



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST®
CHURCH

Ricardo Graham
General Conference
World Headquarters

Received
MAY 05 2014

April 28, 2014

Elder Ricardo Graham, President
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Dear Ricardo:

Thank you for your interest in an appropriate process for the church in its activities as indicated in your letter of April 7, 2014 in which you noted a concern regarding the recognition by the General Conference of Ms. Sandra Roberts as president of the Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Kindly convey to the Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee and also to the Southeastern California Conference Executive Committee our appreciation for sharing with me, through you, their concerns and a desire to maintain unity and respect in the context of Christian love and the precious three angels' messages entrusted to the Seventh-day Adventist Church to proclaim at this end-time setting.

Sandra Roberts' capability as an administrator is not the issue that was considered when her name was not entered in the 2014 Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook. It appears that the Southeastern California Conference has decided not to adopt the model constitution of the General Conference (GC WP D 20 pages 192-206 and NAD WP D-19 to D-31). GC WP Bylaws D 20, Article VI, Sec. a. states that the president of a conference "shall be an ordained minister of experience." The NAD WP page D-25 also states this. In addition, the General Conference Working Policy E 60 (page 242) indicates the same thing. At the present time the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists does not authorize women to be ordained as ministers of the gospel. As you will recall, the 2012 General Conference Annual Council voted overwhelmingly not to recognize those who were ordained by organizations that have not followed the procedures of the General Conference Working Policy (October 16, 2012 Annual Council: 132-12G STATEMENT ON CHURCH POLITY, PROCEDURES, AND RESOLUTION OF DISAGREEMENTS IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT UNION ACTIONS ON MINISTERIAL ORDINATION).

A Theology of Ordination Study Committee has been authorized to study the theology of ordination and is discussing the aspect of ordaining women to the gospel ministry. This committee will be submitting a report to the officers of the General Conference and the 2014 Annual Council. If the way is opened for women to be ordained then Ms. Sandra Roberts would

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be recognized in the Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook as president of the Southeastern California Conference. The Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook is a product of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and thus follows the General Conference Working Policies which cover the worldwide church.

Thank you for your deep interest that God's church follow the correct procedures that have been voted by the world church. Let us continue to pray for God's will to be done and that the Holy Spirit will provide us with the humility, unity and respect that is always needed when there are areas of concern and differences.

May God guide your work and witness for Him in the Pacific Union Conference as we approach Christ's soon coming.

With kind Christian regards and sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted N. C. Wilson". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a prominent initial "T" and "W".

Ted N. C. Wilson
President

mdv

xc: GT Ng
Robert E. Lemon
Daniel Jackson