



October 22, 2020

An open letter to our brethren in the truth about God Movement of Historic Seventh Day Adventism in the Philippines. We wish to set forth before you a short explanation of who “1889 Historic Seventh Day Adventists” (1889 HSDA) are, what it is and why. Perhaps this will help to explain some of our principles and policies that are receiving criticism at present.

We are Historic Seventh Day Adventists who stand upon the Seventh Day Adventist Fundamental Principles of 1889. We came together realizing the need to be separate from those churches who are daily imbibing new errors, but also realizing the need to be united with other fellow believers in church capacity, and church with church.

From the beginning in modern days of this movement promoting the truth about God, until some recent efforts to establish order, there has been no organization binding church to church, and few local churches actually properly organized. The movement has been carried on largely by independent ministries. This has resulted in a state of things that is far from healthy and will never bring about the promised conditions necessary for the reception of the Holy Spirit in the Latter Rain.

Thus, the formation of 1889 HSDA is fundamentally different than all the independent or “supporting” ministries. It is **not a ministry. It is a church**, and there are some very fundamental differences that we would like to share with you in the table on the second page.

The differences are apparent between the two types of organization. The ministry type nurtures a dictatorial attitude, self sufficiency, leading to absolute dictatorial control and is a breeding ground for embezzlement or misappropriation of funds, and is a one-man show. It leaves other working forces of the church unused, placing the burden upon the self-appointed leaders or those they personally request to do something. A ministry may exist as an entity subordinate to the church, acting as a branch or department of the church, but not outside of and separate from the church acting as a church of itself, for there are fundamental differences between a church and a ministry as outlined in the table.

*I know that the Lord loves His church. It is not to be disorganized or broken up into independent atoms. There is not the least consistency in this; there is not the least evidence that such a thing will be. Those who shall heed this false message and try to leaven others will be deceived and prepared to receive advanced delusions, and they will come to nought. {2SM 68.3}*

An accepted Minister of an entity, stands as a representative and mouthpiece of that organization. He administers the ordinances of the church, speaks to the church, teaches the church and has a large influence over the church. Thus, for the organization to be required to accept ministers of “ministries” not part of the organization, is to accept someone to stand as a representative, mouthpiece, administrator of the ordinances that is not amenable to the organization in any way. He is not required to be in harmony with the other ministers, or to even be in communication with them or counsel with them. He is not amenable to the committee or the decisions or policies of the organization. Thus by its very nature, acknowledging a minister that is not a member of the organization and is opposed to membership in it, is a violation of the most basic principles of a church government, where decisions are made by elected representatives, and workers are held accountable to the church body. **A church cannot be a confederacy of ministries and individuals that by definition are not bound to the same Biblical principles of church government without compromising its most basic principles:**

*God has not set any kingly power in the Seventh-day Adventist Church to control the whole body or to control any branch of the work. He has not provided that the burden of leadership shall rest upon a few men. Responsibilities are distributed among a large number of competent men. {8T 236.3}*

*Every member of the church has a voice in choosing officers of the church. The church chooses the officers of the state conferences. Delegates chosen by the state conferences choose the officers of the union conferences, and delegates chosen by the union conferences choose the officers of the General Conference. By this arrangement every conference, every institution, every church, and every individual, either directly or through representatives, has a voice in the election of the men who bear the chief responsibilities in the General Conference. {8T 236.4}*

We could also highlight the differences between proper church organization and a corporate structure, which most ministries use. We could discuss the importance of organization versus no organization and could furnish a multitude of quotes, but what we have presented is all we will attempt to present in this short paper. We have much information on organization on our websites, and you can also request us to send you information on specific aspects.

May God lead you and guide you as you seek to learn more of His will for your lives.

The 1889 HSDA Counsel of Representatives

## Comparison of a ministry to that of a church.

Ministry	Church
Self appointed leaders	<a href="#">Elected leaders</a> (see 8t 236.4 below)
No possibility of leaving the office	Has a term of office, and is <a href="#">replaceable</a> <i>They (leaders) are to be men who love and fear God and Christ; otherwise, they must be relieved of their responsibilities. {RH, November 5, 1903 par. 16}</i>
No church discipline	Church discipline is possible - <i>"In the church there is to be maintained a discipline which guards the rights of all and increases the sense of mutual dependence." 3SM 16.3</i>
No church or members, just "supporters" and leaders.	Membership, each having a voice, either directly or through representatives - <a href="#">(see 8t 236.4 below)</a> <i>He says: "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever [in church discipline] ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Thus even the heavenly authority ratifies the discipline of the church in regard to its members when the Bible rule has been followed. {3T 428.1} ... If there were no church discipline and government, the church would go to fragments; it could not hold together as a body. There have ever been individuals of independent minds .... These draw away from the body, and each one is a separate church of himself. ... {3T 428.2}</i>
No reports necessary, no financial records or books required, no disclosure of plans necessary	Careful bookkeeping is required with internal audits by the elected auditor, of the national organization and of the member churches. There is <b>transparency</b> in finances, resolutions, etc. All reports from officers and workers as well as resolutions and financial reports are placed on the forum online where it is accessible by local and national church leaders, elders, treasurers. <i>All their business transactions, whether with believers or unbelievers, should be as <b>transparent</b> as the sunlight. {20MR 384.3}</i>
All plans, projects, etc. are made by the self appointed leader/s or at the very least are approved or vetoed by them.	Plans, projects, etc. are made by duly elected representatives of the churches - <i>"[God] never designed that one man should rule and plan and devise <b>without the careful and prayerful consideration of the whole body</b>, in order that they may move in a sound, thorough, harmonious manner." 3SM 16.3</i>
Wrong policies and mistakes will be frequent with only one or two planning and deciding, with no oversight or amenability to a body of believers. If there is a counsel or committee, the ministry that forms that counsel or committee can disband it at will, or handpick the people he wants to be on the committee.	<i>"Satan may move through one man's mind to warp things out of their proper channel; he may succeed with two who view things in a similar light; but <b>with several minds</b> enlisted there is greater safety against his wiles. Every plan will be more liable to be viewed from all sides, every advance will be more carefully studied, so that no enterprise will be so likely to be entered upon which will bring confusion and perplexity and defeat to the work in which we are engaged. In union there is strength; in division there is weakness and defeat." {TM 252.2}</i>