

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the UCCI met in retreat at the Church of Scotland Centre, Tiberias on 10 - 11 January, 1985.

Present: Rev. Ray Register (Chairman); Mr. Joe Haines (General Secretary); Rev. Charles Kopp (Assistant Secretary); Mrs. Bertha Swarr (UCCI News Editor); Rev. Robert Livingston (Recording Secretary); Mr. Shlomo Drori; Rev. Seppo Norjanen; Mr. Suhail Ramadan; Rev. Walter Riggins; Miss Jeannette Ross; Mr. Rizik Sroijsi; Dr. Eleanor Walker.

Apologies were received from Mrs. Sallie Lanier who was unable to attend.

The meeting was opened with a devotional by Ray Register concerning the reaction Christians should have in times of persecution. He read Acts 16: 16-40 and then pointed out the following:

1. Paul rebuked the evil spirit despite the cost.
2. The believers were humiliated - even though everything was going badly they didn't defend themselves. Blessed are the persecuted - pray for them.
3. They praised God in spite of their circumstances.
4. God intervened by opening the doors and loosing their bonds.
5. Their persecutor was saved and converted.
6. Then they had the privilege of standing on their legal rights. There is a time to be silent and a time to speak.
7. Paul then strengthened the believers (even though he disobeyed the magistrate). We need to encourage each other.

Jeannette Ross added to this passage a passage from Acts 4..."and now Lord look upon their threats". Ray led in prayer for those who are presently under pressure whether it is legal or otherwise.

35/1 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER, 1984

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 November, 1985, prior to the Annual Conference were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

35/2 MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UCCI AS AN AJUTA HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER, 1984

The record of actions taken at the UCCI Executive meeting of 3 November, 1985 was approved as read.

35/3 REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

There was a discussion about the use of Parliamentary rules. Some meetings are governed by these rules and some are not. This matter should be referred back to the Control Committee for study to see if some rules should be applied especially during business sessions.

It was noted that the number of people present at the conference was almost too great for the accomodations. There was some discussion about limiting the number of observers and delegates or else changing the location of the conference. If we need to limit the total number of persons attending the Conference then the number of observers should be equal to the number of delegates.

UCC1 - growing + Episc. sp. primip - growing apart ^{refugees} ^{printer}
he felt on the defensive - theol. against fundamental.
polit. of Arab rights.
expatriates seem to understand they shd have
neutral stance

Theology, Communism? - Since Ole is TC - change in direct.
to evangelism +

activity in UCC1 had lacked his colleagues' support
they are also going in different directions - politics etc

invitation to consultation in them -

Baptists had historically hard time in Episcopals!

delegates fr. his clergy or fr. us
position papers - Nelson, Ole,

organise by Ches Kopp
& Bishop

10 fr. UCC1

April 24^o 10-4.
at S. George's

10 fr. Diocese

African Enterprise - boycotted by the Diocese - Seit Yedidia
? lack of report back - follow-up of Athens success problems
± money.

These minutes are to remind the delegates and observers to share the conference proceedings with their own churches or organizations, etc.

It was suggested to have all the delegates fill out an evaluation form at the end of the conference for use in evaluation and preparations for the following conference.

Joe Haines read a letter from Bishop Samir Qafity implying that the Arab Episcopal Church did want to maintain its membership in the UCCI and dialogue about matters of mutual concern.

35/4 TREASURERS REPORT

There was no formal treasurer's report. However, the Executive was reminded about the increased costs in preparation and mailing of the clipping service.

35/5 WEST BANK PARTICIPATION IN UCCI

There is an interest of at least three pastors in the West Bank in coming into the UCCI in the future.

35/6 PREVIEW OF HOME BOARD CONSULTATION

The Theological Commission continues to work on the Consultation since they were given this responsibility some months ago.

There are 19 Home Board representatives who are going to attend from overseas. There are only 25 places reserved for accommodations. The remaining 6 places will be used by Member Body representatives plus Ole Kvarme and Ray Register representing the Theological Commission so all spaces are taken.

The itinerary of the Consultation was reviewed and discussed. A few additional speakers were suggested and added to the itinerary.

CURRENT ISSUES

35/7 VISA PROBLEMS

*Resnikoff.
Breznekauf.*

A letter from Bernard Breznekauf was read asking the UCCI to give him specific details about persons who have been denied visas and the reasons for the denials. The following organizations have had visas denied for some of their people.

1. Elijah Church in Haifa
2. Stella Carmel
3. Bible Society
4. ITAC
5. Lutheran Church

One of the visas was reduced from 12 months to 6 months. Another person on an A-3 visa was granted only a B-1 visa, but later was changed back to A-3. Walter Riggins is to meet with Daniel Rossing on January 14 to find out the reason why his visa was originally denied but is now being granted.

35/8 MISHKAN

There was a lengthy discussion concerning the image Mishkan has made in Israel. The word 'evangelism' on the cover has seemed to upset some of our Jewish friends in the Department of Religious Affairs. Another problem might be that Mishkan is being published in Israel.

Baruch Moaz in Rehovot has a publishing office and meeting hall in an area that is not zoned for printing or public meetings. He was asked to move and has done so. He presently has his printing press in Rishon LeZion and the public meetings have been moved back to the Yavne address. Some of the legal fees that he has incurred have been donated from congregations around Israel.

The Caspari Center has received a letter from the City of Jerusalem telling them that they must move their office and library since they are presently located in a residential center. They were given two months to move. It was found out that if just one family in their area objected to their being there they would have to move...and two families have objected.

Nativ Ya has also received a letter to stop their meetings because they are in a residential area. However, some of the Jewish doctors and lawyers in the same area have been asked to move their offices for the same reason.

These matters were all referred to the reactivated Liaison Committee.

Before dismissal for the evening Dr. Eleanor Walker led in a short devotional. She read Mk. 16:3,4. The women who came to the tomb of Jesus were wondering who would roll away the stone. When they arrived they found the stone was already rolled away. Dr. Walker likened the stone to the problems that we all see before us...and while we are wondering what is the solution to the problem we find the Lord already rolling away the stone. We just need the faith to trust Him.

FRIDAY, 11 JANUARY

Charles Kopp led a short Communion Service in the Chapel before breakfast.

The morning session was opened with some singing and then we prayed for the activities of the day.

85/10 SUB-COMMITTEES

Membership of the sub-committees was reviewed. There were some deletions due to furloughs and new persons will be contacted to see if they are willing to serve.

1. Council Structure: This sub-committee is charged with the responsibility of the nominations for new officers at the conference in 1985; for reviewing the applications for new members to the UCCI; to oversee any changes to the constitution; and to investigate the possibility of any new members coming from the West Bank.
2. Liaison: This sub-committee will have the responsibility to be the liaison between the UCCI and the Israeli Government. They will also take care of all public relations and any official statements that are issued to the news media.
3. Spiritual Life: This sub-committee is to organize any and all seminars, conventions, and arrange itineraries for singing groups, special speakers, etc. There is the hope that this sub-committee will become as active as it has been in the past. Perhaps a new name such as "Internal Relationships" would give it a new image.
4. Theological Commission: The responsibility of the publication of Mishkan; dealing with theological issues at Annual Conference; and presently planning of seminars is all a part of this sub-committee.

85/11 REPORTS AND PROJECTIONS

1. UCCI News: Some of the problems of the UCCI Staff were discussed namely that there will be no resident editor for the June and October issues; and considering events in Israel these days what should be and should not be printed in the News. It presently seems that the best things that are happening should not be printed. Therefore, there are a lot of words being used to say nothing.

At present there are approximately 300 subscriptions. They are broken down as following:

- A. 75 Complimentary - 32 foreign and 43 local.
- B. 130 local subscriptions - 85 paid and 45 not paid
- C. 35 foreign subscriptions - 51 paid and 34 unpaid

Therefore, it is the considered recommendation of the UCCI News staff that the UCCI News be discontinued due to nothing to print.

A second recommendation was made: An internal relations committee be set up to put news in print; to organize prayer conferences, etc.

There was a lengthy discussion about the problems and issues of the UCCI News. In spite of the problems that are faced by the UCCI News staff the Executive requested that there be two issues of the UCCI News for 1985 and requested a response mechanism be inserted into the next issue to help determine the reader response for the continuation of printing the UCCI News.

2. Clipping Service: There is an organization in Jerusalem headed up by Barry Segal that would like to handle the entire operation of the clipping service including subscriptions. It was recommended that this possibility be investigated by Joe Haines and to report back to the next Executive meeting.

decision postponed

3. Theological Commission: Two memos were received from the Theological Commission. The first memo addressed the issues of the Home Board Consultation and the follow up; the reactivating of the Liaison Committee; the publication of Mishkan; and the financial support from UCCI for Hebrew and Arabic Literature of a semi-theological character.

The Executive Committee approved a loan of up to \$2,000.00 for the printing of the second issue of Mishkan to be paid back within one year from the date of receiving the monies.

The second memo concerned information about the Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism planned for August 18-28, 1986 in Jerusalem at the Y.H.C.A. A request was made that a checking account be opened in the name of the UCCI only for this one conference. The Executive requested that the Conference Committee confer with I.T.A.C. or another cooperating member body within UCCI for their opening of a checking account. If this is not possible, then the request will be considered further.

4. Home Board Consultation: Baruch Maoz has requested that the Christian Witness to Israel; namely Rev. McCloud be allowed to join the consultation group as an observer. The Executive approved his presence at the Consultation but he was not to be one of the 25 reservations.

5. 1985 Annual Conference of UCCI: Some of the information for the 1985 Conference is:
 - A. Some of the information and reactions of the Home Board Consultation be included in the conference.
 - B. There is the possibility that Dr. Art Glasser of the School for World Missions in Pasadena, CA. be with us as a featured speaker.
 - C. The new General Secretary will be responsible for putting the total program of the conference together. The recording secretary will be in correspondence with Dr. Glasser to see if he will want to speak in special seminars after the conference is completed.

6. Correspondence:
 - A. A letter from the Ethiopian Hunger Request. There was a request for help with the hunger in Ethiopia. Some of the member bodies have individually contributed to these needs. It was approved by the Executive to contribute \$100.00 as a UCCI group to these needs via A. B. Nathan for famine relief in Ethiopia.
 - B. All media relations and reactions are to go to the Liaison Committee for action.
 - C. An application from the Holy Army "Jaesh el Iuqudas", P.O.B. 19425, Jerusalem for membership was received. This was referred to the Council Structure Committee for action.

7. Goals for 1985:
 - A. Continued dialogue with the Arab Episcopal Church to establish a proper relationship.
 - B. Relate in a constructive way to the problems of the local church bodies in regard to visas.
 - C. To coordinate the legal responses when issues of property use are involved.
 - D. To solve the question of West Bank Church memberships.
 - E. It is understood that Suheil Ramadan will act as Deputy Chairman for the year and that he will chair all meetings when the Chairman is out of the country.

8. Dates of 1985 Executive Meetings:

February 20 - Tel Aviv - Emmanuel House - 9:30 A.M. (sack lunch)
April 26 - Nazareth - Ray Register's home - 10:00 A.M. (eat out)
June 11 - Jerusalem - Chuck Kopp's home - 10:00 A.M. (sack lunch)
September 12 - Haifa - Lutheran Church - 10:00 A.M. (sack lunch)
November 4 - Tiberias - Church of Scotland Centre - 7:30 P.M.

The meeting was closed with prayer by the Chairman at 2:30 P.M.