

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH REFORM MOVEMENT

General Conference

625 WEST AVENUE • CEDARTOWN, GA 30125 • U.S.A.
P.O. BOX 5 • CEDARTOWN, GA 30125 • U.S.A.
TELEPHONE (+1) 770-748-0077 • FAX (+1) 770-748-0095 • E-MAIL info@sda1844.org

February 7, 2022

To: Leaders and Members of the International Missionary Society, Seventh-Day Adventist Church Reform Movement

Re: COVID-19 Vaccination

Dear brethren, leaders, and members of the International Missionary Society,

Greetings with the word of God in 3 John 2:

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”

The purpose of this circular letter is to clarify the position of the General Conference with regard to the question of vaccinations, especially the COVID-19 vaccination. We regretfully note that the circular letter issued by the General Conference on October 25, 2021, communicating to the members the decisions made in the Full Board, has been taken out of context.

We wish to inform all Unions, Fields, and Mission Fields that the official position of the church, based on the decision of the General Conference delegates in session, is: “We do not recommend the use of vaccines, nevertheless we do not prohibit their use under special circumstances.”

This means that we do not condemn or criticize or apply any kind of church discipline or disfellowshipment to those who decide to take vaccines or chemical medicine. Each member should decide the special circumstances to be determined by the individual health reasons or based on his or her situation, each should cautiously choose what to do for the glory of God. The majority of the Full Board of the General Conference agreed that the subject of vaccination is not a matter of salvation, based on the inspired testimony: “It is our privilege to use every God-appointed means in correspondence with our faith, and then trust in God, when we have urged the promise. If there is need of a surgical operation, and the physician is willing to undertake the case, it is not a denial of faith to have the operation performed.” – *Selected Messages*, vol. 2, p. 284. In special circumstances, the combination of terms “*God-appointed means*” and “*means in correspondence with our faith*” related to medical-surgical intervention and not only limiting to natural medicine allows us to combine the two. “All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not. Let no man seek his own, but every man another’s wealth.” 1 Corinthians 10:23, 24.

Changes to this official position of our denomination are possible only in future General Conference delegates’ sessions if this applies. Any other private individual or group opinions or ideas should be submitted to the decision of the World Assembly.

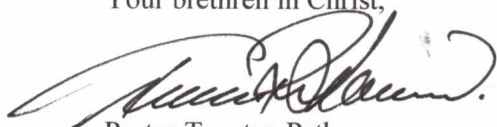
We kindly ask all our members not to pay attention to and disregard any such letters on the subject of COVID-19 or others that pretend to reflect the teaching of our church but are not issued and/or signed by the General Conference.

We would like to once again urge our members to continue to take all necessary precautions/steps to preserve and protect one's health and to avoid getting infected with the coronavirus, and if you are infected, to avoid spreading the virus to others.

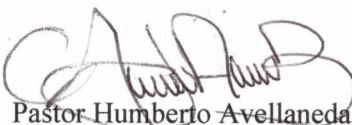
Also, if you need a vaccine exemption letter from the church, please download the text from the General Conference website.

Let us pray for the protection of our dear Lord and the progress of the work of God fulfilling the prophetic word and sacred mission of our church.

Sincerely,
Your brethren in Christ,



Pastor Tzvetan Petkov
General Conference President



Pastor Humberto Avellaneda
General Conference Vice President



Pastor Douglas Francis
General Conference First Secretary and Interim Treasurer



Pastor Wony Delgado
General Conference Second Secretary

The following members of the Full Board have given their vote-in writing to approve the text of this letter:

Pastor Danilo Monterroso
*Latin American Division President,
General Conference*

Pastor Alfred Ngwenya
*African Division President,
General Conference*

Pastor Francesco Caputo
*European Division President,
General Conference*

Pastor Rolando De la Paz
*Asian Division President,
General Conference*

Pastor Anton Salavyov
*Oceania Division President,
General Conference*

Pastor Morris Lowe
*General Conference
Health Department Leader*

Pastor Elijah Zwane
*General Conference
Full Board member*

Pastor Evance Mtikama
*General Conference
Finance Board Director*

Pastor Idel Suárez, Jr., Ph.D.
*General Conference
Ministerial Department Leader*

TP:kk