

8. Following any actions involving the dissolution of a union/union of churches or the establishment of a new union/union of churches, the division shall recommend to the General Conference Executive Committee that the changes of status be approved at the next General Conference Session.

B 95 Discontinuation of Organizations by Voluntary or Involuntary Dissolution

B 95 05 Discontinuation of Conferences, Missions, Regions, Field Stations, Unions, and Unions of Churches by Dissolution and/or Expulsion—If a situation arises where it is determined by the higher organization that the majority of members of a conference, a mission, a region, a field station, a union, or a union of churches are in apostasy, or that the organization refuses to operate in harmony with denominational policies and constitutional requirements, and is in rebellion, the higher organization has a responsibility to act for the protection of its loyal members, and the good name of the Church. Every effort should be made to avert the need for dissolution by counseling with the leadership and members, seeking to bring healing and reconciliation, and to preserve the organization as a witness for God and His saving truth. If conciliatory efforts fail and discontinuation appears to be the only solution, the higher organization shall have authority to act as set out under B 95 10 and B 95 15.

B 95 08 Dissolution and/or Expulsion of Local Churches—The dissolution and/or expulsion of local churches is addressed in the *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual*.

B 95 10 Dissolution and/or Expulsion of Local Conferences/ Missions/Regions/Field Stations—If, in the opinion of a union conference/mission administration, a local conference/mission/region/field station appears to be in apostasy or rebellion, and the procedures outlined under B 90 05 have been followed, but have proved unsuccessful, the following steps shall be taken:

1. The matter shall be considered by the union executive committee at a duly called meeting of committee members, at which time all the relevant data shall be shared, and the union executive committee shall determine whether or not the conference/mission/region/field station is in apostasy or rebellion.
2. a. In the case of a local mission/region/field station: If the union executive committee determines that a local mission/region/field station is

in apostasy or rebellion, and should be dissolved, it shall take an action to dissolve the local mission/region/field station, and shall recommend to the next union session, or to a specially called session, the expulsion of the local mission/region/field station from the sisterhood of missions/fields.

b. In the case of a local conference: If the union executive committee determines that a local conference is in apostasy or rebellion, and should be expelled from the sisterhood of conferences, the union shall seek counsel from the division.

1) The union, in consultation with the division, shall use its discretion to decide whether another local conference constituency meeting should be called, and if so, at what point in the procedure.

2) The union shall submit a recommendation for expulsion of the local conference from the sisterhood of conferences to the next union session, or to a specially called session, if there is no evidence of conciliation on the part of the conference.

3. If the union constituency votes to expel the conference/mission/region/field station from the sisterhood of conferences/missions/regions/field stations, it shall, as a companion action, vote to take into the care of the union all the churches of the conference/mission/region/field station until reorganization, or some other provision can be arranged.

4. The union executive committee, functioning in place of the conference/mission/field constituency, shall proceed to disband any local churches which prove to be disloyal, and to redistribute remaining churches by territorial adjustment and/or reorganization.

5. The union executive committee shall make provision for the preservation of the membership of any such churches by holding records of their membership at the union until appropriate arrangements can be made.

6. In the event of the dissolution of a local mission/region/field station and/or the expulsion of a local conference/mission/region/field station from the sisterhood of conferences/missions/regions/field stations, audits of the financial and membership records of the conference/mission/region/field station shall be conducted. All assets remaining after all claims have been satisfied shall be dealt with as specified in the conference constitution and bylaws; mission/region/field station operating policy; articles of incorporation of the organization. Assets not so covered shall be transferred to a legal entity authorized by the division.

7. If, with the passage of time and efforts toward healing and restoration, it seems desirable for the nurture of the members and for the mission of the Church to reorganize the conference/mission/region/field station, the process set out under the relevant section of B 65 shall be followed.

B 95 15 Dissolution and/or Expulsion of Unions/Unions of Churches—If, in the opinion of a division administration, a union/union of churches appears to be in apostasy or rebellion, and the procedures outlined in B 95 05 have been followed, but have proved unsuccessful, the following steps shall be taken:

1. The matter shall be considered by the division executive committee at a duly called meeting of the committee, at which time all the relevant data shall be shared. The division executive committee shall then determine whether or not the union/union of churches is in apostasy or rebellion.

2. a. In the case of a union mission/union of churches with mission status: If the division executive committee determines that a union mission/union of churches with mission status is in apostasy or rebellion and should be dissolved, it shall take an action to dissolve the organization, and shall recommend to the General Conference Executive Committee the expulsion of the unit from the world sisterhood of unions.

b. In the case of a union conference/union of churches with conference status: If the division executive committee determines that a union conference/union of churches with conference status is in apostasy or rebellion and should be expelled from the world sisterhood of unions, the division shall refer the matter to the General Conference Executive Committee with the recommendation for expulsion from the world sisterhood of unions and the reasons for it.

3. The General Conference Executive Committee, in consultation with the division, shall use its discretion to decide whether another union conference constituency meeting should be called and, if so, at what point in the procedure.

4. The General Conference Executive Committee shall consider the recommendation of the division executive committee at its Spring Meeting or Annual Council. If it approves the proposal for expulsion, the General Conference Executive Committee shall refer the recommendation to the next regular or specially called General Conference Session for consideration.

5. If a General Conference Session concurs with a recommendation to expel and votes to expel a union from the world sisterhood of unions, the division shall exercise direct responsibility for the conferences and/or missions/regions/field stations affected by the expulsion and shall, through its executive committee, take an action to attach them directly to the division until a new organization can be established or a rearrangement of territorial boundaries effected. Disloyal conferences/missions/regions/field stations shall be dealt with in harmony with the principles set out under B 75 10. In the event that a union of churches is expelled from the sisterhood of unions, the division executive committee shall vote to take into the care of the division all churches of the union of churches until reorganization or a redistribution of boundaries can be arranged. The division executive committee, functioning in place of the expelled union of churches constituency, shall have authority to disband any local churches which prove to be disloyal and to redistribute remaining churches by territorial adjustment and/or reorganization.

6. In the event of the dissolution of a union mission/union of churches with mission status and/or the expulsion of a union/union of churches with conference status from the sisterhood of unions, audits of the financial records of the union conference/union mission shall be conducted. All assets remaining after all claims have been satisfied shall be transferred to a legal entity authorized by the division, or dealt with as specified in the expelled entity's constitution and bylaws or operating policy.

7. If, with the passage of time and efforts toward healing and restoration, it seems desirable for the nurture of the members and for the mission of the Church to reorganize the union/union of churches, the process outlined under the relevant section of B 65 shall be followed.

B 95 20 [Repealed Annual Council 2011]