

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

MAY 15, 2011

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

DEVOTIONAL SERVICE

WELCOME

The Sixty-third Constituency Session of the Southern California Conference began at 7:55 a.m. with a song service led by Elder J.P. O'Connor, Norwalk Church senior pastor, with Ray Puen at the organ and Allan Chase at the piano. The congregation sang "*Holy, Holy, Holy*" and "*We Have This Hope*".

The Constituency Session delegation was warmly welcomed to the White Memorial SDA Church by its Senior Pastor, Elder Benjamin Del Pozo. Then, Elder Larry L. Caviness, Southern California Conference president and session chair, officially welcomed all the delegates and introduced the special guests. He highlighted the fact that 110 years ago this conference began its life after its organization in August 1901.

OPENING HYMNS

Elder Caviness also noted a couple of phrases of the inspirational song "*We Have This Hope*" composed by Wayne Hooper, well known composer and musician in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, inviting the congregation to keep our focus on that glorious day when Jesus returns to take His people home. The congregation enthusiastically sang "*The Church Has One Foundation*" as reaffirmation that Jesus is the Cornerstone and Head of His beloved church.

INVOCATION

Miles Yu, Los Angeles Chinese Church Youth Pastor, offered the invocation.

MUSICAL OVERTURE

A 101-voice mass choir from the five academies of the Southern California Conference brought inspiration as they performed "*Gleams of the Golden Morning*" and "*Give Me Jesus*", led by Brenda Mohr, choir director for Glendale Adventist Academy.

SCRIPTURE READING

Hector Ramos, El Camino a Cristo Spanish Church Elder, read Matthew 5:14-16 which highlights that Jesus' followers "are the light of the world".

DEVOTIONAL

Elder Ricardo Graham, Pacific Union Conference president, opened his devotional thought by stating that those who are called to follow Jesus Christ, those who accept His yoke of service "are the light of the world", and added that Jesus also said of Himself "I am the Light of the World". It was referenced that in Bible times, light was a symbol of God's presence, and such analogy is still valid for us in the twenty-first century.

Light was also related to truth as Psalm 119:105 declares, and we as light bearers need to seek The Light and The Truth and share it with those still in darkness. He concluded saying that we, as Seventh-day Adventists, have a special light of truth we have to share within our communities, and it is God's expectation we fulfill His desire that everyone knows Him to be saved.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Lilybeth Evardome sang "*We Shall Behold Him*", accompanied at the piano by Allan Chase, both San Gabriel Academy teachers.

PRAYER SESSION

Southern California Conference Prayer Ministries leaders, Janet Lui and Elder Mark Papendick, invited the delegates to pray by twos, ending this season of prayer by a prayer of consecration and dedication by Elder Mark Papendick, Vallejo Drive Associate Pastor.

BUSINESS SESSION

READING OF THE OFFICIAL CALL

Elder Velino A. Salazar, Southern California Conference secretary, read the official call of the session, which was published in the March, April and May 2011 issues of the *Pacific Union Recorder*, as required by the Bylaws of the Southern California Conference. (*Appendix A*)

SEATING OF THE DELEGATES

The conference secretary reported to the session chair that 609 regular delegates registered that morning, which exceeded the 60 percent (595) of the regular delegates (991) to transact business, as required by the Conference Bylaws. Also, 198 out of 336 delegates at-large registered that morning as well. (A list of delegates present at the session is on file in the office of the conference secretary.) (*Appendix B*)

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The session chair declared the session officially opened as it was determined that more than 60 percent of the 991 eligible regular delegates, or more than the required 595, were present.

SEATING OF THE PARLIAMENTARIANS

Voted To accept the recommendation of the Conference Executive Committee to invite attorneys
01-11 Catherine Lang-Titus, Duane Montgomery, and Robert M. Peterson to serve as session
Parliamentarians.

READING OF CONSTITUENCY SESSION RULES AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

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

Voted To accept the recommendation of the Conference Executive Committee to adopt the session rules
02-11 and parliamentary procedures to conduct this constituency session as presented and clarified by
the parliamentarians.

ACCEPTING A NEW CHURCH

Voted 03-11 To accept the Hacienda Heights Chinese Church, previously organized on January 9, 2010 with a membership of 169, as a member of the sisterhood of churches of the Southern California Conference.

SEATING OF DELEGATES FROM NEW CHURCH

Voted 04-11 To seat the 4 regular delegates of the newly accepted church, bringing to 613 the number of regular delegates seated in the quorum count.

REMOVING CHURCHES

Voted 05-11 To remove the Carson Church as a member of the sisterhood of churches of the Southern California Conference due to an action taken on September 1, 2009 by the Southern Conference Executive Committee dissolving this congregation.

Voted 06-11 To remove the Hungarian Church as a member of the sisterhood of churches of the Southern California Conference due to an action taken on September 1, 2009 by the Southern Conference Executive Committee dissolving this congregation.

Voted 07-11 To remove the Redondo Beach Church as a member of the sisterhood of churches of the Southern California Conference due to an action taken on February 12, 2008 by the Southern Conference Executive Committee keeping the status of Group under another church.

Voted 08-11 To remove the San Pedro Yugoslavian Church as a member of the sisterhood of churches of the Southern California Conference due to an action taken on February 12, 2008 by the Southern Conference Executive Committee keeping the status of Group under another church.

RATIFICATION OF SIXTY-SECOND SESSION MINUTES

Voted 09-11 To ratify the minutes of the May 20, 2007 Sixty-second Constituency Session as approved by the Southern California Conference Executive Committee at its meeting on August 28, 2007.
(Appendix E)

AGENDA FOR THE SIXTY-THIRD CONSTITUENCY SESSION

It was **moved** and seconded to approve the session agenda as presented and recommended by the Conference Executive Committee at its meeting on March 29, 2011.

Voted 10-11 To approve the following agenda for the session as recommended by the Conference Executive Committee at its meeting on March 29, 2011; and including the amendment.

- A. Devotional
- B. Preliminary Business Items
 - 1. Reading of the Official Call
 - 2. Seating of Delegates
 - 3. Declaration of a Quorum/Opening of the 63rd Session
 - 4. Seating of Parliamentarians

5. Instructions of Parliamentarians
 6. Presentation of New Churches
 7. Seating of Delegates from New Churches
 8. Deletion of Churches
 9. Sixty-second Constituency Session Minutes
 10. Sixty-third Constituency Session Agenda
 11. Recognitions
- C. Session Reports
1. Presidency
 2. Secretariat
 3. Vice Presidency
 4. Treasury
 5. Conference Finances Audit
 6. Ongoing Projects (Amendment)
- D. Committee Reports
1. Nominating Committee Report
 2. Bylaws Committee Report
- E. Embracing a New Vision
- F. Adjournment

RECOGNITION FOR RETIREES

The delegates were invited to pay tribute to 51 denominational workers who served in this conference and retired during the last quadrennium; their names were scrolled on the screen with applause. (*Appendix F*)

A special tribute and words of appreciation with a plaque was given to Mr. Richard Carey, superintendent of schools, who after 43 years of teaching ministry retires at this Session.

RECOGNITION FOR DECEASED

The session chair paid tribute to two pastors who died while serving in ministry in the last quadrennium: the late Elder Reginald O. Robinson, Valley Crossroads Church Senior Pastor, for outstanding ministry for over 45 years; and the late Elder Mitch Henson, Glendale City Church Senior Pastor for distinguished ministry for 30 years. The delegation showed their respect by keeping a minute of silence.

SESSION REPORTS

A. Summary of the Conference President's Report

Elder Larry L. Caviness, Conference president, opened the reports section indicating that the Session reports by the officers were posted in the Session website a month ago, and today, a video presentation will summarize the highlights of the work done among the churches and the schools assisted by the Regions and Departments of this conference during the past four years.

He concluded highlighting the current conditions in the world which indicate that the second coming of Jesus is approaching fast. The President's written report is added to this Session minutes. (*Appendix G*)

B. Summary of the Conference Secretary's Report

Elder Velino A. Salazar, Conference secretary, began making reference to his visits to the different churches across the conference, and stated that each one of them carries on God's mission in their communities in their own unique evangelistic way. Then he showed a brief statistical report with graphs about the church membership growth in this conference over the last four years. The Secretary's written report is added to this Session minutes. *(Appendix H)*

C. Summary of the Conference Vice President's Report

Elder James G. Lee, Jr., Conference vice president, opened his report indicating that his office provides information and resources to the churches through the various ministries like Community Services, Public Affairs, Religious Liberty, and Evangelism initiatives. He also reported the several activities done during the quadrennium. The Vice President's written report is added to this Session Minutes. *(Appendix I)*

D. Summary of the Conference Treasurer's Report

Elder Sung H. Oh, Conference treasurer, presented an encouraging report in spite of the current economy locally and nationwide. The Lord has blessed His church in Southern California Conference with enough resources to fulfill its mission. Good management principles have been applied to keep a solid financial position of this conference. All pertinent financial statements, statistics, and graphs are posted on the Session website. The Treasurer's written report is added to this Session minutes. *(Appendix J)*

AUDITED UNCONSOLIDATED COMBINED SPECIAL-PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007

Mr. Chad Giles, Pacific District Chief Auditor of the General Conference Auditing Service, gave the report of the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the Southern California Conference for the years ending December 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, and, after answering questions along the conference treasurer, it was

Voted To approve the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the Southern California Conference
11-11 for the years ending December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007 as presented. *(Appendix K)*

BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

Meredith Jobe, Bylaws Committee chair, presented for ratification three changes made in January 2008 to the **Articles of Incorporation** to comply with the merger of the Southern California Conference into the Southern California Association combining the two entities into a single corporate structure as voted by this body in 2007. Those changes recommended by The Bylaws Committee were the following: *(Appendix L)*

It was moved and seconded to add Article 2-A, that this corporation will be governed by the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law of 1980.

Voted That the proposed motion be adopted.
12-11

It was moved and seconded to add Article 2-B, enabling this corporation to accept appointments as trustee under the Section 15604 of the California Probate Code.

Voted That the proposed motion be adopted.
13-11

It was moved and seconded to change Article 4, to comply with the California Secretary of State requirement stating that two thirds (2/3) are required to amend these Articles of Incorporation.

Voted That the proposed motion be adopted.
14-11

Mr. Jobe continued presenting the proposed changes in the **Bylaws**, and after reviewing every article and consenting on every single proposed amendment seriatim, as recommended by The Bylaws Committee, some questions were answered. (*Appendix M*)

It was moved and seconded to adopt the proposed amendments as shown in the final draft of the Bylaws, as recommended by the Bylaws Committee.

Voted That the proposed motion be adopted.
15-11

It was moved and seconded that the adopted amendments to the Bylaws become effective upon adjournment of this constituency session.

Voted That the proposed motion be adopted.
16-11

It was moved and seconded to authorize the conference secretary that, in consultation with the outgoing Bylaws Committee, correct punctuation, cross-references and such other nonsubstantive changes as are necessary to conform to the amended Bylaws to any actions taken by the constituents with respect to the Bylaws.

Voted That the proposed motion be adopted.
17-11

PROJECTS REPORTS

Elder Caviness, Conference president, presented a report of the two major projects in which our conference has been engaged for some years: the Scholl Canyon Estates and the Newbury Park Development.

The Scholl Canyon Estates is a retirement facility next to the conference office. The conference has invested a former parking lot into a joint venture agreement with a retirement company own by a Seventh-day Adventist family. Such agreement indicates that no cash call against the SCC could come at a later time. The only investment into it is just land, which warranties the retention of 40% ownership and profit.

The Newbury Park Development is a project voted by this body in 1984 to maximize the use of the three parcels where the elementary school, the Ventura Estates and the academy in Newbury Park are located. The project has taken much longer than expected to complete. The present condition of the project was presented along with the best estimates in regards to its finances and completion.

It was also informed that this development report, and, the history of past actions taken by the conference Executive Committee and prior constituency sessions in regards to this project are posted on the Session website. The PowerPoint presentation was posted in the Session website, and is also added to this Session minutes. (*Appendix N*)

After several questions in regards to these two projects were answered by the conference officers, the Pacific Union Conference Treasurer, and Mr. Dave Phillips, it was

Voted To accept the projects report as presented.
18-11

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Noted: The chairing of the session was turned over to Elder Ricardo Graham, Pacific Union Conference president. The delegates received the report of the Nominating Committee and voted electronically on each of the Executive Officers and the superintendent of schools.

Voted To accept the recommendation of the nominating committee to elect the following persons to serve
19-11 as Executive Officers and the Superintendent of Schools for the 2011-2015 quadrennium:

President	Larry L. Caviness	649 ayes	148 nays
Secretary	Velino A. Salazar	646 ayes	82 nays
Treasurer	Sung H. Oh	710 ayes	84 nays
Vice President	James G. Lee	680 ayes	112 nays
Superintendent of Schools	Harold A. Crook	632 ayes	146 nays

Voted To approve the recommendation of the Nominating Committee that the following persons serve as
20-11 members of the Conference Executive Committee for the 2011-2015 quadrennium:

Administrative Members

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

Non-Administrative Members

Asian Pacific Region (3)	
Mui Fitu Ah-Kui	Compton Samoan Church
Vinh Nguyen (Pastor)	El Monte Vietnamese Church
Deomelio Zenith	Central Filipino Church
Greater Los Angeles Region (4)	
Greer Bosworth	Breath of Life Church
Reynold Garcia	Tamarind Avenue Church
Eleanor Marshalleck*	Smyrna Church
Louis Petit-Frere (Pastor)	Bethel Church

Hispanic Region (6)	
John Paul Castro*	San Fernando Spanish Church
Yvette Cruz	EastMont Spanish Church
E. Daniel Ovando	East Los Angeles Bilingual Church
Luis Pena (Pastor)	Central Spanish Church
Rudy Sandres*	Carson Spanish Church
Karla Torres	Monrovia Spanish Church
Los Angeles Metro Region	
Janet Barnhill	Rolling Hills Church
Carol Haynes	All Nations Church
Gregory Prout*	Vallejo Drive Church
Gustavo Ramos	White Memorial Church
Iki Taimi (Pastor)	Genesis Group
West Region	
Ronda Harrison*	Lancaster Church
Kirsten Salvador*	Hollywood Church
Dennis T. Stirewalt (Pastor)	Camarillo Church

Voted 21-11 To approve the recommendation of the Nominating Committee that the following persons serve as members of the Bylaws Committee for the 2011-2015 quadrennium:

Paul Cho (Pastor)	Hacienda Heights Chinese Church
Albert Eclar	Central Filipino Church
Brent Hart	Breath of Life Church
Alvin Taylor*	Berean Church
Fernando Lemus	EastMont Spanish Church
Rogelio Paquini (Pastor)*	Spanish American Church
Myron Counts	Vallejo Drive Church
Meredith Jobe*	Glendale City Church
Charles Dickinson	Camarillo Church
Gregory Hoenes (Pastor)*	Santa Clarita Church

* Returning committee members

ACT OF DEDICATION

The spouses of the newly elected officers were presented with bouquets, after which Janet Lui, prayer coordinator for the Conference, called for the entire Conference Prayer Ministries team to join her to pray and lay hands on the newly elected officers, the superintendent of schools and their spouses. Elder Michael Brownfield offered a prayer for the new conference leadership. Elder Ricardo Graham also prayed closing this season of prayer for the newly elected officers.

CLOSING REMARKS

Elder Larry L. Caviness, newly reelected conference president, thanked the audience for the privilege given him to continue serving as their leader, and added his appreciation to his fellow officers and office personnel for the meticulous and hard work done in preparation for this session meeting.

Elder Caviness made reference to an incident that happened in 1909 between Elder A. G. Daniels, General Conference president, and Mrs. Ellen G. White. She wrote to him saying that God had been compelling her to remind him not to neglect the work for the large cities, and make solid plans to evangelize them. He said that vision God had given 102 years ago for the big cities is still valid for us who live in Los Angeles, one of the 5 largest cities in the country. This city and its surrounding communities have millions of people who don't know that Jesus is coming soon.

To close his challenge, Elder Caviness reminded delegates of the Session theme: *"United in Jesus – Proclaiming His Grace"* and invited every delegate present to make this a reality in our homes, our churches, and our schools. He pointed out the picture shown on the center screen all day depicting the return of Jesus, painted by Nathan Greene. "What emotions will surge through your heart when you look up and see the cloud approaching?" "Behold, He is coming with clouds and every eye will see Him." What a day that will be!

ADJOURNMENT

Voted To adjourn the Sixty-third Constituency Session of the Southern California Conference.
22-11

The benediction was offered by Elder James Kyle, Tamarind Avenue Church Senior Pastor.

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