



Date: 16th March 2025

Pastor E C Köhler
Executive Secretary
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring Maryland 20904
United States of America

Dear Brother Köhler

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 1:3

**Re: 1. Ladismith Seventh-day Adventist Church's rejection of the inclusion of peer-reviewed science as an authority for church beliefs.
2. The rejection of ADCOM Official Statements that are based on peer-reviewed science – Immunization in 2015 and 2021, and the Dangers of Climate Change 1995.**

We write to you as a member of the General Conference Executive Committee (EXCOM) and Administrative Committee (ADCOM), and request that you present this letter to those committees, from the congregation of the Ladismith Seventh-day Adventist church in the **Cape Conference**, in the **Southern Africa Union Conference**, in the **Southern Africa – Indian Ocean Division**.

At our Business Meeting on the **16th March 2025** the following statements of the General Conference Administrative Committee were reviewed and considered and were **rejected** by a vote of

- 22 (to reject)
- to 0 (to accept).
- 1. Immunization Statement 2015 - <https://gc.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>
- 2. Reaffirmation Statement 2021 - <https://www.healthministries.com/reaffirming-adventist-church-response-to-covid-19/>
- 3. The Dangers of Climate Change 1995 - <https://gc.adventist.org/official-statements/the-dangers-of-climate-change/>

Additional statements or articles that were reviewed and considered:

1. Concerns regarding COVID-19, Church Governance, and Liberty of Conscience 2022 - <https://adventistreview.org/release/concerns-regarding-covid-19-church-governance-and-liberty-of-conscience/>
2. SPD Immunisation Statement - <https://record.adventistchurch.com/2020/12/16/spd-releases-statement-on-immunisation/>

Areas of Concern:

1. These statements are listed under our beliefs on the church website. These statements rely on the inclusion of peer-reviewed scientific literature (PRSL) as an authority for church beliefs.
2. The immunisation statements specifically reference the “doctrine and dogma of the church”.
3. The immunisation statements are not based on scripture or Ellen White writings, as both of these sources are silent on vaccinations. Therefore, the rest of these statements are based on peer-reviewed scientific literature alone.
4. The climate change statement contains no scripture and only peer-reviewed scientific literature. The climate change statement begins with “scientists warn” rather than “God warns”, which is the core teaching of our church.
5. The climate change statement uses the phrase, “The world membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church requests that governments . . .” For this to be true, it would require a General Conference in Session to vote on this statement, but that did not happen.
6. The words that the church “request that governments” implies a desire for the church to have authority over government or political matters. Jesus said, “My Kingdom is not of this world”.

7. The climate change statement requests that world governments initiate “more forcefully public debate on the risks of climate change”. This is contrary to Seventh-day Adventist understanding of liberty of conscience, which allows choice versus the use of force.

The dangers if these statements are NOT rejected by the Seventh-day Adventist Church:

1. The inclusion of PRSL as a basis for matters of conscience or belief lays a foundation for accepting many errors that have no origin in the things of God. Not all the wonders of man’s science (knowledge) are surrendered to God, e.g. the science of evolution conflicts with God’s word. Paul writes on this issue: “. . . science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith . . .” I Timothy 6:20-21.

Ellen White writes:

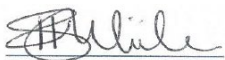
- a. *“the study of the sciences is not to be neglected. Books must be used for this purpose: but they should be in harmony with the Bible, for that is the standard.”* (SpTEd 56.2.)
 - b. “In the future, truth will be counterfeited by the precepts of men. Deceptive theories will be presented as safe doctrines. False science is one of the agencies that Satan used in the heavenly courts, and it is used by him today . . . Do not present theories or tests that have no foundation in the Bible. We have grand, solemn tests to present. “It is written” is the test that must be brought home to everyone. (Evangelism p.600).
2. PRSL justifies climate Sundays as a legitimate method of dealing with the dangers of climate change. Science has already unified 2500 churches, 31 denominations (Catholic, Church of England, Methodist, Baptist, Salvation Army, etc) and charities (e.g. World Vision) in the United Kingdom (ClimateSunday.org). Science says any day of rest is the same, but God’s word identifies the seventh day.

Based on the Seventh-day Adventist understanding that all beliefs are to come from the Bible and the Bible alone, we petition the General Conference Executive Committee to:

1. Publicly withdraw all statements that use peer-reviewed scientific literature. When the church takes a position on one set of science versus another set, it creates disunity. Issues not directly addressed by the Bible or Ellen White should have been left to the individual conscience directed by the Holy Spirit.
2. Cease and desist from making statements on belief, doctrine or dogma, as the General Conference Executive Committee is meant to be entirely administrative.
3. Cease and desist from making any statements that are based on peer-reviewed scientific literature.

May we uphold God’s pure words - Psalm 12:6: The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tested in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Yours sincerely



Head Elder (Hennie Muller)



Church Clark (Susan Bothma)

cc:

____ Conference EXCOM
____ Union Conference EXCOM
____ Division EXCOM

To: General Conference of Seventh Day Adventists

12501 Old Columbia Pike

Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

Recipients: Ted Wilson- GC President, Ganoune Diop- PARL Director, G. Alexander Bryant- NAD President, Marcellus Robinson- Columbia Union President, Bob Cundiff- Ohio Conference President

Dear SDA General Conference,

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

-1 Cor. 1:3 KJV

We write to you from the Lancaster Ohio SDA Church, of the Ohio Conference, of the Columbia Union Conference, of the North American Division. There have been some Religious liberty issues that were of great concern to our members. We fully believe the Holy Spirit led us to address these concerns. We carefully considered and prayed about these concerns and addressed them at a Religious Liberty meeting that was held on 05/18/2025. After carefully reviewing and praying about these issues, we as members decided to reject the following statements and affiliations.

1. We fully reject the 2015 ADCOM immunization statement as found at:
<https://www.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>
2. We fully reject the 2021 ADCOM reaffirmation statement as found at:
<https://www.adventist.news/news/reaffirming-the-seventh-day-adventist-churchs-response-to-covid-19-1>
3. We fully reject the union of the General Conference of Seventh Day Adventists with the United Nations as an NGO with consultative status.

*In response to the 2015 ADCOM statement, we reject it for the following reasons. Although we fully accept the SDA Health Message which is based on the Holy Scriptures and the writings of Ellen G. White. We completely reject peer-reviewed scientific literature as a basis for the Health Message. Peer-reviewed scientific literature changes daily, and much of this science falsely so-called flies in the face of the Holy Scriptures, and the writings of Ellen G. White.

*In response to the 2021 ADCOM statement, we reject it for the following reasons. This statement not only reaffirms peer-reviewed scientific literature but also removes the freedom of conscience from the individual. It states that claims of religious liberty cannot be used when a government mandate is issued. This statement basically says that you can

allow the Holy Spirit to guide your decision(s), unless there is a government mandate. Therefore, the government mandate has authority over the Holy Spirit. This is extremely sad and dangerous. We must hold fast to the fact that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.

- **What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? (1 Cor. 6:19-20 KJV)**

- **Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are. (1 Cor. 3:16-17 KJV)**

*In response the General Conference of Seventh Day Adventists being united with the United Nations as an NGO with consultative status, we reject this union for the following reasons. Based on the arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations as found on the United Nations website (ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31).

https://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/Resolution_1996_31/Part_1.htm

On this site is a list compiled of seventeen principles that must be followed in order to be an NGO with the United Nations. The majority of these principles are not in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the writings of Ellen G. White. We want to highlight one of these false principles. Principle #2 "The aims and purposes of the organization shall be in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations". There are so many things that are wrong with this statement. What is the spirit of the United Nations? It doesn't take much research to realize that the spirit of the United Nations is based on the occult teachings of Alice A. Bailey among others who were guided by another spirit entirely. What does Scripture say regarding such associations?

-**Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. (2 Cor. 6:14-18 KJV)**

-**Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (1 John 2:15-16 KJV)**

We petition the GC EXCOM to:

1. Remove these ADCOM statements that have severely impacted and undermined the foundation and principles of Religious Liberty as practiced and upheld by our Church Members.
2. Apologize for allowing such statements to be published and the subsequent harm caused.
3. Withdraw from the United Nations NGO status so we can separate ourselves from the World and proclaim the fullness of the Three Angels Messages to a dying World.

We desire reconciliation, not separation. We desire unity without compromising Biblical Truth.

God Bless,

Members of the Lancaster Ohio SDA Church

Head Elder:

Edo Jahn

Elder:

John Hinkle

Elder:

Donna Jackson

Board Members:

Sheena Hinkle

Al Schone

Virginia Shaw

William Leary

Scott Felt

Sandra Stonaker

Amy LaFollette (ANB)

(ANB) - Denotes attending member of another church, or attending non-member

Members:

Rosa O Jones

Linda L. Downhouse

Beggy Selby

Betty Short

Wanda Ray

Stacey Carpenter

Debra Reichard

Ser. Hinkle

Sarah Hinkle

Brenda Felt

Others:

A. Ellen Crandall (ANB)

Irina Schone (ANB)

Jesse Colton (ANB)

Darlene LaFollette (ANB)

Bonnie Schone

John Felt



Lineville Seventh-day Adventist Church

8 Blakes Ferry Rd
Lineville, AL 36266
256.396.0100

Attention: President Pr. Ted Wilson

CC: Secretary Pr. Erton Kohler

We write to you from the Lineville Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Gulf States Conference, of the Southern Union, of the North American Division. At our business meeting on January 25, 2025 the following statements of the General Conference ADCOM were reviewed and considered:

- ADCOM statement dated 2015 as seen at: <https://adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>
- ADCOM statement dated 2021 as seen at: <https://adventist.news/news/reaffirming-the-seventh-day-adventist-churchs-response-to-covid-19-1>

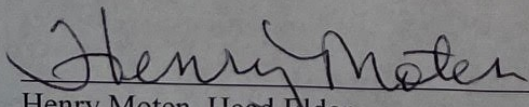
These two statements were not voted on or approved by the General Conference in Session, and they add and elevate peer-reviewed scientific literature as a basis for the Adventist health message. Thus, they conflict with our 28 Fundamental Beliefs which use the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy as our only sources of inspired truth. Peer-reviewed science is not infallible or inspired, but rather subject to error, retraction, and manipulation.

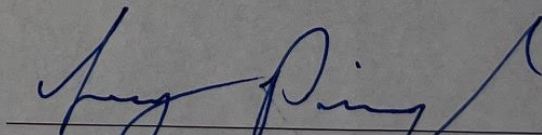
We, the members of the Lineville Seventh-day Adventist Church, therefore petition the GC ADCOM to withdraw these two statements as they have severely impacted and undermined the foundation and principles of religious liberty as practiced and upheld by our members.

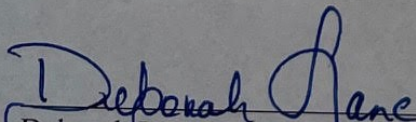
Our church members also take a stand against all official statements made by the GC ADCOM because they are not based upon the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, nor are they a part of the governance of Seventh-day Adventist Church. The GC ADCOM should never claim to be speaking for every member of our global church, and their statements should not become official policies.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in these matters.

Prayerfully,


Henry Moten, Head Elder


Larry Pirraglia, Elder and Business Meeting Rep.


Deborah Lane, Church Clerk

Living Hope SDA Company

675 C Street – POB 376
Plummer, Idaho 83851

April, 10 2025

To the Executive Committee of the Upper Columbia Conference, to the Upper Columbia Conference (UCC), to the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC), and to the North American Division (NAD).

We write to you from Living Hope SDA Church. At our Business Meeting of 9 April 2025, the following statements of SDA General Conference (GC) ADCOM were critically reviewed and considered:

1. **ADCOM statement dated 2015 as available at: <https://www.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>**
2. **ADCOM statement dated 2021 as available at: <https://www.healthministries.com/reaffirming-adventist-church-response-to-covid-19/> statements were not voted in General Conference session, and elevate "peer-reviewed scientific literature" as a basis for the SDA Health Message.**

Given that the "peer-reviewed scientific literature" is uninspired, there is a conflict with our 28 Fundamental Beliefs which only acknowledges the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. The additional "peer-reviewed scientific literature" statement should not be published as official statements of the SDA Church.

We petition the GC EXCOM/ADCOM to publicly withdraw these statements and apologize for: (1) allowing such statements to be published and (2) the subsequent harm caused.

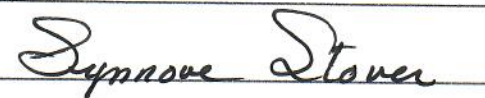
In our view these ADCOM Statements have severely impacted and undermined the foundation and principles of Religious Liberty as practiced and upheld by our Church Members.

During the Living Hope Church business meeting, held on April 9, 2025; a motion was made to discuss the above letter and vote to approve it. After the discussion there was a motion made to approve the above letter. It was voted and approved to submit the above petition letter. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this regard.

Christian greetings,

Stefan Zafiu – Pastor, Living Hope Church

Synnove Stover – Clerk, Living Hope Church



CC: Executive Committee of the Upper Columbia Conference

CC: Executive Committee of the North Pacific Union

CC: Executive Committee of the North American Division

CC: SDAPEARL Administration

CC: Executive Committee of the Upper Columbia Conference

*Upper Columbia Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
David Jamieson - President
3715 S Grove Road
Spokane, WA 99224*

CC: Executive Committee of the North Pacific Union

*North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
John Freedman - President
5709 N 20th St
Ridgefield, WA 98642*

CC: Executive Committee of the North American Division

*North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist
G. Alexander Bryant - President
9705 Patuxent Woods Drive
Columbia, MD 21046-1565, USA*

CC: SDAPEARL Administration
sdapearl@yahoo.com

Monday, June 30, 2025

Re: Peer Reviewed Science and the Health Message

To: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists' ADCOM, and
the Executive Committees and Pastors of the: Divisions, Unions, and Conferences of
the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Madoc Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ontario Canada held a business meeting on February 1st, 2025 and this letter is a result of the following entries in our Business Meeting minutes:

16-02-25 *Peer Review Science and the Health Message*

The official statement of the Adventist Health Message states that our health and well-being is based on Bible, SOP, and Peer-Reviewed Science. The last of which is not reliable and has errors and should not be listed as part of what our health and well-being is based on. They have also made a statement on immunization that is not appropriate.

17-02-25 *Motion to express to ADCOM committee and levels of Church government between them*
VOTED *and us that we wish to discard statements that include peer reviewed science, but only include the Bible and SOP, through a letter*

In consideration of the above vote we noted that the historical use of **Church Authority** regarding official positions, and beliefs must be expressed **by vote of the delegates of the Church in General Conference Session**. This Authority has never been delegated by a vote to any committee. We briefly reviewed a number of the "Church Statements" appearing on the GC website, and highlighted that these statements appear to have Church Authority but have not been subject to a vote by the delegates in session.

It is the desire of the Madoc Seventh-day Adventist Church to, in unity with our world wide church, focus on the commission of Christ to spread the Gospel to every nation kindred and people (Mat 28:19-20), and in particular the sharing of the Three Angles Message (Rev 14:6-12). In accordance with this unity, we would encourage GC Committees to refrain from making statements or actions that appear to have GC Session Voted authority but do not because they have not been subject to a vote by the delegates in a General Conference Session. Further that we ask that they ensure all such existing statements receive this clarifying attention.

Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Graham Wheeler for and on behalf of Madoc Seventh-day Adventist Church

CC:

Church Clerk, Madoc Seventh-day Adventist Church

Dear SDA General Conference ADCOM and EXCOM,

RE: Mossman SDA CHURCH OBJECTION TO GC ADCOM's STATEMENTS ON IMMUNISATION

We write to you from Mossman SDA Congregation, of the Northern Australia Conference, of the Australian Union Conference (AUC), of Southern Pacific Division (SPD). At our Business Meeting of 25th November 2023, the following statements of SDA General Conference (GC) ADCOM were critically reviewed and considered:

ADCOM statement dated 2015 as available at: <https://www.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>

ADCOM statement dated 2021 as available at: <https://adventist.news/news/reaffirming-the-seventh-day-adventist-churchs-response-to-covid-19-1>

Areas of concern:

Origin: These statements are of questionable origin, not voted in a regular GC session by official delegates of the world church body, and may therefore not be representative of, nor published as official statements of, the SDA Church.

Content: The 2015 statement contradicts the 28 Fundamentals by introducing "peer-reviewed scientific literature" as basis for the SDA health emphasis, where the 28 Fundamentals only recognize the Bible (Belief 1) and the Spirit of Prophecy, specifically the writings of Ellen G White (Belief 18).

We petition the GC EXCOM to:

Publicly withdraw these statements

Apologise for allowing such statements to be published and the subsequent harm caused.

In our view these ADCOM Statements have severely impacted and undermined the foundation and principles of Religious Liberty as practiced and upheld by our Church Members.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this regard.

Christian greetings,

Adam Kavanagh

Elder Mossman SDA Church

February 8, 2025

Dear GC ADCOM,

Re: Peer Reviewed scientific literature.

The Mount Hope SDA Church Business Meeting reaffirms that the Bible and EGW are the only basis for the SDA health emphasis.

We write to you from the Mount Hope SDA Church, of the BC Conference of the Canadian Union Conference and of the North American Division to inform you of the outcome of our Church Business Meeting vote of the Mount Hope SDA Church held on February 8th at 5pm.

1) The Mount Hope SDA Church Business Meeting has critically considered the adoption of 'peer-reviewed scientific literature' as a basis for the SDA health emphasis.

2) We are compelled to reaffirm that the SDA health emphasis is the Bible and EGW as its only basis, as per the SDA 28 Fundamentals.

Thus, statements that suggest anything contrary to the teaching of the Bible & EGW cannot be portrayed as representing or published as official statements of the global SDA Church.

Christian greetings,

Mount Hope SDA Church
Business Meeting Members

To:
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring Maryland 20904
United States

From:
Seventh-day Adventist Church
Munich-Sendling
Part of the:
Bavarian Conference
South German Union Conference
Inter-European Division
Oberauerstr. 3-5
81377 Munich
Germany

Munich, 29.03.2025

Subject: Beliefs and Official Statements Should Be Based Solely on the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy

Dear Brothers and Sisters
of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) and the Administrative Committee (ADCOM) of the General Conference,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

We would like to state our following position:

Beliefs and official statements of the Seventh-day Adventist Church should be based solely on the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

We reject other sources, such as scientific publications (including peer-reviewed scientific literature), as a foundation for matters of faith.

We welcome scientific progress, research, and resulting technological achievements as an important part of society. However, we reject scientific publications (including peer-reviewed scientific literature) as a basis, origin, or justification for our beliefs and official statements.

During our church business meeting on March 15, 2025, we decided that the Bible is our sole foundation for faith. All official statements of the Seventh-day Adventist Church should be based only on the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

From this conviction, we unanimously reject the following statements issued by the General Conference Administrative Committee:

1. Immunization – April 15, 2015

<https://gc.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>

2. Reaffirming Adventist Church Response to COVID-19 – October 26, 2021

<https://www.healthministries.com/reaffirming-adventist-church-response-to-covid-19/>

Concerns:

1. The statement “Immunization – April 15, 2015” is listed under the church’s official statements. It relies on the inclusion of peer-reviewed scientific literature as an authority in official church matters, which could be interpreted as an official doctrinal position.
2. The sentence “The choice not to be immunized is not and should not be seen as the dogma nor the doctrine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church” (from “Immunization – April 15, 2015”) may give the impression that the church actively supports or promotes immunization, although there is no resolution on this topic from the General Conference in session.
3. The statements on immunization in the “Immunization – April 15, 2015” document are not based on the Holy Scriptures or the writings of Ellen White, as neither of these sources directly addresses the topic of vaccination. Therefore, the remaining statements are based solely on certain scientific publications. A scientific publication (including peer-reviewed scientific literature) does not constitute proof of truth.

When scientific publications (including peer-reviewed scientific literature) are regarded as a foundation or origin for beliefs or official statements of the Adventist Church, we recognize the following dangers:

1. The inclusion of scientific literature (including peer-reviewed scientific literature) as a basis for matters of conscience or belief lays the groundwork for accepting many errors that do not originate from the Word of God. For example, the theory of evolution—which is supported by numerous scientific publications—contradicts the Word of God.
2. Some scientific publications (including peer-reviewed scientific literature) justify climate Sundays (“Climate Sundays”) as a legitimate way to respond to the dangers of climate change. Certain activists, drawing on such publications, have already united 2,500 churches, 31 denominations (including Catholics, the Church of England, Methodists, Baptists, the Salvation Army, etc.), and charities (such as World Vision) in the UK (ClimateSunday.org). These scientific publications do not distinguish which day man should rest on, but the Word of God designates the seventh day as the true day of rest.

Therefore, the Seventh-day Adventist Church should clearly reject scientific publications (including peer-reviewed scientific literature) as a foundation for beliefs and official statements.

Based on the understanding that all beliefs and official statements of the Seventh-day Adventist Church should derive solely from the Bible, we hereby submit the following petition to the Executive and Administrative Committees of the General Conference:

1. All statements that rely on scientific literature (including peer-reviewed scientific literature) should be publicly retracted. Matters not directly addressed by the Bible or Ellen White should be left to the individual conscience in prayer and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
2. The Executive Committee of the General Conference should limit itself strictly to administrative tasks and refrain from issuing official statements—especially when such statements represent political opinions or promote the interests of individuals, groups, or the mainstream (as is the case in the official statements “Immunization – April 15, 2015” and “Reaffirming Adventist Church Response to COVID-19 – October 26, 2021”).
3. No further statements should be issued that rely on scientific literature (including peer-reviewed scientific literature) and concern topics not clearly addressed by the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy (as is the case with the statements “Immunization – April 15, 2015” and “Reaffirming Adventist Church Response to COVID-19 – October 26, 2021”).

May we all strive for revival, reformation, and unity in faith upon the foundation of the Word of God!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roman Ril', with a stylized, flowing script.

Roman Ril
Church clerk

Murwillumbah SDA Church

Church Business Meeting

Tuesday, 08 April 2025

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Discussion on the vaccine statements

Matthew Newitt led a Discussion about the 2015 vaccine statement the reaffirmation statement

He presented the following statement:

“Our local congregation wishes to commend and affirm the actions of the NNSW conference in speaking to the Australian Union, and we wish to add our local church support, for the Union to speak to the General Conference requesting the removal of both the 2015 statement on immunization, and the subsequent 2021 Reaffirmation statement.

We as a local congregation ask that both of these statements be removed because the premise for these statements (which have been demonstrated to be binding, and has adversely affected millions of Adventists worldwide), can be shown to be in contradiction with the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the church in relying on peer reviewed scientific literature.

Motion: to accept Matthew's statement

Voted: motion carried



Seventh-day
Adventist Church™

Naracoorte

PO Box 2173
Naracoorte
South Australia 5271
sharyn.hole@gmail.com

To: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Executive Committees

12501 Old Columbia Pike

Silver Spring Maryland 20904

United States of America

Recipients: president@gc.adventist.org, secretary@gc.adventist.org

CC: South Australian Conference EXCOM c/o davidbutcher@adventist.org.au

CC: Australian Union Conference EXCOM c/o terryjohnson@adventist.org.au

CC: South Pacific Division EXCOM c/o spd.info@adventist.org.au.

Dear General Conference ADCOM and EXCOM,

RE: NARACOORTE SDA CHURCH GROUP OBJECTION TO GC ADCOM's OFFICIAL STATEMENTS INCLUDING THAT ON IMMUNIZATION

We write to you from Naracoorte SDA Group, of the South Australian Conference, of the Australian Union Conference, of the South Pacific Division. At our Business Meeting of 18 March 2025 all of the so-called official statements linked under the Beliefs menu of <https://adventist.org> and published on <https://gc.adventist.org/official-statements/> were carefully reviewed and considered:

Areas of concern:

Questionable Origin: These statements were not voted in a regular GC session by official delegates from the world church body, and are therefore not representative of the world church. The Church Manual states, *"Church organizations around the world recognize the General Conference in Session as the voice of the Church."* GC ADCOM, EXCOM, or any SDA leadership body/person, should not claim to produce official statements on behalf of the Church, this is the remit of GC in session delegates.

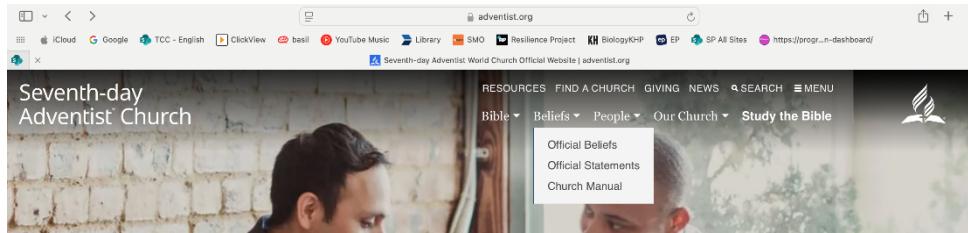
Appealing to the authority of "science", scientists, the United Nations (including the WHO etc.) and setting an uninspired source alongside the inspired sources: The Adventist health emphasis, found in Fundamental Belief 22, is based upon Fundamental Belief 1, the Holy Scriptures, and Fundamental Belief 18, the Gift of Prophecy. Specifically, the 2015 immunization statement claims peer-reviewed scientific literature (PRSL) is an additional basis. This claim contradicts, not only the Introduction to the Fundamental Beliefs (FBs) which states: (*"Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed"*), but also the substance since PRSL is not mentioned in the FBs.

Published Location. Placement of "Official Statements" under the "Beliefs" menu on the Seventh-day Adventist Church official website, <https://adventist.org>, implies that these are part of our beliefs, agreed to by the world membership. Their location under "Beliefs" causes us to avoid referring our non-Adventist friends to the official church website. Similar statements are available as "Guidelines" on the <https://gc.adventist.org website>.



Naracoorte

PO Box 2173
Naracoorte
South Australia 5271
sharyn.hole@gmail.com



Therefore, our congregation welcomes the pending decision of the Australian Union Conference Executive Committee to remove the reference to "Peer Reviewed Scientific Literature" from the 2015 Immunization statement.

Our congregation voted unanimously to reject the term "Official Statements" for directives not voted by the General Conference in session, and their inclusion under the Beliefs menu.

We petition the GC ADCOM and EXCOM to:

1. recommend a review of the title "Official Statements", and particularly the word "Official", reserving it only for statements voted by the General Conference in session, potentially rebadging the current Official Statements as "Guidelines",
2. recommend moving the rebadged "Guidelines" to the Publications menu of the <https://gc.adventist.org> website,
3. recommend a review of the existing "Official Statements" with the goal of removing redundancy/clashes with our Fundamental Beliefs and role as a church.

We are awed by the privilege of being part of God's remnant people, commissioned to preach the Gospel in the context of the Three Angels' Messages today. Reviewing these statements has re-affirmed our love and loyalty to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its message.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this regard.

Christian greetings,

Daniel Coventry

Church Clerk



Seventh-day
Adventist Church

Narromine

To: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring Maryland 20904
United States of America

Recipients: president@gc.adventist.org, secretary@gc.adventist.org

cc: GlennTownend@adventist.org.au, TerryJohnson@adventist.org.au, justinlawman@adventist.org.au

13th February, 2025

Dear SDA General Conference ADCOM and EXCOM,

RE: NARROMINE SDA CHURCH OBJECTION TO GC ADCOM's STATEMENTS ON IMMUNIZATION

We write to you from Narromine SDA Congregation, of the South New South Wales Conference, of the Australian Union Conference, of the South Pacific Division. At our Business Meeting of 3rd December, 2024, the following statements of SDA General Conference (GC) ADCOM were critically reviewed and considered:

1. GC ADCOM statement:
<https://www.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>
2. Reaffirmation:
<https://adventist.news/news/reaffirming-the-seventh-day-adventist-churchs-response-to-covid-19-1>

Areas of concern:

1. Setting an uninspired source alongside the inspired sources: The Adventist health emphasis, found in Fundamental Belief 22, is based upon Fundamental Belief 1, the Holy Scriptures, and Fundamental Belief 18, the Gift of Prophecy. The 2015 immunization statement claims peer reviewed scientific literature (PRSL) is an additional basis. This claim contradicts, not only the Introduction to the Fundamental Beliefs (FBs) which states: ("*Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed*"), but also the substance since PRSL is not mentioned in the FBs.
2. Questionable Origin: These statements were not voted in a regular GC session by official delegates of the world church body, and are therefore not representative of the world church. The Church manual states, "*Church organizations around the world recognize the General Conference in Session as the voice of the Church.*" GC ADCOM, EXCOM, or any SDA leadership body/person, should not claim to produce official statements on behalf of the Church, this is the remit of GC in session delegates.

Therefore, our congregation rejects the ADCOM 2015 and 2021 statements, recognizes that our church members may have a sincere religious objection, and petition the GC EXCOM to:

1. Reject the 2015 Immunisation Statement and the subsequent 2021 Reaffirmation of the Immunisation Statement on the basis that it includes peer-reviewed scientific literature in conflict with the Fundamentals.
2. Request that the General Conference procedure of developing Official Statements be reviewed.

In our view these ADCOM Statements have severely impacted and undermined the foundation and principles of Religious Liberty as practiced and upheld by our Church Members.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this regard.

Christian greetings,

Miranda Walsh (Business Meeting Representative), Richard Heckendorf (Head Elder) and Carla Roche (Church Clerk)

<u>Miranda Walsh</u>	<u>12/2/2025</u>	<u>Richard Heckendorf</u>	<u>12/2/2025</u>
Signature	Date	Signature	Date
<u>Miranda Walsh</u>		<u>Richard Heckendorf</u>	
Name		Name	

<u>Carla Roche</u>	<u>12-2-2025</u>
Signature	Date
<u>Carla Roche</u>	
Name	

Narromine Seventh-day Adventist Church

164 Derribong Avenue, Narromine, NSW, 2821, AUSTRALIA

T (+61) 434015115 E paulnamakadre@adventist.org.au <https://narromineadventist.church/>



Newcastle University

To: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

12501 Old Columbia Pike

Silver Spring Maryland 20904

United States of America

Recipients: president@gc.adventist.org, secretary@gc.adventist.org

CC: glenntownend@adventist.org.au, terryjohnson@adventist.org.au, cristiancopaceanu@adventist.org.au

Dear General Conference ADCOM and EXCOM,

RE: NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY ADVENTIST CHURCH OBJECTION TO GC ADCOM's STATEMENTS ON IMMUNISATION

We write to you from the Newcastle University Adventist Church, of the North New South Wales Conference (NNSW), of the Australian Union Conference (AUC), of Southern Pacific Division (SPD). At our Business Meeting of November 28, 2023, the following statements of the General Conference (GC) ADCOM were critically reviewed and considered:

1. ADCOM statement dated 2015 as available at: <https://www.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>
2. ADCOM statement dated 2021 as available at: <https://adventist.news/news/reaffirming-the-seventh-day-adventist-churchs-response-to-covid-19-1>

Areas of concern:

1. Origin: These statements are of questionable origin, not voted in a regular GC session by official delegates of the world church body, and may therefore not be representative of, nor published as official statements of, the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
2. Content: The 2015 statement contradicts the 28 Fundamentals by introducing "peer-reviewed scientific literature" as basis for the Adventist health emphasis, where the 28 Fundamentals only recognize the Bible (Belief 1) and the Spirit of Prophecy, specifically the writings of Ellen G White (Belief 18).

We petition the GC EXCOM to:

1. Publicly withdraw these statements
2. Apologise for allowing such statements to be published and the subsequent harm caused.

In our view these ADCOM Statements have severely impacted and undermined the foundation and principles of Religious Liberty as practiced and upheld by our Church Members.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this regard.

Christian greetings,

Daniel Livingston

Church Clerk



January 20, 2025

To: Upper Columbia Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

cc: North Pacific Union Conference, North American Division, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

We the Newport SDA Church, of Upper Columbia Conference, of The North Pacific Union, of The North American Division, at our Business Meeting on January 20, 2025, reviewed the following statements of SDA General Conference (GC) ADCOM, other departments and entities:

1. 2015 Statement on Immunization available at: <https://www.adventist.org/officialstatements/immunization/>
2. 2021 Reaffirmation Statement available at: <https://adventist.news/news/reaffirming-the-seventh-day-adventist-churchs-response-to-covid-19-1>

We believe the 2015 Statement on Immunization should be removed and retracted from the SDA church's official website because it presumes to give the GC ADCOM authority to make doctrinal statements, which is not within its delegated duty. We also believe the 2021 Reaffirmation Statement should be removed and retracted from the SDA church's official website because it suggests objecting to the COVID-19 mandates based on religious liberty was inappropriate, which is unfounded when examining Fundamental Belief #22. These statements also give the appearance that the Church supports the harsh mandates, which limits the work of the Gospel going forward.

GC ADCOM's 2015 Statement is an unauthorized doctrinal proposition:

The official statement cites its authorship as: *"the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee."* The second sentence states the Seventh-day Adventists' health doctrine was derived from: *"biblical revelation, the inspired writing of E.G. White (co-founder of the Church), and on **peer-reviewed scientific literature**"* (emphasis added). General Conference Working Policy Manual, B.05.06 states: *"...the definition of denominational beliefs is entrusted to the General Conference in session."* We at the Newport SDA Church are unaware of any GC session since the church's inception that voted to include "peer-reviewed scientific literature" as a basis for forming the health message, as encapsulated in Fundamental Belief #22. Not until 2015 do we find this addition, which did not come from the church in full session, but from the GC ADCOM.

Additional doctrinal claims made by the authors include that the Church: 1) Encourages immunization/vaccination and 2) Has no religious or faith-based reason not to encourage our adherents to responsibly participate in proactive and preventative immunization programs.

We at the Newport SDA Church found no religious or faith-based reason to encourage immunization/vaccination. The Church in full session has never voted on a Biblical teaching regarding immunization. Also, we find no clear guidance from Mrs. White, as confirmed in the 2021 Reaffirmation Statement, where Ellen White's secretary D.E. Robinson is quoted: *"You ask for definite and concise information regarding what Sister White wrote about vaccination and serum. This question can be answered very briefly for so far as we have any record, **she did not refer to them in any of her writings.**"* 2SM 303.4. The Bible, as the standard for all doctrines, teaches that our bodies belong to God. *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"* (1 Cor. 6:19) We are the purchased possession of our heavenly Father. Therefore, the care of our bodies must be guided fully by His ways, His truth, His wisdom. Neither the Bible nor the inspired writings of Ellen White have any counsel for the Seventh-day Adventist Church regarding immunization. Perhaps Heaven's position on immunization could be summed up by the statement, *"silence is eloquence."* PH020 5.3

If GC ADCOM's statement is not based on the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy, then the only other authority left to examine is peer-reviewed scientific literature. However, inspiration tells us: *"God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms. The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds, or decisions of ecclesiastical councils...not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith."* GC 595.1

The book of James is clear: *"...the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated...without partiality, and without hypocrisy."* (James 3:17) We say with confidence that the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy are untainted wisdom from God and are a sure guide for the world-wide church. We cannot say the same for "peer-reviewed scientific literature."

Unscrupulousness and errors occur frequently in peer-reviewed scientific literature, which should be approached with great care and caution. This is brought out by an Adventist Review article on December 28, 2024, by Clifford Goldstein entitled: *"Retraction Watch – How did science get things so wrong."* Goldstein comments that Retraction Watch, an online site that tracks scientific retractions, noted a UK based biochemistry journal retracted 25 papers after finding, *"systemic manipulation of our peer-review and publication process by multiple individuals."* Goldstein then asks, *"...it can't mean 'individuals,' as in, like . . . scientists...could it?"*

Even Nature, the world's most read, cited and trusted scientific journal, has not been immune to retractions. There were 4,500 citations made to a 2002 paper, before it was retracted due to errors, Goldstein's article stated. What is more disturbing are the **472 COVID-19 papers** that have been retracted to date. (Retractionwatch.com) From these very troubling findings it is clear peer-reviewed science can be faulty and should not be on par with the Bible or the inspired writings of Ellen White as a safe guide for the world-wide church when forming doctrine.

Therefore, as it is not the delegated authority of GC ADCOM to form doctrine, nor wise for the Seventh-day Adventist Church to use peer-reviewed scientific literature as a basis for beliefs, we respectfully ask our leaders to remove and retract the 2015 Statement on Immunization.

GC ADCOM's 2021 Reaffirmation Statement Denies that Religious Liberty Objections were Appropriate Against the COVID-19 Mandates:

The 2021 Reaffirmation Statement supported COVID-19 government mandates. The authors saw in these mandates no threat to religious liberty and stated: *"Therefore, claims of religious liberty are not used appropriately in objecting to government mandates or employer programs designed to protect the health and safety of their communities."* Additionally, *"Submission to government authorities is a biblical principle unless it conflicts with obedience to God."* (emphasis supplied) If it can be shown COVID-19 mandates were coercive, punitive, used bribes, and threatened religious liberty, then it would be inappropriate for the authors to represent the Church as supporting mandates and to state that religious liberty claims were used improperly.

PubMed Central published an editorial in September 2020 entitled: *"Emergency Measures Are Hurting Democracy Globally"*. Unlike the laws requiring seat belts or forbidding smoking on airplanes, many of the COVID-19 measures around the globe were uncivil in their approach which prompted the editorial outcry: *"There are not one, but two, pandemics on a joint rampage: COVID-19 and an authoritarian deployment of emergency powers to combat COVID-19."* The editorial cited Hungary's COVID-19 response as one of Europe's most draconian measures, which sparked a public outcry from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other human rights entities in Europe.

Many other countries and cities had similar oppressive mandates:

- New York and other states' officials offered incentives to vaccinated students such as *"raffling off full tuition as well as room and board scholarships."* (amny.com May 26, 2021)

- Other institutions were punitive to the unvaccinated: *“Colleges charge unvaccinated students fees up to \$750 to foot additional COVID-19 testing.”* (ABC news August 12, 2021)
- India’s mandates enabled the government to, “rule by decree.”
- Cambodia’s mandates restricted speech, enacted telecommunication surveillance and sentenced to up to 10-years in prison anyone found, “obstructing emergency efforts”.
- France, a leading country of the free world, required “individuals to carry documentation attesting to their reasons for being outside their place of residence” which the editorial called *“...profoundly illiberal and authoritarian.”* (Editorial cited earlier from PubMed)
- Australian authorities prevented citizens from going more than three miles beyond their homes, restricted the number of times they could leave their houses to once per day, and enforced a curfew from 8pm – 5am. A citizen could face an AU\$5,000 fine if guilty of violating these mandates or could go to jail if they were a repeat offender.

These harsh COVID-19 mandates created other serious problems like: *“...paradoxical increases in preventable deaths due to avoidance of medical care, increases in substance abuse, domestic violence, and civil unrest, and the magnification of social inequalities.”* (BCPHR.org/edition-29, June 7, 2021) Despite these terrible results from lockdowns and other measures, the mandates continued, without counting the human cost of these measures. We should never agree to or support measures that would destroy the unalienable rights given to us by our Creator, which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. In fact, *“...it is a legal and moral imperative that public health emergencies do not result in decisions that systemically regress hard-won advances in liberal democracy over the past century.”* (PubMed Central article referenced earlier) Those who live with God one day will walk righteously, speak uprightly, dislike the gain of oppression, oppose bribes, and *“...avoid endorsing evil.”* (Isaiah 33:15 Holman Christian Standard Bible)

Secondly, the 2021 Reaffirmation Statement should be removed and retracted because it denies that religious liberty objections to COVID-19 mandates were appropriate. The vaccine’s ability to cause morbidity and mortality to humans (as shown below) does make this a religious liberty issue, when considering Fundamental Belief #22.

The belief states we should abstain from, *“...the irresponsible use of drugs and narcotics...”* that, *“...are harmful to our bodies.”* Therefore, anything harmful to our bodies should be avoided, including the COVID19 vaccine, which has been proven to be harmful. Therefore, threats of losing employment or being denied access to school for refusing to take the vaccine would surely be a religious liberty issue that the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) department should aggressively defend.

To disclose the amount of harm done by the COVID-19 vaccines, we will mention death and hospitalization numbers directly linked to receiving the vaccine. As of December 27, 2024, there have been 38,264 COVID-19 related deaths and 219,594 hospitalizations reported in the United States to VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System). Most experts believe that for every incident entered into VAERS, anywhere from 4 to 10 incidents are unreported. Comparable reporting tools in other countries show similar numbers. One person dying from the COVID-19 vaccine is one death too many. When members of the SDA church were forced and coerced to take the vaccine, it was PARL’s responsibility to diligently protect their liberty of conscience. The GC working policy says PARL was created to *“...promote and maintain religious liberty, **with particular emphasis** upon the most intimate freedom, **individual liberty of conscience...**”* and *“...works for the religious liberties of **individual church members**”* (emphasis supplied). Yet the 2021 Reaffirmation Statement states PARL could deny helping members for *“...personal concerns and even conscientious convictions that go beyond the teachings and positions of the Church.”* We respectfully reject PARL’s portrayal of member’s concerns about forced COVID-19 vaccination programs and/or refusal to take the harmful vaccines, as going beyond the teachings and position of the Church. The religious liberty objections were in fact appropriate because members objected to taking harmful substances into their bodies, according to Fundamental Belief #22.

The 2021 Statement also makes a misleading claim about the Church. It states: *"The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in consultation with the Health Ministries and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty departments of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, is convinced that the vaccination programs that are generally being carried out are important for the safety and health of our members and the larger community."* (emphasis supplied) This statement is highly problematic because it was not reviewed and voted on by the world church in GC session. No vote by the world church suggesting the vaccine programs are important for health and safety exists. No vote by the world church claiming religious liberty was used inappropriately when objecting to government mandates exists. For this reason, also, the statement should be removed and retracted.

The last reason to remove the 2021 Reaffirmation Statement is that it greatly hinders the work of advancing the Gospel. It reflects the amoral and draconian measures used during the pandemic, and the public can get the wrong impression that the Seventh-day Adventist Church body supported these measures. Many employers used this statement against their employees seeking religious exemptions. The Gospel work is hindered because our witness is examined by those looking for truth as for hidden treasure when they visit the Church's website and find these statements.

Elder Dwain Esmond, Associate Director and Editor of the Ellen G. White Estate, recently shared that millions of people every month are discovering the truths found online at whiteestate.org. "People are discovering the power of those writings who have no connection with Seventh-day Adventists." Praise the Lord! It reminds us of the prediction Ellen White made: *"Our people have been regarded as too insignificant to be worthy of notice, **but a change will come**. The Christian world is now making movements which will necessarily bring commandment-keeping people into prominence. There is a constant supplanting of God's truth by the theories and false doctrines of human origin. Movements are being set on foot to enslave the consciences of those who would be loyal to God... Oh, that we would, as a people, be wise...**Every position of our faith will be searched into**..."* 5T 546.2 (emphasis supplied)

This quote makes it clear that Seventh-day Adventists are going to receive significant attention from the world toward the end of time. Skeptics and sincere seekers for truth will examine who we are, what we believe, and every position of our faith. What will they see when they visit the Adventist.org or Adventistnews.org websites and search our beliefs? It seems to us that every position of our faith must have complete and solid support from the Bible and the Bible only. Clear Biblical positions on religious liberty in relation to health are very important, given that Matthew 24 predicts more pestilences to come. We are greatly concerned that the 2021 Reaffirmation Statement misrepresents our Fundamental Belief on health, and our stance on liberty of conscience.

Therefore, we believe the 2021 Reaffirmation Statement should be removed from the Church's official website and retracted.

We pray for our world church. We pray for our local and GC leaders, who have the weighty responsibility of guiding a global movement and providing effective church administration, while navigating the requirements of governmental laws and policies. We know trying times are ahead. While it seems that our church is very divided, we firmly believe God is in charge. He is able to bring us into unity and prepare His church for the final movements. If corrections are needed, let us humbly accept them by whatever means He chooses. Jesus said: "As many as I love I rebuke and chasten..." (Revelation 3:19). We are not claiming to be the corrector of our leaders. We simply see great harm in these unauthorized statements and humbly request that they be removed and retracted.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this matter.

Unanimously voted by the members of the Newport, WA Seventh-day Adventist Church



Seventh-day Adventist Church

Postal Address _____
Email address: _____

Date: 06/08/2025

Pastor E C Köhler
Executive Secretary
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring Maryland 20904
United States of America

Dear Brother Köhler

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 1:3

- Re: 1. Norridgeville Seventh-day Adventist Church's rejection of the inclusion of peer-reviewed science as an authority for church beliefs.
2. The rejection of ADCOM Official Statements that are based on peer-reviewed science – Immunization in 2015 and 2021, and the Dangers of Climate Change 1995.

We write to you as a member of the General Conference Executive Committee (EXCOM) and Administrative Committee (ADCOM), and request that you present this letter to those committees, from the congregation of the Norridgeville Seventh-day Adventist church in the NNEC Conference (SQC), in the Atlantic Union Conference (AUC), in the NAD Division (SPD).

At our Business Meeting on the 06/08/2025 the following statements of the General Conference Administrative Committee were reviewed and considered and were **rejected** by a vote of 19 (to reject) to 8 (to accept):

1. Immunization Statement 2015 - <https://gc.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>
2. Reaffirmation Statement 2021 - <https://www.healthministries.com/reaffirming-adventist-church-response-to-covid-19/>
3. The Dangers of Climate Change 1995 - <https://gc.adventist.org/official-statements/the-dangers-of-climate-change/>

Additional statements or articles that were reviewed and considered:

1. Concerns regarding COVID-19, Church Governance, and Liberty of Conscience 2022 - <https://adventistreview.org/release/concerns-regarding-covid-19-church-governance-and-liberty-of-conscience/>
2. SPD Immunisation Statement - <https://record.adventistchurch.com/2020/12/16/spd-releases-statement-on-immunisation/>

Areas of Concern:

1. These statements are listed under our beliefs on the church website. These statements rely on the inclusion of peer-reviewed scientific literature (PRSL) as an authority for church beliefs.
2. The immunisation statements specifically reference the "doctrine and dogma of the church".
3. The immunisation statements are not based on scripture or Ellen White writings, as both of these sources are silent on vaccinations. Therefore, the rest of these statements are based on peer-reviewed scientific literature alone.
4. The climate change statement contains no scripture and only peer-reviewed scientific literature. The climate change statement begins with "scientists warn" rather than "God warns", which is the core teaching of our church.
5. The climate change statement uses the phrase, "The world membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church requests that governments . . ." For this to be true, it would require a General Conference in Session to vote on this statement, but that did not happen.
6. The words that the church "request that governments" implies a desire for the church to have authority over government or political matters. Jesus said, "My Kingdom is not of this world".

7. The climate change statement requests that world governments initiate "more forcefully public debate on the risks of climate change". This is contrary to Seventh-day Adventist understanding of liberty of conscience, which allows choice versus the use of force.

The dangers if these statements are NOT rejected by the Seventh-day Adventist Church:

1. The inclusion of PRSL as a basis for matters of conscience or belief lays a foundation for accepting many errors that have no origin in the things of God. Not all the wonders of man's science (knowledge) are surrendered to God, e.g. the science of evolution conflicts with God's word. Paul writes on this issue: "... science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith ..." I Timothy 6:20-21.

Ellen White writes:

- a. *"the study of the sciences is not to be neglected. Books must be used for this purpose: but they should be in harmony with the Bible, for that is the standard." (SpTEd 56.2.)*
 - b. *"In the future, truth will be counterfeited by the precepts of men. Deceptive theories will be presented as safe doctrines. False science is one of the agencies that Satan used in the heavenly courts, and it is used by him today . . . Do not present theories or tests that have no foundation in the Bible. We have grand, solemn tests to present. "It is written" is the test that must be brought home to everyone. (Evangelism p.600).*
2. PRSL justifies climate Sundays as a legitimate method of dealing with the dangers of climate change. Science has already unified 2500 churches, 31 denominations (Catholic, Church of England, Methodist, Baptist, Salvation Army, etc) and charities (e.g. World Vision) in the United Kingdom (ClimateSunday.org). Science says any day of rest is the same, but God's word identifies the seventh day.

Based on the Seventh-day Adventist understanding that all beliefs are to come from the Bible and the Bible alone, we petition the General Conference Executive and Administrative Committee to:

1. Publicly withdraw all statements that use peer-reviewed scientific literature. When the church takes a position on one set of science versus another set, it creates disunity. Issues not directly addressed by the Bible or Ellen White should have been left to the individual conscience directed by the Holy Spirit.
2. Cease and desist from making statements on belief, doctrine or dogma, as the General Conference Executive Committee is meant to be entirely administrative.
3. Cease and desist from making any statements that are based on peer-reviewed scientific literature.

We, the members of the Norridgeville SDA congregation, believe that as no person has jurisdiction over the conscience of another, and that therefore the General Conference (GC) ADCOM of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has exceeded its authority in issuing the 2015 Immunization Statement and the 2021 Reaffirmation Statement which presume GC jurisdiction over the consciences of individual members. As such, the Norridgeville SDA congregation rejects outright the jurisdiction and presumed authority of these Statements over any member of our congregation, and both defends and affirms the right of all members of our Norridgeville SDA congregation to honor their Body Temple according to the convictions of the Holy Spirit, without coercion, condemnation or criticism

May we uphold God's pure words - Psalm 12:6: The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tested in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Yours sincerely



Business Meeting Representative

cc:

Conference EXCOM

Union Conference EXCOM



**Seventh-day Adventist
Church**

Postal Address _____
Email address: _____

[Signature]
Linda Richards

Janice Grant
Nancy Muck

Linda Baker

[Signature]
NEZ

[Signature]

Boyer Gilh

Cathy Matthews

Kauna Cuffman

Daniel Fickett

Jessica Cobb

[Signature]

Cheri Farley

Barbara Oberst

Branda Gosson

[Signature]

Dan W. Cobb

Karen Lobb

Branda Phui

Don R Phoebe

Martha Howard

[Signature]

Kenneth Landry

Candi Landry

Kimberly Manasco

Jerry Mose

[Signature]

[Signature]

NORTH FORK SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

June 29, 2025

To: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

12501 Old Columbia Pike

Silver Spring Maryland 20904

United States of America

Recipients: president@gc.adventist.org, secretary@gc.adventist.org

CC: G. Alexander Bryant, Bradford C. Newton, Ricardo Viloria

Dear SDA General Conference ADCOM and EXCOM,

RE: NORTH FORK SDA CHURCH'S OBJECTION TO GC ADCOM's STATEMENTS ON IMMUNIZATION

We write to you from North Fork SDA Congregation, of the Central California Conference, of the Pacific Union Conference, of the North American Division. At our Business Meeting of June 28, 2025. The following statements of SDA General Conference (GC) ADCOM were critically reviewed and considered:

1. GC ADCOM statement: <https://www.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>
2. Reaffirmation: <https://adventist.news/news/reaffirming-the-seventh-day-adventist-churchs-response-to-covid-19-1>

Areas of concern:

1. Setting an uninspired source alongside the inspired sources: The Adventist health emphasis, found in Fundamental Belief 22, is based upon Fundamental Belief 1, the Holy Scriptures, and Fundamental Belief 18, the Gift of Prophecy. The 2015 immunization statement claims peer-reviewed scientific literature (PRSL) is an additional basis. This claim contradicts, not only the Introduction to the Fundamental Beliefs (FBs) which states: (*"Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed"*), but also the substance since PRSL is not mentioned in the FBs.
2. Questionable Origin: These statements were not voted in a regular GC session by official delegates from the world church body, and are therefore not representative of the world church. The Church manual states, *"Church organizations around the world recognize the General Conference in Session as the voice of the Church."* GC ADCOM, EXCOM, or any SDA leadership body/person, should not claim to produce official statements on behalf of the Church, this is the remit of GC in session delegates.

Therefore, our congregation rejects the ADCOM 2015 and 2021 statements, recognizes that our church members may have a sincere religious objection, and petition the GC EXCOM to:


1. Publicly withdraw these statements.
2. Apologize for allowing such statements to be published and the subsequent harm caused.

NORTH FORK SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

These ADCOM Statements have introduced an uninspired source (PRSL) as a basis for our health message. Additionally, these statements have severely impacted and undermined the foundation and principles of Religious Liberty as practiced and upheld by our Church Members.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this regard.

Christian Greetings,



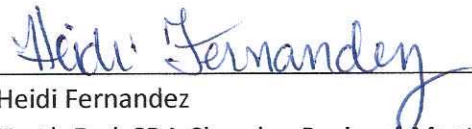
James Rafferty

North Fork SDA Church – Pastor



Ely Novielli

North Fork SDA Church - Head Elder



Heidi Fernandez

North Fork SDA Church – Business Meeting Rep.



Denise Hasan

North Fork SDA Church - Clerk



North Naples Seventh-day Adventist Church

2211 21st Street SW • Naples, FL 34117
(239) 784-6813

April 23, 2024

Allan Machado

President of the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

"PROTEST: NORTH NAPLES SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH OBJECTION TO GC ADCOM'S STATEMENTS ON IMMUNIZATION"

We write to you from the North Naples Seventh-day Adventist Church, of the Florida Conference, of the Southern Union, of the North American Division. At our Business Meeting on April 9th, 2024, the following statements of SDA General Conference (GC) ADCOM were critically reviewed and considered:

- ADCOM statement dated 2015 as available at: <https://www.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>
- ADCOM statement dated 2021 as available at: <https://adventist.news/news/reaffirming-the-seventh-day-adventist-churchs-response-to-covid-19-1>

These statements were not voted on and approved in GC, and elevate "peer-reviewed scientific literature" as a basis for the SDA health message. Given the questionable origin, and the conflict with the 28 Fundamental Beliefs which only acknowledge the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, these statements may not be portrayed as representative of, nor published as official statements of, the SDA Church.

We petition the GC EXCOM to publicly withdraw these statements and apologize for: (1) allowing such statements to be published and (2) the subsequent harm caused. In our view these ADCOM statements have severely impacted and undermined the foundation and principles of Religious Liberty as practiced and upheld by our church members.

Our church also takes a stand against all official statements of the Seventh-day Adventist Church that have not been voted on and approved by the World Church in General Conference session.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this regard.

Christian greetings,


Luis Hernandez, Pastor


Don Corcoran, Head Elder


Joyce Collins, Business Meeting Rep


Jackie Hernandez, Church Clerk

Open letter

Orewa SDA Church Objection to GC ADCOM's statements on immunization

To: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

12501 Old Columbia Pike

Silver Spring Maryland 20904

United States of America

Recipients: president@gc.adventist.org, secretary@gc.adventist.org

Dear SDA General Conference ADCOM and EXCOM,

RE: Orewa SDA Church Objection to GC ADCOM's statements on immunization

We write to you from Orewa SDA Congregation, of the North New Zealand Union Conference, of the South Pacific Division. At our Business Meeting of 6 November 2024, the following statements of SDA General Conference (GC) ADCOM were critically reviewed and considered:

1. GC ADCOM statement: <https://www.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>
2. Reaffirmation: <https://adventist.news/news/reaffirming-the-seventh-day-adventist-churchs-response-to-covid-19-1>

Areas of concern:

1. Setting an uninspired source alongside the inspired sources: The Adventist health emphasis, found in Fundamental Belief 22, is based upon Fundamental Belief 1, the Holy Scriptures, and Fundamental Belief 18, the Gift of Prophecy. The 2015 immunization statement claims peer-reviewed scientific literature (PRSL) is an additional basis. This claim contradicts, not only the Introduction to the Fundamental Beliefs (FBs) which states: ("Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed"), but also the substance since PRSL is not mentioned in the FBs.

2. Questionable Origin: These statements were not voted in a regular GC session by official delegates from the world church body, and are therefore not representative of the world church. The Church manual states, "Church organizations around the world recognize the General Conference in Session as the voice of the Church." GC ADCOM, EXCOM, or any SDA leadership body/person, should not claim to produce official statements on behalf of the Church, this is the remit of GC in session delegates.

Therefore, our congregation rejects the ADCOM 2015 and 2021 statements, recognizes that our church members may have a sincere religious objection, and petition the GC EXCOM to:

1. Publicly withdraw these statements
2. Apologize for allowing such statements to be published and the subsequent harm caused.

In our view these ADCOM Statements have severely impacted and undermined the foundation and principles of Religious Liberty as practiced and upheld by our Church Members.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this regard.

Christian greetings,

Head Elder

ABOUT

Orewa Seventh-day Adventist Church
123 Centreway Road, Orewa, Orewa 0931, New Zealand
[Contact Us](#)

OPENING TIMES

Sat, 9:30am	Bible Study
Sat, 11:00am	Church Service

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Pagosa Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church
40 Oren Rd
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Declaration and Appeal to the Laity and Leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church:
On Proper Church Governance

To: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring Maryland 20904

Recipients: president@gc.adventist.org, secretary@gc.adventist.org
CC: Division President, Union President, Conference President

To members of the General Conference Executive Committee and Administrative Committee:

BACKGROUND

The Seventh-day Adventist Church organizational structure is not hierarchical. On the contrary, it is organized as an assembly of believers with the highest local authority and delegation resting in the hands of the local church in business meeting (SDA Church Manual, p. 134). Among the obvious responsibilities of the organizational structure of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the protection of the individual rights duly recognized as belonging to all members.

The same governance structure exists at the highest levels of the organized church—with the World Church in General Conference Session constituting the highest authority above that of any Conference, Union, Division or even General Conference Executive Officers (General Conference Working Policy B 10 22). We support the General Conference Executive Committee in their duly elected role in carrying out the mission and vision of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in harmony with the Fundamental Beliefs and decisions of the World Church in Session.

In harmony with our authority as a local constituency, the Pagosa Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church would like to address concerns regarding proper delegated authority and church governance.

OFFICIAL STATEMENTS: A MANIFESTATION OF A SHIFT IN GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE

We believe that Fundamental Beliefs are inextricably linked to any Official Statements made on behalf of the organized Seventh-day Adventist Church. Language such as “Seventh-day Adventists believe...” appears throughout the Official Statements. Quoting from the introductory paragraph to the Official Statements as found on the website of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists we read: “From time to time, Seventh-day Adventists find it important to articulate their understanding of certain important topics in light of their understanding of biblical values and teachings. Below is a collection of these statements on issues ranging from religious freedom to assault weapons.” (<https://gc.adventist.org/official-statements/>) This is a clear link to how Official Statements can shape the beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists worldwide.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual states: “The Bible is the foundation and source of belief and practice; on this basis, **the General Conference in Session determines the stated Fundamental Beliefs of the Church**” (SDA Church Manual, p. 30). Only the General

Conference in Session has the authority to vet and ratify statements of belief which are representative of the World Church.

Despite this clear guidance, official statements have been published without the ratification of the World Church in General Conference Session over the past 40 years. Prior to this the Fundamental Beliefs, as voted by the World Church in Session, were sufficient in answering questions of belief. During this time we have seen an increasing number of Official Statements released by the General Conference Executive Committee, the Administrative Committee, and acting General Conference Presidents and Vice Presidents all without the due process of ratification by the World Church in Session. To date these unlawful statements are as follows:

GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENTS:

Sexual Behavior: October 12, 1987

Historic Stand for Temperance Principles and Acceptance of Donations Statement Impacts Social Change: October 11, 1992

Caring for the Environment: October 12, 1992

Child Sexual Abuse: April 1, 1997

Theological and Academic Freedom and Accountability: October 11, 1997

Meeting the Challenges of Sexually Transmitted Diseases: June 27, 1998

Ethical Considerations Regarding Human Cloning: September 27, 1998

Activities With Elements of Competition: October 7, 1998

Religious Minorities and Religious Freedom: September 29, 1999

Call for Peace: April 18, 2002

Response to and Affirmation of Creation: October 13, 2004

Commitment to Health and Healing: October 14, 2009

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls: June 24, 2010

Nurture and Protection of Children: June 24, 2010

Global Poverty: June 24, 2010

Freedom of Speech and Defamation of Religion: June 24, 2010

Creation: The Bible's Worldview: June 24, 2010

Statement of Tithe and Its Destination: October 16, 2012

Homosexuality: October 17, 2012

A Statement of Consensus on Care for the Dying: May 9, 2013

Consensus Statement on a Seventh-day Adventist Theology of Ordination: October 14, 2014

Mission Statement of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church: October 15, 2018

Statement on the Biblical View of Unborn Life and Its Implications for Abortion: October 16, 2019

GENERAL CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENTS:

Birth Control: July 26, 1994

Tolerance: June 29, 1995

Smoking and Tobacco: June 29, 1995

The Holy Scriptures: June 29, 1995

Environment: June 29, 1995

Religious Freedom: June 29, 1995

Women's Issues: June 29, 1995

Statement on Abuse and Family Violence: July 8, 1995

Literacy: July 29, 1995

Human Relations: July 29, 1995

The Dangers of Climate Change: December 19, 1995

Marriage: April 23, 1996

Spiritual Renewal Impacts Social Change: October 1, 1996

Smoking and Ethics: October 1, 1996

Family Violence: October 1, 1996

Stewardship of the Environment: October 1, 1996

How Seventh-Day Adventists View Roman Catholicism: April 15, 1997

50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: November 17, 1998
Well-being and Value of Children: June 29, 2000
Religious Liberty, Evangelism, and Proselytism: June 29, 2000
Gambling: June 29, 2000
Immunization: April 15, 2015
One Humanity: A Human Relations Statement Addressing Racism, Casteism, Tribalism, and Ethnocentrism:
September 15, 2020

GC PRESIDENT AND THE 16 VICE PRESIDENT STATEMENTS:

Drugs: June 1, 1985
Racism: June 27, 1985
Peace: June 27, 1985
Ban on Sales of Assault Weapons to Civilians: July 5, 1990
Pornography: July 5, 1990
Homelessness and Poverty: July 5, 1990
Chemical Use, Abuse, and Dependency: July 5, 1995

GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT STATEMENTS:

War in Iraq: March 20, 2003
War in Congo: December 2, 2008

DOCUMENT RECEIVED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Affirmation of Creation: October 11, 2004

UNCLAIMED OFFICIAL STATEMENT:

Statement on Transgenderism: April 12, 2017

OCTOBER 25, 2021 REAFFIRMATION STATEMENT:

One recent statement from the General Conference ADCOM in particular, has had a profound and disastrous impact upon religious liberty for Seventh-day Adventists during the recent COVID-19 Pandemic:

“The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in consultation with the Health Ministries and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty departments of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, is convinced that the vaccination programs that are generally being carried out are important for the safety and health of our members and the larger community. **Therefore, claims of religious liberty are not used appropriately in objecting to government mandates or employer programs designed to protect the health and safety of their communities.**”

(<https://adventist.news/news/reaffirming-the-seventh-day-adventist-churchs-response-to-covid-19-1>)

The certainty of prophecy is fast fulfilling, and soon the consciences of men will be bound to that unholy decree: that “no man may buy or sell save he have the mark, name, or number of the beast” (Revelation 13:17). In consideration of this most solemn warning to mankind, the members and leadership of the Pagosa Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church wholeheartedly reject any measure by any man or system of man that would force, coerce, manipulate, misrepresent, or stifle the individual conscience and the sacred right of freedom of choice.

The making of these Official Statements is a manifestation of a troubling trend emerging within the leadership of the General Conference. This practice demonstrates a disregard for due process and for the safety of the wider counsel of the General Conference in session. This has led to troublesome Official Statements that are problematically intertwined with the political rhetoric of the day such as: Assault Weapons, Birth Control, Dangers of Climate Change, How Seventh-day Adventists View Roman Catholicism, War in Iraq, War in Congo, and the statement on Immunization to name a few. Many statements appear to be made from good intentions—**but good intentions are not a substitute for right procedures** and the principle of properly delegated authority. The end has never justified the means.

A QUESTION OF AUTHORITY

According to the Official Website of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists we read under the title: “What is the GC Executive Committee?: [It is] The second highest governing body of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, **after General Conference Session**, which occurs every five years.” (<https://gc.adventist.org/about-us/governance/executive-committee/>)

In regards to the proper authority of the General Conference Executive Committee, the Church Manual is vague: “Therefore, all subordinate organizations and institutions throughout the Church will recognize the General Conference Session, **and the General Conference Executive Committee between Sessions, as the highest ecclesiastical authority, under God, among Seventh-day Adventists**” (Church Manual, p. 31). We affirm the delegated authority of the General Conference Executive Committee in regards to administrative issues (budgets, methods, etc), but we deny that this committee has equal ecclesiastical authority along with the World Church in Session. In the governance of the World Church the General Conference Executive Committee is in fact subject to the World Church in Session.

In addition we also take issue with the bylaws of the General Conference, specifically Article XIII Section 1.a which states: “During the intervals between sessions of the General Conference, the General Conference Executive Committee is delegated the authority to act on behalf of the General Conference in session...The authority, therefore, of the General Conference Executive Committee is the authority of the World Church.” While we understand the need to delegate administrative authority in between General Conference Sessions, we see a danger in the vague wording that has been demonstrably used to make Official Statements of belief (which are matters of ecclesiastical authority) on behalf of the World Church. Using this vague wording, a relatively small group of denominational men have made far-reaching but vastly underrepresented Official Statements that significantly impact the members of the World Church.

The Spirit of Prophecy warns of this very danger:

“At times, when a small group of men entrusted with the general management of the work have, in the name of the General Conference, sought to carry out unwise plans and to restrict God's work, I have said that I could no longer regard the voice of the General Conference, represented by these few men, as the voice of God... The error that some are in danger of committing is in giving to the mind and judgment of one man, or of a small group of men, the full measure of authority and influence that God has vested in His church in the judgment and voice of the General Conference assembled to plan for the prosperity and advancement of His work” (Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, p. 260).

FORMAL REQUESTS

Therefore, because we desire to see the proper role of authority restored to its rightful place within the laity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the members of the Pagosa Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church make the following formal requests:

- 1) That all General Conference Official Statements be immediately taken down.
- 2) That the General Conference Executive Committee refer all previous and future Official Statements to the General Conference in Session to be subjected to the same individual vetting and ratification process that the 28 Fundamental Beliefs have gone through. The members of the Pagosa Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church reject all past, present or future Official Statements that have not been individually vetted and ratified by the same rigorous process through which the 28 Fundamental Beliefs have passed. We refuse to be bound legally, in conscience, or in any other respect by such statements.
- 3) Amend the General Conference Bylaws (Article XIII, Section 1a) to clarify that the General Conference Executive Committee is subject to the General Conference in Session and that its authority between General Conference Sessions is limited to administrative matters.
- 4) That any and all connections with the United Nations be immediately severed. This includes membership, consultative status, or as a participant in the programs, ethos, or initiatives of the United Nations. As a distinct and peculiar people we are not to enter into any league with the surrounding nations (Exodus 23:31-33; 34:12-15; James 4:4)—but are to give a loud cry and warning to the world that Babylon is fallen (Revelation 18:1-4). The eternal salvation of the nations, kindreds, tongues, and peoples are dependent upon a clear and distinct separation from Babylon. The world will soon be brought to the fearful decision to reject or accept the mark of Babylon (Sunday Sacredness) in contrast to the Seal of God which is the seventh day Sabbath. After 40 years of Consultative Status with the United Nations we implore the General Conference Executive Committee to end any and all relationships with the United Nations. If the General Conference Executive Committee refuses to sever the relationship with the United Nations we appeal to the highest authority in the Seventh-day Adventist Church—the delegates of the World Church at a General Conference in Session—to vote to end any and all relationships including our Consultative Status with the United Nations. We have not been called to make a league with the United Nations but rather we have been called to be a united witness to the nations.

CLOSING AFFIRMATIONS

We affirm our obligation to uphold our duly elected officials at every level to the extent that they carry out the mission, method, and vision of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as stated:

“Mission: Make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Three Angels’ Messages in preparation for His soon return (Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Rev 14:6-12).

Method: Guided by the Bible and the Holy Spirit, Seventh-day Adventists pursue this mission through Christ-like living, communicating, discipling, teaching, healing, and serving.

Vision: In harmony with Bible revelation, Seventh-day Adventists see as the climax of God’s plan the restoration of all His creation to full harmony with His perfect will and righteousness.”

—A 05, General Conference Working Policy

Furthermore, we affirm our commitment to uphold the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, while looking for and hastening the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. May we be found faithful even as He is faithful.

Maranatha!
Respectfully Signed,

Thomas Watson, First Elder

Skip Dodson, Elder

Board Members:

Church Members:

Voted June 1, 2025 in church business session



Date: 10 June 2025

Pastor E C Köhler
Executive Secretary
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring Maryland 20904
United States of America

Dear Brother Köhler

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 1:3

Re: 1. Papakura Seventh-day Adventist Church's rejection of the inclusion of peer-reviewed science as an authority for church beliefs.
2. The rejection of ADCOM Official Statements that are based on peer-reviewed science – Immunization in 2015 and 2021, and the Dangers of Climate Change 1995.

We write to you as a member of the General Conference Executive Committee (EXCOM) and Administrative Committee (ADCOM), and request that you present this letter to those committees, from the congregation of the Papakura Seventh-day Adventist church in the North New Zealand Conference, in the South Pacific Union Conference, in the SPD Division.

At our Business Meeting on the 10th June 2025 the following statements of the General Conference Administrative Committee were reviewed and considered and were **rejected** by a vote of 20 (to reject) to 3 (to accept):

1. Immunization Statement 2015 - <https://gc.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>
2. Reaffirmation Statement 2021 - <https://www.healthministries.com/reaffirming-adventist-church-response-to-covid-19/>
3. The Dangers of Climate Change 1995 - <https://gc.adventist.org/official-statements/the-dangers-of-climate-change/>

Additional statements or articles that were reviewed and considered:

1. Concerns regarding COVID-19, Church Governance, and Liberty of Conscience 2022 - <https://adventistreview.org/release/concerns-regarding-covid-19-church-governance-and-liberty-of-conscience/>
2. SPD Immunisation Statement - <https://record.adventistchurch.com/2020/12/16/spd-releases-statement-on-immunisation/>

Areas of Concern:

1. These statements are listed under our beliefs on the church website. These statements rely on the inclusion of peer-reviewed scientific literature (PRSL) as an authority for church beliefs.
2. The immunisation statements specifically reference the "doctrine and dogma of the church".
3. The immunisation statements are not based on scripture or Ellen White writings, as both of these sources are silent on vaccinations. Therefore, the rest of these statements are based on peer-reviewed scientific literature alone.
4. The climate change statement contains no scripture and only peer-reviewed scientific literature. The climate change statement begins with "scientists warn" rather than "God warns", which is the core teaching of our church.
5. The climate change statement uses the phrase, "The world membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church requests that governments . . ." For this to be true, it would require a General Conference in Session to vote on this statement, but that did not happen.
6. The words that the church "request that governments" implies a desire for the church to have authority over government or political matters. Jesus said, "My Kingdom is not of this world".
7. The climate change statement requests that world governments initiate "more forcefully public debate on the risks of climate change". This is contrary to Seventh-day Adventist understanding of liberty of conscience, which allows choice versus the use of force.

The dangers if these statements are **NOT** rejected by the Seventh-day Adventist Church:

1. The inclusion of PRSL as a basis for matters of conscience or belief lays a foundation for accepting many errors that have no origin in the things of God. Not all the wonders of man's science (knowledge) are surrendered to God, e.g. the science of evolution conflicts with God's word. Paul writes on this issue: "... science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith ..." I Timothy 6:20-21.

Ellen White writes:

- a. *"the study of the sciences is not to be neglected. Books must be used for this purpose: but they should be in harmony with the Bible, for that is the standard." (SpTEd 56.2.)*
 - b. *"In the future, truth will be counterfeited by the precepts of men. Deceptive theories will be presented as safe doctrines. False science is one of the agencies that Satan used in the heavenly courts, and it is used by him today . . . Do not present theories or tests that have no foundation in the Bible. We have grand, solemn tests to present. "It is written" is the test that must be brought home to everyone. (Evangelism p.600).*
2. PRSL justifies climate Sundays as a legitimate method of dealing with the dangers of climate change. Science has already unified 2500 churches, 31 denominations (Catholic, Church of England, Methodist, Baptist, Salvation Army, etc) and charities (e.g. World Vision) in the United Kingdom (ClimateSunday.org). Science says any day of rest is the same, but God's word identifies the seventh day.

Based on the Seventh-day Adventist understanding that **all** beliefs are to come from the Bible and the Bible alone, we petition the General Conference Executive and Administrative Committee to:

1. Publicly withdraw all statements that use peer-reviewed scientific literature. When the church takes a position on one set of science versus another set, it creates disunity. Issues not directly addressed by the Bible or Ellen White should have been left to the individual conscience directed by the Holy Spirit.
2. Cease and desist from making statements on belief, doctrine or dogma, as the General Conference Executive Committee is meant to be entirely administrative.
3. Cease and desist from making any statements that are based on peer-reviewed scientific literature.

We, the members of the **Papakura SDA congregation**, believe that as no person has jurisdiction over the conscience of another, and that therefore the General Conference (GC) ADCOM of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has exceeded its authority in issuing the 2015 Immunization Statement and the 2021 Reaffirmation Statement which presume GC jurisdiction over the consciences of individual members. As such, the **Papakura SDA congregation** **rejects** outright the jurisdiction and presumed authority of these Statements over any member of our congregation, and both defends and affirms the right of all members of our **Papakura SDA congregation** to honour their Body Temple according to the convictions of the Holy Spirit, without coercion, condemnation or criticism

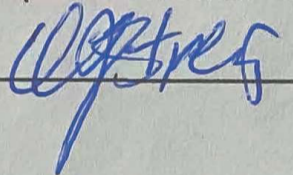
May we uphold God's pure words - Psalm 12:6: The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tested in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Yours sincerely
Papakura Church Pastor

Papakura Church Elder

Papakura Church Clerk

Business Meeting Representative
cc:



- 1) secretary@gc.adventist.org - General Secretary Pr. Erton Kohler
- 2) president@gc.adventist.org - President Pr. Ted Wilson
- 3) EdwardTupai@adventist.org.nz - New Zealand Union President
- 4) AdrianWebster@adventist.org.nz - North NZ Union President
- 5) GlennTownend@adventist.org.au - South NZ Union President
- 6) hmd@gc.adventist.org - General Health Ministries Director Dr. Peter Landless



May 28, 2025

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring Maryland 20904
United States of America

To: SDA General Conference

By Email to: president@gc.adventist.org, secretary@gc.adventist.org, hmd@gc.adventist.org

RE: PIERRE SDA CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING REAFFIRMS THAT THE BIBLE AND E.G. WHITE ARE THE ONLY BASIS FOR THE SDA HEALTH EMPHASIS AND THAT PEER-REVIEWED SCIENCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE SPECULATIONS HAVE NO AUTHORITY IN CHURCH VALUES OR BELIEFS

We write to you from the Pierre Seventh-day Adventist Church, of the Dakota Conference, of the Mid-America Union, of the North American Division, to inform you of the results of a congregational vote taken during the May 27, 2025 Business Meeting.

- 1) The Pierre SDA Church has critically considered the elevation of “peer-reviewed science” as a basis for the SDA health emphasis as well as the authority of peer-reviewed science and climate change speculations in church values or beliefs.
- 2) We are compelled to reaffirm that the SDA health emphasis has the Bible and E.G. White writings as its ONLY basis, per the SDA 28 Fundamental Beliefs. We also definitively repudiate peer-reviewed science and/or climate change speculations as a basis for any of the church values or beliefs.

Thus, any statements suggesting anything to the contrary may not be portrayed as representative of the SDA church or published as official statements of the church.



We petition the GC EXCOM to publicly and immediately withdraw any and all statements that give any appearance of legitimacy to peer-reviewed science or climate change speculations as a basis for church values or beliefs.

We wish you all of God's blessings and are keeping you in our prayers.

Yours Sincerely,

Jon Brotherton, Head Elder on behalf of
Members of the Pierre SDA Church

Cc: president@dakotasda.org - Dakota Conference President, Vernon Herholdt
Raylene.jones@maucsdad.org - Mid-America Union President, Gary Thurber
presoffice@nadadventist.org - North American Division President, G. Alexander Bryant



Prince Albert Seventh-day Adventist Church

1112 3rd St. E.
Prince Albert, SK
S6V 0J6

Date: May 27, 2025

Pastor E C Köhler
Executive Secretary
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring Maryland 20904
United States of America

Dear Brother Köhler,

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 1:3

**Re: 1. Prince Albert Seventh-day Adventist Church's rejection of the inclusion of peer-reviewed science as an authority for church beliefs.
2. The rejection of ADCOM Official Statements that are based on peer-reviewed science – Immunization in 2015 and 2021, and the Dangers of Climate Change 1995.**

We write to you as a member of the General Conference Executive Committee (EXCOM) and Administrative Committee (ADCOM), and request that you present this letter to those committees, from the congregation of the Prince Albert Seventh-day Adventist church in the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference, in the Canadian Union Conference, in the North American Division.

At our Business Meeting on May 27, 2025, the following statements of the General Conference Administrative Committee were reviewed and considered and were **rejected** by a vote of 10 (to reject) to 0 (to accept):

1. Immunization Statement 2015 - <https://gc.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>
2. Reaffirmation Statement 2021 - <https://www.healthministries.com/reaffirming-adventist-church-response-to-covid-19/>
3. The Dangers of Climate Change 1995 - <https://gc.adventist.org/official-statements/the-dangers-of-climate-change/>

Additional statements or articles that were reviewed and considered:

1. Concerns regarding COVID-19, Church Governance, and Liberty of Conscience 2022 - <https://adventistreview.org/release/concerns-regarding-covid-19-church-governance-and-liberty-of-conscience/>
2. North American Division Position on Requests for Religious Exemptions to Vaccine Requirements - <https://www.nadadventist.org/news/resources-covid-19-vaccination-information-guidance-immunization-and-additional-nad-news-and>

Areas of Concern:

1. These statements are listed under our beliefs on the church website. These statements rely on the inclusion of peer-reviewed scientific literature (PRSL) as an authority for church beliefs.
2. The immunization statements specifically reference the "doctrine and dogma of the church".
3. The immunization statements are not based on Scripture or Ellen White's writings, as both of these sources are silent on vaccinations. Therefore, the rest of these statements are based on peer-reviewed scientific literature alone.
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5. The climate change statement uses the phrase, "The world membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church requests that governments . . ." For this to be true, it would require a General Conference in Session to vote on this statement, but that did not happen.
6. The words that the church "request that governments" implies a desire for the church to have authority over government or political matters. Jesus said, "My Kingdom is not of this world".

7. The climate change statement requests that world governments initiate “more forcefully public debate on the risks of climate change”. This is contrary to Seventh-day Adventist understanding of liberty of conscience, which allows choice versus the use of force.

The dangers if these statements are NOT rejected by the Seventh-day Adventist Church:

1. The inclusion of PRSL as a basis for matters of conscience or belief lays a foundation for accepting many errors that have no origin in the things of God. Not all the wonders of man’s science (knowledge) are surrendered to God, e.g. the science of evolution conflicts with God’s word. Paul writes on this issue: “. . . science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith . . .” I Timothy 6:20-21.

Ellen White writes:

- a. *“the study of the sciences is not to be neglected. Books must be used for this purpose: but they should be in harmony with the Bible, for that is the standard.”* (SpTEd 56.2.)
 - b. *“In the future, truth will be counterfeited by the precepts of men. Deceptive theories will be presented as safe doctrines. False science is one of the agencies that Satan used in the heavenly courts, and it is used by him today . . . Do not present theories or tests that have no foundation in the Bible. We have grand, solemn tests to present. “It is written” is the test that must be brought home to everyone. (Evangelism p.600).*
2. PRSL justifies climate Sundays as a legitimate method of dealing with the dangers of climate change. Science has already unified 2500 churches, 31 denominations (Catholic, Church of England, Methodist, Baptist, Salvation Army, etc) and charities (e.g. World Vision) in the United Kingdom (ClimateSunday.org). Science says any day of rest is the same, but God’s word identifies the seventh day.

Based on the Seventh-day Adventist understanding that all beliefs are to come from the Bible and the Bible alone, we petition the General Conference Executive and Administrative Committee to:

1. Publicly withdraw all statements that use peer-reviewed scientific literature. When the church takes a position on one set of science versus another set, it creates disunity. Issues not directly addressed by the Bible or Ellen White should have been left to the individual conscience directed by the Holy Spirit.
2. Cease and desist from making statements on belief, doctrine or dogma, as the General Conference Executive Committee is meant to be entirely administrative.
3. Cease and desist from making any statements that are based on peer-reviewed scientific literature.

We, the members of the Prince Albert SDA congregation, believe that no person has jurisdiction over the conscience of another, and that therefore the General Conference (GC) ADCOM of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has exceeded its authority in issuing the 2015 Immunization Statement and the 2021 Reaffirmation Statement which presume GC jurisdiction over the consciences of individual members. As such, the Prince Albert SDA congregation rejects outright the jurisdiction and presumed authority of these statements over any member of our congregation, and both defends and affirms the right of all members of our Prince Albert SDA congregation to honour their body temple according to the convictions of the Holy Spirit, without coercion, condemnation or criticism.

May we uphold God’s pure words - Psalm 12:6: The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tested in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Yours sincerely

Business Meeting Representative

cc:
Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference EXCOM
Canadian Union Conference EXCOM
North American Division EXCOM



**Prince Albert
Seventh-day Adventist
Church**

1112 3rd St. E.
Prince Albert, SK
S6V 0J6

May 28, 2025

Pastor E.C. Kohler, Executive Secretary
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

Dear Brother Kohler,
Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord,
Jesus Christ. 1Cor 1:3

**Re: 1. Rogue River SDA church's rejection of the inclusion of
Peer reviewed science as an authority for church beliefs.
2. The rejection of ADCOM Official Statements that are based on
peer-reviewed science-Immunization in 2015 and 2021.**

We write to you as a member of the General Conference Executive Committee (EXCOM) and Administrative Committee (ADCOM) and request that you present this letter to those committees, from the congregation of the Rogue River Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Oregon Conference (SQC), in the North Pacific Union Conference (AUC) and in the North American Division (SPD).

At our Business Meeting on May 28, 2025, the following statements of the General Conference Administrative Committee were reviewed and considered and were rejected by a vote of 17 (to reject) to Zero (to accept):

1. Immunization statement 2015
2. Reaffirmation statement 2021

Areas of Concern:

Setting an uninspired source alongside the inspired sources: The Adventist health emphasis, found in Fundamental Belief 22, is based upon Fundamental Belief 1, the Holy Scriptures, and Fundamental belief 18, the Gift of Prophecy. The 2015 Immunization statement claims peer-reviewed

scientific literature (PRSL) is an additional basis. This claim contradicts, not only the Introduction to the Fundamental Beliefs (FBs) which states: (“Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed”), but also the substance since PRSL is not mentioned in the FBs.

Questionable Origin: These statements were not voted in a regular GC session by official delegates from the world church body, and are therefore not representative of the world church. The Church manual states, “*Church organizations around the world recognize the General Conference in Session as the voice of the church.*” GC, ADCOM, EXCOM, or any SDA leadership body/person, should not claim to produce official statements on behalf of the Church, since this is the remit of GC session delegates.

Therefore, our congregation rejects the ADCOM 2015 and 2021 statements, and recognizes that our church members may have a sincere religious objection, and we petition the GC EXCOM to:

1. Publicly withdraw statements that use peer-reviewed scientific literature.
2. Cease and desist from making statements on belief, doctrine or dogma, since the GC conference EXCOM is meant to be entirely administrative.

These ADCOM Statements have introduced an uninspired source (PRSL) as a basis for our health message. Additionally, these statements have severely impacted and undermined the foundation and principles of Religious Liberty as practised and upheld by our Church Members.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this regard.

Yours Sincerely,

Lucille Kelm
Business Meeting Representative



110 Curry Street
Roma 4455 QLD

19th December 2024

president@gc.adventist.org, secretary@gc.adventist.org

To: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists:
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring Maryland 20904
United States of America

Dear SDA General Conference ADCOM and EXCOM,

RE: Roma Queensland SDA church objection to GC Adcom's statements on immunization

We write to you from Roma SDA church congregation, of the South Queensland Conference, of the South Pacific Union, of the Australasian Division. At our business meeting of Saturday 23rd November 2024, the following statements of SDA General Conference GC Adcom were critically reviewed and considered:

1. GC ADCOM statement: <https://www.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>
2. Reaffirmation: <https://adventist.news/news/reaffirming-the-seventh-day-adventist-churchs-response-to-covid-19-1>

Areas of concern:

1. Setting an uninspired source alongside the inspired sources: The Adventist health emphasis, found in Fundamental Belief 22, is based upon Fundamental Belief 1, the Holy Scriptures, and Fundamental Belief

18, the Gift of Prophecy. The 2015 immunization statement claims peer-reviewed scientific literature (PRSL) is an additional basis. This claim contradicts, not only the Introduction to the Fundamental Beliefs (FBs) which states: (*"Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed"*), but also the substance since PRSL is not mentioned in the FBs.

2. Questionable Origin: These statements were not voted in a regular GC session by official delegates from the world church body, and are therefore not representative of the world church. The Church manual states, *"Church organizations around the world recognize the General Conference in Session as the voice of the Church."* GC ADCOM, EXCOM, or any SDA leadership body/person, should not claim to produce official statements on behalf of the Church, this is the remit of GC in session delegates.

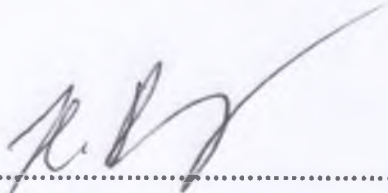
Therefore, our congregation rejects the ADCOM 2015 and 2021 statements, recognizes that our church members may have a sincere religious objection, and petition the GC EXCOM to:

1. Publicly withdraw these statements
2. Apologize for allowing such statements to be published and the subsequent harm caused.

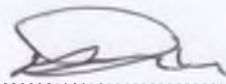
In our view these ADCOM Statements have severely impacted and undermined the foundation and principles of Religious Liberty as practiced and upheld by our Church Members.

Thank you for your co-operation and assistance in this regard.

Christian greetings,



Church Pastor



Church Elder

cc Division President, Union President, Conference President

Date: 23 June 2025

From: Silverleaf SDA Church

TO: General Conference of Seventh Day Adventist Administrative Committee and Executive Committee

RE: Formal Appeal Regarding Official Statements of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

**FOR ATTENTION: Pastor Ted Wilson
Pastor E.C Kohler**

Via email:

president@gc.adventist.org

secretariat@gc.adventist.org

wilsont@gc.adventist.org

kohlere@gc.adventist.org

Dear Pastors Wilson & Kohler

Christian greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We, the members of the Silverleaf Seventh-day Adventist Church, respectfully write to bring to your attention an action arising from our most recent Church Business Meeting. It is our intention that this matter be addressed at the General Conference level.

At a duly convened Church Business Meeting held on 8 June 2025, the following action was voted:

SIL BM2025/21

The Silverleaf Seventh-day Adventist Church respectfully appeals to the General Conference Executive Committee and the General Conference Administrative Committee to:

- 1. Publicly withdraw all official statements that use peer-reviewed scientific literature as source or basis to make a statement / belief of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.**
- 2. To refrain from making any official statements that cannot be based on the Seventh-day Adventist belief of the "Bible Only", Sola-Scriptura.**
- 3. To follow due process by bringing all statements / beliefs to the General Conference in a Quinquennium Session for discussion and/or ratification and vote by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.**

This action was adopted in response to the following concerns:



1. The official website of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (<https://www.adventist.org/>) contains a section titled "Official Statements" under the "Beliefs" tab. This categorisation inextricably links the Official Statements to the 28 Fundamental Beliefs.
2. The Official Statements were not brought before the General Conference in Session for discussion, neither were they voted at the General Conference in Session to be adopted as an Official Statement / Belief of the Seventh-day Adventist church. This undermines the authority of the General Conference in Session and is at variance with the counsel of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual, which states:
"Revision of these statements may be expected at a General Conference Session when the church is led by the Holy Spirit to a fuller understanding of Bible truth or finds better language in which to express the teachings of God's Holy Word." (p.168)
"I have often been instructed by the Lord that no man's judgment should be surrendered to the judgment of any other one man. Never should the mind of one man or the minds of a few men be regarded as sufficient in wisdom and power to control the work and to say what plans shall be followed. But when, in a General Conference, the judgment of the brethren assembled from all parts of the field is exercised, private independence and private judgment must not be stubbornly maintained, but surrendered. Never should a laborer regard as a virtue the persistent maintenance of his position of independence, contrary to the decision of the general body."—9T 260." (p.31)
3. While the action taken by the Church Business Meeting addresses all official statements that use peer-reviewed scientific literature as a source or basis to make a statement / belief of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, specific focus was given to:
 - The 2015 Immunization Statement <https://gc.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>; and
 - The 2021 'Reaffirmation Statement', Reaffirming the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Response to COVID-19 <https://www.healthministries.com/reaffirming-adventist-church-response-to-covid-19/> and <https://adventist.news/news/reaffirming-the-seventh-day-adventist-churchs-response-to-covid-19-1>
4. The 2015 Immunization Statement claims that the Church's health emphasis is based on biblical revelation. However, the Bible does not directly address the subject of immunisation, and thus, a doctrinal position based on this topic cannot be scripturally supported.
5. Similarly, the statement references the inspired writings of Ellen G. White. As acknowledged by the White Estate (<https://whiteestate.org/about/issues/vaccinations/>), there is no specific counsel from Ellen G. White regarding vaccination. Therefore, a belief on this topic cannot be supported using her writings.
6. The 2015 Immunization Statement introduces peer-reviewed scientific literature as a basis for our health emphasis belief. This is in conflict with our 28 Fundamental Beliefs and the preamble to our Beliefs, which states:
"Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed and hold certain fundamental beliefs to be the teaching of the Holy Scriptures." <https://www.adventist.org/beliefs/>
None of the 28 Fundamentals make any reference to peer-reviewed scientific literature.



Further, Ellen White's counsel on the use of science includes the following:

"The study of the sciences is not to be neglected. Books must be used for this purpose: but they should be in harmony with the Bible, for that is the standard." (SpTEd 56.2.)

"In the future, truth will be counterfeited by the precepts of men. Deceptive theories will be presented as safe doctrines. False science is one of the agencies that Satan used in the heavenly courts, and it is used by him today . . . Do not present theories or tests that have no foundation in the Bible. We have grand, solemn tests to present. "It is written" is the test that must be brought home to everyone. (Evangelism p.600).

7. Introducing peer-reviewed scientific literature as a basis of our belief creates the foundation for accepting many errors that are not in harmony with the Bible.
8. The 2015 Immunization Statement poses a singular, unbiblical stance on immunization which undermines the principles of individuals' religious freedom and hinders the members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to exercise their God-given choice to make the decision whether or not to be immunized, based on their prayerful spiritual guided conviction.

In closing, we the Silverleaf Seventh-day Adventist Church, affirm our unwavering commitment to the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and support of the global church, as we await with hope and conviction the imminent return of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 10:23-25

²³ *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)*

²⁴ *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:*

²⁵ *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

Maranatha



Signed:

Church Clerk: A Van Tonder

Copy: Cape Conference President presidency@cc.adventist.org
Cape Conference Executive Secretary secretariat@cc.adventist.org
SAU President shongwep@sau.adventist.org
SAU Executive Secretary lupondwanam@sau.adventist.org



SMOKY LAKE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

ALBERTA CONFERENCE

May 21, 2025

We the members of the Smoky Lake Seventh Day Adventist Church wish to petition the leaders that will be involved in the upcoming 2025 General Conference Session to change the 2015 statement on immunization and the 2021 Reaffirmation Statement. The objectives of this letter were discussed, voted on, and passed by the Smoky Lake SDA church members in a Church Business Meeting on May 11, 2025. The reasons we are as a church rejecting these statements are as follows:

1. When peer reviewed science is included with the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy as a basis for our health message it can cause confusion as it may contradict the principles of inspiration.
2. Pastors were prevented from supporting their members with letters of conscientious objection/religious exemption to the Covid vaccine mandates because of these statements. We believe that these statements unfairly targeted those who chose not to be vaccinated.
3. These statements caused some members to choose contrary to their conscience and receive the Covid vaccine. In some cases, after receiving the immunization, severe life-changing health effects resulted.
4. It is our belief that the leaders of the Seventh-Day Adventist church should prioritize personal conviction over government mandates in issues regarding an individual's body and that pastors should be encouraged to support members in a health crisis, or anytime such support is needed, by granting letters that make it clear that we as a church believe that each individual is responsible before God in deciding for themselves what they believe is best for their body. 1Corinthians 3:16, 2 Corinthians 5:10

We pray that you will appreciate our request as we believe it is in harmony with our Creator's will.

Your brothers and sisters in Christ,

Kevin Trenchuk

Lay Member

Smoky Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church
59339 Range Rd 172
Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST®
CHURCH

Stone Tower

**3010 NE Holladay Street
Portland, OR 97232**

t: (503) 232-6018

e: secretary@stonetowersda.org

w: www.stonetowersda.org

To: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring Maryland, 20904
United States of America

Recipients: president@gc.adventist.org, secretary@gc.adventist.org

CC: NAD President, NPUC President, Oregon Conference President

Dear SDA General Conference ADCOM and EXCOM,

RE: STONE TOWER SDA CHURCH OBJECTION TO GC ADCOM's STATEMENTS

We write to you from Stone Tower SDA Church, of the Oregon Conference (OC), of the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC), of North American Division (NAD). At our Business Meeting of January 5, 2025, the following statements of SDA General Conference (GC) ADCOM were critically reviewed and considered:

- ADCOM statement dated 2015 as available at: <https://www.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>
- ADCOM statement dated 2021 as available at:
<https://adventist.news/news/reaffirming-the-seventh-day-adventist-churchs-response-to-covid-19-1>

Areas of concern:

- **Origin:** These statements are of questionable origin, not voted in a regular GC session by official delegates of the world church body, and may therefore not be representative of, nor published as official statements of, the SDA Church.
- **Content:** The 2015 statement contradicts the 28 Fundamentals by introducing "peer-reviewed scientific literature" as supposed basis for the SDA health emphasis. The SDA health emphasis is a matter of fundamental belief (Belief 22), and the 28 Fundamentals only recognize the Bible (Belief 1) and the Spirit of Prophecy, specifically the writings of Ellen G. White (Belief 18) as authoritative.

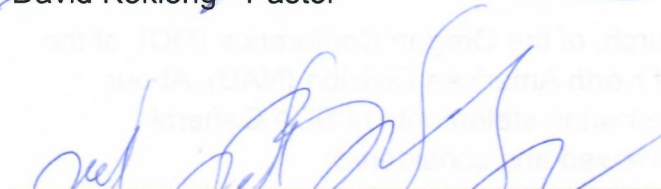

We petition the GC EXCOM to:

- **Publicly withdraw** these statements.
- **Apologize** for allowing such statements to be published and the subsequent harm caused.

In our view these ADCOM Statements have severely impacted and undermined the foundation and principles of Religious Liberty as practiced and upheld by our Church Members.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this regard.

Sincerely,


David Kokiong - Pastor
Leonid Zakhariya - Head Elder
Business Meeting Rep.
Renae Smith - Church Clerk



Tecumseh Seventh-day Adventist Church

6759 S Occidental Rd
Tecumseh, MI 49286
517-423-2800

To Whom it may Concern,

We, the Tecumseh Seventh-day Adventist church, in business session on April 12, 2025, have affirmed the following:

- We believe as stated in Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Belief #1, that “The Holy Scriptures are the supreme, authoritative, and the infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the definitive revealer of doctrines, and the trustworthy record of God’s acts in history.” (Emphasis supplied)
 - We believe in the gift of Prophecy as stated in Fundamental Belief #18, that this gift “was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White. Her writings speak with prophetic authority and provide comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction to the church. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested.” (Emphasis supplied)
 - We believe as stated in Fundamental Belief #22, that “because our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, we are to care for them intelligently. . . Since alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs and narcotics are harmful to our bodies, we are to abstain from them as well. . .” We are counseled that whatever we “eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31). As such, we have a spiritual duty to glorify God with our thoughts and our bodies, including anything that may affect the proper function and health of our body temple and to care for it intelligently. We are to engage solely in that which brings our mind and body into the discipline of Christ.
-
- Furthermore, we affirm that these beliefs, because they are all based upon the Holy Scriptures, which are our ultimate guide, are interrelated and inseparable. As a result, we also affirm the following:
 - The April 15, 2015, official document stating, “The Adventist health emphasis is based on biblical revelation, the inspired writings of E. G. White (cofounder of the Church), and on peer-reviewed scientific literature,” is out of harmony with Scripture and the above statements of belief.
 - Peer reviewed scientific literature is not and cannot be a basis for our beliefs as it is not derived from the inspiration of Scripture nor the inspired writings of E. G. White. Thus, any official statement that purports to be reliant on peer-reviewed scientific literature to establish its validity, should be renounced as an official belief of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

- We should not rely upon the wisdom of man (peer-reviewed scientific literature) to influence our official beliefs. (1Cor. 2:5,13; 3:19)
- Since our bodies are the “temples of the Holy Spirit,” we have a spiritual duty to exercise our liberty of conscience in any area that may affect the proper function and health of our body temple. This duty should not be challenged or controlled based upon the wisdom of man (peer-reviewed scientific literature) but should be wholly dependent upon the conscience of the individual as informed by Scripture and the inspired writings of E. G. White. The Seventh-day Adventist Church at all levels should support and defend its members in such matters of conscience.
- Furthermore, any such statement that purports to be an official statement of belief should be based solely upon Scripture and the writings of E. G. White. Such statements should be reviewed for alignment with the 28 fundamental beliefs and approved by vote of the constituency of the Seventh-day Adventist church in General Conference Session, not merely by the General Conference Executive Committee (EXCOM) or Administrative Committee (ADCOM).

Based upon the above, we, the Tecumseh Seventh-day Adventist Church, reject the validity and authority of the 2015 and 2021 official statements on immunization and any other “official statement” of belief of the Seventh-day Adventist Church that is based, in part or as a whole, upon peer-reviewed scientific literature.

It is not our desire or intent to undermine the authority of the organized church, but we must also recognize that in our humanity, mistakes are made even at the highest levels, and should be admitted and corrected. To stand for truth means that we must reject statements that are, for any reason, out of harmony with our stated beliefs, tend to cause unnecessary harm, and unnecessarily divide us.

We respectfully call upon leadership to act, as did the early church in Acts 15, and to address this grievance by placing this issue on the agenda for discussion at the General Conference Session in July of 2025.

Sincerely,

The Tecumseh Seventh-day Adventist Church



Tell City Seventh-day Adventist Church

434 13th Street, Tell City, IN 47586

812-547-5038

Date: May 6, 2025

Pastor E C Köhler
Executive Secretary
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring Maryland 20904
secretariate@adventist.org

Dear Brother Köhler

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 1:3

**Re: 1. Tell City Seventh-day Adventist Church's rejection of the inclusion of peer-reviewed science as an authority for church beliefs.
2. The rejection of ADCOM Official Statements that are based on peer-reviewed science – Immunization in 2015 and 2021, and the Dangers of Climate Change 1995.**

We write to you as a member of the General Conference Executive Committee (EXCOM) and Administrative Committee (ADCOM), and request that you present this letter to those committees, from the congregation of the Tell City Seventh-day Adventist church in the Indiana Conference, in the Lake Union Conference, in the North American Division.

At our Business Meeting on the May 6, 2025 the following statements of the General Conference Administrative Committee were reviewed and considered and were **rejected** by a vote of 7 to reject) to 0 (to accept): 1 abstained.

1. Immunization Statement 2015 - <https://gc.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>
2. Reaffirmation Statement 2021 - <https://www.healthministries.com/reaffirming-adventist-church-response-to-covid-19/>
3. The Dangers of Climate Change 1995 - <https://gc.adventist.org/official-statements/the-dangers-of-climate-change/>

Additional statements or articles that were reviewed and considered:

1. Concerns regarding COVID-19, Church Governance, and Liberty of Conscience 2022 - <https://adventistreview.org/release/concerns-regarding-covid-19-church-governance-and-liberty-of-conscience/>
2. SPD Immunisation Statement - <https://record.adventistchurch.com/2020/12/16/spd-releases-statement-on-immunisation/>

Areas of Concern:

1. These statements are listed under our beliefs on the church website. These statements rely on the inclusion of peer-reviewed scientific literature (PRSL) as an authority for church beliefs.
2. The immunisation statements specifically reference the "doctrine and dogma of the church".
3. The immunisation statements are not based on scripture or Ellen White writings, as both of these sources are silent on vaccinations. Therefore, the rest of these statements are based on peer-reviewed scientific literature alone.
4. The climate change statement contains no scripture and only peer-reviewed scientific literature. The climate change statement begins with "scientists warn" rather than "God warns", which is the core teaching of our church.
5. The climate change statement uses the phrase, "The world membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church requests that governments . . ." For this to be true, it would require a General Conference in Session to vote on this statement, but that did not happen.
6. The words that the church "request that governments" implies a desire for the church to have authority over government or political matters. Jesus said, "My Kingdom is not of this world".
7. The climate change statement requests that world governments initiate "more forcefully public debate on the risks of climate change". This is contrary to Seventh-day Adventist understanding of liberty of conscience, which allows choice versus the use of force.



Tell City Seventh-day Adventist Church

434 13th Street, Tell City, IN 47586

812-547-5038

The dangers if these statements are NOT rejected by the Seventh-day Adventist Church:

1. The inclusion of PRSL as a basis for matters of conscience or belief lays a foundation for accepting many errors that have no origin in the things of God. Not all the wonders of man's science (knowledge) are surrendered to God, e.g. the science of evolution conflicts with God's word. Paul writes on this issue: ". . . science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith . . ." I Timothy 6:20-21.

Ellen White writes:

- a. *"the study of the sciences is not to be neglected. Books must be used for this purpose: but they should be in harmony with the Bible, for that is the standard."* (SpTEd 56.2.)
 - b. "In the future, truth will be counterfeited by the precepts of men. Deceptive theories will be presented as safe doctrines. False science is one of the agencies that Satan used in the heavenly courts, and it is used by him today . . . Do not present theories or tests that have no foundation in the Bible. We have grand, solemn tests to present. "It is written" is the test that must be brought home to everyone. (Evangelism p.600).
2. PRSL justifies climate Sundays as a legitimate method of dealing with the dangers of climate change. Science has already unified 2500 churches, 31 denominations (Catholic, Church of England, Methodist, Baptist, Salvation Army, etc) and charities (e.g. World Vision) in the United Kingdom (ClimateSunday.org). Science says any day of rest is the same, but God's word identifies the seventh day.

Based on the Seventh-day Adventist understanding that all beliefs are to come from the Bible and the Bible alone, we petition the General Conference Executive and Administrative Committee to:

1. Publicly withdraw all statements that use peer-reviewed scientific literature. When the church takes a position on one set of science versus another set, it creates disunity. Issues not directly addressed by the Bible or Ellen White should have been left to the individual conscience directed by the Holy Spirit.
2. Cease and desist from making statements on belief, doctrine or dogma, as the General Conference Executive Committee is meant to be entirely administrative.
3. Cease and desist from making any statements that are based on peer-reviewed scientific literature.

We, the members of the Tell City SDA congregation, believe that as no person has jurisdiction over the conscience of another, and that therefore the General Conference (GC) ADCOM of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has exceeded its authority in issuing the 2015 Immunization Statement and the 2021 Reaffirmation Statement which presume GC jurisdiction over the consciences of individual members. As such, the Tell City SDA congregation rejects outright the jurisdiction and presumed authority of these Statements over any member of our congregation, and both defends and affirms the right of all members of our Tell City SDA congregation to honor their Body Temple according to the convictions of the Holy Spirit, without coercion, condemnation or criticism

May we uphold God's pure words - Psalm 12:6: The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tested in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey L. Ferguson

Audrey Ferguson, Church Clerk
Business Meeting Representative

cc:

Elder Vic Van Schaik, Conference EXCOM (president@INDYSDA.org)
Elder Eldon Ramirez, Union Conference EXCOM (elden.ramirez@lakeunion.org)
Elder G Alexander Bryant, Division EXCOM (president@nadadventist.org)
SDA Pearl Organization (sdapearl@yahoo.com)

The Treasurer
Thuringowa Seventh-day Adventist Church Company
85 Hammond Way, Kelso 4815

Dear SDA GC in Session

The members of the Thuringowa SDA church company have voted unanimously that the 2015 official statement regarding immunization that appears on our GC world wide website be removed immediately.

This statement has caused the conscience of many church members to be trampled upon and has inadvertently caused death, permanent side effects and severe hardship.

This statement does not uphold the belief of the Seventh-day Adventist Church regarding Sola Scriptura.

There are also a number of other 'official statements' that crosses the boundaries and beliefs of our church and should also be removed.

Thank you for acting upon our request and our vote.

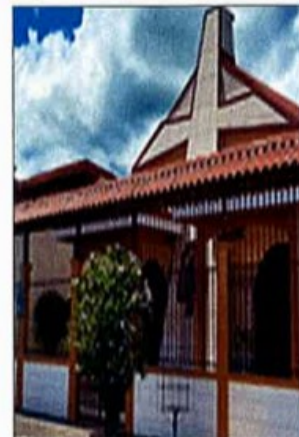
Kindest Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Haines', written in a cursive style.

Jennifer Haines

TURRIALBA CENTRAL

**IGLESIA ADVENTISTA
DEL SÉPTIMO DÍA**



To: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904
United States of America

Recipients:

president@gc.adventist.org,

secretary@gc.adventist.org

Copy sent: Division President, Union President,
Conference President

RE: Turrialba SDA Church Board
recommendations, ADCOM's STATEMENTS ON
IMMUNIZATION

Dear Seventh-day Adventist General Conference
Administrative Committee and Executive
Committee,

Christian greetings in the name of our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ.

We write to you from the Turrialba Central SDA
Congregation, of the Misión Caribe, of Costa Rica.

At our Business Meeting of April 11, 2025 the following statements of SDA General Conference ADCOM were reviewed and considered:

GC ADCOM statement: Immunization

<https://www.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>

Reaffirmation Statement:

<https://adventist.news/news/reaffirming-the-seventh-day-adventist-churchs-response-to-covid-19-1>

Areas of concern: The Adventist health emphasis, found in Fundamental Belief 22, is based upon Fundamental Belief 1, the Holy Scriptures, and Fundamental Belief 18, the Gift of Prophecy. The 2015 immunization statement claims "peer-reviewed scientific literature" is an additional basis. This claim contradicts, the Introduction to the Fundamental Beliefs which states: "Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed". Peer-reviewed scientific literature is ever changing and is not a mentioned criteria in the Fundamental Beliefs.

The statements were not voted in a regular GC session by official delegates from the world church body, (and are therefore not representative of the world church). The Church manual states, "Church organizations around the world recognize the

General Conference in Session as the voice of the Church.”

The above mentioned Administrative Committee Statements have introduced an uninspired and ever changing source, 'peer- reviewed scientific literature' as a basis for our health message. As an example of the changeability of peer-reviewed scientific literature, since 2021 the Johnson and Johnson and AstraZeneca Covid vaccines have been removed from the market due to safety issues.

These Administrative Committee statements on vaccines impact and undermine the principles of Religious Liberty as practiced and upheld by our Church Members.

At the May 3rd, 2025 Business Meeting of the Turrialba Seventh Day Adventist Church we voted to send the General Conference, in the love of Jesus, the following recommendations:

We applaud the General Conference action in removing the 2021 Re-Affirmation Statement (on vaccines) from the Official Statements section on the General Conference website. We ask that the April 15, 2015 statement on Immunization be removed as well, recognizing that some church members have a sincere religious objection to receiving vaccinations.

We also ask that in the future doctrinal statements be voted on by the delegates of the worldwide church before being added to the Beliefs section in publications and on the GC website.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Chacon', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jenny Chacon, Secretary
Turrialba Central SDA Church Board

300 Norte, 25 Oeste del Cuerpo de Bomberos, Turrialba, Costa Rica 30501



Seventh-day
Adventist Church™

Wauchope Church

Wauchope SDA Church, 12 Sarahs Cres, King Creek, NSW 2446, Australia

To: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

12501 Old Columbia Pike

Silver Spring Maryland 20904

United States of America

Recipients: president@gc.adventist.org, secretary@gc.adventist.org, hmd@gc.adventist.org

cc: GlennTownend@adventist.org.au, TerryJohnson@adventist.org.au,
AdrianRaethel@adventist.org.au

**RE: WAUCHOPE SDA CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING REAFFIRMS THAT
THE BIBLE AND EGW ARE THE ONLY BASIS FOR THE SDA HEALTH EMPHASIS:**

Dear SDA General Conference,

We write to you from Wauchope SDA Church, of the Northern NSW Conference (NSW), of the Australian Union Conference (AUC), of the South Pacific Division (SPD), to inform you of the congregational vote at the Business Meeting of 28 November 2022,

- 1) The Wauchope SDA Church Business Meeting has critically considered the elevation of “peer-reviewed scientific literature” as a basis for the SDA health emphasis,
- 2) And felt compelled to reaffirm that the SDA health emphasis has the Bible and EGW as its only bases, as per the SDA 28 Fundamentals.

Thus any statements to suggesting anything to the contrary may not be portrayed as representative of, nor published as official statements of the global SDA Church.

Christian greetings,

Members of the Wauchope SDA Church Business Meeting

New South Wales, Australia

June 30, 2025

To: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

[12501 Old Columbia Pike](#)

[Silver Spring Maryland 20904](#)

[United States of America](#)

Recipients: president@gc.adventist.org

(mailto:president@gc.adventist.org), secretary@gc.adventist.org

(mailto:secretary@gc.adventist.org),

CC: Division President, Union President,

Dear SDA General Conference, the Administrative Committee and Executive Committee of the General Conference, Seventh-day Adventist International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA), Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church (GC PARL):

On May 19, 2025, Yacolt SDA Church in business meeting voted to reject all official statements that have been issued on behalf of the Seventh-day Adventist body of Christ, by the aforementioned groups or any other official SDA organ. Exceptions include statements formed solely upon the theology of the Bible and The Spirit of Prophecy such as Statement on the Confidence of the Writings of Ellen G White voted by the GC Session July 2015 and Mission Statement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church voted by EXCOM in Annual Council October 2018.

We appeal to the Oregon Conference to disavow these statements to our General Conference headquarters in writing and publicly. The basis of this appeal includes the following:

1. Neither the General Conference in Session nor the local churches have been consulted in the formation of these official statements.
2. Despite the fact that the statements were never voted upon by the General Conference in session and that no theological process was undertaken to craft these statements, the church websites: Adventist.org, Irla.org, AdventistLiberty.org categorize the official statements as representative of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church body.
3. It is problematic that most Adventist members are not aware of these statements which are now being used to represent their beliefs. For instance, the official statement on

immunizations was utilized by employers and schools to represent the beliefs of individual church members.

4. The statement on immunizations states that the church's stance on immunizations is based on biblical revelation, the inspired writings of E.G.White, and on peer-reviewed scientific literature. In so doing, it places peer-reviewed literature at an equal level with God's word. In fact, it may be holding scientific literature at a higher level, since there is nothing of a Biblical or inspired source that one could draw the conclusion to encourage immunizations.

5. Many of the official statements refer to the United Nations and WHO as their source. While the UN and WHO may have seemingly humanitarian goals, the paradigm by which their organizations operate is that there is no Creator God. This is also the ideology of most in modern science and of most peer-reviewed literature.

6. The Seventh-Day Adventist Church has been given the mandate to share the Three Angels' Message. This message counters the false religion of evolution that is taught by the United Nations, WHO and peer-reviewed science. That these secular entities should be given any deference in our beliefs or "official" statements is an insult to the cause of God.

7. The UN obligates silence regarding certain religious truths, to maintain peace in the global marketplace of religious diversity. The SDA perspective says that there is a religious truth that must be preached to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. It is very specific, and it has three components, none of which may be omitted. Referencing the United Nations neutralizes the SDA mission and places members at risk of violating the command of the Lord.

8. Deference to secular organizations with evolutionary paradigms causes confusion as to the mission of the church, as evidenced by the official statement on the Three Angels' Messages. The SDA body of Christ cannot support the UN position on religious freedom, as published by GC PARL and IRLA, as the UN sources itself as the highest authority which defines and grants religious freedom for humankind. The Seventh-day Adventist body of Christ holds that only God occupies this place.

Further, the UN acknowledges Holy See partnership in the preparation of religious freedom documents. Union between the SDA Church and The Holy See is, at minimum, against the guidance of James 4:4. https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/ga_36-55/ga_36-55.html (https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/ga_36-%2055/ga_36-%2055.html).

To summarize, statements that are formed beyond the basis of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy add to the word of God. To add to the word of God on any topic is a clear violation of Deuteronomy 4:2 and Revelation 22: 18-19. The word of God is sufficient for the human

family, as described in Hebrews 4:12 and 2 Timothy 3:16. To admit entrance to any other harks back to the age-old question, 'Yea, hath God said...' in the beginning of time or 'Yea, hath God spoken the Three Angels' Messages..' at the end of time?

The Yacolt SDA congregation rejects the jurisdiction and presumed authority of these statements over any member of our congregation. With respect to the official statement concerning Immunization, we defend and affirm the right of all members of the Yacolt SDA congregation to honor their body Temple according to the convictions of the Holy Spirit, without coercion, condemnation or criticism.

May we uphold God's pure words - Psalm 12:6: The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tested in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Yours sincerely,

Members of the Yacolt Seventh-Day Adventist church

cc:

_____ Conference EXCOM

_____ Union Conference EXCOM

_____ Division EXCOM