

UNITED CHRISTIAN COUNCIL IN ISRAEL
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday 18th January 2000
UCCI Office, Haneviim 55, Jerusalem

1. **DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER** Peter shared from the monthly Barnabas International Newsletter with its encouraging word on 'Rest and Relax' from Ex. 33 v 14. All of us can identify with the experiences of Moses. There had been many blessings but the golden calf caused him great frustrations. Moses questioned his ability to be a leader and his cry to God was that he could not continue with the assignment. God's answer for Moses was the promise of his Presence and the promise of His rest. God's Presence had been promised to Moses when he had first been called, the promise of an intimate relationship. The promise of his rest reminds us of Matt 11 v 28 & 29 'Come to me ... and I will give you rest.' The promise did not involve the solving of problems, but the giving of rest. Isaiah 40 v 11 reminds us of the kind of rest God provides, the caring shepherd who gathers the lambs in his arms, close to his heart. When frustrations and problems are overwhelming we should turn to Him whose desire is to enable us to rest and relax and enjoy the day! David also shared that in the Torah when God gave rest to his people it was rest from their enemies following victory, and Gershon shared that the literal meaning of Shabbat is to strike (as in 'to go on strike!').

2. **ROLL CALL** Ron Jones, Wayne King, Ray Lockhart, Jean Marzetti, Trevor Marzetti (Acting Chairman), Torkild Masvie, Gershon Nerel, David Newman, Juha-Pekka Rissanen, Harri Tees and Peter Wells.

APOLOGIES Kay Browning, Chuck Kopp, Suhail Ramadan and Philip Sa'ad.

The Chairman welcomed Torkild Masvie and Ray Lockhart on their election to EXCOM.

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** The following items were added:
- 5.2.2 Executive Secretary's Report
 - 6.1 Simon the Tanner's House
 - 6.2 Nazareth Mosque
 - 7.1 Expatriate Visas
 - 7.2 WEF International Director
 - 7.3 WEF Cyprus 2000
 - 7.4 WEF Conference for Preaching Evangelists – Amsterdam 2000
 - 7.5 Developments at Baptist Village

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
EXCOM 28th October 1999 - **APPROVED**
AGM 16th November 1999 – **APPROVED** with the following amendment, Item 9.3 to read:
Wayne King will continue to serve on the Control Committee, and there was a consensus that Warren Graham would continue to serve. Whilst he is away on furlough the Executive Committee will co-opt someone to fill his place on the Control Committee.
EXCOM 16th November 1999 – **APPROVED AS AMENDED**.

5. **REPORTS**
5.1 Chairman – No report
5.2.1 Treasurer – David presented the Financial Report from 1.9.1998 to 31.12.1999, covering sixteen months to adjust to Amuta Regulations. David confirmed membership fees had been paid except for 3 organisations. Ray suggested contacting First International Bank to find out details of their bank charges.

REPORT APPROVED

5.2.2 Executive Secretary – Ron reported that approximately NIS 9,500 had been used in buying computer, printer, modem, computer table, telephone/fax machine, chair, lamp and coffee table. The 2 sofas in the office belong to CMA. Two of the three UCCI signs have been produced, the third (with the 3 languages) is still to be done. In addition an answering machine, internet access, E-mail facilities are required. It was suggested that Ron contact Netvision and Elkuds with regard to E-mail. The suggestion was made that the telephone and fax lines should be separate. Further, letterhead, logo and web site will need to be considered. Additional keys for access to the UCCI office have been given to Chuck, David, Peter and Trevor. A Member Body has donated plants for the courtyard and Ron requested pictures for the office and stairwell. UCCI archives will need to be stored in the new office. Torkild suggested that Member Bodies might be able to help with any information missing from the archives.

Ron also presented a draft Contract for Lease of Property. Whilst members of EXCOM are satisfied that CMA is at present looking forward to a long term arrangement in respect of use of its office, UCCI is looking for stability and would like to see a commitment made for a minimum number of years and not related to a person. It was suggested that Chuck, Gershon and Peter meet with Ron and David Lauffer for discussion and an amended Contract be presented at the next EXCOM meeting. In addition, it was also agreed that the service charge of NIS 100 be increased to NIS 200 to include the cleaning of the office, toilet, stairwell and courtyard on a fortnightly basis.

5.3 Sub Committees

5.3.1 Planning Committee – Peter reported there was a good attendance at the AGM, although Member Bodies were very slow in returning forms. Earlier responses should be encouraged for the future. Baptist Village were very accommodating regarding increased numbers, but very dis-organised regarding tea and coffee. Harri was thanked for organising the worship team. It was suggested more wellknown songs be used in future and suggestions would be welcome. It was thought the combining of the Chairman's address with Communion went well. Ray asked if, in view of the constraints of the day, Communion was appropriate. The Planning Committee was asked to look at this, and also consider whether a residential conference could be organised again, perhaps once every three years? Unfortunately no-one from Nazareth Hospital or Sea of Galilee were able to attend. As Baptist Village is no longer available for hire another venue for meetings is required, preferably in the centre of the country, (Beit Immanuel and Yad HaShmona were mentioned as possibilities). These matters to be discussed by the Planning Committee.

It was agreed Trevor would act as Convenor of the Planning Committee with practical assistance from Ron and Harri. Fadi Ramadan would also be invited to join.

Roger Elbel should be invited to join as he is handling preparations for Ravi Zacharias' visit in October. For the same reason he should also be invited to attend EXCOM meetings. It was suggested contact is made with the Messianic Christian Students organisation regarding Ravi's visit.

5.3.2 Mishkan Journal – It was agreed to defer discussion to the next meeting when Chuck would be present, also giving Torkild time to prepare. Next Mishkan meeting is on 1st February and as so many EXCOM members will be out of the country Gershon agreed on this one further occasion to attend on behalf of UCCI and report back to EXCOM.

5.3.3 Torch Publications – David will write to CEF with a proposal for them to take over the series.

5.3.4 UCCI News – Kay is continuing as Editor and would appreciate receiving news items/reports as soon as possible for next issue.

5.3.5 Liaison & Public Relations – Peter shared that Chuck had attended several meetings and was willing to continue to serve as Convenor, assisted by Ron.

5.3.6 Scholarship Committee – Gershon and David reported receiving letters of thanks from students to whom scholarships had been awarded.

5.3.7 Structure Committee – Peter reported that at the AGM an observer from the Norwegian Pentecostals in Israel requested more information about membership of UCCI. Peter will also contact Ilan Zamir of Israel College of the Bible regarding membership. Carlos Weill of the Spanish Baptist Church, Tel Aviv wishes to be kept informed of UCCI meetings.

Peter agreed to continue as Convenor of the Committee, assisted by Ray.

Trevor reported meeting with Sue Motteshead regarding auditing of accounts. He is hopeful she will accept. Trevor to pass on her telephone number to David.

5.3.8 Theological Committee – Juha-Pekka presented an overview on some of Ravi Zacharias' writings together with a short bibliography. This document is attached to the Minutes to help Member Bodies prepare for his visit in October.

Juha-Pekka also confirmed he would not be able to continue with this committee due to commitments and being out of the country for several months this year. He was thanked for all his support. It was agreed that the Theological Committee guidelines be looked at and amended taking into account developments within the Christian/Messianic community.

Gershon stated that there was a feeling that UCCI was very seldom represented at receptions for church dignitaries, and that we ought to seek ways of remedying this situation.

5.3.9 Legal Action Committee – Peter reported that only 11 Members had replied to be included in legal representations and it was agreed he and Trevor would liaise on telephoning Member Bodies which had not responded. Once this was done and a letter prepared for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, contact could be made with the Church of Scotland to discuss the points raised in their response letter. Peter confirmed he is happy to continue as Convenor of the Legal Action Committee.

5.4 Control Committee – Wayne was pleased to confirm that EXCOM is working in accordance with the Constitution and Amutot Regulations. He felt the AGM was well organised and that there was a very good spirit there. It was recommended that on sensitive issues, ie election of new members, ballot papers should be used. Wayne requested up-to-date lists of EXCOM members, Member Bodies and Delegate Entitlement List. Wayne also referred to the Minutes of EXCOM dated 6th September (item 5.4) and requested that payment of an Amutah fee is not paid until verified. David mentioned the need to inform the Authorities of our new office address, and Wayne requested copy of an updated informal English translation of Amutot Regulations.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Simon the Tanner's House – Trevor reported he had not yet heard the results of the Muslim's application hearing on the 17th January. However, he had been informed that the Ministry of Religious Affairs would not have direct day-to-day management of the property. It is likely to be administered by the Tourism Department of Tel Aviv Municipality. Trevor is seeking an appointment with the Director and hopes to convince her that a Christian organisation should be appointed for the spiritual care of visitors.

6.2 Nazareth Mosque – Wayne shared that following the AGM he had written to Chuck expressing concern about the vote taken at the end of the meeting. However,

Peter had replied explaining the purpose of the vote and Wayne accepted there had obviously been a misunderstanding. It was now clear that the vote was endorsing Chuck maintaining liaison with the Apostolic Delegate and did not commit UCCI to taking any legal action in this matter.

Wayne also shared that the situation regarding the proposed mosque changes daily and prayer is constantly needed.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

7.1 Expatriate Visas – Ray reported that ITAC is experiencing difficulties with the Ministry of Labour refusing to recommend B1 work visas (out of 11 applications ITAC were told to choose 2). Ray, Chuck and Trevor had visited Uri Mor who suggested by-passing this Ministry and going straight to Batya Kamon, Director of the Visa Office in the Interior Ministry. This may be possible a couple of times but does not address the problem long term. Trevor has compared our situation with the Catholic church position where nuns receive A3 visas, but undertake similar work to our own staff. It may be possible that a special commissioning of Protestant church workers would qualify them for A3 visas. Peter reported that for the past six months he has had to sign an affidavit stating he will inform the Ministry of Labour if a B1 worker leaves the Garden Tomb with a visa still valid. The whole situation needs our prayers.

7.2 WEF International Director – WEF are looking for a new International Director work from Singapore. Details to Kay for UCCI News.

7.3 WEF Cyprus 2000 – Residential Conference in February to look at strategic mission planning for the new millennium. It was proposed that UCCI sponsor Chuck to attend, but if he is not available then to sponsor Ron.

7.4 WEF Amsterdam 2000 – Conference from 29th July to 6th August for preaching evangelists. Details to Kay for UCCI News.

7.5 Developments at Baptist Village – Concern was expressed that it would appear the Baptist Village would no longer be available for use by the Messianic and Christian community. It was suggested that Chuck contact Greg Kingway and ask if he, or another BCI representative, would like to come to the next EXCOM to share their vision for the Baptist Village and property at Narkis Street.

8.0 **Dates of Next Meetings** (subject to Chuck being available)

EXCOM – Monday 6th March at Beit Immanuel – Devotions Ray

AGM (Spring Meeting) – Tuesday 16th May – Venue to be decided.

Meeting dates for the remainder of the year to be decided at next EXCOM meeting.

Ray suggested that in order to help members from Nazareth their travel expenses be paid for EXCOM meetings.

The meeting closed in prayer.