

1 ADCOM/ADCOM/ADCOM to MLR-GCDO18AC+18AC(DIV)

2
3 113-18G REGARD FOR AND PRACTICE OF GENERAL CONFERENCE
4 SESSION AND GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE
5 COMMITTEE ACTIONS
6

7 A sacred trust exists between church members and their elected Church leaders. Unity and trust
8 are strengthened as church members and organizational leaders commit to being led by the Spirit to
9 regard and honor the constituted decisions made by fellow church members and leaders.
10

11 “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”—Eph 4:3. “We are
12 coming to a time when, more than ever before, we shall need to press together, to labor unitedly. . . In
13 unity there is strength.”—2SM 374.
14

15 Where regard for and practice of General Conference Session and General Conference Executive
16 Committee actions have not been followed, these principles shall apply:
17

18 1. Process for Reporting Perceived Non-Compliance—The Administrative Committee of
19 any conference and/or union and/or division and/or the General Conference, which identifies as an entity
20 they perceive to be non-compliant, shall report the matter in writing to the administrative level of the
21 Church immediately above the perceived non-compliant entity, beginning with the administrative level
22 of the Church closest to the matter. If any level of organization does not report an issue of non-
23 compliance, it becomes the responsibility of the next higher organization.
24

25 2. Organization Closest to the Matter—Planning for and ensuring compliance shall initially
26 be the responsibility entrusted to the administrative level of the Church closest to the matter. This
27 organization is responsible for notifying the entity perceived as non-compliant. With sound judgement
28 and prayerful discernment, administrators may use existing General Conference working policies and
29 guidelines as tools for resolving matters of non-compliance.
30

31 3. Process for Addressing Perceived Non-Compliance—Administrators dealing with any
32 matter of perceived non-compliance shall exercise Christian due process which will (a) include much
33 prayer and dialogue, (b) provide a clearly written statement defining the perceived non-compliance, (c)
34 upon receipt of the written statement, provide 60 days for the executive officers of the perceived non-
35 compliant entity to provide evidence of compliance or a plan to achieve sustained compliance, (d) create
36 a supportive atmosphere by which to achieve compliance and unity and (e) provide a reasonable
37 timeframe (30 days) to provide evidence of compliance or a plan to achieve sustained compliance.
38

39 If, in the opinion of the executive officers of the conference and/or union and/or division and/or
40 General Conference, compliance has been requested but has not been made evident or has not been
41 sustainably achieved, the General Conference Administrative Committee may request the appropriate
42 General Conference Compliance Review Committee* to implement its terms of reference. The
43 appropriate General Conference Compliance Review Committee* shall evaluate the matter and (1) deem
44 the perceived non-compliant issue to be resolved, (2) make recommendations to the appropriate
45 Administrative Committee, and/or (3) consider and recommend to the General Conference
46 Administrative Committee, division officers, and General Conference Executive Committee that
47 disciplinary measures be taken.

113-18G REGARD FOR AND PRACTICE OF GENERAL CONFERENCE
SESSION AND GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE ACTIONS - 2

1
2 If, in the opinion of a General Conference Compliance Review Committee*, reasonable time has
3 been given for discussion and review, the General Conference Compliance Review Committee* may
4 directly make recommendations to the appropriate Administrative Committee.
5

6 4. Process for Appeal—An entity seeking appeal may do so directly to the assigned General
7 Conference Compliance Review Committee.* The appeal process made by the non-compliant entity
8 shall be considered part of the work of the General Conference Compliance Review Committee* as
9 defined by its terms of reference. The General Conference Compliance Review Committee* shall
10 respond in writing to the appeal made by the reporting organization within 60 days of delivery of the
11 final written appeal.
12

13 5. Process for Unresolved Matters—If a matter of non-compliance continues to be
14 unresolved, the next higher level of Church organization is tasked with the responsibility to resolve the
15 matter or facilitate the initiation of a process leading to consequences.
16

17 6. Disciplinary Measures—In the event the due process referenced above does not bring
18 about compliance and does not result in the reversal of the action taken by the non-compliant entity
19 and/or the constituency-elected leader of that body (the union president, who serves as both the voice of
20 the union constituency and the voice of the world Church and who is an *ex officio* member of the
21 General Conference Executive Committee), the entity and its duly elected leader may be subject to the
22 following disciplinary measures:
23

24 a. Warned—By vote of simple majority of the General Conference Executive
25 Committee, unions/unions of churches that have complied with a General Conference Executive
26 Committee and/or General Conference Session actions but have taken actions that are not in compliance
27 with the practices of the Church as defined by the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws and the
28 General Conference *Working Policy* may be “warned.” Being “warned” applies generally to a non-
29 compliant entity and does not intend to identify individuals for further action or mention.
30

31 b. Public Reprimand—By vote of simple majority of the General Conference
32 Executive Committee, the president of such unions/unions of churches/organizations that have not
33 complied with General Conference Executive Committee actions and/or General Conference Session
34 actions, including *Working Policy* that has been voted by the General Conference Executive Committee
35 and/or General Conference Session, may be given a public reprimand. In the attendee listing contained
36 in the agenda of each Spring Meeting and Annual Council of the General Conference Executive
37 Committee, the names of those individuals representing entities under reprimand will be denoted and
38 will be mentioned at the opening session of the meeting.
39

40 c. Placed on Removal for Cause and Subject to Policy Application—When non-
41 compliance continues after public reprimand, the relevant General Conference Compliance Review

113-18G REGARD FOR AND PRACTICE OF GENERAL CONFERENCE
SESSION AND GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE ACTIONS - 3

1 Committee,* by virtue of prior General Conference Executive Committee actions and General
2 Conference Session actions, shall have authority to consider and recommend to the General Conference
3 Administrative Committee, division officers, and General Conference Executive Committee, applying
4 the existing General Conference working policies and guidelines, such as removal of the individual
5 member “for cause.”—Bylaws Article XIII Sec. 1. c. and GC B 95.

6
7 In the event that entities that have been “warned” or “reprimanded” take actions that bring their
8 entities into compliance with the practices of the Church as defined by the General Conference
9 Constitution and Bylaws, the General Conference *Working Policy*, and voted actions of the General
10 Conference Executive Committee and/or General Conference Session, the relevant General Conference
11 Compliance Review Committee* shall recommend to the General Conference Administrative Committee
12 that they be reinstated to regular standing by the General Conference Executive Committee. In the event
13 that entities that have been “warned” or “reprimanded” continue in non-compliance with voted actions
14 of the General Conference Executive Committee and/or General Conference Session, the relevant
15 General Conference Compliance Review Committee* may recommend to the General Conference
16 Administrative Committee to pursue other actions that may be available in the General Conference
17 working policies and guidelines or the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Conference. If, after the
18 organization closest to the matter has been unable to resolve a compliance issue and the General
19 Conference Compliance Review Committee* has recommended consequences, only the General
20 Conference Executive Committee and/or the General Conference in session has authority to implement
21 the recommendation.

22
23 Presidents of conferences/missions whose unions have been “reprimanded” shall continue to
24 exercise voice, as provided by the General Conference Bylaws, and the body will be notified that the
25 invitee requesting voice is a constituent representative of a conference/mission of a “reprimanded” union
26 due to a matter of non-compliance.

27
28 In instances where a president has been removed from the membership of the committee “for
29 cause,” other members of the General Conference Executive Committee from that union shall continue
30 to exercise full privileges without mention of reprimand.

31
32 Entities who desire reconsideration of a General Conference Executive Committee and/or
33 General Conference Session action, may seek recourse through processes already provided for in the
34 General Conference *Working Policy*. The process of seeking recourse and the “Regard for and Practice
35 of General Conference Session and General Conference Executive Committee Actions” shall run
36 concurrently.

37
38 As circumstances warrant, this process may be used as a model by other levels of Church
39 organization.

40
41
42 * As per General Conference Administrative Committee action of July 17, 2018.