

**OPERATING POLICY
SURINAME MISSION
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**

Revised 2020-2023; 2024

ARTICLE 1 ----NAME

**This organization shall be known as the Suriname Mission of Seventh-day Adventists,
hereinafter referred to as the mission.**

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ARTICLE 11----PURPOSE

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4 **The purpose of this Mission is to facilitate the proclamation of the Everlasting Gospel in the**
5 **context of The Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14:6-12 to all peoples within its**
6 **territory, leading them to accept Jesus as personal Savior, to unite with His Church and**
7 **nurturing them in preparation for His soon return.**

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ARTICLE 111—RELATIONSHIP

10 **The Mission is a member unit of the Caribbean Union Conference and is located in the**
11 **territory of the Inter-American Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day**
12 **Adventists. The purposes, policies, and procedures of this mission shall be in harmony with**
13 **the working policies policies, actions, and procedures enacted by the ~~Executive Committee~~**
14 **executive committee of the Inter-American Division ~~and~~ or the General Conference of**
15 **Seventh-day Adventists. This mission shall pursue the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist**
16 **Church in harmony with the Fundamental Beliefs, programs, initiatives, and actions**
17 **adopted and approved by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at its sessions,**
18 **~~and initiatives adopted and approved by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists~~**
19 **~~in its quinquennial sessions.~~**

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~~ARTICLE III~~ **ARTICLE 1V--GEOGRAPHICAL TERRITORY**

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22 **The territory of this Mission shall consist of the Republic of Suriname.**

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~~ARTICLE IV~~ **ARTICLE V--CONSTITUENCY**

27 Section 1. The constituency of this mission shall consist of such churches as have been, or
28 shall be properly organized in any part of the territory under its jurisdiction and accepted
29 by vote of the delegates assembled ~~in a Mission Session.~~ at any regular or special mission
30 constituency session.

31
32 Section 2. Companies and isolated members of this Mission shall be organized into what
33 will be known as the Mission Church. The business of this church shall be conducted by the
34 mission executive committee. The officers shall be the president and secretary of the
35 mission who shall serve as elder and clerk respectively.

36 **ARTICLE VI--PRINCIPAL OFFICE**

37 The principal office for the transaction of the business of the Mission is fixed and located
38 at Eduard Brumastraat 110 in Paramaribo. The executive committee of the Caribbean
39 Union Conference may change the location of the principal office.

40
41 **ARTICLE VII—CONSTITUENCY MEETINGS**

42
43 Sec. 1. Regular Meetings: This mission shall hold a regular quadrennial
44 constituency meeting* ~~constituency meetings~~ at such time and place as the ~~mission~~
45 executive committee of the mission in counsel with the officers of the union conference shall
46 designate. In the event that the mission executive committee fails to call a regular
47 constituency meeting within the quadrennial period, the Caribbean Union Conference
48 Executive Committee may give notice for such a meeting and designate the time and place.

49
50 In case regional conditions make it imperative to postpone the calling of the constituency
51 meeting, the union conference executive committee, in a regular or special meeting, shall
52 have authority to make such postponement, not to exceed one year, giving notice to all
53 constituent organizations. In the event that the executive committee exercises its authority
54 to postpone a constituency meeting, it shall also have the authority to set the subsequent
55 regular constituency meeting at such time and place as it shall see fit, not to exceed five
56 four calendar years from the date of the postponed constituency meeting.

57
58 Notice of the time and place of the meeting of the delegates representing the members shall
59 be given by:

60
61 a. A notice printed in the Gleanings at least four weeks before the date
62 of the session, or

63
64 b. A method approved by the Suriname Mission Executive Committee,
65 provided all member units receive notice with sufficient time to select delegates, or
66

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

67 c. A method approved by the Caribbean Union Executive Committee, in
68 the event of inaction or failure to call a constituency meeting by the Suriname Mission
69 Executive Committee.
70

71 Section 2. Special Meeting: a. The executive committee of this mission shall call a
72 special constituency meeting when:
73

- 74 1) It is voted by the executive committee, or
- 75
- 76 2) It is voted by the delegates at any constituency meeting, or
- 77
- 78 3) It is requested by sixty-six percent (66%) of the churches
79 through their ~~church boards,~~ business meetings, or
- 80
- 81 4) It is voted by the union executive committee, division executive
82 committee, or General Conference Executive Committee. ~~the _____ Union Executive~~
83 ~~Committee or the Division Conference Executive Committee.~~
84

85 The date for such a meeting in response to paragraphs 3) and 4) above shall not be
86 more than 90 days from the date when the actions described in paragraphs 3) and 4) above
87 are communicated to the officers/executive committee of the mission
88

89 b. In the absence of a timely response by the mission executive
90 committee to paragraphs 2) through 4) in Sec. 2. a. above, the Caribbean Union Executive
91 Committee or the Division Executive Committee may call a special constituency meeting of
92 the mission/field and designate the time and place for such a meeting.
93

94 c. The agenda for special constituency meetings shall be included in the
95 notice of the meeting.
96

97 d. ~~The~~ Notice as to the time and place of special constituency meetings
98 shall be given in the same manner as for regularly scheduled constituency meetings.
99

100
101 Section 3. Virtual Attendance at Constituency Meetings: Generally, regular and specially
102 called constituency meetings are to be held in person and onsite. However, delegates when
103 requested by the executive committee, and if permitted by local law, may participate by
104 means of an electronic conference or similar communications by which all persons can hear
105 each other at the same time, and participation by such means shall constitute presence in
106 person and attendance at such a meeting.
107

108 ~~See. 3.~~ Section 4. Chair and Secretary for Constituency Meetings: The president of
109 this mission shall serve as chair and the secretary of this mission shall serve as secretary for
110 constituency meetings of this mission. The president may designate other individuals to

111 assist in chair duties from time to time. In the event that the president's office is vacant or
112 that the president is unavailable to serve as chair, the ranking union officer present shall
113 serve as chair for the meeting.
114
115

116 ~~In a similar manner, arrangements~~ Arrangements may be made for a secretary *pro*
117 *tem* if the secretary's office is vacant or the secretary is unavailable to serve at the
118 constituency meeting.
119
120

121 ~~Sec. 4. Section 5.~~ Regular Constituency Meeting: The business of the regular
122 constituency meeting will include the election/appointment of personnel for various
123 positions (see Section 11. ~~Sec. 10.~~ below), the receipt of reports from the president,
124 secretary, treasurer (report based on audited statements), departmental directors, and the
125 auditor. In addition, the constituency meeting shall review/create plans for moving the
126 mission toward conference status. It shall also endorse/approve/develop plans for the
127 conduct of the work as are desirable and in harmony with the policies of the Inter-
128 American Division.
129
130

131 ~~Sec. 5~~ Section 6. Annual Constituency Meeting: The Administration of the Mission
132 shall annually call a meeting of delegates of the churches to report on the progress of the
133 program of the quadrennium and the finances of the Mission.
134

135 ~~Sec. 6.~~ Section 7. Quorum: At least Sixty-six percent (66%) of the delegates
136 authorized hereinafter under Sec. 1. and 2. of Article VIII ~~Article VI~~ must be present at the
137 opening of any regular or special constituency meeting to constitute a quorum for the
138 transaction of business. Once the meeting is declared open, the delegates remaining shall
139 constitute a quorum.
140

141 ~~Sec. 7.~~ Sec. 8. Proxy Voting: All delegates must be present in person at any
142 constituency ~~meeting~~ meeting, or participating by electronic means, in order to be eligible
143 to vote. There shall be no voting by proxy.
144

145 ~~Sec. 8.~~ Section 9. Voting Rights of the Delegates: Each delegate appointed to act on
146 behalf of the members of this mission shall be entitled to one vote on each question to be
147 decided by the body. The voting rights of the individual delegates representing the
148 members as hereinafter provided shall be limited to the particular constituency meeting of
149 the mission in which they have been designated to represent a local church, institution, the
150 Union, the Division, or the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
151

152 ~~Sec. 9.~~ Section 10. Voting: The voting on matters of business shall normally be by
153 *viva voce*. The chair may call for the vote by other means, including a secret ballot, when it
154 is deemed advisable or is requested by the membership. Votes cast remotely shall have the
155 same validity as if the delegates met and voted onsite.
156

157 ~~Sec. 10.~~ Section 11. Parliamentary Authority: The parliamentary authority for
158 constituency meetings pertaining to all rules and procedures not covered by its bylaws shall

159 be based on those published in the *General Conference Rules of Order*, and any adaptation
160 or supplement approved by the division executive committee, unless otherwise determined
161 by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the constituency meeting.

162
163 **Sec. 11. Section 12. Elections/Appointments and Term of Office: a. Elections:** The
164 president, secretary, and treasurer of this mission shall be elected by the union
165 constituency meeting ~~constituency/executive committee~~ rather than by the session of this
166 mission. The election of departmental directors, associate departmental directors, associate
167 secretaries, or associate treasurers for this mission, if not determined by the delegates at
168 the mission constituency meeting, shall be referred to the executive committee for
169 appointment. ~~is normally done during the constituency session. If personnel for available~~
170 ~~positions are not all elected during the session, their appointment shall be referred to the~~
171 ~~executive committee.~~ The mission constituency meeting shall also elect the members (other
172 than ex officio) of the mission executive committee and, where required by the governance
173 documents of mission institutions, the chief administrator(s) and board members of such
174 entities.

175
176 **b. Term of Office:** Persons elected at the constituency meeting and those appointed
177 by the executive committee normally serve until the next regular constituency meeting.
178 However, their period of service may be shorter due to resignation, voluntary retirement,
179 retirement in situation where a mandatory retirement age policy is in effect, or removal
180 from office, for cause, by the executive committee or a special constituency meeting.

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182
183 The phrase “for cause” when used in connection with removal from an elected or
184 appointed position, or from employment, shall include but not be limited to 1)
185 incompetence; 2) persistent failure to cooperate with duly constituted authority in
186 substantive matters and with relevant employment and denominational policies; 3) actions
187 which may be the subject of discipline under the *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual*; 4)
188 failure to maintain regular standing as a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; 5)
189 theft or embezzlement; or 6) conviction of or guilty plea for a crime.

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192 **ARTICLE VIII—REPRESENTATION AT CONSTITUENCY MEETINGS**

193
194 **Section 1. Regular Delegates:** All delegates shall be duly accredited by any one of the
195 organized churches of the mission. Each church shall be entitled to one delegate for the
196 organization and one additional delegate for each 100 members or major fraction thereof
197 and who hold membership in the local church which accredits them. Such delegates shall
198 be chosen by the business meeting of the local church and include males and females. ~~See-~~
199 ~~1. Regular Delegates: Regular delegates to a mission/field session shall be such delegates as~~
200 ~~shall be duly accredited by the organized churches of the mission/field, on the basis of one~~
201 ~~for each local organized church, and one additional for each _____ members or major~~
202 ~~fraction thereof. Such delegates shall be chosen by action of the business meeting of each~~
203 ~~respective local church and include males and females.~~

204

205 **Sec. 2. Delegates At-Large: Delegates at-large to a constituency meeting of this**
206 **mission session shall be: include:**

207
208 a. The current members of the executive committee of this mission.

209
210 b. Members of the General Conference, the Inter-American Division and
211 the Caribbean Union Conference Executive Committees who may be present at any session
212 constituency meeting of this mission. The number of such delegates shall not exceed ten
213 percent (10%) of the total number of delegates otherwise provided for.

214
215 c. All employees holding credentials or ministerial licenses issued by
216 the Caribbean Union or the mission. All ordained and licensed ministers, and those
217 holding missionary credentials from the _____ Union or the mission/field.

218
219 d. Such other persons as may be recommended by the executive
220 committee and accepted by the delegates in session. The number of such delegates shall not
221 exceed ten percent of the total number of delegates otherwise provided for.

222
223 e. A person who is not elected to a new term of office at a constituency
224 meeting does not thereby lose delegate status at the current constituency meeting.

225
226 **Sec. 3. Church Membership Requirement: All delegates appointed to represent the**
227 **members of this mission at any constituency meeting shall be members in regular standing**
228 **of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.**

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232 **ARTICLE IX—CONSTITUENCY MEETING COMMITTEES**

233
234 *(Note: The Inter-American Division executive committee may authorize a process*
235 *whereby the session organizing and nominating committees may be selected and empowered to*
236 *perform their tasks in advance of the session. The process to select such committees for a*
237 *session shall involve constituency representation rather than being accomplished by the*
238 *executive committee alone. Unless the Inter-American Division Executive Committee has*
239 *approved other arrangements as described above, the following provisions shall apply for the*
240 *appointment and functioning of session committees.)*

241
242 Prior to each mission constituency meeting, ~~meeting of this mission/field~~, the executive
243 committee shall provide for such temporary committees as may be necessary to conduct the
244 preliminary work for the session.

245
246 To facilitate the business of the session, constituency meeting committees may
247 convene by means of an electronic conference or similar communications by which all
248 persons participating can hear each other at the same time. These committees include:
249 ~~Committees that facilitate the business of the session include:~~

250

251 **Section 1. Organizing Committee—** The membership of the organizing committee shall be
252 composed of a number equal to 33% of the organized churches, plus 10% of such number
253 from the delegates at large, and shall be made up as follows:

254

255 a. The regular delegates of the organizing committee will be distributed among the
256 areas/zones of the Mission according to membership. To establish the ratio, the
257 Mission membership will be divided by a number equal to 33% of organized
258 Churches. This ratio will be applied to the membership of each area in order to
259 determine its representatives from among the pastoral districts to the organizing
260 committee.

261

262 b. The delegates' at large meeting as a group and under the direction of the Union
263 president, or the person designated by him, shall choose a number equal to ten percent of
264 the number of the regular delegates for the organizing committee as their representatives.

265

266 c. Members of the organizing committee shall be chosen at or prior to the
267 constituency meeting.

268

269 d. If the organizing committee is to meet prior to the constituency meeting, the time
270 and place of the meeting shall be given in the official notice of the meeting.

271

272 e. The chair of the organizing committee shall be the president of the union or his
273 designee.

274

275 f. The organizing committee shall nominate and the constituency shall elect:

276

1. A nominating committee;

277

2. The chair and secretary of the plans and recommendations committee;

278

3. Other committees as may be necessary.

279

280 g. The General Conference, division and union representatives who may be present
281 shall be invited to sit with the committee as counselors.

282

283 **Section 2. Nominating Committee –** The Nominating Committee shall consist of 11 members,
284 including the president of the Caribbean Union, or his designee, who shall serve as chair,
285 and who will have the right to vote, and will include up to 45 percent laypersons. The ranking
286 General Conference, Division and Union representatives who may be present shall be invited
287 to sit with the committee as counselors. ~~Departmental directors, whose term of service expire~~
288 ~~at the Session and therefore stand for re-election, shall not be members of the Nominating~~
289 ~~Committee. The Nominating Committee shall limit its nominations to those positions for~~
290 ~~which budgetary provision has been made.~~

291

292 a. Those chosen as members of the Nominating Committee must be duly
293 appointed delegates in attendance at the constituency meeting.

294

295 b. Persons holding elective office, as outlined in Article VII, [Sec. 11](#). ~~Sec.~~
296 ~~10.~~ in the current term, excluding non-ex officio members of the executive committee, shall
297 not be eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee.

298

299 c. The Nominating Committee shall limit its nominations to those
300 positions for which persons are to be elected at the constituency meeting and for which
301 budgetary provisions have been made.

302
303 d. The Nominating Committee shall also nominate members ~~members,~~
304 ~~other than ex officio members,~~ for the mission executive committee and for the boards of
305 mission institutions whose bylaws indicate that board members for the entity are elected at
306 a mission constituency meeting.

307
308 Section 3. The committee on plans and recommendations shall be composed of all delegates
309 to the constituency meeting and shall have a chairman and secretary.

311 ARTICLE X—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

312
313 Section 1. Membership of the Executive Committee: The Executive Committee of the
314 Suriname Mission of Seventh-day Adventists shall be elected in regular Session and shall
315 include the president, secretary and treasurer of the Mission, full-time departmental
316 directors, Mission publishing ministries director, one administrator of the Mission
317 institutions on an annual rotating basis, and one other non-office employee. Additionally,
318 25% of the number mentioned above shall be district pastors. In addition, 55% of the total
319 number mentioned above shall be non-denominationally employed persons. The Mission
320 president shall be the chairman of the Executive Committee; the Secretary of the Mission
321 shall be the secretary of the Executive Committee. The officers of the Caribbean Union, the
322 Inter-American Division, and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are
323 members ex officio of the mission executive committee; however, their membership shall be
324 in addition to the number detailed above. Any such officers exercising their voting rights at
325 any one meeting shall not make up more than ten percent (10%) of the committee
326 membership present.

327
328 Section 2. Delegated Authority: The executive committee of this mission, unless
329 replaced at a special constituency meeting, is delegated the authority to act on behalf of the
330 constituents between constituency meetings, including the authority to remove, for cause
331 (see definition of “for cause” in Article VII, Sec. 11. See-10; above), persons who have been
332 elected at a mission constituency meeting including directors of departments/services, chief
333 administrators of institutions, and members of boards and committee whose election or
334 appointment is a result of a constituency meeting or executive committee meeting action;
335 and to fill, for the remaining portion of the term, any vacancies thus created. (The offices of
336 mission president, secretary, and treasurer are always filled by action of the union
337 executive committee.) The removal of those named under Article VII, Sec. 11. shall require
338 the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those voting at a mission executive committee
339 meeting where a majority of members is present. including: directors of
340 departments/services; chief administrators of institutions; and board/committee members
341 whose election or appointment is a result of a constituency meeting or executive committee
342 meeting action; and to fill, for the remaining portion of the term, any vacancies thus
343 created.

345 Section 3. Administrative Authority: The executive committee shall have full
346 administrative authority:

347
348 a. To fill for the current term of office any vacancies that may occur by
349 death, resignation, or otherwise, in its boards, committees, departments, or in offices which
350 have been filled by mission constituency meeting election. ~~To fill for the current term any~~
351 ~~vacancies that may occur by death, resignation, or otherwise, in its boards, committees,~~
352 ~~departments, or in offices which have been filled by mission/field/section constituency~~
353 ~~meeting election.~~

354
355 b. To appoint committees, such as an administrative committee, with
356 their terms of reference. ~~To appoint committees, such as an administrative committee, with~~
357 ~~their terms of reference.~~

358
359 c. To employ such personnel as may be necessary to execute its work
360 effectively. ~~To employ such personnel as may be necessary to execute its work effectively.~~

361
362 d. To grant and withdraw credentials and licenses. The withdrawal of
363 credentials shall require the consent of two thirds (2/3) of those voting at a mission
364 executive committee meeting where a majority of members is present. ~~To grant and~~
365 ~~withdraw credentials and licenses. The withdrawal of credentials shall require the consent~~
366 ~~of two thirds (2/3) of those voting at an executive committee meeting where a majority of~~
367 ~~members is present.~~

368
369 e. To appoint area coordinators upon the recommendation of the mission
370 administration to facilitate the work in the field. These shall be appointed at the first
371 plenary meeting of the executive committee after the constituency meeting.

372
373 Section 4. Meetings of the executive committee may be called at any time or place by
374 the president, or in his absence by the secretary upon the written request of any three
375 members, or twenty-five percent (whichever is more), of the executive committee. ~~Meetings~~
376 ~~of the mission/field/section executive committee may be called at any time or place by the~~
377 ~~president, or should he be absent from the field, such meetings may be called by the~~
378 ~~secretary upon the written request of any three members of the mission/field/section~~
379 ~~executive committee.~~

380
381 Section 5. Attendance at Meetings: Where allowed by local law, executive committee
382 members may participate in meetings by means of an electronic conference or similar
383 communications by which all persons participating can hear each other at the same time,
384 and participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at such a meeting.

385
386 Section 6. Notice of Meetings: Notice as to time and place, and any other
387 requirements under this operating policy, ~~these bylaws~~, shall be provided to all members in
388 a reasonable manner at least 48 hours prior to the meeting if the meeting is to take place by
389 electronic conference or similar communications, or at least 96 hours if the meeting is to
390 take place in person.

391

392 Section 7. Quorum: Unless otherwise required in the Operating Policy, seven
393 (7) members, including the president, of the mission executive committee ~~executive~~
394 ~~committee~~, shall constitute a quorum.
395

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398 ARTICLE XI—OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES
399

400 Section 1. Executive Officers: The executive officers of this mission shall be a
401 president, a secretary, and a treasurer. The secretary and treasurer may be one individual
402 known as the secretary-treasurer. It is the duty of these officers, in consultation with one
403 another, to carry forward the work according to plans, policies, and programs voted by the
404 union executive committee, the constituency in session, and/or the mission executive
405 committee. These plans, policies, and programs shall be in harmony with the Fundamental
406 Beliefs and actions adopted and approved by the General Conference of Seventh-day
407 Adventists in its quinquennial sessions.
408

409 The mission executive officers of ~~this mission/field~~ shall be appointed by the union at
410 the time of its sessions, or by the union executive committee between union sessions and shall
411 hold office for the period of five (5) years or until their successors are appointed and enter
412 upon their duties. ~~sessions. The executive officers shall be members of the local mission/field~~
413 ~~executive committee.~~ Vacancies in such offices shall be filled by action of the union executive
414 committee.
415

416 a. President: The president, who shall be an ordained minister of
417 experience, is the first officer and shall report to the executive committee of the mission in
418 consultation with the secretary and the treasurer. He shall act as chair of constituency
419 meetings and of the mission executive committee and serve in the general interests of the
420 mission as the constituency and the ~~mission/field~~ executive committee shall determine. In his
421 leadership he shall adhere to the policies of the Caribbean Union, the Inter-American
422 Division, ~~Division~~ and of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, work in
423 harmony with the union executive ~~committee~~, committee and in close counsel with the union
424 officers. When a local mission/field president is to be absent from the field for prolonged
425 periods of time, the mission/field executive committee shall be authorized, in counsel with
426 the union officers, to appoint an individual to act as chair during such absence.
427

428 b. Secretary: The secretary, associated with the president as an executive
429 officer, shall serve under the direction of the executive committee and shall act as vice-
430 chair of the executive committee. The secretary shall report to the executive committee of
431 the mission after consultation with the president. It shall be the duty of the secretary to
432 keep the minutes of the constituency meetings ~~sessions~~ and of the executive committee
433 meetings, and to furnish copies of such to all members of the executive committee and to
434 the union officers. ~~officers of the _____ Union Mission or Union Conference.~~ The
435 secretary shall also be responsible for providing information as may be requested by the
436 president or the ~~union and local mission/field~~ mission union, or division committees and
437 shall perform such other duties as pertain to the office.

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c. ~~Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer: The treasurer/~~
Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer: The treasurer, associated with the president as an executive officer, shall serve under the direction of the executive committee. The treasurer shall report to the executive committee of the mission after consultation with the president. The treasurer shall be responsible for providing financial leadership to the organization which will include, but shall not be limited to, receiving, safeguarding, and disbursing all funds in harmony with the actions of the executive committee, for remitting all required funds to the union/ division/General Conference in harmony with the Inter-American Division policy, and for providing financial information to the president and to the executive committee. The treasurer shall also be responsible for furnishing copies of the financial statements to the union officers. ~~the _____ Union officers.~~

ARTICLE XII—DIRECTORS OF DEPARTMENTS/ASSOCIATIONS/SERVICES

Section 1. Advisory Role: The directors of departments/associations/services of this mission/field shall work under the direction of the executive committee and the president and shall serve in an advisory relationship to the field.

Section 2. Departments/Associations/Services Structure: Mission departments, associations, and services shall be organized in harmony with the department/association/service structure of the General Conference but shall not necessarily duplicate the departments/ associations/services at the division or the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. ~~Departments/Services Structure: Mission/Field departments, associations, and services shall be organized in harmony with the department, association, service structure of the General Conferenee, but shall not necessarily duplicate the departments, associations, and services of the _____ Union or the Division.~~

ARTICLE XIII—FINANCE

Section 1. Tithes and Offerings: The church funds managed by this mission shall be:

- a. Such portion of tithe as it shall be assigned by policy and as received from all churches and isolated members in the mission.
- b. Appropriations from the Caribbean Union Conference or the Inter-American Division.
- c. Special donations and funds, legacies, gifts, devises, and bequests made to it. ~~donations.~~

Sec. 2. Policies: The portion of tithe which is reserved for this mission, as specified by policy, and all other funds shall be used in harmony with the policies of the Inter-

484 American Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; ~~Conference~~; and
485 in the case of donations, their use shall be in harmony with the specifications of donors and
486 in compliance with government regulations. Tithes are shared with the union and division on
487 fixed percentages as set by the division executive committee and with the General
488 Conference on fixed percentages as set by the Annual Council of the General Conference
489 Executive Committee. This mission shall pass on monthly to the Caribbean Union
490 Conference the specified tithe percentage, all mission offerings, and such other funds as
491 may be called for by the policies of the union and division organizations.

492
493 **Sec. 3. Bank Accounts:** The funds of this mission shall be safeguarded in harmony
494 with the financial policies of the Inter-American Division of the General Conference of
495 Seventh-day Adventists. Moneys shall be deposited in the name of the Suriname Mission of
496 Seventh-day Adventists in regular or special accounts in such banks or savings institutions
497 as the mission executive committee shall designate and shall be withdrawn only by persons
498 authorized by resolution of the mission executive committee.

499
500 **Sec. 4. Financial Statements:** The Suriname Mission shall regularly prepare
501 statements of income and fund balances and shall be responsible for the filing of copies of
502 the annual financial statement with the Caribbean ~~Union~~, Union Conference and the
503 Division and, to the extent required by law, with any branch of local or national
504 government.

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510 **ARTICLE XIV—BUDGET, EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION REVIEW, AND**
511 **FINANCIAL AUDIT**

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513 **Section 1. Budget:** The Suriname Mission shall prepare an annual budget in
514 harmony with the policies of the Inter-American Division of the General Conference of
515 Seventh-day Adventists.

516

517 **Section 2. Employee Compensation and Expense Review:** The executive committee
518 shall appoint an employee compensation and expense review committee, including a union
519 officer or one or more representatives appointed by the union executive committee. The
520 tasks of this committee are outlined in General Conference *Working Policy*.

521

522 **Section 3. Independent Audit:** ~~A financial audit~~ The financial statements of this
523 mission shall be audited at least annually ~~conducted at least annually~~ by an auditor chosen
524 in harmony with General Conference *Working Policy*; and the records of this mission or
525 any of its subsidiaries, agencies, or institutions shall at all times be open to said auditor.

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ARTICLE XV—DISSOLUTION AND DISPOSITION OF ASSETS

529
530 This mission may be dissolved only by action of the union executive committee.
531

532 In the event of the dissolution of this mission/field and unless otherwise required by
533 local law, all assets remaining after all claims have been satisfied shall be transferred to a
534 legal entity authorized by the Inter-American Division of the General Conference of
535 Seventh-day Adventists.
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541 ARTICLE XVI—INDEMNIFICATION

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543 Section 1. To the extent permitted by law, this mission shall indemnify any person
544 who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or
545 completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or
546 investigative, because he/she is or was a member of the mission executive committee or an
547 officer, employee, or agent of the mission against expenses (including legal fees), judgments,
548 fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him/her in
549 connection with such action, suit, or proceeding if he/she acted in good faith and in a
550 manner he/she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the
551 mission, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to
552 believe his/her conduct was unlawful.
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554 Sec. 2. This right of indemnification shall be in addition to, and not exclusive of, all
555 other rights to which such member of the executive committee, ~~offieer~~ officer, or
556 department director may be entitled.
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559 Article XVII—Amendments

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561 At any annual meeting of the Caribbean Union Conference Executive Committee,
562 this operating policy may be amended by a majority vote (unless local law requires a
563 higher majority), ~~vote~~, provided that such amendments shall not be inconsistent with the
564 Constitution and Bylaws of the General Conference and the working policy of the Inter-
565 American Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and with the
566 spirit of the Mission Model Operating Policy. However, those portions of this operating
567 policy which are essential to the unity of the Church worldwide and are designated in bold
568 print shall only be amended or revised from time to time by the Caribbean Union
569 Conference Executive Committee in order to comply with changes to the Mission Model
570 Operating Policy as voted by the General Conference Executive Committee in its annual
571 meetings.
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