

20 May 2024

Attn: School Boards in the NZCPT network

## NZCPT Position Statement on Seventh-day Adventist enrolment

Following inquiry and interaction with the Seventh-day Adventist Church (North Island) it has been determined that the NZCPT has alignment on matters of faith. North Island schools in the NZCPT network are directed to regard applicants from North New Zealand Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Churches as being eligible for enrolment as “preference” families.

Members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are expected to enrol in a Seventh-day Adventist Church school when they live in geographical proximity rather than seeking enrolment at an NZCPT school.

The NZ Christian Proprietors Trust board have passed the following resolution.

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**Seventh-day Adventist Church Preferential Enrolment Status**

*For the purposes of enrolment, it is agreed that anyone who has a demonstrable living Christian faith with affirmation of the NZCPT "Statement of Faith" is eligible to be defined as "preferential" and having membership of the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) church, shall not exclude them from this.*

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Schools are to align their enrolment selection practices accordingly.



**Philip Mark Bradley**

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Chief Executive Officer

Encl. "Seventh-day Adventist Church Letter of Clarification - NZCPT (2025\_05\_08).pdf"



08 May 2024

## **A Grace-Centred Clarification of Seventh-day Adventist Beliefs**

Dear Philip,

Thank you again for the opportunity to share with you and the wider New Zealand Christian Proprietors Trust (NZCPT) community. I am grateful for the spirit of mutual understanding and Christian unity that underpins your invitation to clarify our faith position.

As Seventh-day Adventists, we affirm unequivocally that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8–9). We believe the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the sole basis for our salvation. Nothing we do can add to the sufficiency of His sacrifice.

Practices such as Sabbath observance or healthful living (e.g. the dietary instructions of Leviticus 11 & Deuteronomy 14) are responses of worship, not requirements for salvation. They are expressions of joyful obedience that flow from a heart transformed by grace.

We affirm the Bible as the inspired Word of God and our only rule of faith and practice. This is the foundation upon which all our doctrines are built, and we fully affirm the NZCPT Statement of Faith in this regard.

### **Clarifying Specific Doctrinal Matters:**

- *The Nature of Final Judgment and the State of the Dead:*  
We believe in a bodily resurrection at the return of Christ. Until that time, the dead sleep in Christ, resting in His salvation (1 Thessalonians 4:13–17). Final judgment is God's righteous and redemptive act, affirming His justice and mercy. It does not contradict grace but rather vindicates it.
- *The Investigative Judgment:*  
This teaching is often misunderstood. It does not suggest believers earn salvation through their own performance, but rather reflects our belief that God, in His justice and transparency, is reviewing the record of human response to His grace. It affirms that Christ is our Advocate and High Priest (Hebrews 4:14–16) and that our assurance is in Him alone.
- *The Role of Ellen White and Sola Scriptura:*  
We regard Ellen White as a prophetic voice—one that has uplifted Jesus and deepened our commitment to Scripture. However, her writings are not a replacement for Scripture. The Bible alone is our final and supreme authority. Here's a beautiful statement from her own writings on this point: "Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light."
- *The Seventh-day Sabbath:*  
We observe the seventh-day Sabbath as a grace-filled invitation to rest in the finished work of Christ. It is rooted in creation (Genesis 2:1–3), reaffirmed in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8–11), and fulfilled in Christ's redemptive rest (Hebrews 4:9–10). For us, the Sabbath is like a weekly "date night" with God—a relational gift, not a legalistic requirement. It reminds us that our identity and salvation are found not in our work, but in His.



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church™

*North New Zealand*

- *Varied Expressions of the Seventh-day Adventist worldview:*

We recognise that Adventism, like many global movements, has diverse cultural expressions. These various and nuanced expressions mean that not all Seventh-day Adventists may comprehend or live our core teachings in exactly the same way. We acknowledge that at times we may inadvertently give others just reason to misunderstand our teachings and our gospel position by a poor explanation of the same or by over emphasizing elements of our message. These misrepresentations are not the defining mark of authentic Adventist theology. At its core, Adventism is Christ-centred and grace-saturated.

In all things, our desire is to reflect the character of Jesus, to live by the Word of God, and to partner with our Christian brothers and sisters in education, discipleship, and mission.

Thank you again for your openness. Please let me know if further clarification would be helpful—we are committed to ongoing dialogue in the spirit of truth and grace.

Warm regards,

Adrian Webster



President

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