

Adventist Accommodations

Ricardo Graham, July 8, 2015, General Conference in Session

This request before the General Conference body today allows for accommodation on a local basis, which has a long history in the denomination. Examples include, but are not limited to, these:

1. Regional Conferences were originally created because the Seventh-day Adventist Church in The United States of America yielded to the prevailing racial code of segregation and would not accept Black Americans as full equals in the mission of the church.
2. Accommodation to polygamy in membership within the church is spelled out in World Church policy C-70.
3. An accommodation in doctrines was voted in 2005 in St. Louis, MO. General Conference. Delegates arrived with 27 Fundamental Beliefs and left with 28. A new belief number 11 "Growing in Christ", was added in response to the requests of Adventists in developing nations for a statement on spiritual warfare, yielding the current total of 28. This was an accommodation to the needs of members who believed this would enhance their mission and ministry.

We are united in the Global Mission of God by the three angels' messages and the 28 Fundamental Beliefs, so carefully received by our church.

Ministry is the local application of mission through the Giftedness of the Holy Spirit, as enumerated by the Apostle Paul in Romans, 1st Corinthians and Ephesians, the Spiritual Gifts have no gender assignment, description or designation.

God gives the gifts and the church recognizes them, giving glory to God for them.