

# UNITED CHRISTIAN COUNCIL IN ISRAEL MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2000

UCCI Office, 55 HaNaviim Street, Jerusalem

1. **DEVOTIONS** Torkild Masvie shared from John 21 v 15-19 of the rededication of Peter who would have had mixed emotions and been hurt by the questions of Jesus. The background to this event is that Peter had denied knowing Jesus who responded by asking Peter 'Do you truly love me', 'Do you love me', the highest claim coming first. This is a message about our relationship with Jesus, we are his servants. Peter had experienced three years of training with Jesus yet denied knowing him. We too are not that successful or complete, or even all that we would want to be. The calling of Peter continued to be worked out within him and because of that it is a very important word for us to reflect on.

## 2.1 ROLL CALL

Chuck Kopp (Chairman), Ron Jones, Ray Lockhart, Trevor Marzetti, Jean Marzetti, Torkild Masvie, Gershon Nerel, David Newman (only for item 5.2) Sue Mottershead, Juha-Pekka Rissanen, Harri Tees, Peter Wells,

Chuck welcomed Sue Mottershead to EXCOM.

## 2.2 APOLOGIES

Kay Browning, Wayne King, Warren Graham.

## 3.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

7.2 Beit Immanuel Library

## 4.1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING dated 6<sup>th</sup> March 2000.

Peter amended paragraphs 5.4.7 Structure Committee and 5.4. Control Committee, as follows:

**5.4.7 Structure Committee** – Peter tabled a formal request for membership from the Norwegian Pentecostal Church together with a letter from their overseas board. It was agreed that further questions should be asked of the group. It was also suggested that Peter contact Israel College of the Bible again regarding membership.

Peter shared there had not been an opportunity to look at the Theological Committee guidelines. A suggestion was made that all guidelines be reviewed. Ray agreed to table an amended draft memorandum of agreement between CMA and UCCI for the use of the Ha-Neviim office facility.

**5.5 Control Committee** – It was proposed and agreed that Sue Mottershead be co-opted into this committee.

## **4.2 MATTERS ARISING**

Trevor was requested to send to Ray and Torkild copy of the Constitution and By-laws.

### **MINUTES APPROVED AS AMENDED**

## **5.0 REPORTS**

**5.1 Chairman** shared he had been out of the country to attend his father-in-law's funeral. He then attended a pastors conference in California led by Jack Hayford which gave opportunity for fresh insight and time with the Lord.

Chuck reported he is part of a Christian group (involving many denominations) which is trying to deal with the visa issue. They had met with Ariel Kennet who had facilitated contact with Haim Ramon who is heading up the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Christian Affairs. It is hoped this committee, involving many Government Ministries, will be able to improve the visa situation for Christian workers/volunteers.

Chuck also shared the situation regarding an Arab Baptist pastor who wishes to go to Europe for a year's study. A replacement has been found for him from Jordan but a visa has been refused by the Ministry of the Interior. It is puzzling that Catholics are able to obtain visas for replacements but Protestants are not given the same courtesy. Through Chuck's contact with the Ambassador Elect to the Vatican he is going to contact the Embassy in Jordan to see if something can be done.

Lobbying is still continuing on behalf of the Ethiopian sisters.

**5.2 Treasurer** David Newman gave a verbal report. Current balance is NIS 36,400 including dollar account. NIS 7,200 has been spent on the office (NIS 6,500 on photocopier). Three Member Bodies have not paid their dues (Church of Scotland, Nazareth Hospital & University of the Holy Land). (It was suggested Ron should visit Nazareth Hospital.) Sue was asked to present the Treasurer's Report at the AGM & Spring Meeting on Tuesday as David would be out of the country. David was thanked for finding the time to attend the meeting despite the sad circumstances of his needing to leave for the USA later that day.

### **5.3 Executive Secretary**

Ron circulated a rough draft for 'headed notepaper' for comments. A photocopy machine has been purchased. Cost per copy is NIS 0.11 per copy. Maintenance contract is US\$120.00 + tax for every 5,000 copies. No further UCCI signs have been purchased yet as supplier not happy with our ethos. A business card will be produced when E-Mail address agreed. It was suggested that this could be linked to a Web site.

A draft Memorandum of Understanding between CMA and UCCI was presented by Ray. It was agreed that under clause 4, the date of Ron Jones' secondment to UCCI be 1<sup>st</sup> July 1999 and the commencement of quarterly

payment by UCCI to CMA for office facilities and services be 1<sup>st</sup> November 1999. The Memorandum would be dated today (11<sup>th</sup> May 1999). Peter will make contact with David Lauffer expressing UCCI's appreciation of the Memorandum of Understanding. UCCI look forward to a long relationship with CMA.

It was suggested that correspondence addressed to Kay be forwarded on to her. Chuck said he was happy for Ron to open mail addressed to him. Ron said he would appreciate help in going through UCCI files (currently stored at ITAC office).

#### **5.4 Sub-committees**

**5.4.1 Planning Committee** – Trevor reported the leaflet for the Spring Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May had been printed and circulated. There are 2 levels of charges – NIS 50.00 payment in advance, NIS 60.00 payment at door. So far 70 people have indicated they would attend (28 having paid in advance). Free places for speakers. Kay and Lindell Browning apologised they would not be able to attend. Jill Lockhart and Liz Kopp have agreed to lead worship

It was agreed the WEF Statement of Faith should be appended to the By-Laws and it was suggested Peter produce a UCCI pack on membership of UCCI.

Ron shared the frustrations he and his family were experiencing in living and working in Israel. He felt he was being left to undertake his work without direction and did not feel qualified to represent UCCI, even on requirements of membership. Sympathy was expressed to Ron that many people face similar situations initially and Trevor suggested Structure Committee meet to discuss ways of assisting Ron.

**5.4.2 Mishkan Journal** – Gershon confirmed that Mishkan was jointly owned by Caspari and UCCI who had sought to give this publication support in its early days. UCCI are pleased to give support to new ventures, but now might be the right time to hand Mishkan over completely to Caspari.

It was agreed that UCCI withdraw from ownership of Mishkan from AGM 2001 and Caspari take over complete ownership with UCCI's blessing. This would need to be agreed by Member Bodies. In the meanwhile Chuck would continue as liaison between UCCI and Mishkan and any problems arising in the meanwhile to be handled by Chuck and Torkild. David Newman will need to be involved in the financial aspects of transfer of ownership.

**5.4.3 Torch** – Nothing to report.

**5.4.4 UCCI News** – Everyone was encouraged to let Kay have contributions for UCCI News by about the 25<sup>th</sup> May. Ron agreed to write a report on the Spring Meeting at Beit Immanuel for inclusion in the next issue.

**5.4.5 Liaison & Public Relations** – Chuck shared he attended the official farewell to the Pope, whose visit to Israel and his prayer at the

Western Wall has helped to soften Israeli attitudes, although the Pope was on the receiving end of some mean spirited and hateful attitudes by some religious leaders. This may well have been an eye opener to the world to see how believers can often be treated.

Peter shared he had been interviewed by The Times and asked his opinion on the Pope's visit. He detected a wistfulness in some Israelis who were clearly impressed with a religious leader who could speak in such measured tones, in contrast to the behaviour of their own religious leaders. Peter had the opportunity to speak of the gentleness of Christ.

There has been a tremendous coverage of the Pope's visit in the Hebrew press and Torkild invited Members to visit Caspari to read and make copies of the translations.

**5.4.6 Scholarship Committee** – Nothing to report.

**5.4.7 Structure Committee** – Peter reported the Norweign Pentecostal Church (an independent church) had informed him they had started work in Israel about 50 years ago. They are a small organisation with only one couple (members of King of Kings Assembly). About ten years ago they started to support the Eitanim Hospital with volunteers. They would now like to establish an additional ministry. Wayne Hilsden and Torkild are sponsoring this application for membership. Chuck said he would like to meet with them and they will be encouraged to attend the Spring meeting.

Peter hoped to speak with Garry Denlinger at the Spring meeting regarding Israel College of the Bible becoming members.

A draft in respect of new guidelines to be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

**5.4.8 Theological Committee** – Nothing to report.

**5.4.9 Legal Action Committee** – It was reported that Paul Liberman has resigned as Chairman of MAC as he has taken up the position of Co-ordinator with the Messianic Jewish Alliance dealing with social aid on a national level.

We are still awaiting response from some Member Bodies regarding legal representation. Peter said he hoped to speak to these members at the AGM & Spring Meeting.

**5.5 Control Committee** – Sue reported that the accounts for 1.9.98 to 31.12.99 had been audited and everything was in order. She had 4 recommendations to make for the future:

**1. Chasing Members' fees**

- i. Treasurer to be responsible for collecting Members' fees.
- ii. If fees not paid, Treasurer to inform General Secretary.

iii. General Secretary to contact Member Body to find out if they wish to continue membership.

**2. Claim Forms**

Give details of what claim is for, e.g. petrol claims should give destination, purpose of visit and number of kilometers.

**3. Literature**

Stocktaking on 31<sup>st</sup> December each year.

**4. Membership Fees**

Separate line in accounts for fees if they come in a different financial year.

**6.0 OLD BUSINESS**

**6.1 Simon the Tanner's House** – deferred to next meeting

**6.2 Work/Volunteer Visa** – deferred to next meeting

**6.3 Baptist Village** – Baptist Village has been a unique place serving the local believers, both Jewish and Arabic; but change of use has been decided without consultation with them, it being considered that use by local believers would conflict with the new vision.

It was suggested a letter of protest be sent to Virginia regarding their recent decision and encouraging a partnership in use of the Baptist Village. It was recognised that the facilities needed to be upgraded. Peter will produce a draft letter.

It was also suggested UCCI be involved in encouraging Memorandums of Understanding to be written between organisations to help facilitate future changes.

**6.4 Web Site** – deferred to next meeting.

**6.5 WEF Assembly** – deferred to next meeting.

**7.0 NEW BUSINESS**

**7.1 General Secretary** – Trevor reported he and Jean would be on long leave from this September to 2001.

**7.2 Beit Immanuel Library** – Re-opening Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June.

**8.0 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2000 (after AGM & Spring Meeting)

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 10.00am at Beit Immanuel