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9-2015

### Andrews University and Seminary Respond to G.C. vote

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#### Recommended Citation

St. Clair, Becky, "Andrews University and Seminary Respond to G.C. vote" (2015). *Lake Union Herald*. 89.  
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encourage those who have been serving in these capacities to continue to do so," Jackson said.

He added: "It is vital to understand that the NAD will continue to follow the directions found in the General Conference *Working Policy* allowing conferences and unions to license women as commissioned ministers in pastoral ministry. We will also continue to encourage utilizing the services of women as ordained local elders and deaconesses."

Wilson on Friday also said he has asked divisions to care for specific items that come up in their territory. He did not elaborate, saying only that General Conference leadership hoped matters would go smoothly and expected assistance from divisions on those items.

He said division leaders have a spirit of upholding what the General Conference in session votes. Decisions made by the General Conference in session have the highest authority in the church.

Wilson, meanwhile, sought to quash concerns from some church members that a revision to the *Church Manual* that delegates approved earlier Friday might limit the authority or activities of the General Conference.

"The reason for the wording is to limit any ... frivolous appeals from coming up through the system," Wilson said.

The amendment gives divisions the right to stop a dispute from reaching the level of the General Conference. The levels where an appeal can be considered in a division include the local church, conference and union.

Wilson said the General Conference generally works through divisions and their various levels in resolving appeals anyway.

"So please do not imagine things that, in my opinion, and in my understanding, are never there," he said.

Andrew McChesney, *Adventist Review/ANN staff* (Reprinted from July 10, 2015, Adventist News Network post)



Jiří Moskala

## Andrews University and Seminary respond to G.C. vote

On Wednesday, July 8, in San Antonio, Texas, delegates to the 60th General Conference Session of Seventh-day Adventists voted 1,381 to 977 against allowing regional accommodation for world divisions to "make provision for the ordination of women to the gospel ministry."

Andrews University is home to the Theological Seminary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Many of the 3,000 ordained ministers across the North American Division, and an even greater number abroad, have taken classes and/or received a degree from the Seminary.

Jiří Moskala, Seminary dean, says, "Those of us in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary respect yesterday's decision by the world Seventh-day Adventist Church. While it wasn't the outcome many in the Church had hoped for, the Seminary will continue to be an open, warm and friendly place for all women called by God to be prepared for pastoral

ministry or chaplaincy. I believe that the formal response of the North American Division to this vote that 'we will continue to follow General Conference policy by commissioning women pastors' affirms that there will indeed be a place in our Church where female students will be welcomed to the pastoral ministry. I believe the ministry of these committed and Seminary-educated women is truly needed in our Church and those women who are our graduates already have played and will continue to play a vital role in fulfilling the mission of the Church in proclaiming the everlasting gospel to the world."

Niels-Erik Andreasen, president of Andrews University, says, "Although the delegates to the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist world church declined to approve the ordination of women, Andrews University continues its support of women in ministry, and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary will continue to admit and educate women students who are called to ministry. There is strong evidence that women make important and needed contributions to the ministry of the church in many parts of the world. Our prayers are with the world church as we all move forward following this General Conference Session."

Becky St. Clair, media communications manager, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication, Andrews University



Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University