

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the UCCI met at Emmanuel House, Tel Aviv/Jaffa on 28 February 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); Mrs. Sallie Lanier (Treasurer); Mr. Shlomo Drori; Rev. Seppo Norjanen; Mr. Suhail Ramadan; Rev. Walter Riggans; Miss Janette Ross; Dr. Eleanor Walker.

Apologies were received from Mr. Rizik Srouji who was unable to attend.

The meeting was opened with a devotional by Robert Livingston concerning the headship of Christ. He read Hebrews 2:5-18 and pointed out in vs. 8 that presently all things are still not subject to Christ, but some day will be; vs. 9 that Christ's death is sufficient to save all peoples of the world of all ages, but not all will respond; vs. 10 that Christ obediently went to His death and He calls us to obedience; vs. 11-13 that we are called by His name; vs. 18 that Christ is able to give us complete victory, as our Head, over sin and also direction in all the activities of our lives.

There were prayer requests for some Ethiopian believers, for David Loden's ministry, and for Rizik Srouji. We spent some time in prayer for these requests and for direction during our meeting.

85/12 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 1985

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 1985 were reviewed. The following changes were made in the minutes:

85/11 - 1. The last line of the first paragraph should read:

"Therefore, there are a lot of words being used to say very little."

85/11 - 1. The third paragraph should read:

"Therefore, it is the considered recommendation of the UCCI News staff that the UCCI News be discontinued due to very little to print."

85/11 - 7. E. should be listed as item 8. and item 8 should be listed as item 9.

The names of Rev. Walter Riggans, Miss Janette Ross, Rev. McCleod and Abi Nathan were corrected.

After these corrections the minutes were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

85/11 - 2. Clipping Service - Barry Segal is still considering printing the clipping service and is looking into the legal aspects and costs. He will notify the General Secretary of the cost for one issue which would be sent to prospective subscribers to see how many new subscriptions might come in.

85/11 - 6. A. The Nazareth Hospital has raised \$350.00 (U.S.) towards the Ethiopian Hunger Request and has given the money to the Bank in the account of Abi Nathan.

85/13 TREASURERS REPORT

The treasurer reported that the dues for the Church of Scotland have been paid.

Mr. Suhail Ramadan was thanked for his work as temporary treasurer in the absence of Mrs. Sallie Lanier.

85/14 SUB - COMMITTEES

1. Theological Commission: It was reported that the next issue (Issue 2) of Mishkan is due off the press on March 15 and that all the material for Issue 3 is in the hands of the Commission. The Commission also expressed its concern about the HaGefen press's costs and not being able to get Issue 2 out on time.

It was also reported that the Commission had a serious discussion about the word 'evangelism' on the cover of the Mishkan. They decided that the first three issues will carry the word 'evangelism' and then another serious review will be done.

It was noted that a large number of new subscriptions have been received since the first issue was distributed.

The Home Board Consultation was reviewed in the Commission's meeting and the matter of follow up was given careful consideration. The members of the Commission are keeping their calendars clear for the summer months in order to do effective follow up to items raised by the Consultation.

The Commission also had a serious discussion about a dialogue with one or two Orthodox Jewish scholars in Israel on a formal level. It is hoped that in the early summer there will be a dialogue on "The Gospels".

The matter of seminars was also discussed. It is planned that at least one seminar could be held this October or after.

2. Council Structure: The Council Structure Committee met on 14 January, 1985. The Committee looked at two matters:
 - A. The application of the Holiness Army was reviewed. The Committee is concerned about the terminology and the wording of a 'new denomination'. It was noted that the Holiness Army has no local people on their Amutah. They also have an East Jerusalem location.
 - B. The Committee wants to be open for a relationship with West Bank groups who want to affiliate with the UCCI. There was a brief discussion about this issue.
3. Scholarship: The Executive Committee was informed that Rev. Lindell Browning is willing to serve on the Scholarship Committee.

The Scholarship Committee has been deliberating over the issue of giving scholarships to students representing organizations who have not paid their annual dues. To date no scholarship monies have been given to any students.

The Scholarship Committee was instructed by the Executive Committee to send the scholarships to those students who should receive them from all the member bodies who have paid their annual dues.

The General Secretary will write the Arab Anglican Church once again about their annual dues, which are past due, in order to release the rest of the scholarship funds to the proper students.

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4. Liason Committee: The Liason Committee met 17 January 1985. They heard a report from Project Kibbutz who is having problems with visas.

The matter of zoning rights was another topic of discussion. The Committee will continue to monitor the visa situation.

5. UCCI News: The UCCI News staff is working on a Spring issue. It will be printed and distributed shortly after the Consultation.

85/15 CONSULTATION

1. A report was given about the Consultation. It was noted that there are now 18 participants coming. That means there has been one cancellation. Those who will be in attendance are:

Dale Thorne	Baptist Convention in Israel
Murvyn Tilley	Bible Evangelistic Mission
Arleigh Martin	Childrens' Evangelical Fellowship
Arnold Cook, Robert Reed	Christian & Missionary Alliance
Tom Kiltie	Church of Scotland
John Tester, David Hillen	Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society
Rev. & Mrs. Mikko Ihamaki	Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission
Ron Lewis	International Hebrew Christian Alliance
Walter Barker, Maurice Garten, Josh Drummond	Israel Trust of Anglican Church
Otto Hovik, Helge Aarflot	Lutheran Church
Ron Yoder, Eldon King	Mennonite Associates

- 85/16 MEETING WITH BISHOP QAFITY: Dr. Ray Register, Joe Haines, Suhil Ramadan, and Charles Kopp met with Bishop Qafity and Canon Naim Ateek. The Bishop told this delegation that the Episcopal stance to UCCI is under study. The Bishop has certain concerns:

1. The word 'evangelism' is a sensitive word to Eastern Christian Churches. The Bishop is concerned about proselytism.
2. The Bishop feels that the image of the protestants in Israel (the expatriots) is rather politicized. An example would be the Christian Embassy.
3. The new emphasis on reconciliation and renewal is also a concern since the Bishop believes there is nothing really new about this. Their church has a genuine openness with the Jewish believers who come for communion and other functions at his church.
4. The Bishop would like an open dialogue on:
 - A. Indigenous expatriots
 - B. An even balance between the Laussane Covenant and the Bangkok Covenant.

Naim Ateek also voice some concerns:

1. He believes the UCCI should make a deliberate outreach to relate with the Ancient Christian Churches.
2. Expatriots have to take a neutral stance toward politics.
3. He sees changes in the Theological Commission.
4. He believes the Episcopal Church and the UCCI are growing, but growing apart.

The Bishop invited the UCCI to participate in a Consultation between the UCCI and the Arab Episcopal Church. It was decided to have a Consultation on April 24, 1985 from 1000 to 1600 in Jerusalem at St. Georges Church. There will be a few papers read at this Consultation. Several members of the Executive Committee and the Theological Commission will attend to represent the UCCI.

85/17 CORRESPONDENCE:

1. The World Evangelical Fellowship requested that the UCCI be listed in their Directory. This was approved.
2. The Baptist Convention in Israel expressed their concern about press releases and the need for proper consultation prior to any such releases.
3. Trinitarian Bible Society wrote requesting directory of Christian Churches and membership list.
4. Panhellenic Evangelical Alliance. There was a trial and imprisonment of three Christian leaders in Greece. They requested all Christians to pray and publicize the decision of the court. Religious freedom in Greece is in jeopardy. The General Secretary wrote letters to Greek officials in behalf of those imprisoned.
5. A letter from Israel Interfaith inquired about interest in seminars treating religious sources of the three monotheistic faiths.
6. The World Council of Churches requested to list the UCCI in their World Wide Christian Council directory - this was approved.
7. Mayor of Rehovot - The General Secretary wrote to the Mayor of Rehovot on behalf the Grace & Truth Congregation & HaGefen publishers for changes of zoning status
8. Yanetz Press requested permission for copyrights for printing Through the Valley of the Kwai. This was approved. Charles Kopp and Janette Ross will be in personal contact with Victor Smudja.
9. The Church of Scotland-Presbytery of Jerusalem voiced two concerns. The first was concerning the annual council papers in preparation for the Consultation and the second was about the stance of the UCCI.

85/18 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

1. The Tiberias Fellowship, as a result of the winter prayer conference, is forming a Jewish/Arab Prayer Conference. This will be held on May 2-4 at Petah Tiqwa.
2. The Association of Baptist Churches in Israel hopes to invite Billy Graham to come to Israel. They would like to have campaigns in Jerusalem and the Galilee for 2-3 days each. They requested UCCI cooperation. Feelers will be put out to various ancient Church leaders as to their cooperation.
3. There will be a seminar on Ethiopian believers held by a former missionary to Ethiopia at Bet Emmanuel on May 7 from 1600 to 2100.

The meeting was closed with prayer by the Chairman at 1430.

Next Meeting: April 26 at Ray Register's residence in Nazareth. The Chairman invites the Executive to a salad lunch at a local restaurant with the option to bring a sandwich or buy a meat plate. HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE CHAIRMAN.