

To the Membership of the _____ Church:

At the _____ meeting I presented information relating to the “Official Statements” on the General Conference (GC) website that are of concern to many around the world. Specifically, Statement dated from 2015 (<https://www.adventist.org/official-statements/immunization/>) and a Reaffirmation Statement dated 2021 (<https://www.adventist.news/news/reaffirming-the-seventh-day-adventis-churchs-response-to-covid-19-1>).

To be clear to all of you, this concern is not related to if you got the Covid shot or not. We believe, and the SDA church has always held to the belief, that your health decisions are yours and not subject to mandate or any type of force or coercion. “Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which you have of God and ye are not your own?” 1Cor. 6:19 Your decisions are between you and your God alone.

However, what we found in that the 2015 Official Statement of the Administrative Committee of the GC (ADCOM) stated:

“The Seventh-day Adventist Church places strong emphasis on health and well-being. The health emphasis is based on biblical revelation, inspired writing of EG White (co-founder of the Church, AND ON PEER-REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE. As such, we encourage responsible immunization/vaccination, and have NO religious or faith-based reason not to encourage our adherents to responsibly participate in protective and preventive immunizations programs...

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.” (Emphasis supplied)

Of course, our concern is that they admit the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy have “no religious or faith-based reason not to (OR TO) encourage” its membership to get OR NOT GET the shot. In fact, these sources, as the only sources of authority in the church, are silent. This statement is solely based on a non-Biblical source – Peer-reviewed science. Peer-reviewed science is only that “scientific knowledge” known at any specific time as interpreted by any specific authority. This means it is fluid, unreliable and can change, which we know now that much of the “scientific” data given to us was faulty.

Then in 2021, the GC provided a “Reaffirmation Statement” which doubled down on the 2015 statement in which they changed their assertions and stated “there is ample support in Scripture and the writings of Ellen G. White that refer to the importance of disease prevention.” Their Biblical references are related to rendering unto Caesar what is Caesar’s and submission to government authorities. At the end of this document they state:

“The Seventh-day Adventist Church does not advocate for religious exemptions to vaccination on either a global or national basis, based on its understanding of both the Bible and the writings of Ellen G. White and as expressed in this statement.”

The authorities for this Reaffirmation Statement were the CDC, WHO, PAHO (PanAmerican Health Organization/WHO), scientific briefs, New England Journal of Medicine and Pfizer vaccine safety

statement, Adventist.org/guidelines/immunization (which is reference back to their own 2015 statement).

Of course, their only source related to EW is that she received a vaccination. It was strictly her personal choice that was reported on by someone many years after her death. Not only does this mean that it cannot be verified, but it was not an inspired admonition or an "everyone must do it."

The problem at issue is that these statements effectively were a mandate. Employers, universities, etc...even SDA companies/schools, etc...used these statements to fire non-compliant individuals or force them to get the shot. In many cases these individuals had exemption statements from physicians. Sadly, this caused loss of employment, loss of homes, loss of friends/family, unrecoverable illness and even death.

The issue is that the SDA church has long held for religious liberty of its adherents but these statements took that liberty away. If the Bible and SOP is silent, the GC, Union and Conferences should have been silent and assisted its members in developing their statements of exemption. However, because of the GC affiliation with the World Health Organization (WHO) they had to comply with their standards and use a non-Biblical source as their authority. Additionally, neither of these statements or the other 58 statements on the GC website were voted and approved by the General Conference in Session which is the ONLY authority that is to be the voice of the church.

There was no compliance with the Fundamental Beliefs of the church or the Church Manual. The GC took the rug out from under its members who had Biblical grounds to refuse the mandate. Covid may be over but the usurping of the authority of the church by its administrators will continue to set standards in compliance to the world rather than Scripture and SOP. These statements have been going on since 1980s, without check. Only through the recent crisis did this over-reach of our liberties by those who were voted in office to protect them become known.

Therefore, we the board and business meeting of the _____ SDA Church took a stand (along with many other churches around the world and one Union) against this over-reach and have made all administrators up the chain of command know we will reject all these statements and will fight for the liberty of conscience of our members.

If you want more information on this issue and others related to it, you can contact me or any board member or the Pastor.

In Christian Love:

Clerk