



4 May 2017

To: All SEC Pastors and Directors

Office of the President

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Dear Friends,

As I met with our Directors for our monthly SEC Directors meeting, one thing became very apparent. As they travel around the conference and interact with the constituency they are finding that there is a diverse opinion on how we do 'Church'. Everyone from young to senior have opinions about how we conduct our services and the future of our church. This is not new to us, however when the membership of the church is threatened with the possibility of churchgoers voting with their feet, then we have to sit up and take notice. While we had a frank and open discussion we had to admit that in a number of cases we have not made church a welcoming place either for members or visitors.

For the last two weeks I have highlighted the plans that we have to engage in real-life hard conversations, to come together and talk openly and honestly on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of June, to hear the voices of our young people and conference at large'. Those plans are maturing. I am attaching a poster advertising that event. We are still in the process of securing a venue, and will notify you as soon as one is booked, but felt that it was too important not to advertise and ask you to mark the date in your diaries. Please keep this event and its contributors uppermost in your prayers and thoughts as we seek to dialogue and learn from the mistakes of the past and plan for the future.

I also mentioned two further events to follow; On the 14<sup>th</sup> of May we are holding a 1-day seminar at the Advent Centre on championing Religious Liberty through the New British bill of Rights Post Brexit Equality Law Framework relating to Religion or Belief featuring Elder Doris D Williams-Charles Diplomat at the St Vincent & Grenadines High Commission alongside Dr Kavaloh. See the attached poster.

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May, Education Director, Gina Abbequaye invites you to attend the Adventist Teachers Association Seminar: Education & Religious Liberty. This is also an opportunity to network with Adventist educators, teachers and teaching assistants working in non Adventist educational institutions. This poster is also attached and I ask you to make a special effort to notify all teachers who are members to attend. We were alerted to the fact that while the Government has a duty to inspect schools, it is becoming clear that they have an agenda which is very much against Faith Schools. Being informed is key to addressing some of the challenges to educators, and sharing will allow teachers to look carefully at how we go about meeting discrepancies. We solicit your prayers for an area of our lives and church lives that require spiritual support.

Pr Fergus Owusu-Boateng alerted us to the fact that 9<sup>th</sup> July has been designated Adventist Muslim Relations (AMR) day. GC AMR Director Pastor Bahadur will be running an International AMR Coaching Training at Newbold College on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July.

He is further requesting the support of 10 SEC Churches where his World leaders can do a Sabbath AMR program on that morning and afternoon. May I encourage churches to liaise with Pastor Fergus to register your interest. This day will focus on training needed to achieve the objective of reaching out in a positive way to our Muslim friends and neighbours.

I am attaching a poster to give you a head start on the Youth programme planned for Camp Meeting. Please ensure that you make every effort to be a part of an exciting and challenging programme.

We are now releasing the weekend booking form for those who cannot be with us for the camp meeting week, but can attend on the weekend. If you have not done so, please share the YouTube link with an encouraging word from our 2017 SEC Camp Meeting Speaker and Singing Evangelist Pastor Wintley Phipps. <https://youtu.be/-OM00yNDGAK>  
The full week 2017 booking forms with the significant reduction in chalet prices is available from the SEC Website on the Home page and SEC Events.

If you have significant stories for next week's edition to share with the constituency please send them to [News@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:News@secadventist.org.uk)

Let us continue as a church to pray for our Pastors, spouses and workers who need our prayers. Please also remember them in your personal devotionals.

Warmest regards,



Dr Emmanuel Osei  
President  
SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE