

To: Member Churches of the SDB General Conference, USA & Canada

Date: November 1, 2013

Re: Revision to the SDB Statement of Beliefs

During the 2013 General Conference sessions, a revision to the SDB Statement of Beliefs was passed as a first reading. The passing of this revision as a first reading now has set a “vote by churches” on this proposed revision.

The revision to be voted upon by churches proposes an addition under **Article I. God** and under sub-section **The Son**. The addition is in **bold** and **underlined** (including Scripture references):

The Son

We believe in God the Son, who became incarnate in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. He gave Himself on the cross as the complete and final sacrifice for sin.

As our Risen Lord, He is the mediator between God the Father and mankind.

We believe that Jesus Christ, in keeping with His promise, will return suddenly, personally and visibly, at a time known only by the Father.

John 1:34; Hebrews 1:3; John 1:14-18; Romans 1:3-4; 1 John 3:16; 1 Peter 2:24; Hebrews 10:10-14; 1 Corinthians 15:20-21; 1 Timothy 2:5; John 14:6; 1 John 2:1-2; **Mark 13:32-33; Revelation 22:7, 12, 20.**

This question upon which a “vote by churches” is called (this revision to the SDB Statement of Belief) cannot be amended or modified in any way. This means your vote will be cast as “yes”, or in favor of the proposed revision as worded, or “no”, or in opposition of the proposed revision as worded.

Each member church is entitled to a number of votes based on the formula that grants them delegates to the annual General Conference sessions: “two delegates for each member church, as a church, and one additional delegate for each ten members of the church or major fraction of ten members.” This can be found in the SDB General Conference Bylaws under **Article IV. Delegates to General Conference**

The Conference Office will allocate your number of votes based on the statistics your church submits when we seek your annual yearbook information (normally around January/February). A member church which has not submitted their local church membership statistics will only be entitled to the minimum number of votes, which is three.

Each member church will be entitled to cast all of their votes, regardless of how many delegates are physically present at the 2014 General Conference sessions in St. Paul, MN. The church's designated delegation chairperson will cast the votes when called upon by the President during a scheduled business session.

According to the Bylaws and past practice, each member church has the following options for the vote in 2014:

1. It may cast a unanimous ["block"] vote either "yes" or "no", or it may divide its vote in whatever way the member church instructs (equal to the church's total entitled votes).
2. It may send its delegates with instructions about how to vote or it may send its delegates uninstructed, allowing them to caucus at Conference to decide how the church's votes are best cast.
3. In the event that your church will not have delegates at General Conference next year, you may mail your church's vote to the General Conference office, or you may authorize, in writing, a delegate from another member church to cast your church's vote.

PLEASE NOTE: If you choose to mail your church's vote to the General Conference Office, please do so no later than July 1, 2014, to ensure that we receive it in time.

Whenever we have an issue come before our members that requires a "vote by church", it is a very important topic of discussion. It is imperative that your church discuss this subject matter and pray before voting. This is not a matter that should be dealt with in haste. Rather, it should be one that is given the utmost attention to the detail and background.

God bless your discussions and may they be fruitful, respectful and insightful! Should you need any further clarification or have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the General Conference office.

In Christ's Service,

Rob Appel
Executive Director
SDB General Conference USA & Canada