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Adventist Theological Seminary Responds to Headship Statement Appeal

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dialogue that vilifies or depreciates the good name of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, in general, or the reputations of its individual members, in particular.

We, therefore, resolve to avoid participating in, or being party to, all forms of unhealthy and demeaning discourse. Our aim is to govern our communication

according to the high standards of Christian conduct found in the guidelines of this statement so that God may be glorified in all we say and do.

Jackson asked that the North American church members seek “higher ground” during these challenging times while the discussion about ordination

builds up as the General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, approaches.

Julio C. Muñoz, associate director of communication, North American Division



Delegates of the 2014 Year-end Meetings in Silver Spring, Md., pray for God's leading.

North American Division Executive Committee reaffirms support of ordination of women

At the previous 2013 Year-end Meetings, the North American Division Executive Committee gave

overwhelming support for the ordination of women to the gospel ministry when it received the report of the NAD Theology of Ordination Study Committee and voted the following motion: “That we receive the biblical study of ordination prepared by the North American Division Theology of Ordination Study Committee and affirm the conclusion that all people, men and women, may receive ordination as an affirmation of the call of God, and that the North American Division support the authorization of each division to consider, through prayer and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, its most appropriate approach to the ordination of women to gospel ministry.” The vote was recorded: 182 voted “yes,” 31 voted “no,” with three abstaining.

At this year's 2014 Year-end Meetings, the NAD Executive Committee

re-affirmed its previous vote, recognizing the personal responsibility resting upon each of the General Conference delegates, with the following motion: “Fully recognizing that every delegate to the G.C. Session must vote according to their conscience, we ask the unions, conferences and institutions in the North American Division to inform all delegates of the vote of the 2013 NAD Year-end Meetings regarding the ordination of women and to fully encourage them to participate in ways that build unity and strengthen the mission of the Church. Furthermore, we appeal to all Seventh-day Adventists that our communication and dialogue be in the spirit of Christlike love.”

Dan Weber, director of communication, North American Division with Gary Burns, director of Communication, Lake Union Conference

[WORLD CHURCH NEWS]

Adventist Theological Seminary responds to headship statement appeal

On Oct. 8, 2014, the *Adventist Review* published an appeal by a group of 25 professors, pastors and church members for the faculty of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University to review and adjust a document that the seminary faculty had adopted at an Aug. 21, 2014, meeting. “The Unique Headship of Christ in the Church.”

In response to “An Open Appeal,”² the Seminary faculty convened for a special meeting on Friday, Oct. 10, 2014,



The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University

and spent more than three hours in discussion.

After study and examination, the faculty unanimously, with the exception of one individual, voted the following statement. This statement has been released at the request of the seminary and

the administration of Andrews University, and has also been published in the *Adventist Review*³:

“We, the faculty of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, respectfully reaffirm our original statement on ‘The Unique Headship of Christ in the

Church' which was the result of prayerful and responsible study of scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy, and was voted by an overwhelming majority of the faculty in a duly called meeting."

Founded in 1874, Andrews University is the flagship institution of higher

education for the Seventh-day Adventist Church and offers more than 200 areas of study including advanced degrees.

Becky St. Clair, media communications manager, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication, Andrews University, with additional reporting by *Adventist Review* staff

1. <http://www.andrews.edu/agenda/event/33885>
2. <http://www.adventistreview.org/church-news/appeal-made-over-andrews-statement-on-headship>
3. <http://www.adventistreview.org/church-news/statement-from-andrews-seminary-in-response-to-headship-appeal>

Researchers Hopkins, McBride, Randall given Adventist Health Ministries Medal of Distinction

Three Seventh-day Adventist health experts were awarded the denomination's Health Ministries Medal of Distinction for their ongoing research and promotion of healthy relationships to prevent at-risk behaviors.

Andrews University professors Gary Hopkins and Duane McBride were presented the award on Oct. 8, 2014, during a meeting of the Institute of Prevention of Addictions board at the denomination's world headquarters. Child psychologist Kiti Freier Randall was unable to attend and will receive her award later this year.

Adventist Health Ministries director Peter Landless said the trio's research over the past decade has made a "tremendous contribution" to the Church and society. Through papers and scholarly journal articles, all three have promoted the importance of healthy relationships for reducing at-risk behaviors in young people as well as a stabilizing influence for older people.

"They have been giants in leading in this field," said Landless. "They bring meaningful and added credibility to the methods of ministry and prevention."

Upon receiving the award, McBride, executive director of the Institute for the Prevention of Addictions and chair of the Behavioral Sciences Department at Andrews University, said he was grateful for the impact his work has made.

"I feel very honored to have the work I've been doing my whole life recognized," McBride said.



From left: Peter Landless, Health Ministries director for the Adventist world church; Duane McBride, research professor of sociology at Andrews University and director of the Institute for the Prevention of Addictions; Delbert Baker, vice president of the Adventist world church; and Niels-Erik Andreasen, president of Andrews University. McBride was presented with the Health Ministries Medal of Distinction for his work on relationships in preventing at-risk behaviors. The award also was given to Gary Hopkins, associate director for the Institute for the Prevention of Addictions and a research professor of behavioral science at Andrews, and was presented during a joint meeting of the IPA and Andrews University at the denomination's world headquarters on Oct. 8, 2014.

McBride said some of his most prominent research focused on the importance of family meals, saying they provide important bonding between kids and their parents. Kids who ate more meals with their families were likely to have lower rates of drug, alcohol and tobacco use.

Hopkins, associate director for the Institute for the Prevention of Addictions, research professor of behavioral sciences at Andrews and adjunct assistant professor of public health at Loma Linda University, said he appreciated the award and also was surprised to receive it.

Hopkins was likely the first to study the correlation between community service and drug use. Research found that youth who engaged in community service were less likely to abuse drugs or become pregnant as a teenager. "There's something about when kids focus less on themselves and more on helping others," he said. His research has been published in numerous journals, including the

American Journal of Public Health and the *Journal of Preventive Medicine*.

Randall, a private-practice clinician and professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Public Health at Loma Linda University, said she felt honored to receive the award. "I am so privileged to be provided the opportunity to share the 'Relationships and Well-being' message with my global church family," she said.

Her primary area of research and clinical work is with children who have experienced trauma due to drug-endangered environments. Her research has demonstrated that regardless of the pathway to risk, healthy relationships are the answer to boosting resiliency and well-being.

"We were created to have a relationship with God," Randall said. "It has been rewarding to see the field of social sciences and medicine further validate this."

Ansel Oliver, assistant director, Adventist News Network (reprinted with permission)