

1 **16. REAFFIRMATION OF THE VOTE OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL**

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3 RECOMMENDED, To accept the document, “An Appeal and Appreciation to All Church
4 Entities and Members from the General Conference and Division Officers Regarding the 2015 General
5 Conference Session Vote on Ordination,” which reads as follows:

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7 The essence of all Christian faith is a personal relationship with Christ, faithfulness to His Word
8 and Christ-like relationships in Christian community (John 17:3, 17, 20, 21; 1 John 4:7-11). There are
9 times in the journey of faith when committed Christians may have differences (Acts 6; 15). These
10 instances necessitate mutual respect, thoughtful listening, heartfelt understanding and submission to the
11 Holy Spirit’s leading into unity (Ephesians 4:31, 32). This is certainly true regarding the vote on July 8,
12 2015, on the subject of ordination at the General Conference Session in San Antonio. Recognizing our
13 differences, we express grateful appreciation to church members and entities for their acceptance of the
14 world Church’s decision.

15
16 *Re-affirming the Role of Women*

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

25
26 *Moving Ahead Together in Mission*

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28 The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a worldwide body held together by the Holy Spirit through
29 a commitment to Christ, mutually accepted biblical beliefs, a common mission and worldwide
30 organizational structure (Revelation 12:17; 14:6, 7, 12). General Conference Session actions and voted
31 policies are agreements that the body of Christ make together.

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

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39 In light of the urgency of our time and rapidly fulfilling Bible prophecies, we invite all
40 entities and church members to join us in a continuing commitment to Christ-like relationships, mutual
41 respect, faithfulness to scripture and a single-minded focus in the completion of His prophetic mission
42 entrusted to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We dedicate ourselves to global unity for a global

1 mission in the proclamation of the everlasting gospel of the three angels' messages to prepare a people
2 for the coming of Jesus (Revelation 14:6-12).

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