

## **International Conference on the Bible and Science: Affirming Creation**

*“Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast” (Psalm 33:8, 9, NKJV).*

### **Preamble**

As the participants at the 2014 International Conference on the Bible and Science (August 15-24, St. George, Utah), drawn from the international education system of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we recognize the Bible as the only standard of faith and practice. We affirm that the Bible presents the reliable account of a recent literal six-day Creation: “In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day” (Ex. 20:11; see also Gen. 1:1–2:4a; John 1:1-3; Col. 1:15-18).

We also affirm the occurrence of a global worldwide flood as recorded in the Bible (Gen. 6-9) that was a judgment against sin, in which God preserved human and animal life in the ark. To the mind illuminated by Scripture, the natural world displays evidence of the love, beauty, and order of a Creator God while also attesting to the damaging consequences of the Fall (Rom. 1:19, 20).

We reject those worldviews that intentionally remove biblical truth from public discourse and scientific endeavor. We affirm the necessity of an intellectual environment in which competing theories about origins are presented and openly discussed within the context of a biblical worldview. We commit ourselves to teaching and advocating the biblical understandings of origins in our professional roles as Adventist educators.

We believe that we are called to teach and preach the everlasting gospel and to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus (Rev. 14:6-12), a commission that specifically requires that we proclaim “Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water” (vs. 8). We understand that the purpose of Seventh-day Adventist education is to restore in human beings the image of the Creator, and that this goal has implications for educational curriculum and instruction; the structuring of human

relationships, including divinely ordained marriage; and stewardship of the earth.

We recognize that there are many unanswered scientific questions in relation to origins; however, we are encouraged by the growing body of scientific evidence that attests to the reliability of the biblical account. We are committed to contributing to careful and reliable research prompted by the biblical worldview.

### **Recommendations**

We propose the following recommendations:

- That a coordinated approach be taken to the ongoing development, in all major languages, of high-quality, media-rich resources regarding the biblical account of origins and natural and earth sciences;
- That a delivery system, with training modules, to make such resources readily available to educators, administrators, and pastors, be implemented by December 2016;
- That a comprehensive approach be taken to the development of appropriate resources for elementary, secondary, and tertiary institutions to support a biblical worldview of Creation, the Flood, and stewardship of God's world;
- That financial and scholarship incentives be provided by sponsoring church organizations in all world regions to encourage research and scholarly publications in the areas of origins and natural and earth sciences and that information about these incentives be disseminated to all Adventist educators and researchers;
- That leaders in Adventist education be tasked with creating greater opportunities for networking and support for Adventist professionals and other academics engaged in creation science research.

### **Resolution**

We accept our responsibility as Adventist educators to affirm and publicly promote the Church's fundamental beliefs on Creation and the worldwide flood as an integral part of our professional, ethical, and spiritual commitments. We commit ourselves to the Creator God and the redemptive task of education entrusted to us for restoring His image in all.