



MISSION FIRST

*My Vision for the
South Central Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists*

Presented at the Request of the
South Central Conference
Executive Committee

by
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MY VISION

My vision for South Central is about making the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church—*"Make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Three Angels' Messages in preparation for His soon return"*—our primary driver in all decision-making and asset allocation. It is about making **Mission First**.

- **Mission First** means raising the mission to such a level of preeminence that it dictates and determines everything we do, and detects and determines those things we should not do.
- **Mission First** means making the conscious and courageous choice to prioritize the mission over the preservation of institution and tradition.
- **Mission First** means restructuring in the most efficient and mission-effective manner so as to *"Make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Three Angels' Messages in preparation for His soon return."*

MY CORE VALUES

#1: Strategic Planning

- † *Develop a strategic plan that answers the seven foundational organizational questions*
- † *Use the strategic plan to guide decision-making and resource allocation*

#2: Collaborative Communication

- † *Engage in listening sessions with a wide range of conference stakeholders*
- † *Use SWOT¹ Analysis feedback to develop the conference's strategic plan*

#3: Seeking the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

- † *Prayerfully seek the Spirit's outpouring for unity, vision, and power*
- † *Let every decision, initiative, and program be Spirit-led*

#4: Understanding Our Adventist Christian² Identity

- † *Emphasize that first and foremost, we are to be Christians—disciples of Jesus Christ*
- † *Emphasize that we are also to proclaim the distinctive message of Rev 14 to the world*

#5: Prioritizing the Local Church

- † *Since mission takes place primarily at the local church, resource it best and first*
- † *Operate consistent with the value that the conference exists to support the local church*

#6: Redefining Church

- † *Move beyond church as a building or mere worship experience to genuine community*
- † *Embrace the biblical model of church that is most mission-effective for your context*

#7: Providing Excellence in Pastoral Leadership

- † *Recruit, train, and retain Spirit-filled, Christ-centered, mission-effective pastors*
- † *Provide regular evaluation, coaching, and accountability to raise pastoral skills*

Background

Although Charles E. Dudley was our conference's fourth president, serving after H. R. Murphy, W. W. Fordham, and F. L. Bland, it is clear that his 31 years of service were the most impactful in shaping the culture of South Central. Dudley's awareness of the importance of the entire Black work—not just in South Central, but all throughout the United States—helped raise South Central's status to first among equals within the regional work. This is seen by the cadre of future conference presidents he called into ministry and groomed in South Central: Charles Joseph, Henry Wright, Joseph McCoy, Norman Miles, Gerald Pennick, and Benjamin Browne.

Following in Dudley's footsteps, Joseph McCoy continued South Central's pioneering legacy of advancing the Black work with his innovative and courageous contribution to the establishment of the Regional Conference Retirement Plan. And like Dudley, he also called and groomed some of the foremost leaders in today's regional work: Carlton Byrd, President of the Southwest Region Conference; Vandean Griffin, North American Division Associate Youth Director; Debleaire Snell, Breath of Life Speaker/Director; and Toussaint Williams, South Central Conference Executive Secretary.

The culture of South Central was further enhanced as God used Benjamin Browne to add an emphasis on prayer, which brought healing, unity, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our conference's pastors. Then He brought Dana Edmond's penchant for intentionality to strengthen the business-side of ministry and increase the diversity of our ministerial staff with our first female pastoral hire, Pastor Lola Moore Johnston. And finally, for the past nine years, God has given the experience, integrity, and relational sensitivity of Benjamin Jones, who has blessed South Central by adding such able expositors of the Word to its primary pulpits, like: Nathaniel Drew, Jamond Jimmerson, Gordon Jones, William Lee and Nathaniel Lyles.

If God leads you to elect me to serve as the ninth president of the South Central Conference, it would be my honor to lead us to continue building upon this sacred and significant legacy. Because I believe you have a right and a responsibility to know what someone believes before you invite them to lead, I am sharing with you my core values. These could become the building blocks of a comprehensive organizational vision, but an even better plan is to build upon *shared* values. So I will begin the conversation—and if my values resonate, I'll look forward to you sharing yours, as we work together in a future collaborative relationship.

MISSION FIRST

The mission of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church is extremely clear and quite compelling: “*Make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Third Angels’ Messages in preparation for His soon return* (Matthew 28:18–20, Acts 1:8, Revelation 14:6–12).”³

As an Adventist Church, we view this mission as our God-given assignment. It is our singular aim, ultimate purpose and organizational *why*.⁴ Noted Adventist historian George R. Knight agrees with the significance and centrality of our Church’s mission when he writes: “Mission is what the Seventh-day Adventist Church is all about. It is the only reason for the denomination’s existence.”⁵

But then Knight goes on to provide the sobering assessment that Adventism “is in danger (especially in such places as North America, Western Europe, and Australia) of settling down as merely another nice comfortable denomination (or social club).”⁶ His point is that the mission focus which made early Adventism a movement is giving way to a new focus on simply maintaining the status quo—classic mission drift.

Sociologist David Moberg suggests that all organizations go through a similarly predictable life cycle that he describes in five stages: 1) incipient organization, 2) formal organization, 3) maximum efficiency, 4) institutional, and 5) disintegration.⁷ According to Moberg’s view, the decline and disintegration of every organization is inevitable over time—*unless the organization consciously and courageously chooses the prioritization of mission over the preservation of institution and tradition*.

In other words, all organizations, including the church, will experience a natural gravitational pull away from their core mission. It may be the demands of a growing bureaucracy, attempts to avoid conflict, pressure from stakeholders, broader organizational expectations, fiscal challenges, misaligned business ventures, apathy and decline, the tyranny of the urgent, or even legitimate societal needs. Any or all of these can tempt the organization and its leaders to place the mission on the backburner. However, the future survival and success of all organizations is dependent upon a radical commitment to making—and keeping—*Mission First*.

In our specific South Central context this means making the conscious and courageous choice to prioritize the mission to *make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses*

and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Third Angels' Messages in preparation for His soon return. Additionally, it means raising this mission to such a level of preeminence that it dictates and determines everything we do (as well as detects and determines those things we should *not* do.) It also encompasses reevaluating our systems and structures by continually asking the simple question: 'Is this the most efficient and effective way to fulfill our mission?' And finally, it includes a willingness to reorganize in the most efficient and mission-effective manner possible, understanding that organizational forms only exist to serve missional functions.

If elected to serve as president of South Central, my vision would be to lead our conference to become *Mission First*, and I would lead toward that destination based upon my core beliefs and consistent with my core values. These core values are as follows: 1) Strategic Planning, 2) Collaborative Communication, 3) Seeking the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, 4) Understanding Our Adventist Christian Identity, 5) Prioritizing the Local Church, 6) Redefining Church, and 7) Providing Excellence in Pastoral Leadership.

Core Value #1: Strategic Planning

A fundamental basic best practice for any organization is the development of a strategic plan. Strategic planning is a business process that helps an organization define its direction, determine its goals, and detail the actions it will take to achieve them. The process includes answering the seven foundational organizational questions: What is important to us (values)? What do we do (functions)? Why do we do it (mission)? Where are we going (vision)? How will we get there (strategy)? When will we get there (goals)? and How will we know we have arrived? (key performance indicators).

Once the strategic plan is developed, it is to be used to guide decision-making and resource allocation. Developing and implementing a conference-wide strategic plan, and then using it to proactively inform choices, evaluate progress and make course corrections, will result in operational clarity, organizational unity, increased synergy, and maximized productivity. Exactly a year ago this weekend, I had the privilege of facilitating your South Central Conference Executive Committee Strategic Planning Retreat Weekend. If I am elected to serve as president, it will be my privilege to prioritize leading us to prayerfully continue and complete that strategic planning process. Strategic planning is one of my core values and it is essential to our conference being *Mission First*.

Core Value #2: Collaborative Communication

For an organization's strategic plan to be most effective, it must be developed as a team venture through a collaborative process that includes input from a wide range of stakeholders. This helps to facilitate buy-in, increase participation, and hopefully result in ownership. Therefore, if I am elected to serve as president of South Central, my first assignment will be to listen—to listen first to God, then to our outgoing president; to our former conference presidents; to our Executive Committee members; to our pastors; to our first elders; to our principals; to our teachers; to our departmental directors; to our office workers; to our multicultural community; and to our youth and young adults.

My plan would be to spend the president-elect period (September 15–December 31) conducting SWOT Analysis listening sessions, where people can share their perception of our conference's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT). The conversations would take place according to the outlined schedule:

- September 15–20: Listening to God for His Vision for SCC
- September 21–27: Listening to President Benjamin Jones
- September 28–30: Listening to Presidents McCoy, Browne and Edmond
- October 1–15: Listening to our Executive Committee members
- October 16–25: Listening to our Pastors
- October 26–31: Listening to our First Elders
- November 1–8: Listening to our Principals
- November 9–15 Listening to our Teachers
- November 16–22 Listening to our Departmental Directors
- December 1–4 Listening to our Office Workers
- December 14–20 Listening to our Multicultural Community
- December 21–31: Listening to our Youth and Young Adults

The insights gleaned during these listening sessions will enable us to develop a relevant and contextualized strategic plan, informed by the real-time thoughts and perspectives of South Central constituents. This kind of collaborative communication is something I need and highly value.

Core Value #3: Seeking the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

If I am elected to serve as conference president, I will work to make ‘seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit’ our conference’s first strategic objective. This is because the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the absolute most essential component in the execution of our Church’s mission. It is true that we are a nonprofit business entity that needs organizational structure, financial systems, and a strategic plan. But more fundamentally, we are the Body of Christ—a living, spiritual organism with an objective that cannot be accomplished by strictly human means. There is a reason Jesus told the apostles to wait for the gift His Father promised. It is because the church cannot “*make disciples of Jesus Christ*” without the transformative power of the Holy Spirit; the church cannot “*live like His loving witnesses*” without the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit; and the church cannot “*proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Three Angels’ Messages in preparation for His soon return*” without receiving the promised latter-rain outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In order to do anything of kingdom significance, we need to be born of the Spirit, baptized with the Spirit, led by the Spirit, and empowered to minister through the Spirit.

From an administrative perspective, this means our ideas need to be birthed by the Spirit, our decisions need to be directed by the Spirit, and our execution needs to be energized by the Spirit, so that we might experience unity and synergy from the Spirit. Plans will need to be developed, and programs will need to be implemented—but most importantly prayers will need to be prayed—to ensure that our entire conference prioritizes being filled with the Holy Spirit. Seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit is one of my core values.

Core Value #4: Understanding Our Adventist Christian Identity⁸

Our Seventh-day Adventist Church’s mission: “*Make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Third Angels’ Messages in preparation for His soon return*,” makes it clear that our first task is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. The theological implication is significant. First and foremost, Seventh-day Adventists believe that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone—“for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). As Ellen White reminds us, “He who is trying to become holy by his own works in keeping the law, is attempting an impossibility. All that man can do without Christ is polluted with selfishness and sin. It is the grace of Christ alone, through faith, that can make us holy.”⁹ That is why “The

sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin ... is to be the foundation of every discourse given by our ministers.”¹⁰ In other words, our central work is to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and if elected president, one of my objectives will be to recruit and train Christ-centered preachers, with the aim of growing Christ-centered churches, who will send Christ-centered members out into our communities living and sharing a Christ-centered gospel.

In addition to the theological implication of our mission, there is also a significant evangelistic implication. Although baptism is an extremely important and indispensable point in the mission, it is not to be confused with completion of the mission. Our mission is not to baptize; it is to make disciples—who in turn are trained to live as Christ’s loving witnesses, engaging in making disciples of others. Casting this broader, more holistic view of our Church’s mission will also be one of my objectives if elected to serve as president.

But while our Seventh-day Adventist Church’s mission makes it clear that we are Christian, it also makes it clear that we are not *only* Christian. Seventh-day Adventists are Christians who see their particular movement as the fulfillment of prophecy in Revelation chapters 10–14, believing that they have been specifically called to “*proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Third Angels’ Messages in preparation for [Christ’s] soon return.*” As we witness the erosion of civil liberties, and efforts to affect the union of church and state, the need for the world to hear our distinctive Adventist message will become more and more important. And at its core, it is a message much deeper than health reform or dress reform. It is a call to the unwavering allegiance of keeping “the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12)—even in the face of world-wide apostasy, persecution and potential death.

In the past our Church may have been guilty of producing Adventists who were not Christians, and that was extremely problematic; however, today we may be facing the opposite threat of producing Christians who are not Adventist, and negating the very reason for God calling our specific movement into existence. As we move closer and closer to the end of earth’s history, it will become even more imperative that we focus on making disciples who are both Christian and Adventist—Christian, *living as Christ’s loving witnesses*, and Adventist—*preparing for Christ’s soon return*. Making Adventist Christians is the essence of our Church’s mission, so understanding our Adventist Christian identity is indispensable if we are to be *Mission First*. That we strike and maintain this balance is one of my core values.

Core Value #5: Prioritizing the Local Church

Another very important core value of mine is prioritizing the local church. If I am elected to serve our conference as president, I will work to make sure we are clear regarding the role and function of the conference in relationship to the local church.

The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is: “*Make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Third Angels’ Messages in preparation for His soon return.*” It should be observed, however, that this disciple-making mission occurs primarily at our Church’s local church level. In other words, the teaching, fellowship, prayer, outreach, worship, and evangelistic functions that characterized the disciple-making process of the apostolic church (Acts 2:42–47) do not consistently occur at the conference, union, divisions of the General Conference, or General Conference levels of our Church. Instead, in the main, these disciple-making activities take place, week in and week out, at local congregations.

That being the case, we should ask: ‘What is the role and function of our Church’s other levels?’ Succinctly put, they exist to provide some form of functional support for the execution of the Church’s mission at the local church level. For example, in our Adventist hierarchical system, conferences hire and pay local church pastors, unions ordain pastors, divisions of the General Conference establish remuneration policies for pastors, and the General Conference formulates doctrines preached by pastors—all of which impact the execution of the mission at the local church level. However, it should not be forgotten that the mission itself does not primarily occur at these operating levels.

FedEx can serve as an excellent illustration. If you happen to be in Memphis, Tennessee and want to send a FedEx Express package, you might think that you could do so by driving to 3610 Hacks Cross Road—the address of the FedEx World Headquarters. But you would be wrong. Packages are not shipped from FedEx World Headquarters. Although shipping is one of their core mission functions, it occurs at FedEx Express shipping locations—not at the FedEx World Headquarters office. In the same way, we shouldn’t send our friends and neighbors to the South Central Conference Office at 715 Youngs Lane in Nashville, Tennessee for them to be discipled. That takes place at our local churches.

At its 2024 Strategic Planning Retreat, our Conference Executive Committee defined the function of the South Central Conference as “a historically black Seventh-day Adventist organization that supports the needs identified by its local churches and schools by providing resources, structure, and accountability as they proclaim the everlasting gospel.”¹¹ This statement clarified the role and function of the conference. The South Central Conference exists—not to execute the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church—but to provide its churches and schools with resources, structure, and accountability so that *they* may execute the mission more effectively and efficiently. This distinction is extremely significant. Why? Because it alerts us to the fact that the conference’s mission is to support and strengthen the mission-related ministries of the local church. Said another way, the conference exists for churches, churches don’t exist for the conference—and our resource allocation should bear witness to our understanding of this reality.

Elder Charles Bradford, former president of the North American Division, was famously known for taking the Church’s traditional hierarchal triangle and turning it upside down to highlight this very fact—that the conference, union, divisions of the General Conference, and the General Conference exist to support the local church, and not the local church to support the conference, union, divisions of the General Conference, and the General Conference. If I am elected president of the South Central Conference, my *Mission First* vision will include helping us to remember that our Church’s mission takes place primarily at the local church level, so it must be resourced best and first. Ensuring this prioritization is one of my core values.

Core Value #6: Redefining Church

One valid contribution that our conference can make to assist our churches in fulfilling the mission is to help cast a biblically redefined vision of what church was originally intended to be. To illustrate, prior to the pandemic, we frequently associated the word *church* with a building located at a specific address. However, when our physical facilities were closed, it became obvious that *church* was not simply a building. In other words, a church may have a church (building); but *church* is much more than a church (building). During the pandemic we had to leverage the power of technology so that we could continue having so-called *church*. But now, post-pandemic, we have a significant number of individuals for whom *church* is watching worship weekly online. While we can affirm technology and take full advantage of its benefits as a helpful evangelistic, pastoral, and administrative tool, we need to ask ourselves: ‘Is watching worship *church*?’

Additionally, and more deeply, we should ask: ‘Does experiencing worship in person even equate to having *church*?’

In South Central, we have a host of congregations who believe that in order for *church* to occur they must have a building with a formal weekly worship service that includes all the trappings of church officers: ushers, deacons, deaconess, elders and a fulltime pastor—for anything less would not be *church*. The problematic nature of this point of view might not be readily apparent in a larger congregation; but in smaller congregations (which happen to be the majority of our South Central churches) amassing the financial and human resources required to sustain such a vision can be quite challenging. And yet, when Acts 2 describes *church*, rather than pointing to an edifice or liturgical order of service, it highlights the fellowship (*koinonia*) of a unified and joyful community who gathered together in the temple, but also in one other’s homes, “and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need” (Acts 2:44–45).

So biblically speaking, this means you can have *church*—and be *church*—in a grand and gorgeous sanctuary, or around someone’s kitchen table. The point is not the place; it’s the purpose: continuing the teaching, fellowship, prayer, outreach, worship, and evangelistic functions that characterized the disciple-making process of the apostolic church (Acts 2:42–47). If I am selected to serve as our conference president, my *Mission First* vision will include helping our churches redefine church, and then supporting them in implementing the model that is most mission-effective in their context. Giving local churches the resources and room to redefine church is one of my core values.

Core Value #7: Providing Excellence in Pastoral Leadership

One of the best resources our conference can provide to its churches is capable and competent pastoral leadership. Although the mission: “*Make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Third Angels’ Messages in preparation for His soon return*” is the shared responsibility of all the people of God, the pastor’s ability to faithfully preach and teach God’s word; clearly cast and implement vision; effectively train and equip members; and lovingly motivate and manage volunteers, has much to do with the local church’s success in accomplishing it. Excellence in pastoral leadership is critically important because it is missionally important.

Over the years South Central has been noted for its ability to call, recruit and retain anointed, gifted and committed pastoral leaders. However, with the arrival of the long-predicted pastoral shortage, due to the retiring of the baby boomer generation, coupled with the low enrollment in our college and university religion and theology departments, it will become increasingly more difficult to attract and keep high-quality pastoral staff. Therefore, it is essential that we be proactive in ensuring that we continue to draw excellent pastors to South Central and keep excellent pastors in South Central. Additionally, we must perform regular pastoral evaluations that provide opportunity for pastoral growth and development; conduct adequate training and coaching to increase competency and skill; and finally, administer consistent accountability that can reward faithful and industrious work, and remove unfaithfulness and slovenliness. If I am selected to serve as our conference president, my *Mission First* vision will include working to develop and implement systems to ensure we are providing our churches with excellence in pastoral leadership. This is also one of my core values.

Conclusion

From the very first time I sensed God calling me to serve Him as a pastor, until today—over 30 years later, my singular and consistent desire in ministry has been for Him to lead and for me to follow. Therefore, as you prayerfully deliberate, if God convicts you that it is His will for me to serve as the ninth president of the South Central Conference, then I will be honored—and humbled—to serve in this capacity; and my vision would be to prayerfully lead our conference to become *Mission First*, focusing on 1) Strategic Planning, 2) Collaborative Communication, 3) Seeking the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, 4) Understanding Our Adventist Christian Identity, 5) Prioritizing the Local Church, 6) Redefining Church, and 7) Providing Excellence in Pastoral Leadership.

My prayer for you is that at the conclusion of this meeting all parties might be able to report concerning your decision—as did the apostolic church at the conclusion of one of theirs: “For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us” (Acts 15:28).

God’s blessings be upon you and thank you for the opportunity to interview.

A strategic leader, with over 30 years of proven pastoral experience in transforming organizational culture and implementing systems that support sustained church growth, who is passionate about empowering Adventist pastors and their congregations to become Spirit-led, gospel-oriented, and mission-driven.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

South Central Conference (SCC) of Seventh-day Adventists (SDA): 12/06 – Present

- Church Ministries & Mission Development Department (CMMD) / Director (December 2020 – Present)
 - Designed and implemented the Spirit-led, Mission-driven Church Development Process with 46 churches engaged
 - Created the “Compass” bimonthly newsletter with 24 editions produced
 - Established the CMMD Prayer, Prison, MESSAGE Magazine, and Community Engagement Ministries
 - Conducted Strategic Planning for SCC Executive Committee, and SCC Youth Department
 - Partnered with F. H. Jenkins School in Pentecost 2025 Campaign resulting in 53 decisions for Christ and 9 baptisms
 - Redesigned and managed the 2025 SCC Camp Meeting Adult Worship Services
- Riverside Chapel SDA Church: Nashville, TN / Senior Pastor (December 2006 – March 2021)
 - Received Nashville New Pastor of the Year Award: Community Outreach and Discipleship
 - Developed the church's mission statement, and implemented a mission-driven organizational structure
 - Co-authored book “Mission-Driven Ministry” (AdventSource)
 - Successfully transitioned to: contemporary worship style, church of small groups, and spiritual gifts-based ministry
 - Launched annual Agape Medical Clinic, Financial Literacy Symposium, Back to School Bash, and SOW Sabbaths
 - Moved church board leadership demographic from 4% under 40 years of age to 40% under 40 years of age
 - Instituted Senior Prayer Meeting
 - Recorded the church's first musical CD—The Riverside Project: Music & Devotion
 - Mentored 9 members who became district lay pastors, associate pastors, lead pastors, or commissioned chaplains
 - Retired the church's \$1.2 million mortgage, and doubled the annual income from \$1 million to over \$2 million
 - Doubled average weekly worship attendance from 300 people to 600 people
 - Received SCC Pastoral Excellence Award in Publishing (2008), Prayer Ministries (2009), Evangelism (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012), Sabbath School (2013, 2014), and Education (2016)
 - Established the Riverside Spanish and North Cheatham County Church Plants
 - Accomplished conference-assigned task of reaching young adults (18–35) without alienating seniors (65+)

Central States Conference (CSC) of SDA: 06/95 – 11/06

- Allon Chapel SDA Church: Lincoln, NE / Pastor (June 2003 – November 2006)
 - Received CSC Highest Attendance Increase Award (2004, 2005)
 - Created second worship service
- Charleston, MO; Sikeston, MO; and Hayti, MO Church District / Pastor (January 1999 – May 2003)
 - Led in the building of a new worship facility, Grand Avenue SDA Church, Charleston, MO
 - Established Charleston Community Food Bank and served as president
- Coffeyville, KS; Independence, KS; and Springfield, MO Church District / Pastor (June 1995 – August 1996)

North American Division Evangelism Institute Externship Program: 09/96 – 12/98

- Straford Memorial SDA Church: Chicago, IL / Assistant Pastor (September 1996 - December 1998)

Victorian Conference of SDA, South Pacific Division - 06/93 – 05/94

- Wantirna SDA Church: Melbourne, Victoria, Australia / Youth Pastor (June 1993 - May 1994)

ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLES

Chairperson: Imagine Nashville KY-TN & SCC Ministerium (2018 – 2020)

Vice-Chairperson: Pastoral Evangelism and Leadership Council (PELC) (2013 – Present)

Chairperson: F. H. Jenkins Preparatory School Board (2013 – 2018)

EDUCATION

PhD in Religion: Adventist Studies (*in progress*), ANDREWS UNIVERSITY, Berrien Springs, MI (2020 – Present)

Master of Divinity, ANDREWS UNIVERSITY, Berrien Springs, MI (1998)

Bachelor of Arts in Ministerial Theology, OAKWOOD COLLEGE, Huntsville, AL (1995)

Bachelor of Science in Business Management, OAKWOOD COLLEGE, Huntsville, AL (1995)

NOTES:

- ¹ A SWOT Analysis assesses Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.
- ² The word order of the term “Adventist Christian” (as opposed to “Christian Adventist”) is not to suggest that our Adventism comes before, or is more important than, our Christianity. It only appears first because grammatically, as an adjective, Adventist is describing the specific type of Christian we are.
- ³ This statement was voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Executive Committee at the Annual Council Session in Silver Spring, Maryland on October 13, 2014, and amended at the Annual Council on October 10, 2023, <https://gc.adventist.org/official-statements/mission-statement-of-the-seventh-day-adventist-church/>.
- ⁴ See Simon Sinek, *Start with Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action* (London: Portfolio, 2009).
- ⁵ George R. Knight, *If I Were the Devil: Seeing Through the Enemy’s Smokescreen: Contemporary Challenges Facing Adventism* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 2007), 9.
- ⁶ Knight, *If I Were the Devil: Seeing Through the Enemy’s Smokescreen: Contemporary Challenges Facing Adventism*, 9.
- ⁷ David Moberg, *The Church as a Social Institution: The Sociology of American Religion*, 2nd edition ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1984), 118–25.
- ⁸ See note 1 above.
- ⁹ Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1892), 59.
- ¹⁰ Ellen G. White, *Gospel Workers* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald, 1915), 315.
- ¹¹ South Central Conference Executive Committee Strategic Planning Session, September 15, 2024.