety of emerging media (especially videos).

We suggest that the Director of Church Development and COM continue collecting and developing a library of resources and training materials for those involved in church development and promote the use of these resources to the churches. We further suggest making them available to each church in accessible formats and soliciting feedback from churches as to their priority needs in this area.

We urge COM to develop the idea of Church Development Advocates, similar to our Missions Advocates, for the purpose of distributing ideas, resources and needs in the areas of church planting and church revitalization to our churches.

We urge COM and the Director of Church Development to help churches know what specific next steps to take in revitalization.

We urge General Council to continue to seek ways to support church planting and revitalization efforts financially.

Recommendation #1

We recommend that General Council move forward with the by-law changes necessary to implement the proposed structural changes for the Council on Ministry mentioned in the COM 6-month update, including changing to a council of 5 elected members serving five year terms, and adding five sub-committees to help carry out their work.

Recommendation #2

We recommend that the General Council take action to communicate to the churches of the Conference the following SDB church planting vision and challenge developed by the Church Planting Task Force and slightly modified by the 2015 Church Development Interest Committee:

Vision for SDB Church Planting: *The SDB General Conference will mobilize SDB churches and church members to actively advance God's Kingdom by cooperating together to plant new churches. We will create a movement of member churches and individuals toward this end by challenging them, equipping them, supporting them, and setting them free to pursue God's leading in this area.*

Challenge to All SDB Churches: *We challenge every SDB church and fellowship in the US and Canada to prayerfully seek God's will in the area of church planting and to obey God's calling to take a new step of involvement by participating in one or more of the following ways:*

- 1) *Partnering in prayer with an SDB church plant;*
- 2) *Supporting an SDB church plant through finances, lending expertise, or providing manpower;*
- 3) *Sponsoring an SDB church plant, either on their own or in cooperation with other churches.*

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Osborn, Chairman
Patty Petersen, Secretary

19 Committee Members:

Perry Barbee	Luis Lovelace	Shay Rankhorn
Louie Brown	Jasmine Lynch	Dan Richards
Marlene Brown	Owen Lynch	Velna Taylor
Verne Fuller	Othneil Murphy	Patti Wethington
Gabriel Graffius	Wayne North	Gretchen Zwiebel
Brent Hannah	Ellen Olson	
Judith Houts	Matthew Olson	

Nadine Lawton, First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton, RI read the report of the Women’s Interest Committee. A motion was made to adopt the report as a whole, it was seconded and carried.

Report of the Women’s Interest Committee

The Women’s Interest Committee reviewed and accepted the Seventh Day Baptist Women’s Society Annual Report for 2014-2015.

- We commend The Seventh Day Baptist Women’s Board for their work on behalf of women and others throughout the Denomination as they encourage, assist and train others for kingdom work.
- We would like to thank the SCSC/Stained Glass Committee and training staff for their successful year. We also thank the Project Directors, host churches, and participants for their service this summer.
- We commend Jane Mackintosh for her five years of dedicated service leading the Young Adults as SCSC Training Director.
- We commend these faithful women who have tirelessly served on the Women’s Board and its Committees as they complete their current terms of service: Althea Rood, Women’s Board President; Deirdre Camenga, vice-president; Linda Lawton, SCSC Committee Chair; Janet Butler, SCSC Committee Member and Travel Coordinator; Marian Van Dalen Anderson, Stained Glass Chair; Cindy DuBois, Stained Glass Tour Coordinator; Debbie Tank and Darcy Ingram, Tuition Fund co-chairs; and Pastor Liz Green and Marian Van Dalen Anderson, co-chairs of the Women’s Banquet Committee.

We were pleased to hear Marleigh Fiacco of the Verona, New York Seventh Day Baptist Church share her vision for beginning a new work ministering to children who have been victims of the sex-trafficking industry. Marleigh’s mission verse is Isaiah 1:17a, “Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed.”

The members of the Interest Committee voted that this year's Love Gift will be disbursed as follows:

- ❖ Uganda church families to adopt orphans- \$500
 - ❖ Joel & Laura Sutton, missionaries to Haiti- \$500
 - ❖ Zambia TIME training- \$500
 - ❖ Camp facilities in Guyana- \$500
 - ❖ Dorothea Shettel fund- \$500
 - ❖ Lydia's Home: A home for abused girls operated by Jennifer Dixon, West Palm Beach, Florida - Website: lydiahomepbc.org - \$250
 - ❖ Patty Petersen, evangelism- \$250
 - ❖ Food, medicine, mosquito netting for Africa- \$250
- = \$3250

Any additional funds to be divided equally between:

- ❖ Joel & Judith Houts- missionaries to Puerto Rico
- ❖ Shirley Morgan, pastor in Nicaragua
- ❖ Helping Hands overseas for shipping costs

Donations to the Love Gift for this year may be sent until September 30, 2015 to:

Women's Board Treasurer, c/o SDB Center, P.O. Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53545.

Recommendation #1:

We recommend that the Women's Board reevaluate having the craft table again and consider additional promotional items to sell for SCSC support.

Recommendation #2:

We recommend that the Women's Board website provide a resource area for appropriate materials for devotions, and a list of women and their home churches that could be resources for encouragement of new or developing women's groups.

Respectfully submitted:

Nadine Lawton, chair

Helen Goodrich, secretary

Committee Members:

Donna Bond	Barb Green	Madelyn Neher
Jan Bond	Ruby Hambleton	Dawn Richards
Beth Brown	Margot Harris	Caroline Shorter
Linda Cain	Lorna Johnson	Rebecca Stover
Linda Camenga	Teresa Johnson	Patricia Sutton
Nina Creel	Amanda Langley	Velma Taylor
Winsome Gilmore	Cindy Lawrence	Faye Thomas
Sharon Graves	Trish Nagle	

Nathan Crowder, Seventh Day Baptist Church of Boulder, CO read the report of the Young Adult Interest Committee. A motion was made to accept the report with its recommendations, it was seconded and carried.

Report of the Young Adult Interest Committee 2015

The Young Adults would like to commend the following people:

- The Memorial Board and the Christian Education Council for their guidance, and encouragement, support- both in prayer and financial.
- Chad Ochs, Pastor Nick Kersten and Sara Sager for their work with the Young Adult Pre-Con Retreat held this year at Lancaster Bible College in Lancaster, PA.
- The associations, churches and individuals who gave scholarships for young adults to attend Pre-Con.
- Karissa St. Clair and Timothy Lawton for their hard work and preparation as Coffeehouse Coordinators for the annual Young Adult Coffeehouse event.
- Gabriela Alonzo and P. Zachary Floyd for their diligence as Activity Coordinators for Young Adult activities, the Afterglow worship sessions, and coordinating the Young Adult Bible Study.
- Pastor Wayne North for his guidance while leading the Young Adult Bible Study.
- William Villalpando for his dedicated service as Editor of the Young Adult Column in the Sabbath Recorder.
- Pastor Nick Kersten for his willingness to clarify the operation of next year's "Pre-Con."
- Stephanie Sholtz and Jenni Wangsness for their willingness to clarify how the new "Pre-Con" might affect SCSC, and for their willingness to clarify why the Stained Glass ministry has been separated from the Women's Board.
- The General Council for their consideration and efforts in moving forward with our recommendations from 2014.

The major topic of conversation during this year's committee meetings centered around the changing Pre-Con initiative, and our hopes for what the new format of Pre-Con should involve. Henceforth in this report, the new Pre-Con programming will be designated as "Pre-Con" because an official name has not yet been decided. As a result of these conversations, we bring the following for consideration:

We **urge** that a “Pre-Con” staff be assembled to work with the Young Adults in future years as would have occurred in previous years under the old system.

The Young Adult Interest Committee would like to make the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1:

We **recommend** that Karissa St. Clair, Josiah Lynch and Bethany Rihn be appointed as Activity Collaborators, whose duties would be to schedule activities for the Young Adults for the 2016 session of General Conference.

Recommendation 2:

We **recommend** that Dakota Watt and Timothy Lawton be named the organizers for the annual Young Adult Coffeehouse event for the 2016 session of General Conference.

Recommendation 3:

We **recommend** that William Vallilpando and Nathan Crowder be appointed co-editors for the 2015-2016 Young Adult column in the Sabbath Recorder.

Recommendation 4:

We **recommend** that the “Pre-Con” director in future years be required to consult with the Activity Collaborators which are appointed by the Young Adult Interest Committee in order to fulfill the purposes of bible study, fellowship, and worship, without infringing upon morning bible study, business meetings, interest committees, and evening worship.

Recommendation 5:

We **recommend** that General Conference create a designated fund using a portion of the money that would have otherwise been used for Pre-Con expenses to be allocated to help pay for some of the Conference costs of non-SCSC young adults, who are otherwise unable to attend General Conference.

Recommendation 6:

We **recommend** that General Conference use a portion of the remaining available funds designated for Young Adult Pre-Con to be used for Young Adult activities at General Conference.

Respectfully Submitted,
Daniel Lovelace, *Chairman* Nathan Crowder, *Secretary*

Emily Watt	Jayson Dailey	Joshua Lyons	Gabriela Alonzo
Amanda Langley	Bethany Rihn	Jonathan Lyons	Karissa St. Clair
Kory Langley	Rebekah Hargett	Seth Osborn	Josiah Lynch
Lauren Telford	Zachary Floyd	Conor Green	Michaela Osborn
Dakota Watt	Kenneth Simon	Christian Murphy	Marleigh Fiacco
Jennifer Brown	Moses Lyons	Brandon Gumness	Gabrielle Andries
William Vallalpando	Micah Mackintosh	Timothy Lawton	Conor Hannah
Joshua Andries	Olivia Murphy	Hunter North	
Elisabeth Lawson	Vanessa Hornsby	Jacob Floyd	

Danita Lee, Springs Life Church, CO read the report on the Interest Committee on Missions. A motion was made to accept the report as a whole, it was seconded and carried.

Report of the Interest Committee on Missions

The Committee has reviewed the 2014/2015 173rd Annual Report of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society. We affirm the Missionary Society’s articulation of their Staff, Facilities, and International Ministries.

During the Interest Committee meetings, we conducted a brainstorming session to generate new ideas in the area of Missions. Many ideas were shared, discussed and categorized. We will pass these ideas on to the Executive Director Clinton Brown and the Missionary Society by email for their review and consideration.

The Committee first and foremost urges everyone to be in constant prayer for our missions programs, for the leaders, for those who go on missions and those who are planning to go on missions this upcoming year.

We continue to encourage our church members to become increasingly involved in Missions work through membership in the Missionary Society. We urge each church to continue to have at least one person designated to be an Advocate for missions and to also consider having a Missions Committee established at your church. This Advocate and/or Committee would promote missions through receiving and distributing information from the Missionary Society.

We pray for a continued increased focus on missions in our individual churches. Our hope is that we energize support and increase our missionary work through prayer, finances and active work in our communities and across the world.

We urge the Missionary Society and Executive Director Clinton Brown to consider conducting a Missions Training Seminar during the 2016 SDB General Conference. We believe this would be a beneficial session for many attendees who are interested in International Missions.

The continuing work of the Missionary Society in creating missions interest and opportunities for our youth is appreciated by the committee.

We commend the Missionary Society for their significant advances in technological areas with a new website, social media presence, videos and multimedia, and use of “GoToMeeting” for online board meetings, and more. Links for these resources can be found on the Missionary Society website: www.sdbmissions.org/contact

We appreciated hearing from Missions Coordinator Garfield Miller about the work that he is doing with Executive Director Clinton Brown and the Missionary Society. We continue to lift him and his family up in prayer as he currently works for the Missionary Society from Jamaica.

We want to thank those individuals who came and shared their mission experiences of the past year with our committee. Thanks to Pastor Steve James, Judith Houts and Kory Langley.

We commend all volunteers who work in various capacities at the Missionary Society office and their families’ support and dedication. In addition, we thank all the volunteers who have worked with and/or traveled with Executive Director Clinton Brown and worked with the Missionary Society this past year. We would also like to thank ALL those who are currently serving on mission trips throughout the world doing the Lord’s work and representing the SDB Denomination.

We commend Executive Director Clinton Brown for his continued, tireless work at forwarding God’s Kingdom on behalf of Seventh Day Baptists. His work in the field is commendable, as well as his cooperative work with the SDB General Conference and the World Federation. We also appreciate the sacrifices and support of his wife and family. We thank him for visiting with the committee and readily answering our questions.

We commend Pastor David Stall for his service as President of the Missionary Society Board. We appreciate the leadership and energy that he brought to the Missionary Society and the positive changes that occurred during his time as President.

We commend Mark Lewis for his serving as Treasurer of the Missionary Society recognizing the valuable contributions he has made.

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the SDB General Conference adopt the 2014/2015 173rd Annual Report of the Missionary Society.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danny Lee, Chairman
Danita Lee, Secretary

Committee:

Robert W. Babcock
LeRoy Burdick
Barry Dailey

Robert Harris
Philip Hazen
Timothy McNeme
Judy Parrish
Marva Shears

JR Shick
Ken Stover
Margaret Taylor
Janet Thorngate

Attended:

Executive Director Clinton Brown
Missions Coordinator Garfield Miller
Pastor Steve James
Kory Langley
Judith Houts

The delegates were dismissed at 3:25 p.m.

Friday, July 31, 2015**Eighth Business Session**

President Probasco called the eighth business session to order at 9:46 a.m. Conference Pastor Dave Taylor opened the session in prayer. The minutes of the last business session was read and approved.

Ericsson Cooper, New York City Seventh Day Baptist Church, NY, read the report of the Interest Committee on Christian Education, including the proposed Resolution on Child Protection. A motion was made to adopt the report and consider the recommendations separately. A motion was made to adopt recommendation 1 regarding considering creating a mentorship program for non-pastoral leadership candidates, it was seconded and carried. A motion was made to adopt recommendation 2 regarding adoption of the Child Protection Policy, it was seconded, and before the vote, a motion was made to add the word “sexually” to the 2nd paragraph in the list of types of abuse, it was seconded and carried. The modified recommendation was voted and approved. A motion was made to adopt recommendation 3 regarding creating a list of available ministry resources for churches regarding Child Protection Policy, it was seconded and carried. A motion was made to adopt the report as a whole, it was seconded and carried.

Report of the Interest Committee on Christian Education

We reviewed the 2014 report and six month update of the Board of Christian Education. We commend Andrew Camenga, past director of the Board of Christian Education for his tireless service. He continues to serve the conference during transition after his position has ended and

put many hours into helping this move be successful. We understand that the prior BCE is almost closed and commend the transition committee for all their hard work in accomplishing this task. We also wish to commend Linda Lawton who faithfully got the Helping Hand out to all the churches every quarter.

We appreciate Pastor Wayne and Kris North for taking on the responsibility and directing Youth Pre-Con and Chad Ochs for directing Young Adult Pre-con. We commend Charlotte Chroniger for coordinating the Associated Conferences at our meetings again this year. We also commend Phillip Lawton for directing Senior High Bible Study. We applaud Pastor Steve Osborn for his work as General Editor of *the Helping Hand in Bible Study*. Without the many volunteers who also helped, none of these programs would have been possible. Thank you so much.

We urge the Christian Education Council to continue to offer the Helping Hand in all three formats (printed, pdf, and digital).

We reviewed the proposed changes for Youth and Young Adult Pre-Con and urge the Christian Education Council to continue to pursue the incorporation of Pre-Con into the week of General Conference.

Recommendation 1

Seeing the value of the encouragement that our seminary students receive, we recommend that a mentorship program be considered for non-pastoral leadership candidates pursuing educational opportunities in a ministry related field with a report to be given at Conference 2016.

We have reviewed the proposed Child protection Policy presented by Rev. John Pethtel and made some changes as noted.

Recommendation 2

We recommend the adoption of the Resolution on Child Protection as follows. We further recommend that upon adoption of this resolution that the General Conference mail every member church, fellowship, sponsored church, and applicant for membership a copy of this resolution by the start of 2016, along with an encouragement for them to contact their liability insurance provider and implement a child protection policy for their church.

Resolution on Child Protection

Whereas our Lord Jesus demonstrated his righteous anger at his own disciples,

rebuking those who would do anything to prevent children from coming unto him, saying “to such belongs the Kingdom of God,” (Mark 10:14) and condemning those who would harm children, saying “it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea” (Matthew 18:6); and

Whereas an epidemic of child ~~sexual~~ abuse exists in our culture, with the vast majority of such children being harmed by someone they know and trust, wounding children physically, emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually with lifelong ripple effects; and

Whereas the silence of the church – when we fail to appropriately address sin by not reporting disclosures of child ~~sexual~~ abuse, or not caring for those who disclose child ~~sexual~~ abuse, or not proactively taking steps to prevent child ~~sexual~~ abuse – is a fundamental failure of servant leadership, rendering the church complicit and culpable before the Lord, driving people away from the safety, healing and hope of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas Scripture warns leaders against the careless exposure of believers to temptation and danger, and every jurisdiction acknowledges that child ~~sexual~~ abuse is a serious felony and has its own mandated reporting laws;

Therefore, be it resolved that we exhort all member churches to become informed and to take an active stance toward preventing child ~~sexual~~ abuse in the church by screening staff and volunteers, training them in child protection, and actively maintaining child protection policies pertaining to our obligations to love our children and protect their rightful interests as God’s image-bearers from the devastating actions of abusers (Matthew 18:5-6); and

Be it further resolved that we remind all member churches that the heinous crime of child ~~sexual~~ abuse must be reported to duly appointed proper representatives of the God-ordained civil authorities, in accordance with local laws, and that we must cooperate with those authorities as they “bear the sword” to punish those who do evil. (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-14); and

Be it further resolved that we urge all member church leaders to use their influence for the protection of children, by any and all godly means, including preaching and teaching against the heinous sin of child ~~sexual~~ abuse, warning anyone with knowledge of these sins to “take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them” (Ephesians 5:11), and by supporting victims who often suffer in silence and shame without the vocal and compassionate support of the church; and **by supporting the families of the victims;**

and

Be it further resolved that we urge all member churches to seek to bring reconciliation between all parties involved (2 Corinthians 5:18-21), and restoration of the perpetrator, based upon their repentance, that they would know that there is forgiveness and freedom from their bondage to such sin as given by God (1 John 1:9); and

Be it further resolved that we **recommend** that the General Council examine every possibility to protect children at our annual General Conference sessions and implement any measure that seems prudent and appropriate and to do so in consultation with legal and insurance professionals; and

Be it finally resolved that the SDB General Conference urge all Seventh Day Baptists to renew our allegiance to our Lord Jesus by loving our children as he loves our children, “for to such belongs the Kingdom of God” (Mark 10:14)

Recommendation 3

We recommend that a list of available ministry resources, relevant to the Resolution on Child Protection, be compiled by the Christian Education Council and distributed to every member church, fellowship, sponsored church, and applicant for membership by the start of 2016.

We wish to thank the Reverends John Pethtel and Nick Kersten for coming to the committee meeting to share their knowledge on these topics.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ericessen Cooper, chairman

Kevin Palmiter, secretary

Gabriela Alonzo	Katrina Goodrich	Vivian McCarthy
Lorrie Bird	Kathlene Gordon	Rebecca Olson
Katy Bofinger	Carla Hannah	Amy Palmero
Marlene Campbell	Connor Hannah	Jo Rogers
Peggy Chroniger	Joshua Harris	Ed Rosenberry
Nathan Paul Crowder	Dianne Hibbard	Shelley Sudbury
Sharon Dailey	Debbie James	Sarah Uhlich
Egbert Downes	Pauline James	Martha Vaught
Virginia Evans	Steven James	
Marleigh Fiacco	Lisa McCarthy	

Elianna Chroniger, Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church, read the report of the Courtesies Coordinator. A motion was made to accept the report with the understanding that the report may be updated through the end of the conference, it was seconded and carried.

Report of the Courtesies Coordinator

Recommendation 1: That the General Conference expresses appreciation to the following:

- Conference President Bill Probasco for challenging us to be “Steadfast” in all we do.
- Valerie, Liam and Holly Probasco for their assistance and support to the president
- Renee Crowe from Lancaster Bible College of the office of conference and event services for working with the Host Committee
- Steve Moncrief, Host Committee Chair and the entire Host Committee
 - Sandy Layton as Registrar
 - Thomas Davis as Host Treasurer
 - Ward Bond as Transportation Coordinator
 - Ron Campbell as Stage Manager
 - Cathy Dixon as Receptions/Banquets Coordinator
 - Bethany Chroniger as Exhibit Coordinator
 - Sharon Campbell as Medical Coordinator
 - Elianna Chroniger as Courtesies Coordinator
- Douglas Mackintosh, Allen Hauber as Conference Audio Coordinators and assistants Timothy Lawton and staff from Lancaster Bible College.
- Joel Osborn as Visuals Coordinator
- Jeremiah Owen as Internet and Social Media Coordinator
- Pastor Ken Chroniger, and his assistant Nathan Crowder as Business Coordinators
- Andrew Camenga as Parliamentarian
- Jim Goodrich, Ericessen Cooper, Melissa Noel, Steve Osborn, Dean Fox, Ruth Burdick, Andrew Camenga, Danny Lee, Jim Skaggs, Nadine Lawton, Mary Jane McPherson, Gabriela Alonzo, and Daniel Lovelace as Interest Committee Chairmen
- Donna Bond as Obituaries Coordinator
- Cindy Nadeau as Credentials Coordinator
- Dave Taylor as Conference Pastor
- Don Chroniger as Choir Director
- Charlotte Chroniger as Pianist/Accompanist
- Thomas Davis as Organist
- Pastor Scott Hausrath, Pastor Gabe Bejani, Pastor Owen Lynch, Ed Cruzan, Pastor Ronald Higson for presenting the Morning Bible Studies

- Pastor Don Chroniger, Mark Hamilton, Pastor Dave Bailey and Pastor Ericessen Cooper as Evening Worship Speakers and Pastor Wayne North as Sabbath Worship Speaker
- Valerie Probasco, Stained Glass, Shirley Morgan, Dennis Coleman, Charlotte Chroniger, Gabriela Alonzo, Daniel Lovelace, Ed Sutton, Pat Sutton, Steve Osborn, and Elianna Chroniger for inspiring us with their 8-minute messages
- Shiloh Praise Band, Washington D.C. Praise Band, and Stained Glass members for leading us in worship
- Key Note Speaker – J.R. Briggs for delivering a message to our pastors and their spouses.
- Seminar Leaders – Althea Rood, Stephanie Sholtz, Jenni Wangsness, Don Graffius, Barry Clapper, Mark Hamilton, Jan Bond, Valerie Probasco, Nick Kersten, and Rod Noel
- Christian Education Council’s Children’s Committee, Charlotte Chroniger, Chairman, for Associated Conferences and all those who were teachers, craft leaders and music leaders- Devon Merz, Madge Chroniger, Logan Curran, Kansas North, Hunter North, Elianna Chroniger, Abigail Noel, Raakeli Watt, Dakota Watt, Kristine North, Bethany Rihn and Seth Osborn.
- Joanna Bond as Nursery Coordinator
- Recreation leaders- Jennifer Brown and all of her helpers
- Kids Kampfire leaders- Hunter North and all of her helpers
- Jr. High Leaders – Carla Burlingame and Willy Villalpando
- Jr. High Recreation leader – Debbie Bond
- Youth Bible Study Leader – Phillip Lawton
- Youth Pre-Con – Pastor Wayne North, Director and his staff
- Young Adult Pre-Con – Chad Ochs, Director and his staff

Recommendation 2: The Executive Director shall send a letter of appreciation from the General Conference to Renee Crowe of the office of conference and event services for Lancaster Bible College.

Recommendation 3: The Executive Director shall send letters of appreciation from the General Conference to the Keynote speakers, Seminar guest leaders and Evening Worship guest speakers.

Recommendation 4: The Corresponding Secretary shall send letters of greetings to the retired pastors and wives and widows, as well as retired and serving missionaries who were unable to attend this Conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Elianna Chroniger, Courtesies Coordinator

Gabriela Alonzo, Seventh Day Baptist Christian Church, VA presented the report of the Youth Interests committee. A motion was made to accept the report as a whole, it was seconded, a motion was made to close the debate. The motion to accept the report with its recommendation was seconded and carried.

2015 Report of the Youth Interest Committee

The youth would like to thank the following:

- Debbie and Ward Bond for their help in organizing youth activities and providing transportation during General Conference
- Pastor Don and Charlotte Chroniger, Pastor Wayne and Kristin North, and staff for organizing, helping, and directing Youth PreCon
- The camp kitchen staff for making great food and keeping our bellies full because we all know that camp runs on its stomach.
- Phil Lawton and Pastor Bill Shobe for directing Sr. High Bible study
- Willy Villalpando and Carla Burlingame for directing Jr. High Bible study
- Gabriela Alonzo for acting as chairman and Lauren Telford for acting as secretary of the interest committee
- The Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church for subsidizing the costs of many of the youth activities during General Conference
- Lancaster Bible College for paying for the youth laser tag activity
- Pastor Paul Andries and the Christian Education Council for coordinating and supporting PreCon
- President Bill Probasco and his family for all of their hard work in planning and facilitating this year's General Conference
- Pastor Nick "T-Rex" Kersten for visiting our interest committee and explaining as well as answering questions about the changes to PreCon

We **urge** the Youth Subcommittee of the Christian Education Council to include a youth representative.

We **urge** the Youth Subcommittee of the Christian Education Council to appoint Madge Chroniger as the youth representative to the Youth Subcommittee for the 2015-2016 year.

The youth understand the reasons for the changes to Precon next year and would like to **commend** the Christian Education Council for all of their work in preserving "PreCon" as best they can. However, they have some suggestion for the youth program next year.

Given that many of the youth are seeking training in various aspects of leadership including worship, pastoral work, and the business of conference:

We **urge** the Youth Subcommittee of the Christian Education Council to include a Leadership Workshop in the program for “PreCon” next year.

We **recommend** that Caleb Crouch and Gabi Osborn be Beacon Editors with Annie Lloyd as the apprentice editor for the 2015-2016 year.

Respectfully submitted,

Gabriela Alonzo - Chairman
Lauren Telford – Secretary

Caleb Cruzan
Wayne Bloom
Gabi Osborn
Melissa Brown
Adriana Alonzo
Collin Green
Katie Moncrief
Timothy Jacob
Annie Lloyd
Jacob Stover
Keila Velasquez
Shaeley Stover

Brock Hannah
Joshua Butterbrodt
Autumn Crouch
AnnaRuth Lovelace
Christina McNeme
Josiah Lovelace
Caleb Crouch
Onnah Bink
Madge Chroniger
Skye Pradetta
Quintin Patz
Rebecca Olson

Nicodemus Rod
Chris Joseph
Joshua Coleman
Melinda Floyd
Cassandra Rod
Seth Pavis
Vanessa Ormsby
Logan Curran
Josiah Gaskin

A motion was made and seconded that the President and Recording Secretary of Conference be authorized to review and approve the minutes of the final session. The motion carried.

A motion was made to adjourn, it was seconded and carried. Conference business was officially concluded at 11:31 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katherine Bofinger
Recording Secretary