

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of the UCCI met at Stella Carmel for their annual retreat on 13-14 January 1986.

MONDAY - 13 JANUARY 1986

Present: Ray Register, Charles Kopp, Olli Nousmaa, Sallie Lanier, Bertha Swarr, Bob Livingston, Shlomo Drori, Helge Hoyland, Suhail Ramadan, Janette Ross, Jim Smith.

Apologies: Rizik Srouji.

The meeting was opened with a devotional by Ray Register. He spoke on Foundations. What are the UCCI Foundations? I Cor. 15:1-4.

1. Knowing the Gospel - New Birth is absolutely essential I Cor. 5:17
2. Receiving the Good News of the Gospel - You must do more than hear.
3. Stand true to the faith of the Gospel.
4. Hold on to the end - part of the gospel is to be firm in our faith unto the end. We should not grow weary in well doing.

Jim Smith led in prayer for God's direction in our meetings.

86/1 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS HELD ON 4 AND 7 NOVEMBER 1985.

The minutes of the Executive meetings held on 4 and 7 November 1985 were reviewed. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. MOTION PASSED.

86/2 CURRENT ISSUES:

1. CLIPPING SERVICE - All outstanding bills for the Clipping Service have been paid. The Clipping Service has become very expensive due to an increasing amount of news items. There was a discussion about limiting the Clipping Service. There was consensus of opinion about allowing only a certain number of expenses per month. The Clipping Service Committee is to meet and make recommendations to the Executive Comm.
2. ABDUL HAQQ - A letter dated 24 October 1985 from Abdul Haqq's secretary was read. Abdul will be in Finland, Israel, and Sweden for a visit in August 1986. He is to have seminars on Islam in Jerusalem on Saturday and Sunday 23,24 August 1986. Bishar Awad and Ray Register will continue to have correspondence with Abdul Haqq.

86/3 REPORTS AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS.

1. LIAISON - Ray Register reported that the Liaison Committee is concerned with the following issues:
 - A. VISAS - Volunteer visas are being rejected and/or not renewed and people are being sent home because of the labor problem. Some visas for CWI nurses are also not being renewed.
 - B. ANTI-MISSION ISSUES - At present there doesn't seem to be any overt attacks from the various communities in Israel.
2. INVITATION OF BERNIE RESNIKOFF - Chuck Kopp reported on a meeting he

had with Bernie Resnikoff. Mr. Resnikoff suggested:

- A. The UCCI is too distant to the Israeli society. Christians have common interests in certain areas such as education. There might be a possibility of planning a curriculum for teaching Christian subjects in public schools.
- B. The UCCI should talk to the appropriate officials who are concerned that atheism and secularism are making inroads into public schools. They need help in knowing how to combat these issues.
- C. There are problems with religious fanaticism (Jewish, Muslim, Arab, and Christian)...but especially in Islam. What action can be taken to inform the people about fanaticism?

The following people were asked to help in finding some answers to these problems:

- A. Baruch Moaz is to be contacted about present publications that could be made available.
- B. Ray Fritz is to be contacted about the survey that was taken on how Christianity is taught in public schools.
- C. Chuck Kopp is to meet with Mr. Resnikoff again about the issues listed above and report back to the Executive Committee.
- D. Bob Livingston is to check on the possibility of inviting lecturers to come to Israel and lecture and/or debate on the subject of atheism.

3. COUNCIL STRUCTURE - Jim Smith reported that the Council Structure Committee:

- A. Was involved deeply with the nominations at Annual Conference. The Committee met a number of times in 1985 for this purpose.
- B. Reviewed and implemented the applications for membership to the UCCI.
- C. Reviewed the Constitution and By-laws before Annual Conference.
- D. Discussed frequently the need to encourage nationals (Jews and Arabs) to participate in UCCI structure and committee meetings.
- E. Is processing new applications for membership into the UCCI.

4. THEOLOGICAL COMMISSION - Gary Denlinger reported on the Mandate of the Theological Commission in 1986.

- A. Endorsement of previous members and proposed new members. The T.C. presently consists of Gary Denlinger and Ray Register. The other members have either left or are leaving the country. The T.C. presents the names of Bishara Awad, Jan Rantrud, and one other person as new members.

It was moved and seconded to accept Bishara Awad, Jan Rantrud, and one other person as members of the Theological Commission.

MOTION PASSED

B. Major Purposes.

- (1) To strengthen the Christian witness in Israel through theological study activity. The T.C. requests the Member Bodies to notify it of visiting professors, evangelists, writers, etc. who might be able to contribute in these areas. The T.C. also encourages encounters with Jewish scholars for the purpose of dialogue from an evangelical stance.
- (2) To strengthen the missiological awareness and development of a proper strategy for witness and Church growth in this land.
- (3) To keep the UCCI member bodies informed about theological/

religious developments in Israel and strengthen Christian apologetics. Arising out of this purpose was the need for an editor of MISHKAN.

It was moved and seconded to ask Ole Kvarme to continue to act as Editor of MISHKAN for a period of at least two more years. MOTION PASSED

The Executive Committee dismissed for lunch.

Suhail Ramadan led us in prayer after lunch as we continued in our business session.

5. NATIONAL STUDENT MOVEMENT GROUP - It was reported that the National Student Movement Group recently celebrated its 5th Anniversary! Thirty Scottish students came to Israel to celebrate the Anniversary.
 - A. There is more unity between Arab and Jewish students than ever before. There is a rotating chairmanship, student executive, and advisory board. A conference for graduate students will soon be held. There are 80-100 members of this group on campuses around the country.
 - B. The Group is working for official recognition as an Amutah. They now have an office in Haifa and a part time paid secretary. They hold 2-3 conferences a year - the next conference to be 20-22 February 1986 at the Finnish School in Jerusalem. High school seniors are invited to this conference. The newest group is in Nazareth with 10-15 attending the meetings on Friday night
 - C. Tract distribution on the Technion campus has been well received by the student body. Two student newspaper articles have been written about the Groups.
6. 1986 ANNUAL CONFERENCE -
 - A. Speakers for the conference were suggested. The names were submitted to the T.C. Upon their approval they will notify Bob Livingston or Helge Hoyland to make arrangements for either speaker.
 - B. The limits for attendance were set for 1986. For each delegate one observer will be allowed.
7. BILLY GRAHAM - It was moved and seconded to endorse the invitation of Dr. Billy Graham that has been made by the Association of Baptist Churches. MOTION PASSED
8. UCCI NEWS - Bertha Swarr reported that there will be two more issues of the UCCI News this year. She apologized for the quality of the the photographs in Issue #2, 1985. There was a discussion about the new editor for the UCCI News due to the Swarrs furlough plans. The final decision was postponed in order to gather more information.
9. CORRESPONDENCE - Chuck Kopp presented letters from:
 - A. Menahem BenHayim to Mrs. *Chira Kaplan, editor of the Jewish Voice magazine, who has been using the Clipping Service materials without any fee.
 - B. World Evangelical Fellowship who extended an invitation to attend their conference in Singapore. If anyone from a Member Body would like to attend the conference at their own expense they should contact Chuck Kopp.
 - C. Ray Register to Daniel Rossing that we missed having him at our Annual Conference. Mr. Rossing sent a very nice reply.
 - D. The World Council of Churches and their World Directory which

lists the UCCI.

10. TREASURER'S REPORT - Due to changes of currency problems with in the Barclay Bank no statement was available from them. Therefore, no treasurer's report could be prepared.
11. DATES OF THE 1986 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.
 - A. April 1 - Baptist Village - Fatah Tiqwa - 10:00 AM
 - B. June 10 - Christian & Missionary Alliance - Jerusalem - 10:00 AM
 - C. Sept. 9 - Elias Church - Haifa - 10:00 AM
 - D. Nov. 3 - Scottish Hospice - Tiberias - 6:00 PM (The Annual Conference will be held on 3-5 November 1986).

86/4. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ABOUT THE EEC CONSULTATION - The Chairman gave a review of the history and background of the rift that has developed between the UCCI and the EEC. He also briefed the Committee on the meetings between the UCCI and the EEC. There was a lengthy discussion concerning a possible name change for the UCCI. Some observations were:

1. How do Israeli officials think of our present name?
2. Local people are not joining the UCCI because we are foreigners and not because of our name.
3. The word "Council" seems to be too big for our kind of an organization.
4. Some names that were suggested were -Evangelical Christian Fellowship; Evangelical Christian Union.

The Executive Committee dismissed for supper
Olli Nousmaa led us in prayer as we began our evening meeting.

86/5 SUB-COMMITTEE CONVENORS AND MEMBERS - The following people were suggested to serve on committees:

1. Council Structure: Convenor - Jim Smith
F. Haddad, C. Kopp, J. Ross, P. Swarr, H. Hoyland
2. Emergency: Convenor - R. Register
Executive Committee
3. Liaison: Convenor - R. Register
C. Kopp, R. Lindsey, J. Rantrud, A. Sawyer
4. Scholarship: Convenor - S. Ramadan
E. Walker, L. Browning
5. Spiritual Life: Convenor - S. Drori
B. Awad, G. Kuttab, C. Kopp, F. Sakhnini, R. Swarr
6. Theological Commission: Convenor - G. Denlinger
R. Register, R. Srouiji, B. Awad, J. Rantrud
7. UCCI News: Convenor - B. Swarr
S. Drummond, C. Lanier, A. Sawyer, E. Smith, D. Smith
8. Control Committee: Convenor - Lindell Browning
I. Simaan, M. Bulman
9. Hebrew Literature Consultants - S. Lanier, J. Ross, I. Zamir
10. Arabic Literature Consultants - Y. Oudeh, F. Christie, F. Haddad

Bob Livingston led us in Communion. He spoke from Mt. 26: 1-30 and reminded us that we need to apply the Word of God to our lives as we read it and then we will be able to help others as an outgrowth of our experiences. As we celebrate with the breaking of bread and drinking the cup we show the Lord's death and resurrection.

TUESDAY - 14 JANUARY 1986

86/6 GOALS FOR 1986 - We first reviewed our goals for 1985 and found that we accomplished or worked on all of our goals. We next set the following goals for 1986:

1. To renew our *knowledge and acquaintances with the traditions and leadership of the Historical churches in Israel. The Theological Commission was asked to spear-head this goal.
2. To make a study of the Messianic Assemblies or groups of Jewish believers in the land and to see if they would want to join the UCCI. The Spiritual Life Committee was assigned this goal.
3. To increase national participation in Council activities by:
 - A. Encouraging each Member Body to have at least one national delegate or observer at the Annual Conference.
 - B. Having national leadership in sub-committees.
4. To share information concerning national-expatriate partnership in church development.
5. To encourage the delegates to the Annual Conference and the Exec. Comm. to share the results of the Annual Conference and the Exec. meetings with the members of their mission or organization.

86/7 MEETING WITH HEADS OF MEMBER BODIES.

Present Naiim Ateek, Menahem BenHayim, Lindell Browning, Michael Bulman, Dr. Burnath, Florence Christie, Allister Clewlow, Warren Graham, Fuad Haddad, Wayne King, Jouko Kokkonen, Wayne King, Yosef Dudeh, John Miller Scott, Paul Swarr.

Ray Register asked the Lord to give us wisdom as we discussed some delicate issues. We then sang a song as we began the meeting.

Ray Register introduced Chuck Kopp who gave a review of the Consultation meetings between the UCCI and the EEC. He said he wanted to share the 'feelings' of the meetings as well as the information that came from them. He asked Janette Ross to give her impressions of the first consultation. She began by saying it hurts more to be butted by another sheep (Christian) than to be kicked by some animal outside the flock. One of the results was to ask myself, "Who are we and what are we here for?" The question of the name of the Council is not new to the consultation..we have had that for years. The review by the Bishop on 'Councils' was very interesting and informative. The desire for unity is still there she felt.

Chuck said that the by-law change to include groups from other places than the present ones was passed at the Annual Conference. This makes it possible for other groups and organizations to join and participate in the UCCI. Our Arab and Hebrew names are possibly more fitting than our English name. Our identity is more clearly evangelical than ever before - and this seems to disturb some people because of other so called 'evangelical' organizations around the world. the good work of the UCCI in the past on the anti-mission laws is much appreciated by all groups in Israel.

Ray Register introduced Naiim Ateek. He shared his impressions of the four consultations. He said that he appreciated the consultations. Three years ago he was turned off at the UCCI Conference in Tiberias. He had to ask himself as a part of the Episcopal Church, "Where are we as a Council?" Even today some of the Episcopal leaders are struggle with the UCCI. Is it the problem of the name or is it much deeper? Perhaps it will help you to understand our people.

Naiim went on to say that those who established the UCCI in 1957 were

mostly Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and Anglicans. In all there were seven groups. This was a difficult time due to military rule. The Christian leaders got together at Petah Tiqwa but more than the seven groups were represented. This will help you to understand the theology of this group.

After 1962 many things have changed. In 1957 there were three groups of Episcopalians - The Evangelical Episcopalians, the Christian Mission to the Jews, and the Jerusalem East Mission...now we are all one. The EEC is not attracting many Jewish believers. They are with the Messianic Assemblies and the Western Churches. It is hard for me to understand the theological implications as to justice, rights of Palestinians, etc...but this is me. Much of the conflict in the Conference three years ago was political. Now I differ on "What is the Church?" and "What is missionary activity?" than the present Council.

All of the above prompted the Consultations in Jerusalem. The UCCI today does not reflect the ideas of the early founders. The name UCCI then does not reflect the ideas of the founders today. Therefore, he suggested:

1. Let us challenge the council to change the name.
2. There is a struggle with groups on the West Bank becoming a part of the UCCI due to their being Palestinians. It is offensive to some but not all people living on the West Bank.

He summarized by saying that we (Episcopal) are a tiny church in comparison the historical churches of the land. We would like to have fellowship with people on the outside. We are dependent financially on people from the outside. I think the Bishop does not want us to pull out of the UCCI. In love and sensitivity we hope to be able to find a solution to our differences.

Ray Register then said that as an Executive Committee we feel the issues that have been brought up are not new to the Consultations. We have had them for many years. We have talked at length on the issue of the name change. While we are a minority we call ourselves a 'Council' which is a heavy name. Even if we change our name we will continue to be thought of as the UCCI by people who know us. If UCCI is not a good name we may need to use the name UCCI with a descriptive term added to it in parenthesis. If any Member Body here has a good idea we are very willing to consider it.

Ray felt the UCCI is a 'Developmental Organization'. We are helping smaller congregations and groups to allow them to develop under the umbrella of the UCCI if they want to be a part of us. We desire more local participation in the UCCI. We recognize the problem the EEC has had with the UCCI. Ray then listed the goals the Executive Committee has set for themselves in 1986.

There was a lengthy discussion by heads of the member bodies. Each one had an opportunity to express himself/herself on the issue of the name change or any other pertinent and helpful information that they could supply:

Florence Christie - I thought this was a 'Council' and because of that I wanted to be a part of it. I had been a part of an Inter-Mission Council in Egypt. We did not use the word Egypt in our name and therefore we might drop the name Israel from our name. Our Council was a legal body that represented Christians in a non-Christian land.

John Miller Scott - I have a fairly wide experience with 'Councils'. What Naim was saying rang a lot of bells in my mind. I do appreciate the work of the founders of the UCCI but things have changed. We represent a wider group of people in our home lands. I feel personally that we need to stay in the UCCI but there was a lack of the Eastern Churches present.

Menahem BenHayim - I sense the old struggle of faith and sight. What is the image to the outside world? What are the Arab Christians in the eyes of

the sea of Muslims? How about Christian-Jews in Israel? We are now called 'Kosher pigs'! Some Jewish believers want to go back into the synagogue and integrate. Do we divorce ourselves from the word Christian when we are compared with the Crusaders, etc? We need to resolve the issue of where is our faith. What do we believe in? The name is not that important - the issue is what do we believe? Are we 'evangelicals' or 'fundamentalists'? Maybe these are not good words either. In Psalm 83 it says that the name Israel should not be named any more. I believe this spirit is happening today. The revival of Islam is trying to delegitimize the State and people of Israel. The officials in Israel recognize the UCCI and the vast hinterland to which we are connected around the world.

Paul Swarr - I feel the UCCI expresses the unity of the Body to the government of Israel. If there is a name change it needs to express who we really are. 'Evangelical' does express more than 'Protestant'. We may need to consider this but we are not pushing for a name change. Can we relate to the Eastern Churches as a 'Council' or as a fellowship?

Lindell Browning - We are not pushing to change the name. Instead of 'Council' we want to be a 'United Christian Body'. We want to maintain our distinctives as a denomination. But why are we separated as expatriates, Arab Christians and Jewish Christians?

Dr. Burnath - Maybe our hospital is the type of organization the UCCI represents. We represent many denominations on our staff. The situation in Israel is changing. We need to do a work as Christians and yet not become politically involved. Our answer is Christ. WE must convey our Christian beliefs to those who come.

Ray Fritz - I like very much the idea of moving to include observers of the Jerusalem churches. If we go with the present make up - we won't have to change our name for everybody who comes along. 'Evangelical' is a good name. 'Protestant' might not fit all the people we have.

Fuad Haddad - What's in a name? Many organizations have misused their names, viz. United Nations!! We don't have to be like the United Nations. If the name would bring more unity then drop 'United'. Some of my friends say Christians use pompous names and confuse them. Some proficient person should find a proper name. The Episcopal Arabs have a disagreement with the UCCI. The process of elimination might apply here. If positive we agree - if negative we need to talk some more. We can't be everything to everybody. Let's emphasize what unites us.

Yosef Dudeh - 'The letter killeth but the spirit gives life'. There is no solution to all the thoughts here. It is the love and fellowship that we need. We need to learn from each other. When Luther came he brought doctrines from many places that all the people could use.

Allister Clewlow - If this name hinders the EEC from coming back into the fellowship then we need to consider a name change. There is also a real need for a vision for the future.

Michael Bulman - Since being here I find a great difference in opinion with the people I talk with. Some people have suffered greatly. There is some sharing but there is a need to share much deeper. Therefore, have deeper unity. I'm happy to hear of the UCCI's reaching out to the Eastern Churches and the Messianic fellowships. Possibly the use of the parenthesis is a good idea.

Warren Graham - What are we in Israel for? The name isn't as important as the commitment to the scriptures and why we are in Israel. In attending the previous UCCI conferences it was a struggle to go. When I represented the Mission I had to go. Things are changing. The last year I really enjoyed the conference. We didn't express politics, but we did express fell-

owship.

Helge Hoyland - Our mission has signed an agreement for partnership ~~with~~ with the local church. We have been satisfied with the UCCI's ~~with their~~ work on the anti-missionary law; evangelism; theological studies. We want to see this ~~to~~ continue. The UCCI needs to have a mediating role with the Eastern Churches and the Messianic Assemblies. We hope the EEC will continue inside the UCCI. ~~With regards to the name the name in brackets is a good suggestion. It helps in the geography of the churches.~~ We do have a role to play and be optimistic.

Wayne King - In registering with the Government we had to choose a ~~name~~ name. ~~so~~ we chose Children's Evangelical Fellowship. The word 'Evangelical' is very much appreciated. If we are to walk together we need to agree. I would like to be a little more narrow. Maybe 'Association' or 'Fellowship' may help in the name change. If 'Council' connotes a tight situation do we go in a direction of discipline so we are a unity? Love and license can't be used interchangeably. In the earlier days Naiim represented the Arab side and they politely presented their side while others blew up. Both sides need to express themselves openly. Paul and Barnabas disagreed violently but they were both leaders.

Jouko Kokkonen - At least once a year I feel united and that is at Tiberias. During the year I know people are working but we don't feel the unity. If there is to be a name change we will not oppose...but we do what to see the word 'Evangelical' used.

Naiim Ateek - In reflection our church has had a big change. The EECI is no longer a reality. In 1970 we were known as the Evangelical Episcopal Church in Israel. In 1976 we became a part of the Episcopal Synod of the Middle East. The Synod is made up of the Dioceses of Iran; Cyprus and Gulf; Egypt; and Jerusalem. We are just one fourth of the church.

What is in a name? It ^{is} means something in the Middle East! So we must be careful in the use of names. I am happy with Israel to be maintained. I accept the existence of the State of Israel. However, if we have Israel as a part of the title what do we do with Gaza and the West Bank? You may have to add those names to the title. I feel it is a good thing if the Executive Committee begins a two way approach to Eastern Churches and Messianic groups.

In the past we were going to the Eastern Churches...but then the anti-missionary law came so we dropped everything else and worked on that issue. The word UCCI might be a threatening thing. 'United' and 'Church' are threatening to the reality of the situation for those inside and outside the church. 'Fellowship of Christians' is open to all groups. If you use 'Evangelical' you will exclude many Christian churches. They don't want to be 'United'.

After lunch Ray Register summarized the morning session. He told everyone that the Executive Committee needed direction...but we don't need another committee!! It has been suggested that the Executive Committee continue to dialogue and fellowship with the EEC. We hope the EEC will be with us in the next year's Annual Conference. The Executive needs guidance on the possibility of a name change. We then took a vote which turned out:

No name change	- 3
Use UCCI but with a parenthesis	- 9
Change name as soon as possible	- 10

Is changing the name going to serve a good purpose? Then we should change!
If it is just to change names then leave it as it is!!

The meeting was closed with prayer

aim said that the EEC would welcome the suggestions to put in the word 'Fellowship' and 'United' and that 'Council' should be taken out.

uck said that even if the EEC pulled out of the UCCI today we should still consider a name change due to the reasons mentioned this morning.

ichael Bulman closed our session in prayer.