

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-FOURTH CONSTITUENCY SESSION
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST**

MAY 17, 2015

**WHITE MEMORIAL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
401 North State Street, Los Angeles, California 90033**

DEVOTIONAL SERVICE

WELCOME

The Sixty-fourth Constituency Session of the Southern California Conference began at 7:55 a.m. with the introduction of the individuals on the platform led by Elder Larry L. Caviness, President of the Southern California Conference (SCC). Elder Dan Jackson, President of the North American Division; Elder Ricardo Graham, President of the Pacific Union Conference, Elder Velino A. Salazar, SCC Executive Secretary, Elder James G. Lee, SCC Vice President, Robert Ohanian, Glendale Armenian Church, Elder Courtney Ray, Associate Pastor, Breath of Life SDA Church, Elder Sung H. Oh, SCC Treasurer, and Dr. Harold Crook, SCC Superintendent of Schools.

The Constituency Session delegation was kindly welcomed to the White Memorial SDA Church by its Senior Pastor, Elder Benjamin Del Pozo. Then, Elder Larry L. Caviness, Southern California Conference president and session chair, officially welcomed all the delegates, guests and visitors.

OPENING HYMNS

Elder Caviness invited all to join together in the praise with hymn #615 "*Rise Up, O Church of God*".

INVOCATION

Elder Courtney Ray, Associate, Breath of Life SDA Church, asked each delegate if they could hold the hand of someone as a symbol of our unity and offered the invocation.

SCRIPTURE READING

The scripture reading by Mr. Robert Ohanian, Glendale Armenian Seventh-day Adventist church.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Hymns by SCC Academies Mass Choir of 100 voices. Elder Larry Caviness asked the educators in the congregation to please stand as they were acknowledged as an important part of the church ministry (applause from the delegates).

DEVOTIONAL

While the SCC Academies Mass Choir stepped down from the platform, Elder Larry Caviness, reminded the congregations of the investment of the church are the young people. He thank the choir for setting the atmosphere with a strong spiritual emphasis and told the delegates of how they were selected to represent their churches to be the voice to come do a sacred business at the 64th Constituency Session. He read from Matthew 24:30-31, and from The Great Controversy pg 644-648. Elder Caviness had wanted to arrange for the group *Faith First* to be present but they were unable to attend, instead their DVD was given to all attending.

SEASON OF PRAYER

Mr. Michael Roland spoke on one of the most powerful prayers that our Lord lifted before His Father in John 17, Jesus prayed that He might honor His Father, prayed for the disciples and those who had come to believe because of His disciples. The center point being that the church would be one so that the world might see that God sent Him, and that He loves us as He loved His Son.

SALUTATIONS FROM NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Elder Dan Jackson said he was very happy to bring greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ on behalf of our brethren throughout this division, which stands strong for Jesus Christ. He mentioned he was praying that God will flood this room today with the presence, the power and the authority of His Holy Spirit. He encouraged each delegate to surrender, to submit as we prayed for the powerful influence of the Holy Spirit.

BUSINESS SESSION

READING OF THE OFFICIAL CALL

Elder Velino A. Salazar, Southern California Conference secretary, read the official call of the session, which was published in the March, April and May 2015 issues of the *Pacific Union Recorder*, as required by the Bylaws of the Southern California Conference. **(Appendix A)**

SEATING OF THE DELEGATES

The conference secretary reported to the session chair that 627 regular delegates registered that morning, which exceeded the 60 percent (584) of the regular delegates (974) to transact business, as required by the Conference Bylaws. (A list of delegates present at the session is on file in the office of the conference secretary). **(Appendix B)**

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The session chair declared the session officially opened as it was determined that more than 60 percent of the 974 eligible regular delegates, or more than the required 584, were present.

SEATING OF THE PARLIAMENTARIANS

VOTED To accept the recommendation of the Conference Executive Committee to invite attorneys
01-15 Karen La Madrid and Duane Montgomery to serve as session Parliamentarians.

READING OF CONSTITUENCY SESSION RULES AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Duane Montgomery, lead parliamentarian, provided instructions regarding the constituency session rules and the parliamentary procedures governing the session using *Robert's Rules of Order* newly revised version. Connie Vandeman, will also be assisting with questions from the delegates in regard to procedures, how to word a motion or the proper way to approach with concerns. **(Appendixes C, D)**

VOTED To accept the recommendation of the Conference Executive Committee to adopt the session rules
02-15 and parliamentary procedures to conduct this constituency session as presented and clarified by the parliamentarians.

REPORTING A NEW CHURCHES WITH "COMPANY" STATUS

Elder Velino Salazar reported that the Shalom Spanish Company was organized on March 31, 2012 with a membership of 94, as a member of the Conference church of the Southern California Conference.

Elder Velino Salazar reported that the Ebenezer Spanish Company was organized on September 21, 2013 with a membership of 115, as a member of the Conference church of the Southern California Conference.

REPORTING CONGREGATIONS WITH NAME CHANGE

Elder Velino A. Salazar reported that during the last four years the following congregations changed their name as a result of merge. These are: Gardena Community Church/Genesis Group and Redondo Beach Group, merged and changed their name to Gardena Genesis Community SDA Church, effective: June 15, 2013.

Lighthouse Community Church after receiving Resurrection Group on January 30, 2015 with a membership of 152, changed their name to Kaleo SDA Church, effective: February 10, 2015.

TRANSFER OF CONGREGATION TO SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE

Elder Velino A. Salazar reported that last year the Yorba Linda SDA Company was transferred to the Southeastern California Conference due to the relocation of their congregation in our neighbor conference territory, effective: July 1, 2014.

RATIFICATION OF THE SIXTY-THIRD SESSION MINUTES

VOTED To ratify the Minutes of the May 17, 2015 Sixty-Third Constituency Session as approved by the
03-15 Southern California Conference Executive Committee at its meeting on March 24, 2015.

AMENDING THE AGENDA FOR THE SIXTY-FOURTH CONSTITUENCY SESSION

VOTED It was **moved** and seconded to amend the session agenda content to include a process to
04-15 evaluate the Region Structure and its effectiveness,

VOTED It was moved and seconded to amend to the session agenda that a committee of five be formed to
05-15 investigate John Heczko's allegation. Voting was opened. The motion failed.

VOTED It was moved and seconded to amend the session agenda to include an item entitled "*Referral of*
06-15 *Nominating Committee Report*". Item was officially added to the Agenda. (The Nominating Committee will meet immediately following the "Recognition" section in Room 14 with Elder Ricardo Graham, President, Pacific Union Conference.)

VOTED It was moved and seconded to amend the session agenda to include the process to evaluate the
07-15 Young and Young Adult ministries and to restructure them.

AGENDA FOR THE SIXTY-FOURTH CONSTITUENCY SESSION

VOTED To approve the following agenda for the session as recommended by the Conference Executive
08-15 Committee at its meeting on May 17, 2015; and including the amended items.

- A. Devotional
- B. Preliminary Business Items
 - 1. Reading of the Official Call
 - 2. Seating of Delegates
 - 3. Declaration of a Quorum/Opening of the 63rd Session
 - 4. Seating of Parliamentarians
 - 5. Instructions of Parliamentarians
 - 6. Sixty-third Constituency Session Minutes
 - 7. Sixty-fourth Constituency Session Agenda
 - 8. Recognitions
- C. Session Reports
 - 1. Presidency
 - 2. Secretariat
 - 3. Vice Presidency
 - 4. Treasury
 - 5. Conference Finances Audit
 - 6. Ongoing Projects (Amendment)

7. Region Structure Evaluation
 8. Nominating Committee Report
 9. Senior Youth/Young Adults
- D. Committee Reports
1. Nominating Committee Report
 2. Bylaws Committee Report
- E. Embracing a New Vision
- F. Adjournment

RECOGNITION FOR DECEASED

The session chair paid tribute to pastors and educators who died while serving in ministry in the last quadrennium: Pastor Allan Franzke, passed away November 2012. Pastor Tim Garrison, passed to his rest in February, 2013. Elder Norman Matiko, passed away in September, 2013. Pastor Mike Elias, passed away in May, 2014. Elder Anthony J. Kelly, went to his rest in November, 2014. Al Fendley, Music Teacher, passed away. Also, Valerie Linsing and Kenneth Dunn, Educators; and Elder Howard Flynn passed away. The delegation showed their respect by keeping a minute of silence.

RECOGNITION FOR RETIREES

The delegates were invited to pay tribute to 51 denominational workers who served in this conference and retired during the last quadrennium; their names were scrolled on the screen with applause. (**Appendix F**)

SESSION REPORTS

Two types of reports were available, a written report provided in more detail and was posted on the conference website. The second report was in video format was presented to the constituents at this Session.

- A. Video Report of the Conference President**
- B. Video Report of the Conference Secretary**
- C. Video Report of the Conference Vice President**
- D. Video Report of the Superintendent of Schools**
- E. Video Report of the Conference Treasurer**

AUDITED UNCONSOLIDATED COMBINED SPECIAL-PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

Mr. Carlos Ferrando, representing the General Conference Auditing Services gave the report of the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the Southern California Conference for the years ending December 31, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. In 1977, the General Conference decided that all denominational entities were going to be audited every year. The local conference audits all the churches and schools, and the General Conference audits conferences, unions and divisions. However, the General Conference is the only one audited by an external firm.

Voted 09-15 To approve the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the Southern California Conference for the years ending December 31, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, as presented. Southern California Conference is labeled as “unqualified” which means that all the sections comply with generally accepted accounting principles. **(Appendix G)**

NEWBURY PARK PROJECT REPORT

Elder Larry Caviness, Conference president, presented a report of the Newbury Park project and informed the report was posted on the 2015 Session web site. He gave a brief report for those that had not had an opportunity to view it. The Newbury Park project was begun under the Ventura County regulations. Later Newbury Park was annexed into the City of Thousand Oaks and was under the city’s regulations, more restrictive. It’s been a more difficult process in working with Thousand Oaks due to internal city politics.

He gave a brief history and informed on the expenses of development costs, loans, gains and losses. Ridgewood Associates (a development company), have overseen the project and have negotiated with different companies in terms of property development providing the Conference with substantial savings.

It has not been an easy journey, and nobody could predict what the economy was going to do with the collapse of the residential and commercial real estate markets. Very few reasonable commercial real estate buyers were available.

Among of the benefits received from the Newbury Park Project is a brand new building for Conejo Valley Adventist school and the Newbury Park Adventist Academy has received \$6 million for operations as compensation for the income lost as land was sold.

Elder Caviness stated this report saying that most of the expectations from this project can not be fulfilled. However, it is necessary to sell a couple of pieces of land (Ventura Estates [VE] Retirement Center site and the North Campus over the hill) to pay off the external loans and pending related expenses.

Currently, the Ventura Estates site is in escrow and is scheduled to close later this year; and for the North Campus there are a couple of options to seriously be considered.

Elder Caviness informed that at every meeting of the Executive Committee as well as the Asset Management Committee a report was given on what was transpiring with this project. **(Appendix J)**

After several comments and suggestions, several individuals stood up and publicly expressed their gratitude to Elder Caviness for his years of service, for accepting the challenge and risks involved as he lead this project, it was voted

VOTED To accept the Newbury Park project report as presented.
10-15

VOTED To ask the Executive Committee form a subcommittee comprised of equal number of conference
11-15 employees and lay membership to evaluate and make recommendations to the executive committee on the status and future of Newbury Park project.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS FOR ELDERS LARRY CAVINESS & SUNG OH

At this point, Elder Larry Caviness was asked to take his seat and he was honored for his service and leadership in the Southern California Conference. Elder Sung Oh was also asked to take his seat next to Elder Caviness and their wives were asked to step onto the platform where they too were honored. Their children were thanked for sharing their parents for the sake of the church in the Southern California Conference. Several leaders and members representing various ministries, as well as Pacific Union Conference officers, expressed their appreciation as they have given so much to this church. The officers from the North American Division were also invited to the platform to express their gratitude.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

Elder Greg Hoenes, Bylaws Committee chairperson, presented the following recommendations with respect to the conference bylaws: (1) that the constituency adopts the proposed amendments shown in the committees final draft included in the session materials; (2) that the constituency review the proposed amendments seriatim, revisions should be considered and voted by article, and no vote of any article being final until the time the vote of the entire document with the following two exceptions: the newly added table of contents will be considered first and on its own, and the capitalization of the word "Conference" where in reference to the Southern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists be considered in one motion.

All amendments to the bylaws become effective upon adjournment of this constituency session, and that the conference secretary, in consultation with the outgoing bylaws committee, be authorized to correct punctuation and other cross references and such other non-substantive changes as necessary to conform the amended bylaws to any actions taken by the constituents. **(Appendix H)**

VOTED It was moved and seconded that the procedural motion indicates that we go through each item and
12-15 consider each article then take a final vote at the end.

Elder Hoenes continued presenting the proposed changes in the Bylaws, and after reviewing every article and consenting on every single proposed amendment seriatim, as recommended by the Bylaws Committee, some questions were answered. **(Appendix I)**

Through the table of contents, in heading and item line and form will give quick and ready reference to what is available in the document.

Line 181, page 4 of 18, line 182, 183 and 184. This seriatim 12.19.1,2,3 and 4 have subtitles next to them and represents a change for those sections in the document not having these subtitles: electronic communication, recipient responsibility, permanent record and alternatives; with this the entire table of contents reflect the bylaws as they exist.

Therefore, the first motion is to vote to accept this as the new table of contents.

VOTED That the proposed motion be adopted.

13-15

The word “conference” in the existing document has not been capitalized. Throughout the document, wherever “conference” refers to the Southern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, in all instances that word has been capitalized to represent the shortened form.

VOTED That the proposed motion be adopted.

14-15

Article 1, page 5 of 18 the word “Principal Office” has been added in keeping with the language of the article itself.

Article 1.1,2 and 3 it has been added “City of” Glendale, which is the proper name.

VOTED That the proposed motion be adopted for Article 1.

15-15

Article 2, line 226, “from within the conference membership” the word “within” has been added. Just after that on the next page “who is a member of the church delegation” has been struck as redundant.

On line 248 clarification to “church” pastor because the “pastor” refers to lay pastor or conference pastors.

One line 254 2.2.4 “delegation chair” has been added to the pre-session list.

VOTED That the proposed motion be adopted for Article 2.

16-15

Article 3, the word “discharged” has been changed to “dissolved” in line 227 and line 280 in part because “discharged” sometimes carries with it a connotation of “for cause”. The word “dissolves” simply refers to a committee’s successful completion.

3.2.1 on page 7 of 18, line 286, it says in writing 25 percent with the percentage sign, and 25% in parenthesis, the committee is 21 members. The percentage mark has been crossed out and “five (5)” placed where those had existed.

Line 311, the phrase “the nominating proceedings shall be closed” is changed to “conducted in closed door session.”

VOTED That the proposed motion be adopted for Article 3.

17-15

Article 4, a line saying "There shall be no voting by proxy." has been eliminated since you must be present in order to vote, it's a redundancy.

VOTED That the proposed motion be adopted for Article 4.

18-15

Article 5 deals with the executive committee, line 413, the phrase "At least one-fourth (1/4)" language is eliminated because of redundancy was relocated. The phrase "No non-administrative member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms" in lines 419 and 420 are additional language for this section.

5.5 keeping the language consistent and added the word "dissolve" where "discharge" is present, "Dissolved" implies successful completion of a task for a committee.

Line 439 the wording "no fewer" will say "not less than seven."

5.6.2 the word "email" was added to keep current with the times, at least as of ten years ago, as a way of notification for special meetings.

5.6.5 in the "Waiver of Notice" the language (b) "either before or after the meeting" was eliminated.

VOTED That the proposed motion be adopted for Article 5.

19-15

Line 422 "The executive committee shall establish committees and elect, employ, discharge, dissolve and terminate for cause officers, committee members and employees." Bylaws Committee secretary advised it can simply be dropped, if it's the will of the constituency.

Amendment to the motion that line 422 not be included.

VOTED That the proposed motion be adopted.

20-15

Motion that the remaining of Article 5 be accepted.

VOTED That the proposed motion be adopted for Article 6.

21-15

Article 6 Line 507 replacing the word "that" to "which" as well as in lines 521, 523, 538 and 546. On page 13 of 18 line 560 also.

VOTED That the proposed motion be adopted for Article 7.

22-15

Article 7. Line 582 instead of "in harmony with" to read "in accordance with".

VOTED That the proposed motion be adopted for Article 8.

23-15

Article 8. Line 638: changed from “at the pleasure of” to “on behalf” of executive committee.

Line 648: change from “no fewer” to “not less.”

VOTED That the proposed motion be adopted for Article 9.
24-15

Article 9 and 10. Change the word “Harmony” to “accordance” used with accordance with the financial policies.

VOTED That the proposed motion be adopted for Articles 10 and 11.
25-15

Article 12 has already been voted on.

Article 12. Line 763: the words “and assistants” need to be added in order to be fully inclusive. Note that there is punctuation added after “and assistants” and before “committee member,”
12.19.2,3,4 Title of subheadings have been titled: “Electronic Communication,” “Recipient Responsibility,” “Permanent Record”, and “Alternative,” in keeping with the subject matter within these headings.

Line 779 The word “and” was dangled there, it was eliminated.

Line 788 and 789 “Solely with respect to the 2015 constituency session,” is obsolete as of today, so it has been dropped from bylaws.

VOTED That the proposed motion be adopted for Article 13.
26-15

It was moved and seconded that the proposed resolutions, be moved to accept the document as a whole for the upcoming quadrennium as Bylaws becoming effective upon adjournment of this constituency session.

VOTED That the proposed motion be adopted.
27-15

LUNCH TIME DELAYED

It was moved and seconded that the meeting continue with the nominating committee report versus stepping out for lunch break.

VOTED That the proposed motion be adopted.
28-15

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Noted: The chairing of the session was turned over to Elder Ricardo Graham, Pacific Union Conference president. The delegates received the report of the Nominating Committee and voted electronically on each of the Executive Officers and the superintendent of schools.

VOTED 29-15 To accept the recommendation of the nominating committee to elect the following persons to serve as Executive Officers and the Superintendent of Schools for the 2015-2019 quadrennium:

President	Velino A. Salazar	569 ayes	159 nays
Secretary	Mark Woodson	598 ayes	117 nays
Treasurer	Sung H. Oh	654 ayes	66 nays
Vice President	James G. Lee	606 ayes	105 nays
Superintendent of Schools	Harold A. Crook	546 ayes	158 nays

VOTED 30-15 To approve the recommendation of the Nominating Committee that the following persons serve as members of the Conference Executive Committee for the 2015-2019 quadrennium:

Administrative Members

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Vice President
Superintendent of Schools
Region Directors:
Asian Pacific Region
Greater Los Angeles Region
Hispanic Region
Los Angeles Metro Region
West Region

Non-Administrative Members

Asian Pacific Region (3)

Mui Fitu Ah-Kui	Compton Samoan Church
Vinh Nguyen (Pastor)	El Monte Vietnamese Church
Norman Sacro	Pasadena Church

Greater Los Angeles Region (4)

Greer Bosworth	Breath of Life Church
Reynold Garcia	Tamarind Avenue Church
Kathleen Myers	Valley Crossroads Church
Adolphus Garnett (Pastor)	Fifty-Four Street Church

Hispanic Region (6)

Adrian Casas	Lincoln Heights Spanish Church
Yvette Cruz	EastMont Spanish Church
Natanael Caballero	Baldwin Park Bilingual Church
Liliana Landaverde	Central Spanish Church
Alfredo Lee (Pastor)	Van Nuys Spanish Church
Hugo Sanchez	Hollywood Spanish Church

Los Angeles Metro Region (5)

Janet Barnhill	Rolling Hills Church
Carol Haynes	All Nations Church
Marcy Rood	Community Adventist Church
Gustavo Ramos	White Memorial Church
Todd Leonard (Pastor)	Glendale City Church

West Region (3)

Jonathan Cherne	Thousand Oaks Church
Jennifer Lew	The Place Church
Neville Salvador	Hollywood Church

Voted 31-15 To approve the recommendation of the Nominating Committee that the following persons serve as members of the Bylaws Committee for the 2015-2019 quadrennium:

Paul Cho (Pastor)*	Chino Valley Church
Peter Chung	Cerritos Korean Church
Keith Bradford	Normandie Avenue Church
Valerie Jackson	L.A. Metro Region Church
Javier Elenes	Glendale West Spanish Church
Paul Negrete	Monrovia Church
Daniel Benitez	West Covina Hills Church
Myron Counts*	Glendale City Church
Gregory Hoenes (Pastor)*	Santa Clarita Church
George Sellers	Northridge Church

* Returning committee members

ACT OF DEDICATION

The spouses of the newly elected officers were presented with bouquets, after which Janet Lui, prayer leader for the Conference, asked Elder Larry Caviness to offer prayer for the newly elected officers, the superintendent of schools and their spouses. Elder Ricardo Graham also prayed for Elder and Mrs. Larry Caviness.

CLOSING REMARKS

Elder Velino A. Salazar newly elected Conference president, expressed his sincere appreciation to Elder Larry Caviness, who goes into his deserved retirement and to Elder Sunny Oh, who will go into retirement after a Conference Treasurer come in; and he also thanked the Pacific Union Conference, North American Division officers for their counsel and support. He thanked the constituents for their commitment as they put their hearts into the sacred work called God's church.

Based on the theme of this constituency session and the next quadrennial term "Christ Alone, Our Story, Our Center, Our Hope" he briefly reflected on the Conference future, envisioning, with God's help, what is ahead.

He quoted from Life Sketches of Ellen G. White, page 196 "We have nothing to fear for the future except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us and His teaching in our past history."

Elder Salazar ended saying: "I personally envision the churches in Southern California Conference being open to explore every possible way to reach more people for Christ. There is no standard evangelistic methodology or strategy to be applied in all churches; God can give us ideas to be creative, to lift up Christ so people can find the Savior. We need to explore different ways to reach our complex and ever-changing society. The methodologies in our witnessing programs can vary, but the Gospel needs to be kept intact and pure. May God help us all be faithful to Him, making Christ alone the center of our lives."

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED To adjourn the Sixty-fourth Constituency Session of the Southern California Conference.
32-15

The benediction was offered by Elder Dan Jackson, North American Division President

Larry L. Caviness, Chair
Velino A. Salazar, Secretary