



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST CHURCH

CORE VALUES OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

The strategic plan of the Seventh-day Adventist Church identifies three core values—unity, growth and quality of life—as keys to charting the future and mission of the church. This approach affirms the vital role of every church member in defining the church's identity and participating in its mission.

Unity: As a worldwide family of believers we share common, Bible-based beliefs, embrace diversity, involve all members in mission, and support shared organization.

Growth: Through active, involved witness, we share the message of hope and salvation in Jesus Christ, offering heartfelt service in communities and establishing congregations everywhere.

Quality of Life: We reflect the example of Jesus Christ in our lives—in Bible study, prayer, personal and corporate worship; in our relationships and actions; and in practicing what we believe.



A people of Hope Production
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Seventh-day Adventist Church
World Headquarters
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Call 301.680.6309
for tour times and information.

www.adventist.org

HOW THE ADVENTIST CHURCH IS ORGANIZED ...



Jesus Christ

whose Church is His body. He is both the heart and the head. He lives within each member and the whole organization exists within Him. Without Christ, there is no believer and there is no church. When Christ comes into the heart, that person may be impressed to become...

A Member

one who has publicly accepted, through baptism or confession of faith, the teachings of the Bible as understood by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The member is then a part of...

The Local Church

a supportive group of members accountable to each other, giving spiritual nurture and encouragement within the group and sharing the same with others as a witness. A legally-recognized entity that belongs to...

The Conference

a collective of local churches in an area large enough to provide congregations of all sizes with professional leadership, supportive and outreach ministries, training and Christian education. Conferences combine to form...

The Union

a group of conferences covering areas as large as countries or several provinces, taking on projects affecting people over large territories, such as colleges, hospitals and large-scale evangelism. Unions help connect conferences across many boundaries in areas of the world church known as...

The Division

a territory covering portions of or entire continents which allows the world church to be represented and reflected in a regional area. The division achieves the mission of the church by applying church policies in response to the needs of that region. These divisions are administrative arms of...

The General Conference

representing the world church and the collective will of the church members through the elective process, this grouping brings to life the concept of "one body" headed by Christ with all body parts working in harmony. The General Conference is a representative group which reaches across many cultures and peoples and every five years comes together in a global gathering to elect officers and make decisions under the requested guidance of...

Jesus Christ

[See above]

There are nearly 16,000,000 baptized members and 64,000 churches world wide.
July 2009 (Archives & Statistics)



DEPARTMENTS ACCORDING TO LEVEL

3rd Floor:

Adventist Television Network (and on lower level), Biblical Research Institute, Communication, Global Mission, Ministerial Association, Office of General Counsel, Presidential, Public Affairs & Religious Liberty, Secretariat, Women's Ministries, Breath of Life

2nd Floor:

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, Adventist Review, Adventist World Radio, Auditing Service, Children's Ministries, Education, Family Ministries, Health Ministries, North American Division (NAD), Publishing, Review & Herald Graphics, Sabbath School/Personal Ministries, Stewardship, Trust Services, Youth, Adult Bible Study Guides

1st Floor:

Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA, also on lower level), Adventist Risk Management (and on lower level), Cafeteria, Drivers Services, Griggs University, Human Resources, Rebok Memorial Library, Security, Treasury, TRIPS

Lower Level:

Archives & Statistics, Audio -Visual, Custodial Services, Facilities Services, Graphics, In-House Operations, Information Systems Services, Mail Room, Micrographics, Shipping, Telecommunications, White Estate, Adventist Television Network (and on 3rd floor), NAD Church Resource Center, Griggs University Press, Griggs University Bookstore

Welcome
to the World Headquarters



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST CHURCH

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, USA



ADVENTIST CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES

ACM serves as the official link to organizations using professional chaplains in secular or church-related institutions. ACM screens and endorses professionally trained Adventist chaplains to serve in the areas of healthcare, corrections, campus ministry and the military. The department also endorses specially trained clergy serving as pastoral counselors and spiritual directors. These functions are done on a worldwide basis with developing ACM departments in all divisions of the denomination. For more information, visit www.adventistchaplains.org.

ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT & RELIEF AGENCY

ADRA is the official humanitarian aid agency of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Present in 125 countries, ADRA provides emergency assistance and sustainable development to communities in developed and developing countries. ADRA reflects Christ's mission of compassion and social justice, providing sustainable community development and disaster relief without regard to political or religious association, age, gender, race or ethnicity. For more information, visit www.adra.org.

ADVENTIST REVIEW

In print for more than 160 years, *Adventist Review* is the flagship journal of the church. Founded by James and Ellen White in 1849, the magazine is one of the oldest continuously published Christian publications in North America. Published weekly, the *Review* has a paid circulation of more than 26,000. Its sister publication, *Adventist World*, is subsidized by the church and has a monthly circulation of more than 1.5 million in several languages around the world. For more information, visit www.adventistreview.org or www.adventistworld.org.

ADVENTIST TELEVISION NETWORK

ATN is a global satellite network of six channels spanning the globe. In 2003, ATN launched the Hope Channel, a global English language satellite channel broadcasting a variety of interesting Christian programs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. ATN also has full-time channels in the Spanish and Portuguese languages available in Latin America and North America. ATN also broadcasts satellite evangelistic meetings simultaneously translated into 40 languages and seen around the world. Visit www.adventist.tv

ADVENTIST RISK MANAGEMENT

ARM insures the church on a global basis from five offices: Silver Spring, Maryland (the headquarters); Atlanta, Georgia; Riverside, California; St. Albans, England; and Sao Paulo, Brazil. 135 employees provide professional risk management services in the areas of client visitation, insurance placement services, risk management education and loss prevention, and claims management. The ARM workers also develop effective methods of risk control, help the church evaluate risks and provide prudent risk financing solutions. For more information, visit www.adventistrisk.org.

ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO

Adventist World Radio is the international broadcast ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, bringing the gospel to people in the hardest-to-reach places on earth, in their own languages. AWR currently transmits programs in 55 languages. Its shortwave, AM/FM, and satellite broadcasts reach 70 percent of the world, and programs are also available through the Internet. For more information, visit www.awr.org.

ARCHIVES & STATISTICS

This office manages the records center and archives of the denomination's world headquarters and produces the annual directory, the Yearbook, and the annual statistical summary. While responsibilities are limited to the headquarters complex, staff are available as consultants to the church's organizations and institutions as time permits. For more information, visit www.adventist.org/ast.

AUDITING SERVICE

The General Conference Auditing Service (GCAS) audits church entities worldwide. Some 200 auditors around the globe conduct financial statement audits and perform tests for compliance with policies, contracts, and regulations in accordance with local or international auditing standards. GCAS is a professionally independent entity that employs individuals with high professional qualifications and work experience. It attests to the fair presentation of financial statement data and assures church members and administrators of the credibility of that data.

BIBLICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

BRI prepares detailed biblical studies for the General Conference, publishing major book-length studies on specific theological issues, and reviewing materials, such as the Sabbath School lesson study guides. The institute also provides Bible conferences for pastors and educators, held in various areas around the world, and conducts intensive seminars in historically Biblical lands for pastors and lay people. For more information, visit <http://biblicalresearch.gc.adventist.org>.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

This department provides instruction and resources to assist adults in nurturing children into a loving, serving relationship with Jesus. This is accomplished by developing ministries that are grace-oriented, inclusive, safe, evangelistic, service-oriented, and that equip and empower leaders. All material is based on the Bible, the writings of Ellen G. White, and current educational research, each of which points to the irreplaceable value of adults taking time to interactively instruct children. For more information, visit www.childrensministries.gc.adventist.org.



COMMUNICATION

"Building bridges of hope" is the mission statement of the communication department. This is accomplished by reaching the diverse church audiences—both within and externally—with an open, responsible, and effective communication program. The department operates Adventist News Network (news.adventist.org), a news agency of the church, manages the church's Web site at www.adventist.org, and coordinates the public and media relations of the GC. The department also facilitates media production services and is responsible for the Visitor Center and tours, which currently draw about 7,000 guests annually.

EDUCATION

Supervision, coordination, promotion and quality control of the global Adventist educational system lie in the hands of the Education department. This includes 7,442 schools, colleges and universities, with 74,600 teachers and more than 1.4 million students in 100 countries. In addition to curricular materials and textbooks, the department publishes *The Journal of Adventist Education* and *College University Dialogue*. For more information, visit <http://education.gc.adventist.org>.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Relationships are the focus of this ministry, such as husband-and-wife, parent-and-child, brother-and-sister. Areas of emphasis include premarital guidance, strengthening marriage, parent education, extended families, single parenting, step-family needs, the family needs of singles, and family evangelism. For more information, visit <http://familyministries.gc.adventist.org>.

GLOBAL MISSION

Global Mission focuses on the areas of the world where there are no Adventists—reaching the unreached. Pioneer lay people who volunteer at least a year of their time are a vital part of this ministry. These pioneers establish congregations within their own culture. Global Mission's support for cutting-edge ministry involves all church departments and services. For more information, visit www.global-mission.org.

GRIGGS UNIVERSITY

Since 1909 Griggs University/Griggs International Academy (formerly Home Study International) has served more than 300,000 students from over 60 countries through its flexible structured preschool, K-8, high school, and college programs. GU/GIA serves as the recognized distance education division for the Adventist school system and offers the assurance of a Christ-centered curriculum with the benefits of state approval and national accreditation for students at all levels, preschool through college. For more information, visit www.griggs.edu.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

As a resource on health and temperance for the church, Health Ministries promotes a healthful lifestyle with an emphasis on supportive relationships. It helps the church address the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of all people. The International Commission for Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency is a co-partner with the department, which also gives support to mission hospitals, the Adventist Health System, and Loma Linda University.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The HR office provides employment, recruiting, and professional management and development for the General Conference and North American Division. It is responsible for promoting fairness, consistency, equity, multiculturalism, and a workplace atmosphere where the Christian work style and lifestyle is exemplified.

IN-HOUSE OPERATIONS

IHO includes the administrative services of the building: the mailroom, shipping, graphics, audio-visual, the library, custodial services, employee food service, facilities services, information systems services, security and telecommunications. All of these areas serve employees and guests by maintaining a healthy, comfortable and attractive working environment.

MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

The Ministerial Association ministers to pastors and their families, local church elders, and ministerial association secretaries. In addition to serving Adventist pastors they also serve ministers of other denominations through *Ministry Magazine* and professional growth seminars. For more information, visit www.ministerialassociation.com.

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

One of the 13 divisions of the Adventist Church, the North American division oversees the church in Canada and the United States. NAD headquarters has shared the building with the General Conference since the GC's move to Silver Spring in 1989. For more information, visit www.nadadventist.org.

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

The Office of General Counsel provides legal services to General Conference church entities. Five staff lawyers serve both General Conference and North American Division administration departments and services. Each lawyer has assignments covering specific areas of law or administrative or departmental offices. Major areas include corporate, tax, pension, trust and estate, constitutional, religious liberty, employment, and immigration law and litigation.

PRESIDENTIAL

Presidential oversees the primary leadership and administrative role for the church. There are nine vice presidents, each serving various General Conference departments, and two assistants to the president. The president is elected or re-elected every five years at the General Conference Session. Presidential also operates the Office of Strategic Planning. For more information, visit <http://www.adventist.org/gc/presidential>.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

PARL supports, protects, and defends religious freedom and human rights for all people. It is the face of the Adventist Church to governments, religious bodies, and international organizations. PARL operates offices on Capitol Hill for representative work to the U.S. Congress, and in New York City for United Nations liaison. It also sponsors the International Religious Liberty Association, a non-denominational organization dedicated to the cause of religious freedom. For more information, visit www.parl.gc.adventist.org

PUBLISHING

The publishing department gives leadership to the work of publishing departments worldwide, Home/Family Health Education Service offices, Adventist Book Centers, literature ministry seminars, and literature evangelists. For more information, visit <http://publishing.gc.adventist.org>.

STEWARDSHIP

This department assists administration in accomplishing the mission of the church through leadership training and the education of church members in stewardship principles. More specifically, the department aids in the integration of the faith walk with God into every area of life—individually and corporately.



SABBATH SCHOOL AND PERSONAL MINISTRIES

This department was established as a major setting for religious education in the church. It teaches and proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ in response to the command of Jesus, in the context of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12. The department provides Sabbath School Bible Study Guides, designs material for Sabbath School programming, offers training and resources to teachers and members, coordinates support for world missions, and designs programs and resources to help those areas of the world where church growth is limited. The "Go 1 Million" initiative is coordinated by Personal Ministries. For more information, visit <http://sppm.gc.adventist.org>.

TREASURY

General Conference Treasury manages the accounting, investments, purchasing (through negotiating national accounts), income (through tithes and offerings), expenditures, litigation, and debt of the church worldwide. Through money-management, the church is able to support and implement its mission.

TRIPS

TRIPS is the human resources department for missionaries around the world from the time they are appointed until the time they return to their home country. Besides caring for financial details, TRIPS also takes care of special needs of missionaries arising from unusual or emergency circumstances.

TRUST SERVICES

Trust Services provides information and assists individuals in their ultimate personal, financial and spiritual responsibilities. This includes drafting legal documents, such as wills, trusts, annuities, and delegating powers of attorney to provide for and protect family members. Most conferences have a trust director and field representatives who gather vital information.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Women's Ministries ministers to the spiritual, emotional, physical and social needs of women. It encourages women to improve their potential and participation in the mission of the church and provides a support system and forum that addresses issues as they affect women in and out of the church. Women's Ministries promotes programs to mentor young women and encourages college women academically through a scholarship program. Encouraging women to become involved in all areas of ministry in their church, community and home, Women's Ministries recognizes that women have many gifts of the Spirit. For more information, visit <http://adventist-womensministries.org>.



WHITE ESTATE

Seventh-day Adventists believe that the gift of prophecy was manifested in the life and ministry of Ellen G. White (1827-1915). Her writings, which provide guidance, instruction, and correction for the church, consistently exalt Christ and encourage deep study of the Word of God. The Ellen G. White Estate is an organization created by the last will and testament of Ellen White to act as her agent in the preservation and publication of her literary works, including translating her writings for circulation around the world. In addition to arranging for the publication of these works in printed form, the trustees of the White Estate have made her writings available on the Internet and on CD-ROM. For more information, visit www.whiteestate.org.

YOUTH

The Youth Department facilitates and supports the ministry of the Church in winning, training, holding, and reclaiming its youth. It is to assist the world church in forming objectives, goals, and plans, and to provide training that will equip the body of the church to save its youth and prepare them to take the gospel to all the world. For more information, visit <http://youth.gc.adventist.org>.



Victor Issa

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