

# **RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS SEPTEMBER 2015**

## **CONSTITUTION**

1. Page 1 Article III Line 45- Delete “quadrennial.” Insert ‘quinquennial’ because the General Conference convenes every 5 years not 4 years.
2. Page 2 Article VIII Line 41-48 and Line 1-2 on Page 3– Wording was changed to conform to the model local conference constitution.

## **BYLAWS**

1. Page 4 Article II Section 1 Line 27 – Replace ‘quadrennial’ with ‘quinquennial.’ It is believed that our conference will be better served by officers, departmental leaders, and executive committee members who can only serve a maximum two – 5 year term limit.
2. Page 4 Article II Section 1 Line 29-30 - Insert “This meeting must be held within the third quarter of the quinquennial year.” This places boundaries on the time that the session must take place for the ensuing quinquennial.
3. Page 5 Article II Section 2a. 3) Line 4 – Change the percentage of church boards that are needed to call a special session from 50% to 33%. The lower percentage gives a greater voice to the constituency.
4. Page 5 Article II Section 3a Line 21 – Change the percentage of delegates that are needed for a quorum for our regular session from 50% to 40%. The lower percentage gives a greater likelihood that we will not go through a great expense in holding a session and be unable to do business because we do not have a quorum.
5. Page 5 Article II Section 3b Line 27-31 – Set the percentage of delegates that are needed for a quorum for a special session from 50% to 33%. The lower percentage gives a greater likelihood that we will not go through a great expense in holding a special session and be unable to do business because we do not have a quorum.
6. Page 5 Article II Section 5 lines 42-48 and Page 6 Lines 1-4 – Insert ‘represent one vote.’ The delegate is a voting delegate until the official notice of the next regular constituency meeting.’ Additional language is to make it clear that the

- delegate's term of service ends when an official notice goes out for the next regular session or if replaced by the local church for cause.
7. Page 6 Article II Section 6 Lines 6-18– Insert new section entitled 'Election/Appointment and Term of Office:' to conform to the model local conference bylaws.
  8. Page 6 Article II Section 9 Lines 34-44 – Insert new section entitled 'Term Limits'. It is believed that our conference will be better served by officers, departmental leaders, and executive committee members who can only serve a maximum two – 5 year term limit.
  9. Page 7 Article II Section 10 Line 3 – Insert "Departmental" in front of directors for clarity.
  10. Page 7 Article II Section 11 Line 12 – Delete "state. "Insert "geographical area (as defined by the executive committee)." This includes states and allows the executive committee the latitude to make any changes if needed to our geographical areas without having to change the constitution.
  11. Page 7 Article III Section 1a. Lines 1-3 – Delete "Delegates must" and insert "and who." This reads better.
  12. Page 8 Article III Section 1b. 2) Lines 6-8 – Insert "All members of the executive committee of the Southwestern Union Conference who may be present at any constituency meeting of the conference." This was done to conform to the model local conference bylaws.
  13. Page 8 Article III Section 1b. 5) and 6) and Article III Section 2 Lines 18-34. This was done to conform model local conference bylaws.
  14. Page 8 Article III Section 2 Lines 34-41– This was done to encourage faithfulness in our stewardship for of all our delegates and various conference committee members.
  15. Page 9 Article III Section 3 Lines 1-2 – Delete "September 30" and "the year." Insert "nine months prior to the quinquennial session." This gives a greater opportunity to include a larger membership for each church's delegate count when the session is held in a month later in the year beyond May.
  16. Page 10 Article IV Section 2 a. Line 13 – Delete "and" and insert "but" for greater clarity.
  17. Page 11 Article IV Section 2 f. Line 6-7 – Insert "(see Article VI)" after Officers to give a reference to those who want to know more about the Officers to be nominated.

18. Page 11 Article IV Section 3 a. Lines 23-24 – Insert “include an officer of the Southwestern Union Conference, and shall.” This was done to conform to the model local conference bylaws.
19. Page 11 Article IV Section 4 a. Line 37 – Delete “the ending of” to prevent any one who served at any time during the quinquennial to be able to be on the nominating committee.
20. Page 11 Article IV Section 4 b. Line 44 – Delete “9” and insert “11” because of format changes.
21. Page 12 Article V Section 1 a. Line 9 – Insert “/chief financial officer’ after treasurer to conform to the model local conference bylaws.
22. Page 12 Article V Section 1 a. Line 13-14 – Delete “the conference director of education” because it is felt that preferential treatment is given to one departmental director over another.
23. Page 12 Article V Section 1a Lines 19-26 – Insert “The officers of the Southwestern Union Conference, of the North American Division and of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are members ex officio of the local conference executive committee; however, their membership shall be in addition to the number detailed above. Any such officers exercising their voting rights at any one meeting shall not make up more than ten percent (10%) of the committee membership present.”

This was done to conform to the model local conference bylaws.

24. Page 12 Article V Section 1c Lines 40-42 – Insert “No individual shall be eligible to serve on the executive committee for more than two consecutive quinquennial sessions unless the individual is returning under a different elected position.”

Terms limits are being suggested for all officers, departmental leaders, and executive committee members for consistency.

25. Page 13 Article V Section 3 c. Line 18 – Remove “secretaries”. Administration should have the latitude to hire and terminate secretaries without executive committee approval.
26. Page 13 Article V Section 3 d. Line 24 – Delete “the consent of two-thirds” and replace with “a simple majority.” It is believed that a simple majority should be sufficient.

27. Page 13 Article V Section 3 e. Lines 27-29 – Insert “To remove any executive officer of the conference shall require the consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the executive committee.”

The seriousness of this matter should at least warrant the minimum of the consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the executive committee.

28. Page 19 Article XII Section 2 Lines 19-20 – Insert “or by such other means or methods as voted by the executive committee.”

This gives flexibility to use current technology, which may be a more convenient and effective method of delivery.

29. Page 18 Article XII Section 3 – Delete lines 22-30 and add new language to prevent congregations who leave the fold of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to also take the church property with them. The new language is –

“Legal title to all real property acquired by local congregations, institutions and associations within the conference shall be acquired and title held in the name of the Southwest Region Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc., the legal corporation of the Conference. Local congregations will be given permission to use the property and the responsibility for its upkeep, subject to the overall control and consent of the Conference.”

30. Page 19 Article XIV Section 3 Lines 28-29 – Insert “with at least one general town hall meeting held on the last Sunday of camp meeting.”

One general town hall meeting held on the last Sunday of camp meeting will give individuals from around the conference the opportunity to hear concerns voiced from other areas of the conference.

31. Page 20 Article XVI and Page 21 - Delete lines 17-28 on page 21 and Insert the following Line 45-48 on Page 20 and 1-14 on page 21 :

“Amendment, Revision, and Repeal:

The bylaws of this conference which are essential to the unity of the Church worldwide, and are designated in bold print shall be amended or revised from time to time in order to comply with changes to the Model Local Conference Constitution and Bylaws as voted by the General Conference Executive Committee in its annual meetings. Such amendments or revisions shall be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates present and voting at any duly called constituency meeting of the local conference. Other sections of the bylaws may be amended, revised, or repealed, in like manner, provided such changes are in harmony with the spirit of the Model Local Conference Constitution and Bylaws, and have been processed through the conference executive committee. Notice of any proposed changes to the constitution and

bylaws of this conference shall be given specifically in conjunction with the publication of notice for the session. The constituency or the conference executive committee may recommend to the General Conference through the Southwestern Union Conference and the North American Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists amendments to the Model Local Conference Constitution and Bylaws.”

New language is used to conform to the local model conference bylaws.

32. Page 20 Article XVI Section 1 Lines 18-19 – Insert “via email to the delegates, posting on our conference website, the postal service, and/or social network.” This gives flexibility to use current technology, which may be a more convenient and effective method of delivery.

Terrell McCoy  
Chairman – Constitution and Bylaws Committee

May 14, 2015