

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



**THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH INCORPORATION (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2019**

NO. OF 2019

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*The Seventh-Day Adventist Church Incorporation
(Amendment) Bill, 2019*

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AN ACT to amend the Seventh-Day Adventist Church Incorporation Act Cap 399.

ENACTED by the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda as follows:

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the Seventh-Day Adventist Church Incorporation (Amendment) Act, 2019.

2. Amendment of the Preamble to the Act

The Seventh-Day Adventist Church Incorporation Act, CAP. 399, hereinafter referred to as the principal Act, is amended in the Preamble by repealing paragraph 1 and substituting the following—

“Whereas there has been constituted a Conference known as the South Leeward Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on the 1st day of May, 2019, consisting of the Churches in Antigua and Barbuda, Montserrat, and St. Kitts and Nevis, which have been officially organized and accepted into fellowship by vote of the delegates assembled in session, and in accordance with the constitution of the General-Conference of Seventh-day Adventists;”

3. Amendment of sections 2, 3 and 4

The principal Act is amended in sections 2, 3 and 4 by deleting the words “South Leeward Mission of Seventh-day Adventists.” wherever they appear and substituting the words “South Leeward Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.”.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the Seventh-day Adventist Church Incorporation Act CAP 399.

On 6th March, 2011, the delegates to the Leeward Islands Conference of Seventh-day Adventists decided to reconstitute the Leeward Islands Conference of Seventh-day Adventists consisting of six Churches, namely Antigua, St. Christopher-Nevis, Dominica, Montserrat, the Virgin Islands and the adjoining French Islands.

The reconstituted Conference was known as the South Leeward Mission of Seventh-day Adventists, with reduced number of Churches, consisting of Antigua and Barbuda, Montserrat and St. Kitts and Nevis.

On 1st May, 2019, the organisation underwent a further restructuring process which has affected the Church locally in Antigua and Barbuda, and in the islands of Montserrat, and St. Kitts and Nevis.

The re-organization of the Church has led to the designation of “Conference” status so that its proper name is now “The South Leeward Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists (formerly “The South Leeward Mission of Seventh-Day Adventists”). This Conference governs the Church in the islands of Antigua and Barbuda, Montserrat and St. Kitts and Nevis.

The new designation of the South Leeward Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has necessitated the amendment to the Seventh-day Adventists Incorporation Act.

Clause 2 of the Bill replaces paragraph 1 of the preamble and has the effect of giving legal recognition to the reconstitution and renaming of the new organisation.

Clause 3 consists of consequential amendments to the text of the Act.

Hon. Samantha N. Marshall
Minister with responsibility for
Ecclesiastical Affairs