

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of the UCCI met at Dr. Ray Register's home in Nazareth on 26 April 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); Rev. Seppo Norjanen; Mr. Suhail Ramadan; Dr. Rizik Srouji; Rev. Walter Riggans; Miss Janette Ross; Dr. Eleanor Walker.

Apologies were received from Mr. Shlomo Drori who was unable to attend.

The meeting was opened with a devotional by Rizik Srouji. He chose Matthew 5:40-42 as his text. Rizik reminded us that these are days of spiritual dryness and that it is good to go and help others. This is called "Others Therapy". When a person is in a depression the therapist tells him to go and help some other person. This is exactly what Jesus told us to do. Any person who has spiritual inertia needs to follow this principle. That person will then be lifted up.

85/19 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 1985

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 1985 were reviewed. The following changes were made in the minutes:

- 85/16 - 4A. Should be changed to read: Indigenous/expatriate relations.
- 85/16 - 4B. Bangkok Covenant should be 'with the concensus of Bangkok

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

85/20 TREASURERS REPORT

The November and December to April treasurer's reports were reviewed. The Home Board Consultation costs were almost entirely covered by the fees paid by participants with \$87.74 from General Fund. The Balance on April 15 was \$8,290.69. The report was accepted as submitted.

85/21 UCCI NEWS

Mrs. Swarr presented the Executive Committee with Edition No. 1 for 1985. She reported that due to lack of personnel this summer there will not be another issue of UCCI News until after the conference this fall.

85/22 COUNCIL STRUCTURE - The Council Structure Committee met on 16 April 1985. They discussed the following matters:

1. Mr. Alister Clewlow met with the Committee to discuss the application of the Holiness Army. His background was discussed as well as the nomenclature for the Holiness Army. Alister is not related to the Salvation Army...but hopefully that link can be established. They do have Amutah recognition. At present their work is basically with the Ethiopian Christian Community in West Jerusalem in English and through translation; and in community nursing. They describe themselves as a denomination with three levels of membership. The Committee recommended that the application be processed and a vote taken at the Annual

Conference.

2. An application has been received from the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada mission. At present they are working in three areas. Kibbutz Shalom has 170 young people on different kibbutzim. Campus Shalom encourages Christian students from abroad to come to study in Israel for one year. The administration of the Hebrew University has been pleased with this work. In August 1983 a congregation known as the Jerusalem Christian Assembly was started. They meet at the YMCA in West Jerusalem on Sunday evenings. They are an Amutah society. This application will be processed and a vote will be taken at the Annual Conference.

85/23 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE - The Scholarship Committee met on 14 March 1985. Five (5) scholarships were approved totaling \$1,000.00.

85/24 THEOLOGICAL COMMISSION - The Theological Commission met on 24 April 1985. The following six matters were discussed:

1. Due to so much activity this spring and summer it was decided not to initiate any seminars until later in the year.
2. There was a dialogue between Jewish and Christian scholars on Biblical interpretation. The American Jewish Committee also had a consultation to which Ray Register and Ole Kvarme were invited. Also the Israel Interfaith Committee had an open forum at which it was recognized that Christians are bound by the Great Commission...but the question was asked, "How can Jews believe in Jesus for whom they have suffered so much persecution?" The Theological Commission will follow up on the consultation.
3. Mishkan - Issue No. 2 is out. Issue No. 3 is on the boards. Barry Segal has been approached concerning the publication of Mishkan. Issue No. 3 should be out in December. One article that it contains is the use of the Old Testament in the Book of Hebrews.
4. Subscriptions continue to come in for Mishkan. Presently there are 850 subscriptions.
5. Membership of the Theological Commission - Tim Butlin is leaving Israel on 20 June 1985 and needs to be replaced. Two names are to be submitted to the Executive Committee. They are: Dr. Rizik Srouji and Rev. Naim Ateek.
6. Home Board Consultation - As a result of the Home Board Consultation five areas of concensus have developed:
 - A. Evangelism - All of those present on the final day, with the exception of one society, felt that evangelism is absolutely essential. However, some questions arose as to how this was to be done to individuals, communities and groups. Also the subject of servanthood was discussed on how to do this humbly.
 - B. What is the relationship of UCCI to the body in Israel? How do we relate to Jewish and Arab congregations? How are we to relate to the Oriental-Historical churches?
 - C. What is a good definition for the Body of Christ? What do we mean by this term? What are the doctrinal differences?
 - D. Training programs - There needs to be an examination of a joint program for training of foreign workers. Teaching this program is to be shared by various societies.

E. Various areas of cooperation -

- (1) How can we cooperate with video and book libraries?
- (2) Possible confidential information sheet for prayer.
- (3) What could be a common working relationship? When a new work is being developed a consultation could be held before the project begins. There could be a standardization of wages for local staff.

The Theological Commission decided the following:

1. Put the above # B. and C. together as one topic.
2. The Theological Commission will subdivide. Gary Denlinger will take the responsibility for A. He will get as broad a group as possible with new and historic groups. Ole Kvarme will take B. and C. He will get members and nonmembers together for discussions. Walter Riggans will take D. and will plan for programs, etc. The UCCI Executive Committee will be responsible for E.

The Executive Committee approves of the subdividing of the Theological Commission with the understanding that there will be a progress report at the Annual Conference. Charles Kopp was appointed to follow up on item E. (Library and video, etc.)

The Executive Committee accepted the nominations of Rizik Srouji and Naim Ateek.

85/25 REPORT ON CONSULTATION WITH BISHOP QAFITY - The Consultation was held on 24 April 1985. Bishop Qafity is concerned about the integrity of the UCCI in this present situation. He stated that there is one loaf and one body. He then reviewed some of the land marks in church history in the Middle East. He stated there were two streams - the Evangelical and the Ecumenical.

Naim Ateek gave a review of the UCCI. Well before 1948 there were regional Christian Councils. In 1957 the first conference of the UCCI was held at the Baptist Village. He stated there were changes during the last 30 years in the Arab Episcopal Church. After 1967 the Arab Episcopal Church found itself in a new situation. In 1970 Israel recognized the Arab Episcopal Church and the rest of the churches stranded. The Arab Episcopal Church (has more recently) reorganized and now the Diocese extends to several Middle Eastern countries. They now have a closer relationship with the historical Middle East churches through a Council of Churches. There has also been a Palestinian identification problem. They felt the UCCI had betrayed the Arab Episcopal Church. They felt their church didn't receive equality on issues of justice and peace.

Ole Kvarme then gave the UCCI involvements in different areas in Israel. He highlighted these by commenting on the very fruitful work following the 1977 anti-mission legislation and initiatives in the area of religious freedom. He felt the UCCI had contributed to cooperation in evangelism, church growth, and christian education.

Representatives from the Arab Episcopal Church felt that there is a need for a fellowship but not a need for the UCCI.

Two people from each group were appointed to follow up on the discussion. They are Ole Kvarme and Suhail Ramadan from the UCCI and Naim Ateek and Riah Abu Assal from the Arab Episcopal Church. Chuck Kopp will

serve as Recording Secretary for those meetings.

It was agreed to continue the discussions with the Arab Episcopal Church and that a report should be brought to the Annual Conference.

The Executive voiced its thanks and appreciation for the effort of Bishop Qafity in calling the consultation and for the opportunity to follow up.

In light of the above Consultation and our present constitution the Council Structure Committee was instructed to bring their recommendations about the two pending applications for membership. Attention was called to the East Jerusalem address.

85/26 CONFERENCE ON BIBLICAL PROPHECY - Colonel Dobbie met with the Executive Committee to discuss the proposed Conference on Biblical Prophecy. He told the Committee that a Rev. Clifford Hill from England had a meeting at Christ Church almost a month ago. A number of persons from Israel attended this meeting. This Conference is to be held next Easter ('86). It will start on Mt. Carmel for a week to seek the face of the Lord. Then a general conference will be held in Jerusalem for people from all over the world. Rev. Hill feels that if the UCCI would be prepared to invite people to come and attend that they would benefit from these men of the Lord.

It was moved and seconded that the UCCI should decline the offer to represent this conference in any way what-so-ever. The motion was passed with five (5) for the motion; one (1) against the motion; and three (3) abstentions.

85/27 CLIPPING SERVICE - Barry Segal is interested in and has printed a second issue of the clipping service. He is bringing in a lot of new subscriptions. He took unilateral action and raised the fees for local subscriptions from \$12.00 to \$15.00 and overseas subscriptions from \$18.00 to \$20.00. The Executive Committee agrees with the raise in subscription fees. Even though we are still in a trial stage with Barry he has agreed to print the clipping service and Chuck Kopp will be in charge of the mailings. Barry is very concerned that the clipping service never is used as an anti-Jewish propoganda tool.

85/28 ANNUAL CONFERENCE - A letter was received stating that Dr. Art Glasser will be available to speak at our 1985 Annual Conference. Bob Livingston is to continue to correspond with Dr. Glasser about the final arrangements. The Executive Committee agreed to invite Suheil Ramadan as the Tuesday evening speaker for the Conference.

85/29 OTHER MATTERS

1. The Executive Committee was informed that the Dutch Reformed Church will have a representative in the country in a few months.
2. The Executive Committee authorized the expenditure of \$500.00 to Yanetz Press for the printing of Love Unlimited in Arabic. This helps to subsidize the selling price of the book.
3. World Evangelical Fellowship requested some songs for an international song book. The request was turned over to David Loden.
4. Eric Payne, a former missionary in Ethiopia, is to have a meeting on 7 May 1985 from 1600-1800 hours to give a Christian background of Christians in Ethiopia.
5. There is to be a Seminar at Stella Carmel from 3-5 May 1985. The seminar will be on the Shm'a and the Trinity.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Chuck Kopp. Next meeting-11 June at Chuck Kopp's home in Jerusalem.