

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.

I landed safely in St. Louis, MO last evening to serve as a delegate for the 61st General Conference Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. When the first General Conference Session was held in May 1863, twenty delegates met in a small wooden church in Battle Creek, MI. The delegates represented a few thousand Sabbath-keeping Advent believers, mainly from the Northeast and Midwest regions of the United States. In contrast, this General Conference Session will convene with approximately 2,700 voting delegates representing more than 21 million members from more than 200 countries.

The General Conference Session takes place every five years, so it was originally planned for 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic it has been postponed twice. Historically, it has been a ten-day session, however, this year it will occur Monday through Sabbath, June 6-11. An ambitious schedule has been planned to give the delegates time to adequately address the business of the world church.

The theme of the General Conference Session is "Jesus is Coming! Get Involved!" It reflects the Advent hope in a soon-returning Savior, and the urgency of Total Member Involvement (TMI), everyone doing something for Jesus in winning souls for His Kingdom. The delegates will work through three agendas, namely, the General Agenda, the Constitution and Bylaws Agenda, and the Church Manual Agenda. They will also receive and vote on reports from the Nominating Committee.

According to the published schedule, a typical day will begin with music and worship at 7:40 am, CDT. There will be eight and one-half hours of business sessions. The day will conclude at 9:15 pm, CDT.

Two delegates from the Idaho Conference are serving in the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) delegation. Jaime Miller, the fifth and sixth grade teacher from Caldwell Adventist Elementary School and I have the privilege of serving in this capacity. Ms. Miller has also been selected by the NPUC delegation to serve on the Nominating Committee. Please pray for us and the 2,700 delegates as we thoughtfully, carefully, and prayerfully serve in this important role. We want to set personal agendas aside and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit throughout this important General Conference Session.

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/>.

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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