

[View this email in your browser](#)

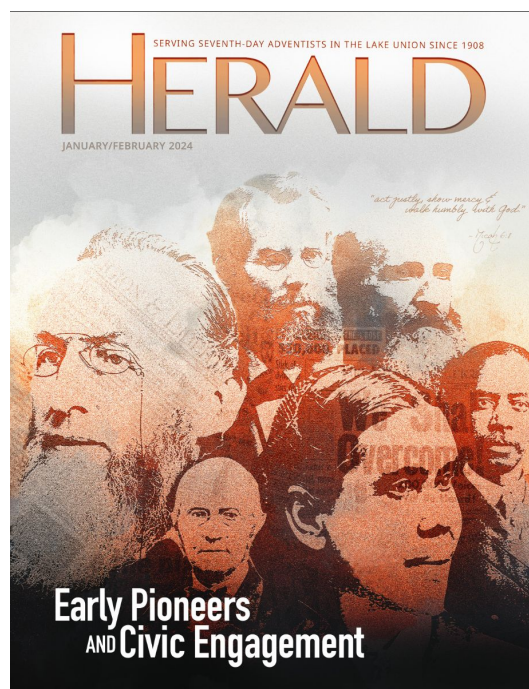


January 11, 2024 :: Vol. 3, Issue 1



# Lake Union HERALD

Jan/Feb 2024



## See inside the Jan/Feb 2024 issue

This month's issue features the role of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty department in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

[Read the Jan/Feb 2024 Issue](#)

## Go Out and be the Salt of the Earth

An unusual thing happened at the memorial service of my friend, Daniel Honore, last February. When he died, Pastor Honore was the newly elected president of the Minnesota Conference. But before his untimely death, he had served for many years as the president of the Northeastern Conference based in New York City.

The “unusual” thing is that Bill de Blasio, former mayor of New York City, and Hakeem Jeffries, minority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, were both there in attendance and eulogized Pastor Honore. Now, you may say that these were just political stops for them, but that didn't seem at all to be the case. They both spoke in highly personal terms about their friend Daniel. They knew him. They told stories about time they had spent together.

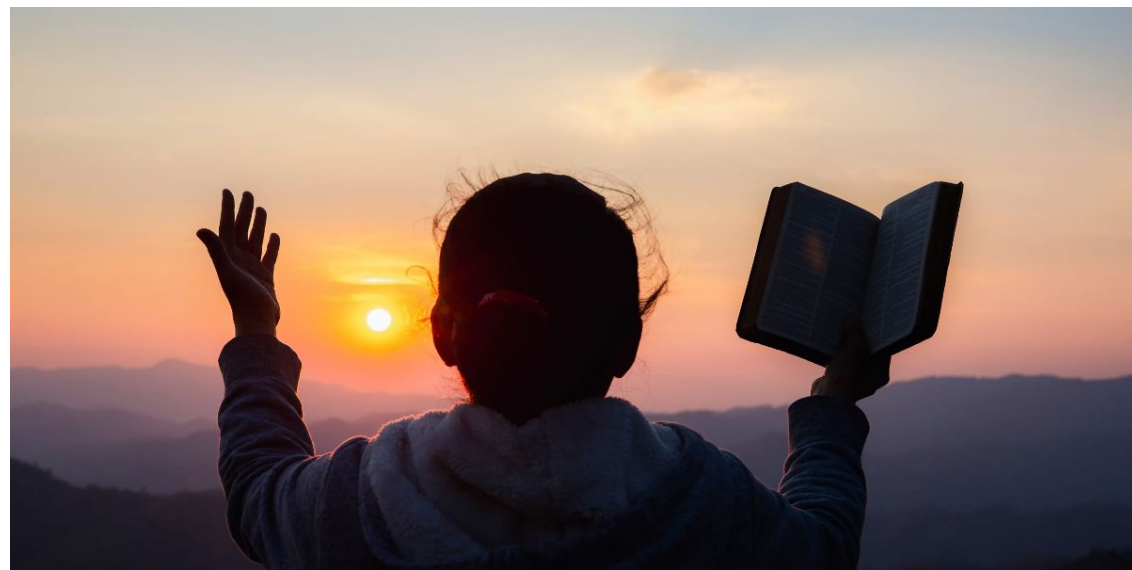
Mr. de Blasio in particular shared that most of what he had known

understand who we are as a people. He hasn't become a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but he has become a friend of the church.

Ken Denslow  
*Lake Union President*

[Read More](#)

## FEATURED STORIES



### **Positioning the Church and Protecting Worship**

It has been one year since I started working at Lake Union as Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) director. I am blessed to work with your conference's PARL directors this past year and, as you can probably see from their articles in this issue, our discussions on the mission and work of PARL are always engaging.

Yes, part of PARL's mission is to promote and protect religious freedom. As a department, we work to ensure that people can worship freely, and we advocate on behalf of members who may be facing issues of religious discrimination. Religious liberty has been a focus of the Seventh-day Adventist church since its foundation. The issue of freedom to worship is tied to our understanding of the great controversy and our church's eschatology. We understand the importance of safeguarding the principles found in the establishment and free exercise clauses of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. We believe that it is an "inalienable right to believe and to worship God according to conscience, without coercion, restraint, or civil disability, and to practice or to change one's religion and to promulgate it without interference or penalty". (1) Usually this is where many people think the work of PARL begins and ends.

However, another aspect of PARL that we don't focus on as often is our public affairs ministry.

*- Jennifer Gray-Woods is the Lake Union legal counsel, as well as its Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director.*

[Read More](#)





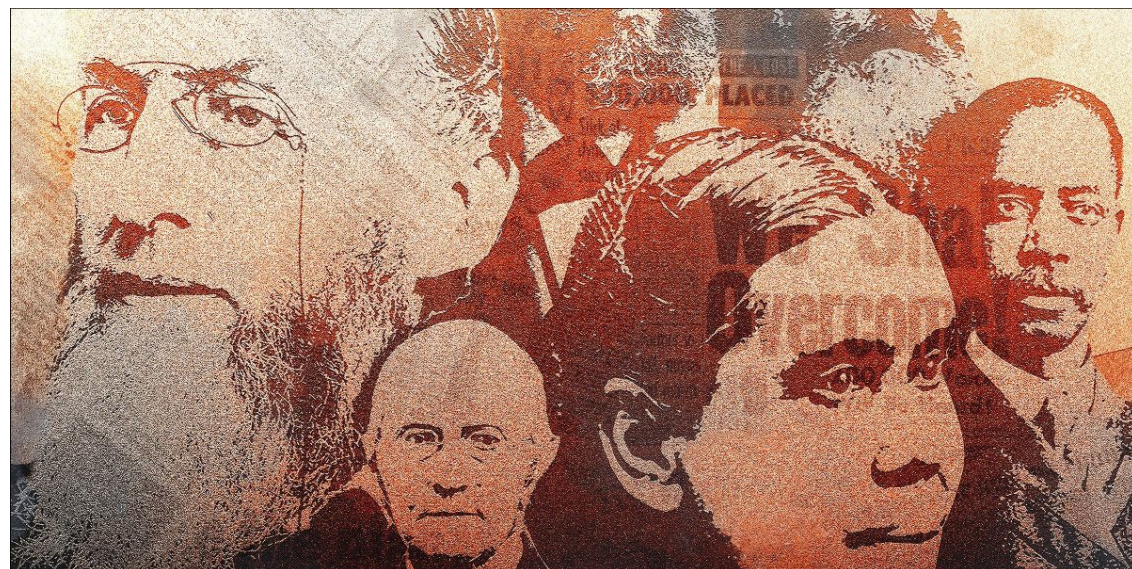
## Repudiating the Principles of Our Constitution

When I was going to law school at night from 2002-2006, I wondered how the rule of law and our constitutional freedoms would go away in the United States. I knew what the Scriptures as well as Ellen G. White predicted, but I wondered how.

After finishing law school, I discovered how. One day as I was reading a familiar passage, the answer leaped off the page. White was precisely on point when she wrote, “When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5 p. 451; emphasis supplied.)

- *Vialo Weis Jr., Esq., is Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director for the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.*

[Read More](#)



## Legacy of Our Pioneers. Is It Dead or Alive?

As the territory where the Adventist church was organized, the Lake Union has a unique and distinctive legacy as the resident voice of our pioneers. Our pioneers represent courageous voices who boldly proclaimed and personified the gospel.

When we consider the contributions of our pioneers, we realize there’s a difference between the past and present application of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty ministry.

- *Edward Woods III is the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director for the Lake Region, as well as the Conference and the Conscience & Justice Council chairperson.*



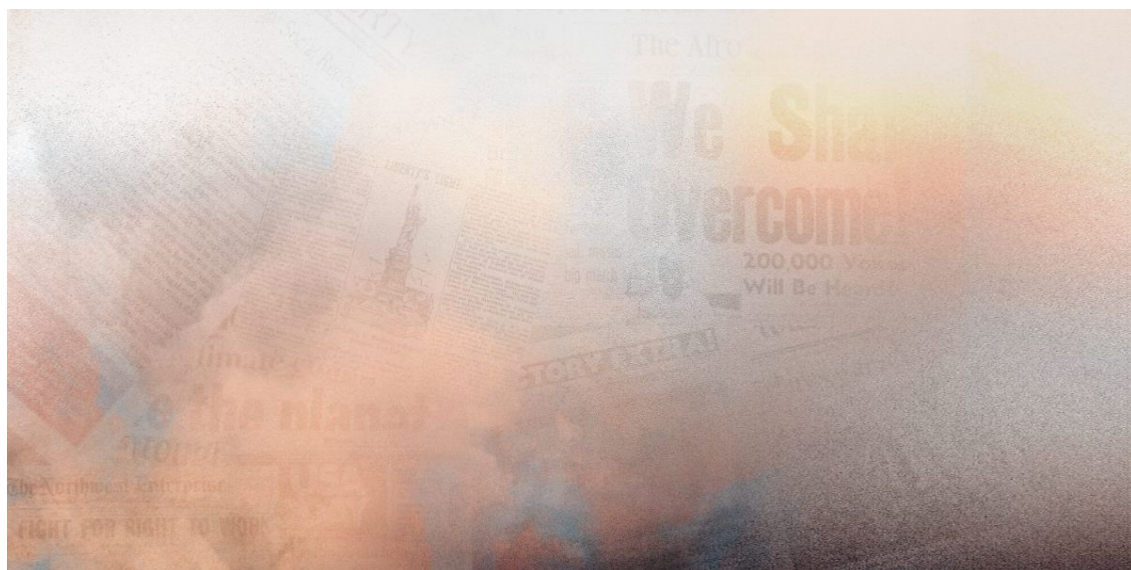


## Why Christian Nationalism Matters

Not long ago I was in a meeting with religious liberty leaders discussing whether to use the term Christian nationalism when addressing the controversial topic in our churches. The group fell short of attaining any consensus, and there were valid points proposed from both sides of the aisle.

I suddenly realized I was not alone in my challenge to navigate through various religious liberty concerns. Taking a stand on religious liberty issues today determines how one will be perceived more from an ideological or political standpoint, instead of a biblical point of view.

- *Andy Im is the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director for Michigan Conference.*

[Read More](#)

## Contemplating Trash and Religious Liberty

About four years ago my wife and I purchased a home closer to Wisconsin Academy where I pastor; it's in the country with just under eight acres around it. My wife grew up on a family farm in Michigan, so this move got us closer to her ideal.

I grew up as a pastor's kid in the Seattle area where we spent roughly half of the first 13 years of my life sitting in traffic while going to school or church, so this moved us closer to my ideal.

- *Jonathan Fetrick is the Wisconsin Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director.*

[Read More](#)



Thanks for reading the *Lake Union Herald* newsletter.  
Tell your friends to follow along by signing up [here](#).

Don't forget to check out our [Vimeo](#) channel and visit the *Herald* [website](#) for the latest news and information.

We're open to your feedback. If you really like something we're doing on here — or really don't — or have ideas that can help shape our newsletter, let us know. We're all ears. . . Email us your thoughts at [herald@lakeunion.org](mailto:herald@lakeunion.org).

Check us out on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Vimeo and YouTube



*Lake Union Herald*

8450 M 139 | P.O. Box 287 Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Debbie Michel, director of Communication  
Felicia Tonga, assistant director of Communication  
Katie Fellows, assistant Communication specialist

**Our website address is:**  
[www.lakeunionherald.org](http://www.lakeunionherald.org)

The online *Lake Union Herald* is published by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Lake Union Conference. You are free to reprint any portion of the newsletter, however, please identify *Lake Union Herald* as the source.

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Copyright © 2023 Lake Union Conference. All rights reserved.

