



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

School of Religion

Center for Understanding World Religions
Loma Linda University

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

ARTICLE 1 – NAME AND CHARTER

In accordance with the Policy of Loma Linda University Health (“LLUH”) on University Institutes, the LLUH Board of Trustees approved the establishment of THE CENTER FOR UNDERSTANDING WORLD RELIGIONS (“the Center”) in August 2016. The Center arose and was placed in the School of Religion on the basis of a LLU Deans Council action in consultation with Global Mission representatives from the General Conference and the North American Division. While the Center serves the entire enterprise, the on-going development of the Center is primarily the responsibility of the LLU School of Religion.

In the wake of all the religious conflict in the world, the Center’s primary mission is to encourage LLUH and its communities to be places of reconciliation and healing. Through education, research, and service the Center seeks to foster the “healing of the nations” (Rev 22:2). This is accomplished through library development, research projects, lectures, seminars, conferences, publications, and contributions to the church and the community. Each of these endeavors shall enrich the work that is done within LLUH’s classrooms, laboratories and clinical services. None of the Center activities, nor any combination of them, shall supplant, replace or compete with the formal certificate or degrees offered through the curricular units of Loma Linda University or the patient service functions and continuing education credits offered by Loma Linda University Medical Center and its affiliates.

ARTICLE 2- LOCATION

The Center for Understanding World Religions shall be located at Loma Linda University, in the City of Loma Linda, in the State of California.

ARTICLE 3 – PURPOSES

The mission and purpose of the Center is grounded in three things. 1) *Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and principles*. Adventists are committed to truth, wherever it can be found (Ellen White, GC Bulletin, March 5, 1895, par. 25). Therefore, all truth is God’s truth, regardless of the source. So the Center will be a place for listening and responding to other faiths at their best. 2) *Continuing the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ*. Jesus met people at their point of need. The surest way to the heart of another is that person’s faith. The better we can understand the faith of others, the better LLUH can accomplish its mission of teaching and healing. 3) *LLUH is a place to which God calls people*. Work at LLUH is more than a job, it is a calling. When people from other religions see LLUH as their calling, we acknowledge the work of God in bringing them to us. The goal of the Center is to hear their testimony of what God has done in their lives and what they see God doing here. So the mission and purpose of the Center is listening and learning for the sake of LLUH’s mission and God’s purposes for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

ARTICLE 4 – ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

An Administrative Committee (Adcom) shall oversee the activities of the Center. The role of the Adcom shall be to enable the Center to fulfill its mission. Subject to the LLU President’s Committee, the authority of the Adcom shall be final.

Section 1 – Composition

- a) The Adcom shall consist of regular voting members as follows:
 1. President of LLU (Chair)
 2. Dean of the School of Religion (Vice Chair)

3. LLUH VP for Spiritual Life
4. Two members of the School of Religion faculty
5. One representative from another School of LLU
6. One representative from LLUMC
7. Head Chaplain of LLUMC
8. One representative from the LLUH Diversity Council
9. The founder of the Center (William Johnsson) or his designee
10. In so far as possible, one LLUH representative from each of the following faiths:
 - a) Judaism
 - b) Islam
 - c) Buddhism
 - d) Hinduism
 - e) One from Sikhism/Jainism/east Asian religions
11. Additional Membership:
 - a) Two at-large LLUH representatives
 - b) Up to five representatives from other communities who are interested in the Center's mission.

Members of the Adcom may designate temporary substitutes as needed to serve on the Adcom in their stead.

Section 2 – Ex Officio Members

Whether or not listed above, the President of LLU and the Provost of LLU shall be ex-officio voting members of the Adcom. These ex-officio members may designate permanent or temporary representatives to serve on the Adcom in their stead. The absence of the ex-officio members or their designees shall not be counted against the establishment of a quorum.

Section 3 – Officers

The Adcom shall have the following officers with the duties so indicated:

- a) The Chairperson shall be the President of LLU or his/her designee and shall have such duties as customarily assigned to chairs.
- b) The Vice Chair shall be the Dean of the School of Religion or his/her designee.

Section 4 – Meetings and Quorum

- a) The Administrative Committee shall meet as often as a majority of its members deems appropriate.
- b) A quorum shall consist of fifty percent (50%) or more of the filled Administrative Committee positions exclusive of the ex officio voting members.

Section 5 – Nomination of Director and Associate Director

In addition to its other responsibilities, the Adcom shall nominate a Director and an Associate Director to serve for terms of three years. These appointments shall be vetted by the LLU President’s Committee and approved by the LLU Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE 5 – OFFICERS AND STAFF

Section 1 – Director

- a) The Adcom shall provide recommendations for Director of the Center to the President’s Committee of the University.
- b) The Director shall serve a term of three (3) years.
- c) The Director shall:
 - i. be a member of the faculty of the LLU School of Religion;
 - ii. be academically responsible to the Dean of the School of Religion; or to the President if the Director is also Dean of SR;
 - iii. prepare the Center’s annual budget for presentation to the Adcom;
 - iv. implement fundraising activities as directed by the Adcom;
 - v. maintain the daily operations of the Center;

- vi. report to the Adcom as required;
 - vii. carry out the instructions of the Adcom;
 - viii. report to the President of the University; and
 - ix. be primarily responsible for the activities for the Center in the University and affiliated educational institutions.
- d) The Associate Director shall:
- i. be a faculty member of the School of Religion;
 - ii. be academically responsible to the Dean of the School of Religion;
 - iii. report to the Director of the Center for Center matters.

Section 2 -- Administrative Assistants

- a) The Center may employ additional office personnel to provide staff assistance to the Director and Associate Director.
- b) Graduate students or other qualified persons may be also be employed by the Center.