

Resolution to Call for a Special Constituency Meeting
of the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

WHEREAS, the model of church governance set forth by Jesus Christ and the apostles is characterized by servant leadership, mutual love and forbearance, and due process for those accused of wrongdoing; and

WHEREAS, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is a movement constituted upon biblical principles, whose structure is intended to embody the same; and

WHEREAS, the *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual* (“*Church Manual*”) provides procedures for the settlement of church grievances against members and for the carrying out of church discipline; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (“Michigan Conference”) is a part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; and

WHEREAS, it has been alleged that the Executive Committee of the Michigan Conference has failed to follow biblical principles and the procedures of the *Church Manual* in acting on its grievances against Ron Kelly and Conrad Vine, both ordained ministers in good standing; and

WHEREAS, it has been further alleged that the Michigan Conference President and Executive Officers have overstepped their authority, attempted to mislead constituents, and acted in a coercive manner toward the members of the Village Seventh-day Adventist Church; and

WHEREAS, the President and Executive Officers have denied these allegations and maintained the appropriateness of their actions; and

WHEREAS, attempts to date to resolve this conflict have failed or have served to escalate it; and

WHEREAS, the failure to resolve this conflict has harmed the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the unity and tithing of its membership, and the pursuit of free Biblical inquiry by pastors, elders, and members throughout Michigan and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the biblical principles of charity and love of truth require that the parties involved be permitted to present their case in the presence of the church body and accompanied by the testimony of witnesses; and

WHEREAS, Article 5, Section 5.2(a)(4) of the Michigan Conference Bylaws (“Bylaws”) stipulates that the Executive Committee shall call a special constituency meeting when so voted by 30% of the Michigan Conference constituent churches through church board action; and

WHEREAS, Article 4 of the Michigan Conference Constitution permits the delegates to a special constituency meeting to “adopt, amend, revise, and/or repeal Bylaws”; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Conference Constitution specifies that the constituents delegate authority to the Executive Committee and the Executive Officers; and

WHEREAS, the Village Seventh-day Adventist Church is a constituent church of the Michigan Conference;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the board of the Village Seventh-day Adventist Church hereby formally requests the Executive Committee of the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to call a special constituency meeting to be held in person at the earliest possible date, but no later than 70 days within meeting the constitutional requirements, having an agenda substantially similar to the following:

- i. A time of individual and corporate prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and for the exercise of Christian love and unity in the actions of the delegates.
- ii. Time for representatives of this church and other constituent churches to present their concerns over the imbalanced relationship of authority between Executive Officers and local churches, and the resulting harm caused to mission, unity, tithing, and free Biblical inquiry within the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Michigan and beyond.
- iii. Equal time for Executive Officers to present their views on the same.
- iv. Time for delegates to ask questions of both sides.
- v. Time to consider and vote on possible amendments to the Michigan Conference Bylaws to establish an improved relationship of authority between Michigan Conference officers and local churches. A draft of proposed constitutional amendments will be submitted once the required threshold of constituent churches has called for a special constituency meeting.
- vi. Time to consider and vote on the possible removal, replacement, and/or reinstatement of Executive Officers, Executive Committee members, and/or pastors.

Adopted on March 10, 2025 by vote of the board of the Village Seventh-day Adventist Church in duly called board session.