

18 April 2017

From: Executive Committee , Southern New England Conference of  
SDA's

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To: SNEC Pastors and Teachers, and other employees

**SUBJ: EXCOM DECISION**

Dear Pastors & Teachers —

I hope you are well as you provide ministry to church members.

I wanted to update you with an action taken by SNEC's Executive Committee on April 9, 2016. I will describe the action taken and then give some of the rationale.

The ExCom voted to support the higher educational opportunities of our college aged youth. The committee voted to cease to submit our monthly financial support for Atlantic Union College. On July 31, 2017 our subsidy will cease.

Five of the six conferences in the Atlantic Union support AUC with a subsidy of four percent of gross tithe. Northeastern Conference submits two percent of tithe to AUC and three percent to Oakwood University. In actual dollars SNEC submits approximately \$800,000 per year in direct subsidy for AUC.

Your ExCom has been studying the college for two years. They have investigated the college's plans and results thus far. The ExCom did not believe that the current plan is sustainable, and did not foresee different results coming in the future. Add to this the issue of Accreditation. In a best case scenario Accreditation is at least five years away. Lack of Accreditation means no students loans, Pell grants, or accredited degrees earned by the students.

In short, the action the ExCom took was to support SNEC students financially and not the institution.

Plans and details still need to be worked out but the plan is to give scholarships to college aged youth who attend an SDA college or university within the North American Division. This would include students who choose to attend Atlantic Union College. In SNEC we have the institutional knowledge on how to accomplish this because of our SET Fund.

There are so many details I will share. I am working on a larger document/statement for the church members. But I wanted to get this

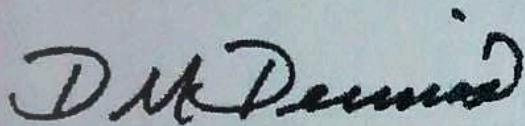


news to you so that you heard it before the grapevine brings you the news.

Please be assured that this action by the ExCom was not taken lightly or without doing adequate due diligence. The vote was take with prayer and sympathy. It was done in the spirit of caring for the college age youth who are not being served by the present arrangement.

God bless you all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D M Dennis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the second 'i' in "Dennis".

David M Dennis  
President