

Dear _____ Church Family,

October 8, 2022, is a historical moment for our church family. Why? Because this second reading of our Nominating Report can place our church on the side of rebellion against the _____ Conference or bring us in harmony with the sisterhood of churches in the _____ Region.

Throughout our journey in the last several years, the doctrinal issue of Fundamental Belief #2 has been at the forefront. Some, in our church family have challenged this belief and time, effort, and study has been given toward the challenge.

The Biblical Research Institutes, the theological arm of the General Conference of the SDA Church, has provided a summary of the challenge and have found the challenge to be out of harmony with what the Seventh-day Adventist Church teaches. In order to move forward in our nominating process, it was recommended by the _____ Conference to have Val Ramos and anyone else holding this view be removed from the list of officers. Which to his credit, Val Ramos requested his name removed.

However, of the 10 statements found in the official response from the BRI, statement #6 states, “We appealed to our brothers to reexamine their views on the matter. Since FB no. 2 represents the consensus of the world church on the doctrine of God, those who disagree should not occupy leadership positions while attacking our beliefs or promoting views that undermine it. And depending on the situation, they may even forfeit their rights to membership in the church.”

Please note, that there are still many names on the nominating list which fit the description of statement #6. There are individuals that have publicly and/or in writing stated views that undermine what the Seventh-day Adventist Church believes. As pastor, I have made this reality known to the Nominating Committee. However, the decision was made to move forward despite that reality.

Therefore, your vote today can either keep our church family in harmony with the world church or cause it to be in rebellion. I will not encourage you to vote a certain way. Do the right thing. I will state clearly that your vote will have ramifications that can be disastrous for the future ministry of the _____ SDA Church or can help the church move forward in mission. I am praying for you and your ultimate decision.

In His Service,

Pastor _____