

GOD'S CALL TO ETHICAL LEADERSHIP IN THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

In a complex world dominated by leaders intent on maintaining control or grabbing more power, we, as Seventh-day Adventist leaders, are called to uphold Scripture-based ethical standards that reflect the character of God as revealed in His Word. Recognizing our created-ness and dependence on the Creator-God of Genesis 1–2, we want to commit ourselves to be first followers and servants of the One who “made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant” and “became obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross” (Phil. 2:7–8). As servant leaders we pledge ourselves to live a life of service and integrity, reflecting the kind of leadership demonstrated practically by our Lord and Master as He ministered on this earth.

We want to affirm the following moral and ethical values especially relevant for Seventh-day Adventist leaders as we anticipate the glorious day when Jesus will return and finally take us home.

1. We will consciously focus on being servant leaders.
2. We will exhibit moral courage at all times.
3. We want to be leaders of integrity.
4. We promise to be authentic leaders, willing to “walk the talk.”
5. We pledge to be empathetic, compassionate, and listening leaders.
6. We commit to being transparent and accountable in our leadership.
7. We will endeavor to treat people as Jesus treated them.
8. We will be intentional in promoting justice, equality, and unity in diversity.
9. We will always recognize the contributions of others.
10. We commit to mentoring future leaders.

We confess our inability to live up to these standards except for the Holy Spirit's transforming power. As a community of fellow servants we commit to being people *who cannot be bought or sold, who are true and honest, who do not fear to call sin by its right name, whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, who will stand for the right though the heavens fall* (Ellen G. White, *Education*, 57).

As leaders we pledge *to fear the Lord, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve Him with all our heart and with all our soul* (Deut. 10:12). “God first” shall be the refrain of our lives as we wait upon Him continually (Hosea 12:6).

LORD OF THE UNIVERSE, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, SAVIOR OF US ALL, HELP US BE SUCH PEOPLE—TODAY AND UNTIL ETERNITY.

–Drafted and approved by the attendees of the conference on Ethical Leadership for the 21st Century, Adventist University of Africa, March 28, 2015