

## *The President's Pen!*

### ***Mission: The Why***

We are called to make disciples in our communities, sharing the distinctive, Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness.

### ***Our Vision***

To equip and empower pastor-coached, lay-driven churches that reflect Jesus' love, passionately live the gospel, and grow spiritually and numerically.

My reflections on the first day of the 2022 General Conference Session – June 6, 2022

The day began with worship, including seasons of prayer. Elder Mark Finley, Elder Dwight Nelson, and Elder Barry Black led us in a study of the Holy Spirit and His work and power in the early New Testament Church. They challenged us to seek a daily baptism of the Holy Spirit. If God poured out the Holy Spirit on the believers of His early church, will He not pour out the Holy Spirit upon His last-day remnant church? Filled with the Holy Spirit, transformed by His grace, and armed with the Word of God, the Holy Spirit can transform the world through us.

This General Conference Session is the first hybrid Session. When the Session was called to order this morning, there were 1,876 registered delegates, with about 400 of those delegates joining virtually. It was a palpable moment when the delegates from Ukraine, who were present in the dome, were publicly recognized. They proudly waved small flags from their country.

The first part of the agenda included routine matters of voting the daily program, the Session agenda, and standing committees. The delegates voted the Nominating Committee with 268 members. There are twenty-one delegates from the North American Division serving on the Nominating Committee. Two of those delegates are from the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC), namely, NPUC President John Freedman and Idaho Conference teacher Jamie Miller.

Elder Ted Wilson presented a powerful and inspiring President's Report. He cited numerous instances where the Holy Spirit has and is working around the world. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, God's last-day movement is moving forward with Holy Spirit power. Elder Wilson's report concluded with a baptism of a husband-and-wife couple from the Southern Philippines in the auditorium. Elder Wilson and Elder Duane McKey of Adventist World Radio each baptized a candidate.

We spent a significant part of the day considering and voting changes to the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws and the *Church Manual*. We concluded the day by receiving a partial report from the Nominating Committee. They nominated the incumbent, Elder Ted Wilson, to serve as the General Conference president. He was elected with strong support (just shy of 75% support) to his third

term as president.

There is still much work for the delegates to accomplish. Please pray for the leadership and delegates of the Session as we move forward led by the Holy Spirit.

**General Conference**

You can find up-to-date reporting on the General Conference, at the Adventist Review website, <https://adventistreview.org/> or the Adventist News Network website, <https://adventist.news/>. To watch the General Conference Session live view website, <https://www.gcsession.org/live/>.

You can find Elder Wilson's president's report at <https://adventist.news/>

**Mission Matters**

The Idaho Conference Communications Department publishes a monthly e-newsletter called *Mission Matters*. I invite you to subscribe at <https://connect.nwadventists.com>.

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