

TO:

Pastors, Elders, Church Boards, and Members of the Cape Conference

SUBJECT: Introduction of the Concerned Members Group and Its Purpose

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace be multiplied to you through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We write to you as a group of baptized Seventh-day Adventist members from various churches across the Cape Conference who have come together out of a sincere concern for the spiritual health, governance, accountability, unity, and future direction of our Conference.

Why the Concerned Members Group Was Established

The Concerned Members Group was formed after a growing number of members, church leaders, and congregations expressed concerns regarding various matters affecting the Conference. Many of these concerns have been communicated through letters, meetings, emails, and formal requests for engagement over an extended period.

While our individual concerns may differ, we are united by a common conviction:

The Seventh-day Adventist Church belongs to Christ, and every member has a sacred responsibility to safeguard its mission, integrity, and witness.

This group was therefore established to:

- Promote transparency, accountability, and good governance.
- Encourage adherence to the Bible, the Church Manual, and denominational Working Policy.
- Foster respectful dialogue between members and leadership.
- Advocate for procedural fairness and consistency.
- Protect the interests of local churches and their members.
- Seek reconciliation and restoration wherever possible.
- Strengthen confidence in church governance structures.
- Ensure that the mission of proclaiming the everlasting gospel remains the central focus of the Church.

What We Stand For

For the Church

We love the Seventh-day Adventist Church and remain committed to its doctrines, mission, and prophetic calling.

For Biblical Leadership

We believe church leadership should reflect the servant-leadership model demonstrated by Jesus Christ.

"Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant." — Mark 10:43 (NKJV)

For Accountability

Accountability is not rebellion. Accountability is a biblical principle that protects both leaders and members.

For Unity Through Truth

True unity is built upon truth, trust, transparency, and mutual respect — not silence or avoidance of difficult issues.

For Due Process

We support the fair and consistent application of Church policy, labour principles, governance requirements, and constitutional processes.

For Stewardship

Church resources are sacred and should be managed with integrity, transparency, and accountability.

What We Are Not

To avoid misunderstanding, we wish to state clearly what this group is not. We are not:

- A breakaway movement.
- An opposition political group.
- A replacement for Conference leadership.
- Seeking division within the Church.
- Opposed to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Our desire is reform where necessary, reconciliation where possible, and renewal where needed.

Our Areas of Focus

The Concerned Members Group has identified several broad themes that require prayerful consideration and engagement:

1. Representative Governance

Ensuring that governance structures operate transparently and in accordance with established policy.

2. Financial Stewardship

Promoting accountability and transparency in the management of sacred funds.

3. Procedural Justice

Encouraging fair, consistent, and equitable treatment of all members and workers.

4. Pastoral Care and Leadership

Advocating for leadership practices that reflect biblical values and foster trust.

5. Institutional Trust

Addressing issues that have contributed to declining confidence among members.

6. Constitutional Oversight

Supporting independent review and verification processes where appropriate.

What Happens Next

The Concerned Members Group intends to proceed in an orderly, respectful, and policy-aligned manner. Our next steps include:

Church Engagement

We will continue engaging local churches, church boards, and members to listen to concerns and gather feedback.

Information Sharing

Relevant information, documentation, and governance-related matters will be shared with churches to enable informed discussion and understanding.

Policy Review

A review of applicable Church Manual provisions, Union policies, Division policies, and General Conference Working Policy will continue to ensure recommendations are grounded in denominational processes.

Consultation

We will continue consulting with members, church leaders, governance professionals, legal practitioners, and individuals experienced in denominational administration.

Recommendations

Where appropriate, recommendations will be developed and submitted through recognized church structures for consideration.

Prayer and Spiritual Renewal — A Call to Prayer

Most importantly, we call upon every member to join us in earnest prayer for the Church, its leaders, its workers, and its mission.

This is not merely an administrative matter.

It is a spiritual matter.

The enemy of souls rejoices when distrust, conflict, and division consume the energies of God's people. Our commitment is therefore to conduct ourselves in a Christ-like manner while pursuing truth, justice, accountability, and reconciliation.

We ask every church to pray:

- For wisdom.
- For humility.
- For transparency.
- For reconciliation.
- For revival and reformation.
- For the successful completion of God's work in the Cape Conference.

Final Appeal

As Seventh-day Adventists, we believe that Christ is the Head of the Church. Our confidence is not in any individual, committee, administration, or movement. Our confidence is in Jesus Christ.

May we approach every issue prayerfully, carefully, respectfully, and faithfully, remembering that we are all stewards of a sacred trust and that one day we will give an account before God for how we cared for His Church.

"Let all things be done decently and in order." — 1 Corinthians 14:40 (NKJV)

May God guide His Church and grant wisdom to all who serve within it.

Yours in Christian Service,

CONCERNED MEMBERS GROUP

Cape Conference · Seventh-day Adventist Church

Committed to Biblical Leadership, Accountability, Transparency, and the Mission of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church

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