

NPUC Supporting Pastors
PO Box 19424
Spokane, WA 99219

January 30, 2013

Max Torkelsen III, President
North Pacific Union Conference
5709 N. 20th St.
Ridgefield, WA 98642-7724

Dear Elder Torkelsen,

You will recall our communication in which we shared our reaction to recent developments in North Pacific Union Conference regarding the question of Women's Ordination and the ultimate harmony of this Union with the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

We have closely watched coverage in the *Gleaner* concerning these questions. Constituents of this Union have been called to join in a "discussion" about Women's Ordination, but the Union through its paper is already promoting a particular position. To date, no content has been published in the *Gleaner* other than in support of one side of the question. It appears that the Union paper is closed to researched articles opposing Women's Ordination.

The same approach prevailed in the Columbia and Pacific Union papers in 2012. No space was given for any other view than a predetermined one. This is not surprising, for since 1997 the NAD has designated union papers as channels for "the advocacy for women in ministry" (See President's Commission on Women in Ministry---Report, XIII, A, i, ii; B, i, ii). The Report recommends "That the NAD produce and endorse only gender-inclusive resource materials." Most will recognize that promotion of but one perspective hardly makes for an actual conversation.

We have pondered our response with care and prayer. In light of these things, we have chosen to enter into this discussion as requested. In order to facilitate this, we will be launching a website where we can be assured that alternative views can be shared with NPUC readers. Soon, the NPUC Supporting Pastors will open OrdinationTruth.com. We wanted to let you know before launching that this is a site operated by Seventh-day Adventist ministers in this field.

With reference to the idea of a special constituency session, if NPUC truly stands in harmony with the world church, it need not hold one. Whatever is the General Conference vote at the quinquennial Session in 2015, all the Unions and Divisions throughout the world field that respect the voted actions of the General Conference in session as the will of God for His people, would automatically accept such action as authoritative.

Then why hold a special meeting that would involve the expenditure of thousands of dollars and needless use of human resources and material? An attitude of full support by NPUC leadership for the world church as just described would make the need for a special session redundant. All our Union officers need do is urge NPUC constituents that the Union leadership supports the world church action. This we are confident you will do.

We respectfully ask that the NPUC Executive Committee rescind its action to hold a special constituency meeting. Let the 2015 General Conference in session respond by official vote to the recommendations to be offered by the 2014 Annual Council's action regarding the Theology of Ordination Study Committee, and let the North Pacific Union Conference leadership and constituents lend that decision of the world church--whatever it is--its full support.

Sincerely,

Elder Jim Anderson	Elder Wayne Kablanow	Elder Thurman Petty
Elder Owen Bandy	Elder Larry Kirkpatrick	Elder Octavian Poenaru
Elder Fred Beavon	Elder Daniel D. Knapp, Sr.	Elder Carl Rose
Elder Jim Brackett	Elder Kent Knight	Elder Alvaro Souza
Elder Jason Canfield	Elder Mike Lambert	Elder Clinton Schultz
Elder Wendell Downs	Elder Ken LeBrun	Elder Danny Velez
Elder Denny Evans	Elder Ben J. Liebelt	Elder John Witcombe
Elder Ron Fleck	Elder Lonny Liebelt	Elder David M. Woodruff
Elder Lee Roy Holmes	Elder Richard McCombs	

to:

Elder Max Torkelsen III
Elder Ken Crawford
Elder John C. Freedman
Elder Paul Hoover
Elder Merlin L. Knowles
Elder David Prest Jr.
Elder Allan L. Reimche

cc:

Elder Ted N.C. Wilson
General Conference President
Other General Conference Officers
Elder Dan Jackson