

PREXAD Extracts on Ordination

July 17, 1973

COUNCIL ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH (A-30) *

In harmony with PRADCO's agreement to set up an ad hoc study committee of theologians and administrators and others to formulate a recommendation to the General Conference on the Role of Women in the Church and their agreement to ask PREXAD to nominate the personnel of the committee,

Agreed, To recommend to the General Conference Committee that the following be appointed: W J Hackett (ch), Gordon Hyde (sec), Marcella Anderson, Josephine Benton, C E Bradford, Louise Carcich, Raoul Dederen, Delbert Dick, MD, N R Dower, Lois Mae Franz, Maybelle Vandermark-Goransson, Madelyn Haldeman, Gerhard Hasel, Frank Holbrook, J C Kozel, Malcolm Maxwell, Leona Running, Alice Sharman, Betty Stirling, Ethel Young, Kit Watts, Edward Zinke, Regional Young Lady.

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August 6, 1974

WAGE SCALE PERCENTAGE FOR ORDAINED MINISTERS -- OTHER WAGE SCALE
QUESTIONS ADCOM

The Finance Committee at the 1973 Annual Council asked that further study be given to the question of establishing more than one category of ordained ministers in order to give recognition to training and responsibility. It was also requested that consideration be given to the tax advantage in the US of the ordained minister in relationship to other categories in the wage scale. These questions were discussed, and it was

Agreed, To ask ADCOM to set up a committee to study these two areas.

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August 6, 1974

ORDINATION MSN

There was a continuation of the discussion of the recommendation

of the Credentials and Licenses Committee that R L Pelton be recommended for ordination.

Agreed, To recommend to the Committee on Licenses and Credentials that they proceed with the plans to recommend R L Pelton for ordination.

ORDINATION COMMITTEE

MSN

The Committee on Credentials and Licenses asked for counsel on a suggestion that a small committee be appointed to review General Conference personnel who should be considered for ordination.

Agreed, To recommend to the Committee on Credentials and Licenses that a small committee be appointed to study other General Conference personnel who might be recommended for ordination.

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS -- RELATIONSHIPS

WDE

The Committee of Credentials and Licenses suggested that a statement be recorded clearly setting forth procedures for the granting of self-employed status and parsonage allowance privileges to ordained ministers holding current ministerial credentials. The matter was discussed, and it was

Agreed, To recommend to PRADCO that 1. When a member of the General Conference staff is recommended for ordination and subsequently issued ministerial credentials he immediately be considered eligible to self-employment status and eligible for parsonage allowance privilege.

2. Ordained ministers on the General Conference staff who hold current ministerial credentials from the General Conference shall be considered eligible to self-employed status and eligible for the parsonage allowance privilege.

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March 25, 1975

(A-795) WAGE SCALE PERCENTAGE FOR ORDAINED MINISTERS AEG

An ad hoc committee assigned to study wage scale percentage for ordained ministers reported, a copy of which is on file with the secretary's minutes. The report was studied, and it was

Agreed, To receive the report. No action was taken.

Page: 75-22

May 22, 1975

LICENSED MINISTERS -- IRS/SS

NCW

Neal C Wilson reviewed recent negotiations with IRS/SS as it relates to the ordained minister. Conferences in the Ogden, Utah regional IRS office have had a protective assessment assigned against them of \$5,000 per conference per quarter for the year 1971 until the question of the licensed minister and IRS/SS is resolved. IRS has indicated a willingness that we re-submit our position for their review.

Agreed, To recommend that we proceed to get a ruling from IRS on the relationship of the licensed minister to IRS and then at that point decide what action to take.

Page: 75-41

June 15, 1976

ORDINATION OF OVERSEAS APPOINTEES

COF

There was a discussion of the ordination of overseas appointees when these requests involve ordaining men somewhat earlier than is the general rule. No action was taken but it was the understanding that Secretariat would follow up on the item.

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June 29, 1976

LICENSED MINISTERS

RHP/NCW

Internal Revenue Service has taken the position that Seventh-day Adventist licensed ministers cannot be considered as ministers of the Gospel, and therefore should be treated as "employees." We have consistently taken the position that licensed ministers should be treated as ministers of the Gospel, and have authorized legal action to determine the validity of the IRS position. However, growing out of the three-and-one-half-day meeting (June 24-27, 1976) on Church, State and Labor Unions was the suggestion there might be a better way to handle the licensed ministers' problem than legal action.

A study by a subcommittee of the special "Church, State and Labor Unions" Committee concluded that in the light of the Church's position that it will cooperate with the government in those areas that do not threaten its life and mission we ought to re-examine the position we have taken on the licensed minister. This study led to the presentation of a document which would change the responsibility of the licensed minister in those cases where the minister had completed the required ministerial training course in the Seventh-day Adventist Church authorizing him on a probationary basis to perform all of the functions of an ordained minister under the supervision of his ecclesiastical superior.

Agreed, To ask the Presidential staff to study the suggestions for changing the authority of the licensed minister.
(C E Bradford and N R Dower were present for the discussion of this item.)

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September 14, 1976

(X-1845) LICENSED MINISTERS

NCW

On June 29, 1976, PREXAD studied the question of the licensed minister and his relationship to Internal Revenue and asked that further study be given to the possibility of adjusting the authority of the licensed minister so that he would be considered as a gospel minister under the definition of Internal Revenue.

Neal Wilson presented a proposal prepared by the NEID Union Presidents at their recent meeting which was discussed and it was

Agreed, To recommend the following to PRADCO:

- (1) A person is recognized as a minister of the gospel in the Seventh-day Adventist Church when he has met all the following prerequisites:
 - a. Completion of the prescribed ministerial education training requisites of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as defined by the division committee for his territory.
 - b. Appointed to a ministerial or pastoral responsibility.
 - c. Issued a ministerial license.
 - d. Ordained as a church elder.
- (2) He is authorized by the Conference Executive Committee to perform all the functions of the ordained minister in the church or churches where he is assigned.
- (3) The authorization to serve as a minister of the gospel and to perform all the functions of an ordained minister may, on recommendation of

his ecclesiastical superior, be withdrawn by the Conference/Mission Executive Committee.

(4) His leadership progress, his professional development and his spiritual growth will be reviewed annually by the conference administration and Executive Committee.

(5) Ordinarily after a probationary or training period (normally about four years) a licensed minister is ordained. This spiritual rite constitutes the official confirmation by the Seventh-day Adventist Church of one's divine call to the ministry as a life commitment, and is his endorsement to serve as a minister of the gospel in any part of the world.

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May 17, 1977

FIELD SURVEY - ARCHIVES AND STATISTICS

RHP

Robert H Pierson wishes to conduct three surveys reaching approximately one thousand NAD laymen, church pastors, and conference/institutional administrators on a stratified system as follows:

1. Ordination of women as local church elders and as church pastors.
2. Lay involvement in the church.
3. Attitude toward church doctrine and standards.

It is proposed that the surveys be conducted by F Donald Yost at nominal cost with the charges made to the presidential budget. It was the consensus that the surveys would be helpful and the chairman was encouraged to proceed with his plans.

Page: 77-47

June 28, 1977

ROLE OF WOMEN--BRI PAPERS

WDE

Requests have been received from the field for the release of the papers prepared for the Biblical Research Institute on the role of women. There are about fifteen of these papers and four of them have already been released through the columns of the Review & Herald.

Agreed, To concur with the plan of the Biblical Research Institute for the release to those requesting them the study papers which BRI requested

for its study on the role of women in the church. (It is understood that there were other papers presented for the study of the role of women in the church which were not requested by the Biblical Research Institute and which are in the possession of the authors. The responsibility for the release of those papers would be that of the author.) (G M Hyde was present for this item.)

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January 3, 1978

From PREXAD to RHP

ROLE OF WOMEN SURVEY

The chairman asked Don Yost to conduct a survey of the attitude of the church in North America toward the role of women as local church elders and as ministers. Approximately 1,000 church members were surveyed with this number being about equally divided between men and women. The survey was conducted in such a way that there could also be an indication as to the attitude of different age groups, laymen, and denominational workers in three or four different categories,

Don Yost reported on the results of the survey and the report was discussed.

Agreed, To ask the following committee to give study as to how to use the results of the Role of Women Survey conducted by Don Yost and to report back to the February 7, 1978, meeting of PREXAD:

R H PIERSON, C O Franz (sec), Alf Lohne, F W Wernick, N C Wilson. (A copy of the survey report is on file with the office copy of these minutes.)

An attachment of a 51 page document by F. Donald Yost, Director of Archives and Statistics, entitled "An Inquiry into the Role of Women in the SDA Church" is inserted into the minutes.

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February 7, 1978

A 1548 ROLE OF WOMEN SURVEY - SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

On January 3, 1978, PREXAD appointed a subcommittee to give study

as to how to use the results of the Role of Women survey conducted by Don Yost. The committee report indicates that although the main question has occupied a great deal of time and attention on the part of several church organizations in recent months it appears that within the Seventh-day Adventist Church interest and agitation on this subject are diminishing. As the result of a secret ballot vote in one large Seventh-day Adventist Church within recent weeks, it was decided to drop the subject for the present. In the light of these present circumstances it was

Agreed, 1. To file the survey report on the Role of Women as local church elders and ministers for the present since it was prepared for the information of the General Conference administration.

2. To request A Lohne and C O Franz to edit the report, removing from it any assumptions, but leaving intact the factual and statistical portions.

3. To authorize the release of the amended report to division presidents and NAD union presidents with the understanding that it is not for general circulation.

From PREXAD to EG

A 1548 ROLE OF WOMEN SURVEY - AMENDMENT

Agreed, To amend the survey report on the Role of Women in the Seventh-day Adventist Church (see PREXAD minutes, p 78-1 of Jan 3, 1978) by the deletion of two paragraphs on page 4 of the survey report. These two paragraphs are neither statistical nor factual but represent assumptions. A copy of the deleted material is attached to the official minutes of this meeting.

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September 18, 1979

NCW/PREX to NCW

BIBLICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE PAPERS - ROLE OF WOMEN

The Southern Publishing Association has expressed some interest in preparing a small book based on the BRI papers - Role of Women. It was the consensus of PREXAD to raise no objection to such a plan.

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January 27, 1981

CEB/PREXAD to CEB

LADY PASTORS AND PASTORAL ASSOCIATES

Counsel has been sought on the question of associates in pastoral care performing baptisms. It was pointed out that in establishing the position of associates in pastoral care it was understood that such individuals were not in line for ordination. The Church Manual, however, does provide for local church elders to baptize under certain unusual conditions, and that if those conditions obtained the associate in pastoral care who is also a local elder should be dealt with by the conference in the same way that other local church elders are dealt with in this matter.

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