

South Atlantic Conference 26th Constituency Session
River Oaks Convention Center - Orangeburg, SC
September 11, 2022

Minutes

Song Service	Debra Smallwood
Opening Song	“Draw Me Nearer”
Invocation	David A. Smith
Welcome & Introduction	William L. Winston
Musical Selection	Grace Dorsey-Landy
Devotional	Ron C. Smith

Opening of the 26th Constituency Session

Opening Prayer

Calvin B. Preston

Business Called to Order – William L. Winston

The 26th Constituency Session was called to order by William L. Winston at 10:10 a.m.

Seating of Delegates – David A. Smith

The total number of registered delegates reported was 761, including delegates at large.
(At 11:50 a.m., there were 878 delegates registered.)

Adoption of 25th Constituency Session and Association Minutes – William L. Winston

Voted, to receive the minutes from the 25th Constituency Session of the South Atlantic Conference, dated September 11, 2016.

Acceptance of Parliamentarian – William L. Winston

Voted, to receive Attorney Todd McFarland, to serve as the parliamentarian for the 26th Constituency Session.

General Conference Rules of Order

Voted, to use the General Conference Rules of Order to govern the 26th Constituency Session.

Electronic Voting Devices

Voted, to adopt the use of electronic voting devices for the 26th Constituency Session.

Instructions were given by James Lamb on how to use electronic voting devices.

Interpretation Devices

Spanish interpretation devices (100) were made available for the 26th Constituency Session for those who needed them.

Association Board

Association Board is now open for business.

Voted, no Association Board business.

Reopened 26th Constituency Session business.

New Churches

Voted, to receive the following seven (7) churches into the South Atlantic Conference Sisterhood of Churches:

Georgia

- ❖ Cartersville Hispanic – Cartersville, GA
- ❖ Elim French – Marietta, GA

North Carolina

- ❖ Gastonia Hispanic – Gastonia, NC
- ❖ Good News – Carey, NC
- ❖ Unity – Concord, NC

South Carolina

- ❖ Batesburg Hispanic – Batesburg, SC
- ❖ Bible Teaching Center – Columbia, SC

Disbanded Churches

Voted, to accept the following two (2) disbanded churches:

- ❖ Voice of Hope – Rocky Mount, NC
- ❖ Macedonia New Life Center - Lumberton, NC Church

President’s Report – William L. Winston

Voted, to accept the president’s report given by William L. Winston.

Secretary’s Report – David A. Smith

Voted, to accept the executive secretary’s report given by David A. Smith.

Two-Minute Time Limit

Voted, that each person is limited to two minutes at the microphone.

Treasurer’s Report – Merkita Mosley

The report covered 2016-2020.

Voted, to accept the audit report given by Kevin Hallock, General Conference Auditing Service.

Questions on Treasurer’s Report

Voted, to cease debate on the treasurer’s report.

Acceptance of Treasurer’s Report

Voted, to accept the treasurer’s report given by Merkita Mosley.

Leland Hispanic Church Added to the Sisterhood of Churches

Voted, to accept the Wilmington-Leland Hispanic church located in Leland, NC, into the South Atlantic Conference Sisterhood of churches.

Union President Accepts Chair

Ron Smith, President of the Southern Union Conference, accepts chair.

Organizing Committee Report – Joyce Thrower

The Organizing Committee Report was read by Joyce Thrower.

Nominating Committee

Unit I

Worker	Everton Ennis	Ellenwood, GA
Alternate Worker	Kenneth Boswell	East Point, GA
Layperson	Allyson Dozier	Atlanta, GA
Alternate Layperson	Sam Palmer	Atlanta, GA

Unit II

Worker	Ronnie Williams	Lithonia, GA
Alternate Worker	John Sconiers	Gainesville, GA
Layperson	Quinesha Hicks	Atlanta, GA
Alternate Layperson	Samantha Archer	Smyrna, GA

Unit III

Worker	Roberto Guerrero	Dublin, GA
Alternate Worker	John Newlove	Chamblee, GA
Layperson	King Smallwood	Atlanta, GA
Alternate Layperson	Dale Williams	Decatur, GA

Unit IV

Worker	Kaggia Scott	Savannah, GA
Alternate Worker	Jose Reyes	Dalton, GA
Lay Person	Andrew McGee	Savannah, GA
Alternate Layperson	Fulgencio Hernandez	Forrest Park, GA

Unit V

Worker	Howard Brown	Florence, SC
Alternate Worker	Daniel Hall	Marion, SC
Layperson	Hannah Johnson	Summerville, SC
Alternate Layperson	Tina Turner	Darlington, SC

Unit VI

Worker	Monte Newbill	Pageland, SC
Layperson	James Artis	Aiken, SC
Alternate Worker	Keith Woodard	Columbia, SC
Alternate Layperson	Deryl Keith	Columbia, SC

Unit VII

Worker	Evan Willis	Charlotte, NC
Alternate Worker	Ewart Carter	Gastonia, NC

Unit VII (*continued*)

Layperson	Michael Jones	Charlotte, NC
Alternate Layperson	Vivian Crawford	Charlotte, NC

Unit VIII

Worker	Allen Baldwin	Winston, NC
Alternate Worker	Michael Olaye	Burlington, NC
Layperson	Robert Thorpe	Durham, NC
Alternate Layperson	Raymond King	High Point, NC

Unit IX

Worker	Austin Humphreys	Raleigh, NC
Alternate Worker	Patrick Tyrill	New Bern, NC
Layperson	Valerie Best	New Bern, NC
Alternate Layperson	Ronald Sparks	Wilmington, NC
Institutional Worker (NC)	Jennifer Mabry	Raleigh, NC

Haitian Community Representation

A motion was made by Marc Paul, to refer the nominating committee report back to the committee to reflect representation from the Haitian community.

Vote

A vote was taken; the motion failed.

(Jennifer Mabry, a conference employee, stated that she is a Haitian American, serving on the nominating committee, and therefore reflects representation from the Haitian community.)

Voted, to accept the Organizing Committee's recommended names for the Nominating Committee.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Unit I	Everton Ennis	Ellenwood, GA
Unit II	Nathanael Gracia	Atlanta, GA
Unit III	Ivan Hernandez	Marietta GA
Unit IV	Timothy Lindsey	Macon, GA
Unit V	Joyce Thrower	Charleston, SC
Unit VI	Dominique Best	Orangeburg, SC

Constitution and Bylaws Committee (continued)

Unit VII	Debra Dunlap	Gastonia, NC
Unit VIII	Victor Bartley	High Point, NC
Unit IX	James Bowden	Raleigh, NC

Voted, to accept the Organizing Committee's recommended names for the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Finance Committee

Unit I	Sam Palmer	Atlanta, GA
Unit II	Marc Paul	Douglasville, GA
Unit III	Jeff Taylor	Decatur, GA
Unit IV	Henrietta Moore	Savannah, GA
Unit V	Horace Johnson	Summerville, SC
Unit VI	Dominique Best	Orangeburg, SC
Unit VII	Clarence Kegler	Gastonia, NC
Unit VIII	Veda Howell	Burlington, NC
Unit IX	Tye Vaught	Fayetteville, NC

Voted, to accept the Organizing Committee's recommended names for the Finance Committee.

General Conference Rules of Order

A motion was made to suspend the General Conference Rules of Order to allow three (3) names to be presented at one time as opposed to only one (1) name for any given position brought to the floor.

VOTE

Yes – 451 No – 376

The motion failed. (It did not meet a two-thirds majority vote.)

Constituency Session Recess

The Constituency Session adjourned for lunch – 1:07 p.m.

The Constituency Session Reconvened at 2:35 p.m.

The Following Conference Bylaws were Presented Out of Sequence – David A. Smith

Title changes for Officers, Page 50, Article VI – Officers, Section 1

Voted, the following title changes:

- Executive Secretary will be changed to Executive Vice President
- Treasurer will be changed to Chief Financial Officer (CFO)/Treasurer
- Ministerial Secretary will be changed to Vice President for Pastoral Ministries

General Vice President

In reference to the position of General Vice President, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee recommended dissolving the position.

Vote

A vote was taken; the motion failed.

The Following Revisions were Made to the Constitution of the South Atlantic Conference of Seventh-day Adventists:

Article VII – Dissolution and Disposition of Assets

Voted, to change Article VII – *Dissolution and Disposition of Assets*, to reflect the following:

The Conference may only be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of the total number of delegates elected or otherwise appointed pursuant to Article III of the Conference Bylaws at a duly called constituency meeting.

Nominating Committee – Partial Report was given by Jennifer Mabry:

The Nominating Committee recommended Calvin B. Preston for President.

Conference President Election:

Voted, the recommended name of Calvin B. Preston for President of the South Atlantic Conference.

VOTE

Yes – 535 No – 306

Constitution – Continued

Article VIII – Amendments

Voted, to change Article VIII – Amendments, to reflect the following:

*Amendment, Revision and Repeal – The Constitution or the Bylaws of this Conference shall be amended, revised or repealed at any duly called constituency meeting by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting at any such constituency meeting of the Conference **except as it pertains to the dissolution of the conference stated in Article VII**. In the event it is proposed to amend the Constitution or Bylaws at any specially called constituency meeting notice of such proposed amendments shall be given specifically in conjunction with the time and place of the special constituency meeting and shall be handled in the same manner as a regularly scheduled constituency meeting. **Any voted changes become effective at the constituency meeting where they are voted. Minutes of the South Atlantic Conference Session shall be approved no later than the second regular meeting of the Conference Executive Committee following a regular or special constituency session. The approved session minutes and the Constitution and Bylaws shall be posted and maintained on the Conference website.***

The Following Revisions were recommended to the Bylaws of the South Atlantic Conference of Seventh-day Adventists:

Article II – Constituency Meeting

Section 1, lines 17-22:

Regular Meeting: This conference shall hold a regular Quinquennial (5 year) constituency meeting at such time and place as the executive committee of the conference shall designate. **In case special conditions prohibit or make impractical the physical gathering of delegates, the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Southern Union and the North American Division, in regular or special session shall have authority to authorize the South Atlantic Constituency Meeting to be postponed and rescheduled or held virtually giving notice to all constituent churches.**

Bylaws – Continued

Article II, Section 4, lines 48-51:

Voting: The election of officers, and the voting on all matters of business shall be, unless otherwise determined, by a majority vote of the delegates present and voting. Voting shall take place by voice, voting cards, secret ballot, or by widely secured means.

A motion was made to amend Article II, Section 4, lines 48-51, by adding the following statement: “such as electronic voting devices”.

Voted, Article II, Section 4, lines 48-51 to reflect the following:

Voting: The election of officers, and the voting on all matters of business, shall be, unless otherwise determined by a majority vote of the delegates present and voting. Voting shall take place by voice, voting cards, secret ballot, or by widely secured means, such as electronic voting devices.

Article II, Section 5 a., lines 53-54, 56-59:

Section 5: Voice and Vote Privileges: Voice (speaking) and vote privileges at regular and special constituency sessions of this Conference shall be the prerogative only of:

- a. All delegates duly accredited by any one of the organized churches of the Conference. Each church shall be entitled to one delegate who holds membership in the local church which accredits them for the organization and one additional delegate for each 50 members or major fraction, (*1/2 or more of 50 members*) thereof, as reported at the close of the third quarter of the preceding year.

Article II, Section 7 a., lines 82-85:

Section 7: Reports to the Constituents

- a. A written report, which may be conveyed verbally, shall be given to the constituent *churches* on an annual basis, giving an overview of the financial activities and progress of the conference. *Annual reports are to be made available on the conference website.*

Article III – Representation

Article III, Section 1, 4c, lines 103-106:

Invitees: Such other persons as may be recommended by the executive committee and accepted by the delegates in session. The number of such delegates shall not exceed five percent of the total number of regular delegates provided for hereinabove. These persons shall have voice but no vote.

A motion was made by Shadonna Bell, to vote each item individually and not as a block.

Vote

A vote was taken; the motion failed.

Discussion on Amending the Agenda to Allow New Items

A motion was made to cease the debate on amending the agenda to allow new items.

Cease Debate

Voted, to cease debate.

Articles II and III

Voted, to accept the recommended changes to Articles II and III of the Conference Bylaws.

VOTE

Yes – 543 No – 12

Article IV – Committees

Article IV, Section 1, a-d, lines 116-137:

Section 1: Organizing (Large) Committee

- a. *The Organizing Committee shall be constituted as follows: Each church represented at the constituency meeting shall choose from its delegate list, one member for the organization, plus one additional member for each five-hundred members. An additional one delegate for each major fraction (1/2 or more of 500) over five-hundred members.*
- b. *The Organizing Committee shall be chosen at least 60 days before the scheduled date of the constituency meeting and shall be seated not fewer than 30 days before the session. The time and place of the meeting shall be given in the official notice of the meeting.*

Organizing (Large) Committee – continued

- c. *The chairman of the Organizing Committee shall be the president of the Southern Union or his representative.*
- d. *The Organizing Committee shall elect:*
 - 1. *A Nominating Committee. It shall consist of one pastor and one lay person from each of the nine voting units and an educator, who may be a delegate at large, employed by the South Atlantic Conference on a rotating basis, beginning with the state of South Carolina, followed by North Carolina, then Georgia. The president of the Southern Union, or his representative shall serve as the chairman. Not more than 33% of the Nominating Committee can serve on the Executive Committee. The members of the Nominating Committee shall be selected from the regular delegates. Persons who served on the previous nominating committee from the last session and persons on the outgoing Executive Committee are ineligible to serve on the nominating committee.*
 - a. *The nominating committee shall be seated not fewer than 7 days before the scheduled date of the constituency meeting. The time and place of the meeting shall be given in the official notice of the meeting. The committee shall reconvene to continue the nominating process on the day of the constituency meeting if necessary.*

(For consistent lettering, Article IV, Section 1-f should be changed to Section 1-e.)

Voted, to approve the recommended changes to Article IV, Section 1, a-d. 1 a.

VOTE

Yes – 552 No – 24

Article IV, Section 1, Number 6, lines 159-162:

- 6. *A Standing Building Committee: A Standing Building Committee shall be chosen and shall consist of one pastor and one lay person from each state. New state representation shall be chosen by the Executive Committee when a committee member no longer holds membership in one of the churches in the state represented by them.*

Voted, to approve the recommended changes to article IV, Section 1, Number 6, lines 159-162.

VOTE

Yes – 549 No – 13

Article IV, Section 1, Number 7, lines 163-165:

7. *A Standing Employee Grievance Committee: A Standing Employee Grievance Committee shall be established and defined under the organization of the Human Resources office. At least one member of this committee shall be a non-employee with human resources training.*

Voted, to refer Article IV, Section 1, Number 7 – *A Standing Employee Grievance Committee*, lines 163-165 back to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for better wording and to avoid conflict of interest as it relates to the decision-making of employees.

VOTE

Yes – 401 No – 125

Article IV, Section 1.f., lines 168-170:

- f. *New unit representation shall be chosen by the Executive Committee when a member of the Constitution and Bylaws, Finance, Audit Review, and any other committees (with representation by units) no longer holds membership in one of the churches in the unit represented by them.*

Voted, to approve Article IV, Section 1.f., lines 168-170.

VOTE

Yes – 466 No – 6

Article IV, Section 3, lines 183-186:

Voting (Officers): *Voting for the President, Executive Vice President, and Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer shall be done separately and individually.*

Voted, to accept the recommended changes to Article IV, Section 3, lines 183-186.

VOTE

Yes – 487 No – 26

Nominating Committee – Partial Report was given by Jennifer Mabry

The Nominating Committee recommended David A. Smith for Executive Vice President.

Conference Executive Vice President Election

Voted, the recommended name of David A. Smith for Executive Vice President.

VOTE

Yes – 448 No – 160

The Nominating Committee recommended Merkita Mosley for CFO/Treasurer.

Conference CFO/Treasurer Election

Voted, the recommended name of Merkita Mosley for CFO/Treasurer.

VOTE

Yes – 484 No – 123

Recommendations to Bylaws Continued

Article IV, Reports of Officers, Section 4, lines 188-191:

Reports of Officers: *Reports of the President, the Executive Vice President, and the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer shall be sent to all delegates at least 30 days before the constituency meeting.*

Voted, to accept the recommended changes to Article IV, Section 4, lines 188-191.

VOTE

Yes – 412 No – 9

Article V – Executive Committee

Section 3: Administrative Authority, lines 223-228

- a. *In the event of a presidential vacancy with less than half of the term remaining, the Executive Committee shall choose the new president who will serve for the remainder of the term. The president of the Southern Union Conference or his designee shall serve as chairperson of the Conference Executive Committee for the purpose of the election of the president. The current Executive Vice President shall serve as interim president until a new president is chosen.*

Voted, to accept the recommended changes to Article V, Section 3 a., lines 223-228.

Vote

Yes – 409 No – 23

Constituency Session Break

The Constituency Session ceased for a break at 6:15 p.m.

The Constituency Session Reconvened at 6:43 p.m.

Departmental Reports:

Adventist Book Center – Sylvia Coleman

Voted, to accept the Adventist Book Center report given by Sylvia Coleman.

Communication – James Lamb

Voted, to accept the Communication report given by James Lamb.

Human Resources – James Lamb

Voted, to accept the Human Resources report given by James Lamb.

Disabilities Ministries – Rosemary Graham

Voted, to accept the Disabilities Ministries report given by Rosemary Graham.

Education – Kim Gaiter/Cheryl McGee

Voted, to accept the Education report given by Kim Gaiter and Cheryl McGee.

Departmental reports – continued

Family, Single Adult, Safety, Grief, & Men's Ministries – Melvin Preston

Voted, to accept the Family, Single Adult, Safety, Grief, & Men's Ministries reports given by Melvin Preston.

The remaining departmental reports may be reviewed in the program booklet.

Nominating Committee – Final report was given by Jennifer Mabry:

General Vice President/PARL: Everton Ennis

Vice President for Education: Kim Gaiter

Adventist Book Center Manager: Sylvia Coleman

ASI/Community Service/Inner City: Joshua Nelson

Communication/Human Resources: James Lamb

Vice President for Ministerial/Evangelism/Stewardship: Allen Baldwin

Health Ministries: Richard Berry

Korean Ministries: Don Kim

National Service Organization: Monte Newbill

Personal Ministries/Prison Ministries/Safety Officer: Frank Harrell

Sabbath School/Children's Ministries: Darryl Howard

Senior Ministries: Ralph Peay

Associate Trust Services: Dominique Best

Women's Ministries: April Smith

Youth/Young Adult Ministries: John Newlove

A motion was made to vote for each position individually.

VOTE

Yes – 125 No – 138

A motion was made to refer the entire block of names back to the Nominating Committee.

VOTE

Yes – 76 No – 180

A motion was made to accept the block of departmental names given by the Nominating Committee.

VOTE

Yes – 183 No – 47

The following departments will be referred to the Executive Committee:

- Disability Ministries
- Family Ministries
- Grief Ministries
- Hispanic Ministries
- Haitian Ministries
- Prayer Ministries
- Single Adult Ministries
- Men's Ministries

Executive Committee:

- Calvin B. Preston, President
- David A. Smith, Executive Vice President
- Merkita Mosley, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer
- Everton Ennis, General Vice President

	<u>Worker</u>	<u>Layperson</u>
Unit I	Kenneth Boswell	Allyson Dozier
Unit II	Ronnie Williams	Jerome Reddish

Executive Committee – continued

	<u>Worker</u>	<u>Layperson</u>
Unit III	Patrick Carter	Annette Davis
Unit IV	Michael Miller	Fulgencio Hernandez
Unit V	Howard Brown	Hannah Johnson
Unit VI	Monte Newbill	Crey Trowell
Unit VII	Evan Willis	Michael Jones
Unit VIII	Godwin Mitchell	Betti Bailey
Unit IX	Michael Shelton	L'Tonya Jackson
Vice President for Education	Kim Gaiter	
Departmental Director	Joshua Nelson	
Layperson	Jean Smith	
Layperson	Emmanuel Jean Leon	
Layperson	Huey Rowe Anderson	

Association Board of Trustees:

Calvin B. Preston, Chairman

David A. Smith, Executive Vice President

Merkita Mosley, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer

Michael Jones, North Carolina

Learie Jones, North Carolina

Larry Luke, South Carolina

Ken Brandon, Georgia

Voted, to receive the recommended names to serve on the Executive Committee and Association Board of Trustees.

Adjourn

Voted, to adjourn the 26th Constituency Session of the South Atlantic Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Calvin B. Preston, President.

Sine die 8:16 p.m.