



On September 29, 2018, at a business meeting of the Nærum SDA church just North of Copenhagen Denmark, it was voted unanimously to authorize the church board to pen a letter to the leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist church expressing its grave concerns about the recent efforts to enforce compliance.

This congregation has deep roots to the origins of Adventism in Scandinavia having merged with the Skodsborg church at the Skodsborg Sanitarium. Both churches trace their roots back to the inspiration from Battle Creek.

The church board has voted the following statement:

To:

- **The Executive committee of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church**
- **The leadership of the Trans-European Division**
- **The leadership of the Danish Union of Churches**

We hereby express our full support of the letter from the leadership of the Danish Union to the General Conference on September 24, 2018. We support their constructive suggestions and their courage to speak clearly and conscientiously about their concerns for the church, its leaders and members.

We want to support an on-going process of spiritual growth of church entities and the individual members, that accommodates diversity, without creating division. Likewise, we expect that all members and church leadership will actively support civilized discourse and gracious disagreement.

But we are horrified to see the previous threats of “grave consequences” can now result in union leadership being publicly placed in pillory while under investigation. In addition, this disenfranchises the members who have elected the union leadership and voids the mandate the members have given them. These new procedures also seem to run counter to existing working policy for these cases.

We are deeply saddened to see our church move to a strongly centralized set of five small compliance committees. Their structure is frightfully far removed from the grassroots of the church, with a triumvirate of three ex-officio members as well as a lawyer in all committees. This consolidates the power to investigate, execute judgment and handle appeals in a small, closed circle. We feel estranged and alienated.

But most of all, we are saddened by the focus of the five committees. The priorities are turned upside down with the church and its uniqueness being more important than our core belief in the grace of Christ.

We pray that each person in the leadership of the General Conference will help find the way back to the spirit of graciousness, genuine accommodation and respect of differences of culture and conscience. Instead of a strong-handed central censure, we long for a creative grassroots and leadership commitment to sharing the love and grace of God.

The church board of the Seventh-day Adventist church Nærum, Denmark - October 5, 2018

Michael Bidstrup

Carsten Thomsen

Nina Klokkevold

Lella Kipper

Nils Rechter

Bjørn Krøll Nielsen

Christina Neesgaard

Kenn Roland Nielsen

Christoffer Struksnes

Ulrik Schiermer Nielsen

Marianne Dyrud

Benjamin Elkjær