This study seeks to address the apparent ambiguity in the SDA Church’s position with respect to its relationship with the WCC in various parts of the world. It also tries to answer the basic question: to what extent can the SDA Church participate in the WCC without compromising its unique understanding of the Bible, the writings of Ellen G. White, and the theological alternatives of its present position.

This study found that the General Conference of SDAs has appeared to demonstrate tacit agreement with the status quo and does not really have an official position about this issue. This study concludes that as long as there is no official position of the SDA Church toward the WCC this ambiguity will remain.

What is transparent in this study is that the SDA Church is not a full member of the WCC and cannot hold membership while the WCC continues to seek organizational unity without unity of faith. While SDAs cannot go along with the basic philosophy of the ecumenical movement, they can engage in constructive dialogue with the WCC and with churches which may not hold membership in the WCC. They may also participate in some activities and projects with the WCC so long as they do not compromise SDA fundamental beliefs. They can and should be open to listening and sharing the light they have.