

1 SEC/OGC/224-20Ge/PolRev&Dev/ADCOM/Pre/SecC/TreC/GCDO20AC/SEC/
2 ADCOM(Steering)/20AC to HMM(DIV)

3
4 225-20Ge LOCAL CONFERENCE MODEL CONSTITUTION AND
5 BYLAWS - POLICY AMENDMENT

6
7 VOTED, To amend GC D 20, Local Conference Model Constitution and Bylaws, to read
8 as follows:

9
10 D 20 Local Conference Model Constitution and Bylaws

11 D 20 05 Local Conference Constitution and Bylaws—The following Local Conference
12 Model Constitution and Bylaws ~~Bylaws—This model constitution~~ shall be followed as closely as
13 possible by all local conferences. Those sections of the model constitution and bylaws that
14 appear in bold print are essential to the unity of the Church worldwide and shall be included in
15 the constitution and bylaws as adopted by each local conference. Other sections of the
16 constitution and model bylaws may be modified as set out in Bylaw Article XII, provided they
17 continue to be in full harmony with the provisions of this model. Where specific cases require
18 modification to text in bold print, final approval for such modifications to any text in bold print
19 must be studied and approved by the General Conference Executive Committee after receiving a
20 recommendation from the division executive committee and the General Conference
21 Administrative Committee. ~~Where specific cases require modification to material in bold print,~~
22 ~~final approval for such modifications to any material in bold print must be studied and approved~~
23 ~~by the General Conference Administrative Committee after receiving a recommendation from~~
24 ~~the division executive committee and the Office of General Counsel.~~

25
26 Amendments to the Local Conference Model Constitution shall be made by action of the
27 Executive Committee of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at any Annual
28 Council of that Committee.

29
30 **CONSTITUTION OF THE _____ CONFERENCE**
31 **OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**

32
33 **Article I—Name**

34
35 **The name of this organization shall be known as the _____ Conference of**
36 **Seventh-day Adventists, hereinafter referred to as the conference.**

37
38 **Article II—Purpose**

39
40 **The purpose of this conference is to call all people within its territory to become**
41 **disciples of Jesus Christ, to proclaim the everlasting gospel embraced by the three angels'**
42 **messages (Revelation 14:6-12), and to prepare them for Christ's soon return.**

1 Article III—Relationships

2
3 The _____ Conference is a member unit of the _____ Union Conference
4 or Union Mission/Section of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and is located in the
5 territory of the _____ Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
6 The purposes, policies, and procedures of this conference shall be in harmony with the
7 working ~~policies polieies, actions,~~ and procedures enacted by the ~~Executive Committee~~
8 ~~executive committee~~ of the _____ Division ~~and or~~ the General Conference of Seventh-
9 day Adventists. This conference shall pursue the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist
10 Church in harmony with the Fundamental Beliefs, programs, initiatives, and actions
11 adopted and approved by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at its sessions.
12 ~~and initiatives adopted and approved by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists~~
13 ~~in its quinquennial sessions.~~

14
15 Article IV—Geographic Territory

16
17 The territory of this conference shall consist of _____.

18
19 Article V—Membership/Constituency

20
21 The membership/constituency of this conference shall consist of such churches as
22 have been or shall be properly organized in any part of the geographic territory under its
23 jurisdiction and formally approved for membership by vote of the delegates at any regular
24 or special conference constituency meeting.

25
26 Article VI—Bylaws

27
28 The members of this conference, acting in and through a conference constituency
29 meeting, may enact bylaws, and/or repeal them, and such bylaws may embrace any
30 provision not inconsistent with the constitution or with the current local conference model
31 constitution and bylaws approved by the Executive Committee of the General Conference
32 of Seventh-day Adventists.

33
34 Article VII—Dissolution and Disposition of Assets

35
36 This conference may be dissolved only by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the
37 delegates present and voting at any constituency meeting.

38
39 In the event of the dissolution of this conference and unless otherwise required by
40 local law, all assets remaining after all claims have been satisfied shall be transferred to a
41 legal entity authorized by the _____ Division of the General Conference of Seventh-
42 day Adventists.

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Article VIII—Amendments

The **bolded text of this constitution and bylaws shall not be amended except to conform to the local conference model constitution and bylaws when it is amended by action of the General Conference Executive Committee at an Annual Council. Such amendments shall be adopted into the conference constitution and bylaws by a simple majority vote (unless local law requires a higher majority) of delegates present and voting at a conference constituency meeting. This conference may amend the unbolded text of the constitution and bylaws from time to time at a conference constituency meeting provided any such changes are in harmony with the spirit and intent of the model constitution and bylaws.** ~~constitution. Such amendments shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates present and voting. The conference executive committee may recommend to the General Conference, through the _____ Union Conference or Union Mission/Section and the _____ Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, amendments to the model constitution.~~

BYLAWS OF THE _____ CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Article I—Principal Office

The principal office for the transaction of the business of the _____ Conference is fixed and located at _____, _____. The executive committee may ~~in an emergency~~ change the location of the principal office on a temporary basis.

Article II—Membership/Constituency Meetings

Sec. 1. Regular Meeting: This conference shall hold a **regular _____ (biennial, triennial, quadrennial, or quinquennial) ~~constituency meeting~~ regular quinquennial membership/constituency meeting*** at such time and place as the executive committee of the conference shall designate. **In the event that the executive committee fails to call a regular constituency meeting within the ~~quinquennial~~ quinquennial period, the _____ Union Conference or Union Mission/Field Executive ~~Committee~~ Committee, or General Conference Executive Committee in the case of conferences directly attached to the General Conference, may give notice for such a meeting and designate the time and place. In case regional conditions make it imperative to postpone the calling of the constituency meeting, the union conference or union mission/section executive committee, in a regular or special meeting, shall have authority to make such postponement, not to exceed one year, giving notice to all constituent organizations. In the event that the executive committee exercises its authority to**

*The membership/constituency meeting is a business meeting of the membership of this conference. These meetings may also be called membership/constituency sessions.

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BYLAWS - POLICY AMENDMENT - 4

1 postpone a constituency meeting, it shall also have the authority to set the subsequent regular
2 constituency meeting at such time and place as it shall see fit, not to exceed five calendar years
3 from the date of the postponed constituency meeting. Notice of the time and place of the meeting
4 of the delegates representing the members shall be given by:

5
6 a. A notice printed in the official publication of the conference
7 ~~the _____ Union Mission/Section or Union Conference~~ at least four weeks before the date
8 of the session, or

9
10 b. A method approved by the _____ Conference Executive Committee,
11 provided all member units receive notice with sufficient time to select delegates, or

12
13 c. **A method approved by the _____ Union Executive Committee,**
14 **in the event of inaction or failure to call a constituency meeting by**
15 **the _____ Conference Executive Committee.**

16
17 **Sec. 2. Special Meeting: a. The executive committee of this conference shall call a**
18 **special constituency meeting when:**

19
20 1) **It is voted by the executive committee, or**

21
22 2) **It is voted by the delegates at any constituency meeting, or**

23
24 3) **It is requested by _____ percent of the churches of the**
25 **conference through their business meetings, ~~church boards~~, or**

26
27 4) **It is voted by the union executive committee, division executive**
28 **committee, or General Conference Executive Committee.**

29
30 **The date for such a meeting in response to paragraphs 3) and 4) above shall not be**
31 **more than 90 days from the date when the actions described in paragraphs 3) and 4) above**
32 **are communicated to the officers/executive committee of the conference. ~~union~~.**

33
34 b. **In the absence of a timely response by the conference executive**
35 **committee to paragraphs 2) through 4) in Sec. 2. a. above the _____ Union Executive**
36 **Committee or _____ Division Executive Committee may call a special constituency**
37 **meeting of the conference and designate the time and place for such a meeting.**

38
39 c. **The agenda for special constituency meetings shall be included in the**
40 **notice of the meeting.**

1 d. Notice as to the time and place of special constituency meetings shall
2 be given in the same manner as for regularly scheduled constituency meetings.
3

4 **Sec. 3. Virtual Attendance at Constituency Meetings:** Generally, regular and specially
5 called constituency meetings are to be held in person and onsite. However, delegates when
6 requested by the executive committee, and if permitted by local law, may participate by means of
7 an electronic conference or similar communications by which all persons can hear each other at
8 the same time, and participation by such means shall constitute presence in person and
9 attendance at such a meeting.

10
11 ~~Sec. 3.~~ **Sec. 4. Chair and Secretary for Constituency Meetings:** The president of this
12 conference shall serve as chair and the secretary of this conference shall serve as secretary
13 for constituency meetings of ~~the~~ **this** conference. The president may designate other
14 individuals to assist in chair duties from time to time. In the event that the president's
15 office is vacant or that the president is unavailable to serve as chair, the constituency
16 meeting may be called to order by the ranking union officer present. The first item of
17 business shall be the election of a chair *pro tem*, selected from the delegates present at the
18 meeting. When the election of a president has been completed, the new **president**, ~~or re-~~
19 ~~elected president~~, if present at the constituency meeting, shall replace the chair *pro tem*.
20

21 In a similar manner, arrangements may be made for a secretary *pro tem* if the
22 secretary's office is vacant or the secretary is unavailable to serve at the constituency
23 meeting. When **the** election of a secretary has been completed, the new **secretary**, ~~or re-~~
24 ~~elected secretary~~, if present at the constituency meeting, shall replace the secretary *pro tem*.
25

26 ~~A person who is not reelected a constituency meeting does not thereby lose delegate~~
27 ~~status at the current constituency meeting.~~
28

29 **Sec. 4. Sec. 5. Regular Meeting Business:** The business of the regular constituency
30 meeting shall include the election/appointment of personnel for various positions (see **Sec.**
31 **11.** ~~Sec. 10.~~ below), the receipt of reports from the president, secretary, treasurer/chief
32 financial officer (report based on audited statements), departmental directors, and the
33 auditor. The constituency meeting shall endorse/approve/develop plans for the conduct of
34 the work as are desirable and in harmony with the policies of the _____ Division.
35

36 **Sec. 5. Sec. 6. Quorum:** At least _____ percent of the delegates authorized hereinafter
37 under ~~Section 1.~~ Sec. 1. of Article III must be present at any regular or special constituency
38 meeting to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Once the meeting is declared
39 open, the delegates present shall constitute a quorum.
40

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BYLAWS - POLICY AMENDMENT - 6

1 ~~Sec. 6.~~ Sec. 7. **Proxy Voting:** All delegates must be present in person at any
2 constituency ~~meeting~~ meeting, or participating by electronic means, in order to be eligible to
3 vote. There shall be no voting by proxy.
4

5 ~~Sec. 7.~~ Sec. 8. **Voting Rights of the Delegates:** Each delegate appointed to act on behalf
6 of the members of this conference shall be entitled to one vote on each question to be decided by
7 the body. The voting rights of the individual delegates representing the members as hereinafter
8 provided shall be limited to the particular constituency meeting of the conference in which they
9 have been designated to represent a local church, an institution, the _____ Union
10 Conference or Union Mission/Section, the _____ Division the Union, the Division, or the
11 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
12

13 ~~Sec. 8.~~ Sec. 9. **Voting:** The voting on matters of business shall normally be by *viva*
14 *voce*. The chair may call for the vote by other means, including a secret ballot, when it is
15 deemed advisable or is requested by the membership. Votes cast remotely shall have the
16 same validity as if the delegates met and voted onsite.
17

18 ~~Sec. 9.~~ Sec. 10. **Parliamentary Authority:** The parliamentary authority pertaining to all
19 rules and procedures for constituency meetings not covered by its bylaws shall be based on those
20 published in the *General Conference Rules of Order*, and any adaptation or supplement approved
21 by the division executive committee, unless otherwise determined by a two-thirds (2/3) majority
22 vote of the constituency meeting. ~~The parliamentary authority pertaining to all rules and~~
23 ~~procedures for constituency meetings not covered by its bylaws shall be based on those~~
24 ~~published in the *General Conference Rules of Order*, and any adaptation or supplement~~
25 ~~approved by the division executive committee, unless otherwise determined by a two-thirds~~
26 ~~(2/3) majority vote of the constituency meeting.~~
27

28 ~~Sec. 10.~~ Sec. 11. **Election/Appointment and Term of Office:** a. **Election:** All
29 conference officers and members of the executive committee who are not ex officio
30 members shall be elected by the delegates at a meeting of the conference constituency. The
31 election of departmental directors, associate departmental directors, associate secretaries,
32 or associate treasurers, if not determined by the delegates at the conference constituency
33 meeting, shall be referred to the executive committee for appointment. Other positions to
34 be filled by election may include the chief administrator(s) and board members of
35 conference institutions if and as required by the governance documents and structure for
36 each entity.
37

38 b. **Term of Office:** Persons elected at the constituency meeting and those
39 appointed by the executive committee normally serve until the next regular constituency
40 meeting. However, their period of service may be shorter due to resignation, voluntary
41 retirement, retirement in situations where a mandatory retirement age policy is in effect, or

1 **removal from office, for cause, by the executive committee or a special constituency**
2 **meeting.**

3
4 The phrase “for cause” when used in connection with removal from an elected or
5 appointed position, or from employment, shall include but not be limited to 1) incompetence; 2)
6 persistent failure to cooperate with duly constituted authority in substantive matters and with
7 relevant employment and denominational policies; 3) actions which may be the subject of
8 discipline under the *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual*; 4) failure to maintain regular
9 standing as a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; 5) theft or embezzlement; or 6)
10 conviction of or guilty plea for a crime.

11
12 **Article III—Representation at Constituency Meetings**

13
14 **Sec. 1. Regular Delegates: All delegates duly accredited by any one of the organized**
15 **churches of the conference. Each church shall be entitled to one delegate for the organization**
16 **and one additional delegate for each _____ members or major fraction thereof and who hold**
17 **membership in the local church which accredits them. Such delegates shall be chosen by**
18 **the business meeting of the respective local church and include males and females.**

19
20 **Sec. 2. Delegates At-Large: Delegates at-large to a constituency meeting of this**
21 **conference include:**

22
23 **a. The current members of the executive committee of this conference.**

24
25 **b. Members of the _____ Union Mission/Section or Union**
26 **Conference Committees who may be present at any constituency meeting of this**
27 **conference. The number of such delegates shall not exceed ten percent of the total number**
28 **of delegates otherwise provided for.**

29
30 **c. All employees holding credentials or ministerial licenses issued by this**
31 **conference.**

32
33 **d. Such other persons as may be recommended by the executive**
34 **committee and accepted by the delegates in session. The number of such delegates shall not**
35 **exceed ten percent of the total number of regular delegates provided for hereinabove.**

36
37 **e. A person who is not elected to a new term of office a constituency**
38 **meeting does not thereby lose delegate status at the current constituency meeting.**

39
40 ~~**Sec. 1. The delegates at any constituency meeting of this conference shall be regular**~~
41 ~~**delegates and delegates at-large.**~~

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BYLAWS - POLICY AMENDMENT - 8

1 **a. Regular Delegates:** ~~All delegates duly accredited by any one of the~~
2 ~~organized churches of the conference.~~ Each church shall be entitled to one delegate for the
3 organization and one additional delegate for each _____ members or major fraction thereof and
4 ~~who hold membership in the local church which accredits them. Such delegates shall be~~
5 ~~chosen by the business meeting of the respective local church and include males and~~
6 ~~females.~~

7
8 **b. Delegates at-large:**

9
10 1) ~~All members of the executive committee of~~
11 ~~the _____ Conference.~~

12 2) ~~All members of the executive committee of~~
13 ~~the _____ Union Mission/Section or Union Conference who may be present at any~~
14 ~~constituency meeting of this conference.~~

15 3) ~~All employees holding credentials or ministerial licenses issued by~~
16 ~~this conference.~~

17 4) ~~Members of the division executive committee who may be~~
18 ~~present at any constituency meeting of this conference. The number of such delegates~~
19 ~~representing the Division shall not exceed ten percent of the total number of delegates~~
20 ~~otherwise provided for.~~

21 5) ~~Such other persons as may be recommended by the executive~~
22 ~~committee and accepted by the delegates in session. The number of such delegates shall not~~
23 ~~exceed ten percent of the total number of regular delegates provided for hereinabove.~~

24
25 **Sec. 2. Sec. 3. Church Membership Requirement:** All delegates appointed to
26 represent the members of this conference at any constituency meeting shall be members in
27 regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
28

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32 **Article IV— Constituency Meeting Committees**

33
34
35 *(Note: Division executive committees may authorize a process whereby the session*
36 *organizing and nominating committees may be selected and empowered to perform their tasks in*
37 *advance of the session. The process to select such committees for a session shall involve*
38 *constituency representation rather than being accomplished by the executive committee alone.*
39 *Unless a division executive committee has approved other arrangements as described above, the*
40 *following provisions shall apply for the appointment and functioning of session committees.)*
41

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BYLAWS - POLICY AMENDMENT - 9

1 **Prior to each conference constituency meeting, the executive committee shall**
2 **provide for such temporary committees as may be necessary to conduct the preliminary**
3 **work for the session.**

4
5
6 To facilitate the business of the session, constituency meeting committees may convene
7 by means of an electronic conference or similar communications by which all persons
8 participating can hear each other at the same time. ~~These committees include: Committees that~~
9 ~~facilitate the business of the session include:~~

10
11 **Sec. 1. Organizing Committee: a. The organizing committee shall be constituted as**
12 **follows: Each church represented at the constituency meeting shall choose, or empower its**
13 **delegation to choose, one member plus one additional member for each _____ members or**
14 **a major fraction thereof. In addition, the at-large delegates to the constituency meeting**
15 **shall select _____ persons from the at-large delegate group to serve on the organizing**
16 **committee.** ~~Organizing Committee: a. The organizing committee shall be constituted as follows:~~
17 ~~Each church represented at the constituency meeting shall choose, or empower its delegation to~~
18 ~~choose, one member plus one additional member for each _____ members or a major fraction~~
19 ~~thereof. In addition, the at-large delegates to the constituency meeting shall select _____ persons~~
20 ~~from the at-large delegate group to serve on the organizing committee.~~

21
22 **b. Members of the organizing committee shall be chosen at or prior to**
23 **the constituency meeting.** ~~Members of the organizing committee shall be chosen at or prior to~~
24 ~~the constituency meeting.~~

25
26 c. If the organizing committee is to meet prior to the constituency meeting,
27 the time and place of the meeting shall be given in the official notice of the meeting.

28
29 **d. The chair of the organizing committee shall be the president of**
30 **the _____ Union or his designee.** ~~The chair of the organizing committee shall be the~~
31 ~~president of the _____ Union or his designee.~~

32
33 ~~The organizing committee shall nominate, and~~ **The organizing**
34 **committee shall nominate, and the constituency shall elect:**

- 35
36 1) **A nominating committee**
37
38 2) **A constitution and bylaws committee**
39
40 3) **Other committees as may be necessary.**
41

225-20Ge LOCAL CONFERENCE MODEL CONSTITUTION AND
BYLAWS - POLICY AMENDMENT - 11

1 Union Conference, of the _____ Division and of the General Conference of Seventh-
2 day Adventists are members ex officio of the ~~local~~ conference executive committee;
3 however, their membership shall be in addition to the number detailed above. Any such
4 officers exercising their voting rights at any one meeting shall not make up more than ten
5 percent of the committee membership present.

6
7 *(Note: A conference constituency may indicate in its bylaws the minimum percentage of*
8 *laypersons on the conference executive committee.)*

9
10 **Sec. 2. Delegated Authority:** The executive committee of this conference, unless
11 replaced at a special constituency session, is delegated the authority to act on behalf of the
12 constituents between constituency meetings, ~~regular sessions~~, including the authority to
13 remove for cause (see definition of “for cause” in Article II, Sec. 11, ~~Sec. 10~~, above) persons
14 who have been elected at a conference constituency meeting, including officers of the
15 conference, directors of departments/services, members of boards and committees whose
16 election or appointment is a result of a constituency meeting or executive committee
17 meeting action and to fill, for the remaining portion of the term, any vacancies thus
18 created. The removal of those named under ~~Article VI, Sec. 1~~, Article VI, Sec. 1 shall
19 require the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those voting at ~~an~~ a conference executive
20 committee meeting where a majority of members is present.

21
22 **Sec. 3. Administrative Authority:** The executive committee shall have full
23 administrative authority:

24
25 a. To fill for the current term any vacancies that may occur by death,
26 resignation or otherwise, in its boards, committees, departments, or in offices which have been
27 filled by conference constituency meeting election. **If a new president is to be elected, the**
28 **president of the _____ Union Mission/Section or Union Conference, ~~Conference~~ or his**
29 **designee, shall serve as chair of the executive committee.**

30
31 b. To appoint committees, such as an administrative committee, with their
32 terms of reference.

33
34 c. To employ such personnel as may be necessary to execute its work
35 effectively. ~~To employ ministers, secretaries, teachers, and other persons as deemed necessary~~
36 ~~for the work of the conference.~~

37
38 d. To grant and withdraw credentials and licenses. The withdrawal of
39 credentials shall require the consent of two thirds (2/3) of the members of the conference
40 executive committee.

1 ~~Mission/Section or Union Conference Committee~~, and in close counsel with the union
2 officers.
3

4 **b. Secretary:** The secretary, associated with the president as an executive
5 officer, shall serve under the direction of the executive committee and shall act as vice-
6 chair of the executive committee. The secretary shall report to the executive committee of
7 the conference after consultation with the president. It shall be the duty of the secretary to
8 keep the minutes of the conference constituency meetings and of the executive committee
9 meetings, to furnish copies of these minutes to all members of the executive committee and
10 to the union officers. ~~officers of the _____ Union Mission/Section or Union~~
11 ~~Conference.~~ The secretary shall also be responsible for providing information as may be
12 requested by the president or by the conference, union, or division executive committee and
13 shall perform such other duties as usually pertain to the office.
14

15 **c. Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer:** The treasurer/chief financial officer,
16 associated with the president as an executive officer, shall serve under the direction of the
17 executive committee. The treasurer/chief financial officer shall report to the executive
18 committee of the conference after consultation with the president. The treasurer/chief
19 financial officer shall be responsible for providing financial leadership to the organization
20 which will include, but shall not be limited to, receiving, ~~safeguarding~~ safeguarding, and
21 disbursing all funds in harmony with the actions of the executive committee, for remitting
22 all required funds to the union/division/General Conference in harmony with
23 the _____ Division policy, and for providing financial information to the president
24 and to the executive committee. The treasurer/chief financial officer shall also be
25 responsible for furnishing copies of the financial statements to the union officers.
26 ~~the _____ Union officers.~~
27

28 **Sec. 2. Other Officers:** Other individuals may serve as officers of the local conference,
29 such as vice president, associate secretary, and associate treasurer.
30

31 **Article VII—Directors of Departments/Associations/Services**

32

33 **Sec. 1. Advisory Role:** The directors of departments/associations/services of this
34 conference shall work under the direction of the executive committee ~~of the conference~~ and
35 the president and shall serve in an advisory relationship to the field.
36

37 **Sec. 2. Departments/Associations/Services Structure:** Conference departments,
38 associations, and services shall be organized in harmony with the department/association/service
39 structure of the General Conference but shall not necessarily duplicate the departments/
40 associations/services at the division or the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
41 ~~Departments/Services Structure:~~ Conference departments/services shall be organized in harmony

1 ~~with the departmental/service structure of the General Conference but shall not necessarily~~
2 ~~duplicate the departments/services in the union, division, or General Conference.~~

3
4 **Article VIII—Other Organizations**

5
6 **Sec. 1. Unincorporated Organizations:** The _____ Conference may carry on its
7 ministry through unincorporated subsidiary organizations. Constituency meetings of such
8 organizations shall be held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled constituency meetings of
9 the conference.

10
11 **Sec. 2. Corporations:** The _____ Conference may form corporate bodies
12 provided it obtains prior approval of the _____ Division. Membership meetings and
13 elections of boards of directors shall be held as provided by articles and bylaws of the
14 corporations and in harmony with applicable laws.

15
16 **Article IX—Finance**

17
18 **Sec. 1. Tithes and Offerings:** The church funds managed by this conference shall
19 consist of such tithe, including direct tithe, as it shall be assigned by policy and as received
20 from the local churches within its territory, and such gifts, legacies, bequests, devises,
21 appropriations, reverted funds, and other donations as may be made to it.

22
23 **Sec. 2. Policies:** The portion of the tithe which is reserved for this conference, as
24 specified by policy, and all other funds shall be used in harmony with the financial policies
25 of the _____ Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; and in
26 the case of donations, their use shall be in harmony with the specifications of donors and in
27 compliance with government regulations. Tithe is shared with the union and division on
28 fixed percentages as set by the division executive committee, and with the General
29 Conference on fixed percentages as set by the Annual Council of the General Conference
30 Executive Committee.

31
32 **Sec. 3. Bank Accounts:** The funds of this conference shall be safeguarded in
33 harmony with the financial policies of the _____ Division of the General Conference
34 of Seventh-day Adventists. Moneys shall be deposited in the name of
35 the _____ Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in regular or special accounts, in
36 such banks or savings institutions as the executive committee shall designate and shall be
37 withdrawn only by persons authorized by resolution of the executive committee.

38
39 **Sec. 4. Financial Statements:** The _____ Conference shall prepare regularly
40 appropriate statements of income and fund balances and shall be responsible for the filing
41 of any financial information directly with the _____ Union Conference or Union
42 Mission/Field Section and the _____ Division of the General Conference of Seventh-

1 day Adventists and, to the extent required by law, with any branch of local or national
2 government.

3
4 **Article X—Budget, Employee Compensation Review, and Financial Audit**

5
6 **Sec. 1. Budget:** The _____ Conference shall prepare an annual budget in
7 harmony with the policies of the _____ Division of the General Conference of
8 Seventh-day Adventists.

9
10 **Sec. 2. Employee Compensation and Expense Review:** The executive committee shall
11 appoint an employee compensation and expense review committee whose tasks are outlined
12 in General Conference *Working Policy*.

13
14 **Sec. 3. Independent Audit:** ~~All accounting records~~ The financial statements of this
15 conference shall be audited at least annually by an auditor chosen in harmony with
16 General Conference *Working Policy* and the records of this conference or any of its
17 subsidiaries, agencies, or institutions shall at all times be open to said auditor.

18
19 **Article XI—Indemnification**

20
21 **Sec. 1.** To the extent permitted by law, this conference shall indemnify any person who
22 was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed
23 action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, because
24 he/she is or was a member of the conference executive committee or an officer, employee, or
25 agent of the conference against expenses (including legal fees), judgments, fines, and amounts
26 paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him/her in connection with such action,
27 suit, or proceeding if he/she acted in good faith and in a manner he/she reasonably believed to be
28 in or not opposed to the best interest of the conference, and, with respect to any criminal action
29 or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his/her conduct was unlawful.

30
31 **Sec. 2.** This right of indemnification shall be in addition to, and not exclusive of, all other
32 rights to which such member of the executive committee, ~~or an officer~~ officer, or department
33 director may be entitled.

34
35 *(Note: This right of indemnification may be expanded or contracted as allowed under*
36 *local law and as adopted by the constituents.)*

37
38 **Article XII—Amendments**

39
40 **Amendment, Revision, and Repeal:** The constitution and bylaws of this conference
41 which are essential to the unity of the Church worldwide and are designated in bold print
42 shall be amended or revised from time to time in order to comply with changes to the Local

225-20Ge LOCAL CONFERENCE MODEL CONSTITUTION AND
BYLAWS - POLICY AMENDMENT - 16

1 Conference Model Constitution and Bylaws as voted by the General Conference Executive
2 Committee in its annual meetings. Such amendments or revisions shall be approved by a
3 simple majority vote (unless local law requires a higher majority) of the delegates present
4 and voting at any duly called constituency meeting of the local conference. Other sections
5 of the constitution and bylaws may be amended, revised, or repealed, by an affirmative
6 vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting, provided such changes are in harmony
7 with the spirit of the Local Conference Model Constitution and Bylaws, and have been
8 processed through the conference executive committee. Notice of any proposed changes to
9 the bylaws of this conference shall be given specifically in conjunction with the publication
10 of notice for the session.

11

12 ~~The constituency or the conference executive committee may recommend to the~~
13 ~~General Conference through the _____ Union Mission/Section or Union Conference~~
14 ~~and the _____ Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists~~
15 ~~amendments to the Local Conference Model Constitution and Bylaws.~~