

Beit Immanuel

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UNITED CHRISTIAN COUNCIL IN ISRAEL MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday, February 15 at UCCI Office in Jerusalem

1.0 DEVOTIONS: [Ron Jones]

Text: 2 Kings 22: 1-2 "God's purpose realized, even when our plans are not realized." Josiah's father and grandfather were ungodly men. His grandfather Manasseh was so evil that he "*seduced [Judah] to do more evil than the nations had done whom the Lord destroyed before the people of Israel*" [2 Kings 21: 9], and "*filled Jerusalem from one end to the other with innocent blood*" [21: 16]. His father followed the same path. So Josiah, howbeit a small boy when crowned king, determined to do what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and "*walked in all the way of David his father, and he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left*" [22: 2]. His radical obedience is unmatched in the lineage of the kings of Judah. His reforms included a renewal of the covenant, celebration of the Passover, and cleansing the land of idolatry. Yet all the good that he did was not enough to prevent God's judgment when Jerusalem was over run by the Babylonians within a few years of his death. His righteousness was a light that shown for a brief time and then darkness fell. God's purpose for ministries like Josiah's must not be belittled. Even when our efforts don't result in realizing a long-term ambition, God has a purpose even greater than we imagined. God is in charge and He always stays, even when a ministry is short-lived.

2.0 ROLL CALL

2.1 Present: Chuck Kopp, David Newman, Gershon Nerel, Sue Mottershead, Juha-Pekka Rissanen, Torkild Masvie, Peter Wells, and Ron Jones;

2.2 Absent: Wayne King, Ray Lockhart, Harry Tees, Suhail Ramadan, Philip Sa'ad, Warren Graham (control); **Out of the country:** Trevor & Jean Marzetti

3.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda adopted with deletion of 6.1 (Simon the Tanner's House) and 6.3 (Web Site)

4.0 MINUTES OF December 7 EXCOM MEETING

Approved with minor corrections in spelling.

5.0 REPORTS

5.1 Chairman [Chuck Kopp]

He is strongly encouraging those with 15 or more years with an A-3 visa to apply for permanent residence. It's possible that this will make room for others to receive clergy visas.

With all the transitions in the Department of Religious Affairs desk, we were reminded that it's customary to invite the director, now Dr. Nissim Dana, to the UCCI Annual General Meeting in May.

Authorization by the State for pastors to perform weddings is granted on a very arbitrary basis, and recently Chuck has had to sign for others who performed weddings.

MAC is still following the plight of the 3 Ethiopian sisters. Their petition of appeal of the ruling that they be deported was at first denied, and now it appears will be taken up by an inter-ministerial committee. A number of Ethiopian believers are having problems with the government in connection to their I. D.'s and other matters.

5.2 Treasurer [David Newman]: See attached Treasurer's Report & 2001 Proposed Budget.
Editorial notes:
Treasurer's Report:

- Difference in budgeted "fees income" for 2000 and actual income due to some fees for 2000 being paid at the end of 1999;
- Only one organization that did not pay fees for the year 2000;
- Extra expense in office in year 2000 due to purchase of copier;
- In Scholarship Fund, 4020 NIS was added to the budget by transferring funds from the Literature Fund for a total of 11,520 NIS expense;
- Expense in Ebenezer fund came from a \$1,000 contribution;
- Decrease in Torch income and expense due to our phasing out this ministry.

Proposed Budget:

- 12,300 NIS from forwarded balance is earmarked for Scholarship Fund; to this was added 5,700 NIS to total 18,000 NIS Scholarship Fund budget;
- The 15,000 NIS designated as Misc. income in the General Fund is being transferred in from the Literature Fund.
- The budgeted expense for line 18, Mishkan, reflects EXCOM's decision to subscribe to Mishkan for all member bodies for one year.
- Line 20, Torch, will involve no expense since we are no longer printing this material; inventory is down, but proceeds from sales still coming in.

5.3 Executive Secretary [Ron Jones]

In addition to the distributed written report, it was noted that Ron will be sending out the letter soliciting member dues for 2001.

5.4 SUB-COMMITTEES:

5.4.1 Planning committee

Discussion of A proposed format for this Spring's AGM, scheduled for May 16, at Beit Immanuel. This is the annual business meeting of the UCCI. In addition to the routine business, we will pursue the topic of: "Transitions to a New Time" or the creative changes taking place on Christian owned properties which are being redirected from tourism to local ministry. We will partake of "Communion" at AGM.

5.4.2 Torch Publications

No report.

5.4.3 UCCI News

Discussed idea of changing this category to "Media." Also discussed the prospect of moving toward an electronic news service.

5.4.4 Liaison and Public Relations [covered in 5.1]

5.4.5 Scholarship Committee [Gershon Nerel] No report.

5.4.6 Structure Committee [Peter Wells]

Israel College of the Bible has given serious thought to our invitation to apply for membership of UCCI. For reasons connected with their proposed accreditation as Israel's first autonomous and independent Messianic Bible college their board do not currently wish to apply, but they have said that they would hope to be able to do so at some future date.

The following positions on EXCOM will need to be filled at our AGM: Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer (David Newman is willing to continue in this office), Recording Secretary. Those who will have completed their elected period on EXCOM are Chuck Kopp, Juha Pekka Rissanen, and Harri Tees. All are eligible for election if willing (Chuck Kopp not eligible for Chairman, but eligible for another role).

5.4.7 Theological Committee [No report]

Until further action, this line will be dropped from the posted agenda.

5.4.8 Legal Action Committee [Peter Wells]

Letters of endorsement for UCCI negotiating with the State of Israel have grown to 21 of the 28 member bodies. Several more letters have been promised. A group consisting of Chuck Kopp, Ray Lockhart, Harri Tees, and Ron Jones met with Ariel Kennet, in the Foreign Ministry Department, to commence dialogue. They were given a copy of a proposed agreement and promised to review it.

5.5 Control [Sue Mottershead]

Accounts are in order.

6.0 OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Developments at Baptist Village

[no report, excepting general report contained in 5.3]

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

[No New Business, excepting what was discussed in the body of the above reports.]

8.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

April 18, possibly at Beit Immanuel or Tabeetha.

MEETING ADJOINED AT 3:00 PM.