

UNITED CHRISTIAN COUNCIL IN ISRAEL
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, 23rd October, 2000 at UCCI Office in Jerusalem

1.0 DEVOTIONS: Psalms 39:1-4

*I said, "I will guard my ways,
That I may not sin with my tongue;
I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle,
While the wicked are in my presence
...[4] Lord, make me to know my end
And what is the extent of my days,
Let me know how transient I am."*

[Chuck Kopp] We need to understand how short life is and watch our tongue, and not disqualify ourselves from being peacemakers. Israel is a country where you are not allowed to finish a sentence i.e. people are quick with words and reactions and judgments. When we simply align ourselves with one side or the other, we are taking the easy path, so instead, we need to exemplify goodness through wholesome talk.

2.0 ROLL CALL

2.1 Present: Chuck Kopp, David Newman, Kay Browning, Gershon Nerel, Peter Wells, Ray Lockhart, Sue Mottershead, Ron Jones; [guest] Roger Elbel.

2.2 Absent: Philip Sa'ad, Suhail Ramadan, Harri Tees, Wayne King. **Out of the country:** Torkild Masvie, Trevor, Jean Marzetti, Juha-Pekka Rissanen, Warren Graham.

3.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda adopted with addition of 7.1, proposal of a 'thank you' to Uri Mor upon his retirement from the Christian Communities Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

4.0 MINUTES OF AUGUST 23 EXCOM MEETING

Approved without corrections

5.0 REPORTS

5.1 Chairman [Chuck Kopp]

According to his sources the Christian Communities Department will continue to operate. It seems most likely that it will come under the authority of the PM's office at this point. Regular office hours are being maintained with new staff being Dr. Nissim Dana and Ms. Ilana Itzhak. Anis Barhoum has been officially approved to take the place of Suhail Ramadan as Christian chaplain to the prisons. There was discussion of the possibility of someone else being approached to assist in this ministry.

5.2 Treasurer [David Newman]

A new summary report (attached) was introduced that offers a quick overview of our finances. Expenses for the Ravi Zacharias Conference do not include receipted invoices [from Roger Elbel] totaling about 4000 NIS in addition to c. 750 NIS for promotion, postage. Overall, even with c. 8000 NIS expense for the Ravi Zacharias Conference, we still have sufficient funds to operate, and there was a decision not to solicit more funds to help offset this expense. Membership fees will be collected after

January 1, 2001, with a letter going out from the General Secretary. We discussed the possibility of allowing member bodies to contribute to the Scholarship Fund by checking a separate box on the form when they pay their fees for 2001. We also discussed confusion regarding Amuta regulations about making contributions outside an amutot. Perhaps the UCCI should draft a guide to give to our member bodies to assist them in understanding this matter.

5.3 Executive Secretary [Ron Jones]

[Report attached to minutes] Approval was given for the C. & M. A. to use the copy machine to make limited copies in exchange for UCCI use of the dedicated fax line, a service for which the C. & M. A. pays. Also there was agreement that large projects such as the newsletter publications can be performed by 'outside' printers and do not necessarily need to be done in-house. Ron expressed a need for volunteer help with things such as the newsletter, data base inputting, and other tedious projects. Peter Wells suggested that he may be able to donate some occasional help with computer projects through Seth Ben-Haim, a part-time member of the Garden Tomb Staff.

5.4 Sub-committees

5.4.1 Planning committee

Review of Fall Conference: There were very positive responses from students who attended the Wednesday meetings sponsored by Israel College of the Bible. and the Thursday night meeting sponsored by I. S. I. (Joan Lipis). There was discussion of Ravi's sudden departure from the country, and disappointment was registered that Ravi's international board did not consult with Excom before making their decision. Roger apologized for not waiting for Excom approval before writing to Ravi with reactions of people (and Excom) here to the news of his sudden departure.

A decision was made not to pursue Ravi returning to Israel under the auspices of the UCCI, but rather to give possible dates for Ravi's return trip to students groups and others in the country. We will no longer act as his agent for ministry here. However, it was also decided that a letter of warm appreciation would be sent to him along with our decision not to accept his offer to return in November or in 2002 under UCCI auspices. We will make no more demands, cut our financial losses, and move forward. Ron Jones will e-mail a response to Margie's Zacharias' letter, with a hard copy to be mailed later.

5.4.2 Mishkan Journal

David Newman will write a letter to Caspari indicating that we assume that Mishkan Journal will be a separate and independent entity from the UCCI as of January 1, 2001. He plans to attend their next board meeting scheduled for Nov. 28. This decision to break formal affiliation with Mishkan Journal is consistent with UCCI policy of helping to start and then releasing organizations to go independent.

5.4.3 Torch Publications

We are still looking for someone to take over this publication.

5.4.4 UCCI News [Kay Browning]

Kay requested assistance with ideas and articles for the newsletter. She would like someone to review the meetings that Ravi had with students, also the unplanned but yet very effective day of prayer held in lieu of the Ravi Zacharias conference on Oct. 13. It was suggested that we promote the Nazareth Village and look for other stories for the newsletter. It was also mentioned that the original type needs to be proofread more carefully before it is sent to press.

5.4.5 Liaison and Public Relations [no report]

5.4.6 Scholarship Committee [Gershon Nerel]

The treasurer was given the go ahead to divide up the entire amount (11,500 NIS) among the 9 applicants that have been approved for scholarship aid.

5.4.7 Structure Committee [Peter Wells]

An interview with the Norwegian Pentecostal Assemblies is scheduled for Oct. 31, at 4 PM in the UCCI office. Members of the Structure committee and others from Exom. are invited to join us for that meeting. An application has been received from Professor Agnes of the Apostolic Faith International organization, which will be answered in due fashion. Further contact has been made with Israel College of the Bible. David Boyd, their new President, is being encouraged to apply for membership of UCCI.

5.4.8 Theological Committee [no report]

5.4.9 Legal Action Committee [Peter Wells]

A meeting of the Legal Action Committee is being scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 26, at the UCCI office.

5.5 Control [Sue Mottershead]

It was reported that our annual AGM reports as required for our amuta status has been submitted and received by the amuta office.

6.0 OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Simon the Tanner's House

Chuck met with the chairman of the committee charged with overseeing the site. The committee made a recommendation to Haim Ramon, Ministry of Interior, that the Muslims be granted access to the interior of the house to use for prayers and that Christians be granted access to the roof, the historic site of Peter's vision. It was felt by Excom that this arrangement would possibly invite complications and further demands from the Muslim community.

6.2 Developments at Baptist Village

Philip Sa'ad will be meeting in November with the Association of Bible Churches. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the London Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. This letter, signed by the Chairman of the UCCI, will endorse and support ABC management of Baptist Village, under whose proprietorship the grounds would continue to be made available to Arab, Messianic Jewish, and other local ministries for camps and conferences, with assistance from UCCI in helping to raise funds to make the necessary capital improvements.

6.3 Web site [no report]

6.4 WEF request that they be informed of items for consideration at the 2001 assembly.

It was suggested that we might use this to bring to the attention of the delegates the need to confront the march of Islam. No action taken.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 The need to offer a 'thank you' to Uri Mor

Chuck will communicate to Bridges for Peace that the UCCI has proposed to offer support for a reception being tentatively planned for Uri Mor (with suggestion to include Yehudit Sar Shalom).

8.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

DECEMBER 7, 2000, AT THE UCCI OFFICE, 10 AM.

MEETING ADJOINED AT 2:30 PM.

Report of the Executive Secretary

UCCI

October 23, 2000

UCCI Office, Jerusalem

1. Met with one head of a member body
 - ITAC, October 17
 - Rich history in the land both as a mission and a diocese
 - In the process of meeting to set their course for the future
 - [More contacts were not made due to vacation weeks in August and focus on assisting Roger Elbel in planning the Fall Conference]

2. In my role convener of the Planning Committee, we met Sept. 19, Oct. 9, and several other occasions in more informal contacts to plan the Ravi Zacharias Conference scheduled for October 13 at the YMCA.

3. In my role as substitute General Secretary of the UCCI, I have been in contact with Trevor Marzetti by phone; however our schedules didn't permit us to meet before he left for sabbatical in the UK.

4. We copied the UCCI Newsletter in the UCCI office and collated and distributed it from the ITAC (much thanks to my wife Joke, and to Joy at the ITAC office for hours of tedious work on this).

5. Need to consider our maintenance contract for the copier. Also the shared use with CMA.

6. Need a list of names of office volunteers who might assist in projects such as the newsletter or other projects that require extra help and also to do inputting on the computer.