



14th November 2024

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. ██████████ 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 ██████████ Seventh-day Adventist church in the ██████████ Conference ██████████, in the ██████████ Union Conference ██████████ in the ██████████ Division ██████████

At our Business Meeting on the ██████████ the following statements of the General Conference Administrative Committee were reviewed and considered and were rejected by a vote of 30 (to reject) to 4 (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/2020/12/18/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 . . ." | 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

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Ordained Elder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
Business Meeting Representative ██████████ Seventh-day Adventist Church

cc:

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