



APPLICATION for Research Grant North American Division

DIRECTIONS: Please complete the following information and e-mail this application to Meredith.Carter@nad.adventist.org on or before .

Is your application in response to a specific request for a proposal (RFP) by the NAD? No Yes

1. Personal Information and Qualifications:

Your name: Leanne Sigvartsen Address: 6492 Long Lake Road, Berrien Springs, MI 49103 Phone numbers: 269 487 6511 Qualifications for this research: BA (Psychology); PGD (Psychology); MCouns (Research); currently deferred from PhD (Education)	Your title: Beyond Beliefs Research Project Coordinator E-mail address: info@clergyed.com
Your name: Jan Sigvartsen Address: 6492 Long Lake Road, Berrien Springs, MI 49103 Phone numbers: 269 487 6511 Qualifications for this research: BA (Theology); MA (Religion); PHDc (Religion)	Your title: Adjunct Professor, Andrews University. Lecturer for RELB225 Doctrines of Adventist Faith E-mail address: jsigvart@andrews.com

[Repeat the above information for each co-applicant]

2. Provide an abstract of what you wish to do and--if possible--how it advances NAD strategy. Limit: 250 words.

Using a portion of the data collected in Phase One of the ongoing Beyond Beliefs Project, this special report aims to describe the impressions and perceptions college aged youth, who identify as Seventh-day Adventists and live long-term within the North American Division (NAD), hold of the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of Adventist Faith and how relevant they feel they are to their lives. It will also investigate if any specific demographic factors are associated with identified impressions and perceptions.

This report advances the Reach Up component of the NAD Strategy. A knowledge of what the perceptions of this target group holds of the official beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist church would allow strategies to encourage devotions, church attendance, financial faithfulness, and meaningful Sabbath keeping to be more intentional and specifically target the needs that are important to this group of young people.

This report advances the Reach Out component of the NAD Strategy. The results of this report may show that young people who identify as Seventh-day Adventists may have an inaccurate awareness of the beliefs of Adventism, and as such, should not be forgotten in an attempt to communicate Adventism. Attempts by young adult youth to communicate Adventism to non-Adventist colleagues and friends may be strengthened if they themselves are aware of and find these beliefs relevant to their own lives.

3. What literature have you identified that is most relevant to your research topic?

Much effort and study has been given to retaining youth within the Seventh-day Adventist Church by administrators and decision makers of that religious faith. The focus of both qualitative and quantitative research

to date by both Seventh-day Adventist and non-church related researchers has focused on identifying factors that contribute to the development of beliefs, spirituality, and to the greatest retention of youth within church populations (Kinnaman, 2011; Chaves, 2009; Okagaki, Dollahite, Layton, Bahr, Walker, & Thatcher, 2009; Gane, B. A., 2005; Chaves, 2004; Dudley, 2000; Hammond, & Seamon, 1999; Dudley, 1989). Research has also concentrated on youth aged 10-18 many of whom were still living at home with their parents.

However, it is still unclear how much those, who remain within the Seventh-day Adventist denomination upon reaching young adulthood (ages 18 - 29), who are largely living outside their parental home, actually know about the 28 Fundamentals of Adventist faith and their associated commentary as endorsed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

While there may have been some measure of success in retaining youth members due to the implementation of recommendations of previous research efforts, to what end? At present it is only anecdotally assumed that their decision to continue to identify as Seventh-day Adventists as young adults is based on an informed knowledge of the denomination and an agreement with the fundamentals. However, it could well be that strategies to date have run the risk of producing "cultural Adventists" who participate in the church organization, but hold perceptions and impressions of official Adventist beliefs that differ, are negative, or feel these beliefs are irrelevant to their lives.

4. Explain in some detail how you will meet the following.

Research question(s):

What are the impressions and perceptions of college age youth of the 28 Fundamentals of Adventist Faith and do they feel they are relevant to their lives. What demographic indicators most identify with these perceptions.

Methodology (Summarize sampling method, instrumentation, validation and reliability checks, data collection and analysis). Attach instrumentation if available:

This is a convenience sample of students who undertook RELT225 Doctrines of Adventist Faith in Spring 2013 at Andrews University, Michigan. The responses assessed in the proposed report is Part A of a reflective journal assignment undertaken in this class. Students were asked to write 150 words or more expressing their response to each of the 28 fundamentals of Adventist faith. They were asked to report what they liked/disliked about it, whether they thought it was important/not important and if it was relevant/irrelevant to their lives. Researchers obtained consent to use this assignment from participating students. A copy of the course syllabus which comprehensively outlines the requirements of the reflective journal is attached electronically to the email that conveyed this document. Two study specific demographic inventories were completed by participating students the first was administered at the beginning of the study, the second at its completion. Electronic copies of both inventories are also attached to the email that conveyed this document. The syllabus and the demographic inventories remain the property of Jan and Leanne Sigvartsen and are not for distribution. They may only be used by other parties with permission.

Standards of quality (how you will insure accuracy):

Copies of the dataset used in this report will be made available to the North American Division. It is not for distribution, but rather for the purposes of peer-review of inferences made in the proposed report.

Reporting, publication, and ownership of data:

The supplied report and executive brief may be distributed by the North American Division as they wish. All data from the Beyond Beliefs Project remains the property of Leanne and Jan Sigvartsen who were solely responsible for the cost of study development and data collection. A copy of the portion of the Beyond Beliefs data used in this report will be provided to the Office for Strategic Planning, Research and Assessment, North American

Division. (Approximately 400-500 pages.) This data is not for distribution and is provided for the purpose of peer review of the supplied report and for their own records. Data collected as a part of the Beyond Beliefs Project may be used in future research, resources or publications only with permission from the data owners, Leanne and Jan Sigvartsen.

Legal, ethical, and human subjects approval:

Andrews University Internal Review Board (IRB) for Human Subjects research has reviewed and approved the Beyond Belief's research project – IRB Protocol Number: 13-010. A copy of their approval letter can be found at <http://www.beyond-beliefs.com/documentation.php> along with a copy of the projects proposal which was reviewed by the Andrews University IRB.

5. What do you see as the dates that your agency can perform the services indicated in the RFP along with any other services you deem necessary?

Preferred time frame (use this for or an approved alternate form):

<i>Date</i>	<i>What will be done</i>
	The report
	A copy of the dataset with pertinent data
	Draft article for publication relating to the report
	An executive brief for mass distribution to interested parties relating to the report
Friday June 7, 2013	Submission of final copy of research

6. Based upon the suggested range of allocation described in the RFP along with guidelines around allowable expenditures, how do you propose to use the following budget toward accomplishment of proposed project?

Proposed budget (use this for or an approved alternate form):

Item	Description	Amount (\$)
1.	Creation of a report assessing the attitudes towards the 28 Fundamentals of Adventist Beliefs of young adults who identify as Seventh-day Adventists from the North American Division. Demographics associated with identified attitudes will also be reported.	
2.	Creation of a preliminary draft article for publication, for a ministerial target group relating to the findings of the above report.	
3.	Creation of an executive brief of the findings of the above report for mass distribution to interested parties by the North American Division.	
4.	Printing of a copy of the dataset associated with this report for the	

	records of the Office for Strategic Planning, Research and Assessment, North American Division. (Approximately 400-500 pages.) This data is not for distribution and is provided for the purpose of peer review. <i>Data remains the property of Leanne and Jan Sigvartsen and can be used in future research, resources and publications only with permission from the data owners.</i>	
	Grand Total	\$3,000

I [we] submit this application with the assurance that the information submitted is accurate to the best of my [our] knowledge. Grant awards will be announced on or before

Signatures (names)	Title / position	Date
1. Applicant <u><i>Leanne Sigvartsen</i></u>	<u><i>Leanne Sigvartsen</i></u>	<u><i>5/8/13</i></u>
2. C-applicant <u><i>Jan Åge Sigvartsen</i></u>	<u><i>JAN ÅGE SIGVARTSEN</i></u>	<u><i>5/8/13</i></u>
3. Designated Research Officer (if college or university)	<u><i>na</i></u>	<u>_____</u>

Please e-mail completed application to Meredith.Carter@nad.adventist.org on or before _____