

**UNITED CHRISTIAN COUNCIL IN ISRAEL  
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2000 at Nazareth Hospital**

**1.0 DEVOTIONS** – Wayne, who said this could well be his last opportunity to share with EXCOM, spoke from Hebrews 12 v 2 ‘ Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith’. The bottom line from some perspectives is that archeology is the ultimate authority. Archeology decides if the Bible is authentic. I do not appreciate that? Isaiah 40 v 6-8 speaks of the transitory nature of man, but the ‘word of God abides for ever’. Jesus quoted scripture as authority and Satan did not challenge him. Some people using the secret code in interpreting messianic portions of scripture come up with the name of Yeshua, but the bottom line is still that scripture was not written by man but by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We have to acknowledge the sovereignty of God, he is in charge. When we pray, let’s follow Jesus example on the Mount of Olives ‘thy will be done’. Be discerning, focus only on Jesus. Do not make claims that do not exist, ‘even the very elect may be deceived.’ Keep your eyes on Jesus, the authoritative word of God.

**2.1 ROLL CALL** – Chuck Kopp (Chairman), Ron Jones, Wayne King, Ray Lockhart, Trevor Marzetti, Jean Marzetti, Sue Mottershead, Gershon Nerel, David Newman, Suhail Ramadan, Harri Tees and Peter Wells.

In addendance: Roger Elbel

**2.2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Kay Browning, Masvie Torkild, Juha-Pekka Rissanen and Philip Sa’ad.

**3.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – No Additions.

**4.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** dated 7<sup>th</sup> June were accepted.

**MINUTES APPROVED**

**5.0 REPORTS**

**5.1 Chairman** – Chuck reported it is the intention of the present government to close the Ministry of Religious Affairs. The Christian Community desk could come under the Prime Minister’s Office which would heighten level of awareness and presumably their recommendations would be taken more seriously. Uri and Yehudit retiring. No personnel have been appointed for training. Chuck read letter he had written to Yossi Beilin protesting lack of transition and training of personnel.

Suhail is retiring from being chaplain to the prisons. Recommendation has been made that Anis Barhoum replace him, with perhaps another person to help as Anis works fulltime.

Continuing to assist in pursuing the appeals for 4 pastors in Bethlehem for free movement in Jerusalem. Chuck also asked to help in appealing for visa for a Jordanian women marrying a pastor from Gaza.

A letter had been received from the Ethiopian eldership concerning a former pastor/elder. Mention was also made of someone who embezzled funds from Bridges for Peace.

Chuck wrote to Moshe Katsav congratulating him on his Presidency to which he received a response.

Chuck also mentioned receiving letters from Trevor and Jean informing EXCOM that they will not be standing for re-election next year.

**5.2 Treasurer** – David presented the financial report from 01.01.2000 to 20.8.2000. Only one Member Body has still not paid its fees.

#### **REPORT APPROVED**

**5.3 Executive Secretary** – Ron distributed his report. He also shared a request from Lindell Browning that UCCI respond publicly to views recently expressed by the Christian Embassy. UCCI does not give a political view. Chuck preferred to speak face to face.

#### **5.4 Sub-Committees**

**5.4.1 Planning Committee** – Roger read from Ravi Zacharias latest newsletter as a way of introducing him, as well as handing out a biography. Ravi's itinerary was discussed. **Please note the UCCI meeting in the Fall is now FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER at the YMCA, Jerusalem.** Cost of the hire of the hall, lighting and caretaker will be US\$940.00. It was suggested NIS60.00 per person is charged for registration and lunch, with a love offering taken for Ravi. Chuck is to book the hall and Peter to discuss cost of lunch, use of equipment for translation/recording, etc. Planning Committee to organise worship with songs in Hebrew, Arabic and English. Ravi is bringing 4 people with him and it was agreed UCCI would pay for accommodation and meals for Ravi and one other, plus meals for the other 3. A brochure is to be produced (perhaps with help from CFI?). Research required on advertising. EXCOM authorises Planning Committee to agree a figure for advertising. It was mentioned Joan Lipis had not heard of UCCI and would like to know more. Offering for Ebenezer Home will be taken at the Spring AGM 2001.

**5.4.2 Mishkan Journal** – Add to agenda for discussion on handover.

**5.4.3 Torch Publications** – David in contact with Fadi to see if CEF are interested in taking over publications.

**5.4.4 UCCI News** – Chuck produced artwork for photocopying.

**5.4.5 Liaison & Public Relations** – (see 5.1. Chairman's Report above)

**5.4.6 Scholarship Committee** – Suhail reported there are 10 applicants.

Stephen Pfan also has a student needing help. It was suggested a letter be sent to Member Bodies encouraging further support of this fund.

Philip requested help in paying for refugees to attend their conference and it was agreed to take NIS 1000 from the Literature Fund for this. It was further suggested an Emergency Fund (perhaps US\$1000 a year) be set up with clear guidelines for use in similar situations.

**5.4.7 Structure Committee** – Peter shared he had not yet been able to set up a meeting with the Norwegian Pentecostal Church, but had written to Israel College of the Bible regarding membership. Serious prayerful consideration will be needed regarding positions within EXCOM.

A review of the number of delegates per Member Body to be made and recommendations made to EXCOM.

**5.4.8 Theological Committee** – Production of a brochure to give to potential new members to be on future agenda.

**5.4.9 Legal Action Committee** – Peter reported 19 of the 28 Member Bodies have agreed to be associated with these discussions. Nevertheless, 3 or 4 key members had not yet given approval.

**5.5 CONTROL COMMITTEE** – Wayne mentioned a list of participants and convenors of Sub-Committees needs to be produced. Sue reported she had been unable to obtain the Hebrew form for submission to the Amutah Authorities. Sue to liaise with Ron in order for the Accounts and Control Committee Report to be submitted to the Authorities.

## **6.0 OLD BUSINESS**

**6.1 Simon the Tanner's House** – Trevor still seeking to arrange meeting with Benny Shilo.

**6.2 Developments at Baptist Village** – Peter shared that Philip had asked that the UCCI letter in its present form should not be sent to the UK and USA, but a letter emphasising our support of ABC in their negotiations for taking responsibility for the Baptist Village. This was agreed.

**6.3 Web Site** – Harri shared he hoped to have someone to work on this in November/December.

**6.4 WEF Assembly** – Requested they be informed of items for consideration and discussion by the Assembly in 2001.

**7.0 NEW BUSINESS** – None

## **8.0 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Planning Committee – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 10.00am UCCI Office.

**UCCI AUTUMN MEETING Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 9.00am YMCA Jerusalem**

EXCOM Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 10.00am UCCI Office – Devotions Chuck.