



### **The Regional Conferences' Statement on Justice, Unity, and Gospel Integrity**

The Regional Conferences of the Seventh-day Adventist Church affirm their full support with the official position of the global Seventh-day Adventist Church on unity. On September 15, 2020, the General Conference Administrative Committee voted the *One Humanity* statement which underscored the fact that all “human beings were created equal in the image of God (Genesis 1:27).” This statement further renounced any form of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, caste, tribe, or nationality.<sup>1</sup>

In alignment with this statement, and most importantly, in harmony with the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, we stand united in our commitment to justice, unity, and Christ’s gospel.

Scripture makes it clear that true discipleship is inseparable from justice and compassion:

“He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8, NKJV).

This is neither a polite suggestion, nor an optional guideline. It is a divine command to every follower of Christ. Justice, mercy, and humility are not fringe virtues, but they are the very hallmarks of authentic discipleship. As followers of Christ, our faith is measured by living out God’s requirements, including the rejection of systems and behaviors that oppress, divide, or elevate one group above another as “there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28, NKJV).

In light of recent events and ongoing public discourse, we express our deep concern over the endorsement of public figures and platforms that promote Christian nationalism, racial superiority, xenophobia, and sexism. While freedom of speech is a protected right, such rhetoric must never be confused with gospel truth. When Seventh-day Adventist media outlets or leaders support messages that marginalize or dehumanize others, it undermines our collective witness and contradicts the Church’s stated values. Additionally, such alliances confuse believers, embolden oppressors, and weaken the prophetic voice of the body of Christ. Our goal is to ensure alignment with the gospel of Jesus Christ, a gospel that reconciles, restores, and uplifts.

We invite open and respectful discourse among Church members and leaders. Conversations rooted in Scripture and prayer strengthen our unity and deepen our witness.

Carlton P. Byrd, Chairperson  
Regional Presidents’ Council &  
Southwest Region Conference President

Michael Owusu, Vice Chairperson  
Regional Presidents’ Council &  
Southeastern Conference President

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<sup>1</sup>Seventh-day Adventist General Conference, *One Humanity: A Human Relations Statement Addressing Racism, Casteism, Tribalism, and Ethnocentrism*, September 15, 2020.

Trevor Kinlock, President  
Allegheny East Conference

Marvin Brown, President  
Allegheny West Conference

Cryston Josiah, President  
Central States Conference

Garth Gabriel, President  
Lake Region Conference

Eldeen King, President  
Northeastern Conference

Calvin Preston, President  
South Atlantic Conference

Benjamin Jones, President  
South Central Conference

Kenneth Manders, President  
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Eugene Lewis, Vice President  
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Virgil Childs, Vice President  
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Dana C. Edmond, Executive Director  
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William Cox, Executive Director  
Regional Conference Retirement Plan