

UNITED CHRISTIAN COUNCIL IN ISRAEL
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, June 8, 2001, at the UCCI Office/CMI Library

1.0 DEVOTIONS: [Ray Lockhart]

Ray Lockhart concentrated on the theme of faith(fulness) starting from the text: "*O Lord, I will always sing of your constant love; I will proclaim your faithfulness for ever. I know that your love will last for all time, that your faithfulness is as permanent as the sky... The heavens sing of the wonderful things you do; the holy ones sing of your faithfulness, Lord... Your kingdom is founded on righteousness and justice; love and faithfulness are shown in all you do.*" (Psalm 89: 1-2, 5, 14). The root of the faith, which is a gift of God, is the faithfulness of God. Without Him staying the same always we would not have hope as sinful people. God's love and grace (*chesed*) are closely connected to His faithfulness and to the living faith (*emunah*). Also the aspect of the righteousness comes close to the theme of the faith: "*...those who are righteous will live because they are faithful to God.*" (Habakuk 2: 4). Another good picture of the faith we have is in Exodus 17 where we have Amalekites fighting Israelites. Then Moses, staying in constant prayer, kept his arms raised upwards with the help of Aaron and Hur. Where it says that Aaron and Hur hold Moses' hands steady "until the sun went down", the word used for "steady" is *emunah*, 'faith'. From this we learn - among other things - that it is easier to pray as a group than individually. - Ray Lockhart closed by reading from 2 Timothy 2: 11-13: "*If we have died with him, we shall also live with him. If we continue to endure, we shall also rule with him. If we deny him, he also will deny us. If we are not faithful, he remains faithful, because he cannot be false to himself.*" Here we have the source of our endurance when we ourselves fall short. God is real and Jesus is faithful when we ourselves are faithless.

After the devotions there was a period of time in common prayer for the ministry of the UCCI member bodies, the functioning of the EXCOM and for other items.

2.0 ROLL CALL

2.1 Present: Ronald Jones, Wayne King, Charles Kopp, David Lauffer, Ray Lockhart, David Newman, Juha-Pekka Rissanen (recording secretary), Harry Tees and Peter Wells

2.2 Apologies: Warren Graham, Torkild Masvie, Sue Mottershead, Suhail Ramadan and Philip Sa'ad

3.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda adopted.

4.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 18, May 16 [organizational meeting], Minutes of the AGM of May 16

In the minutes of **April 18**, point **2.2**, the name of Mrs. Sue Mottershead has to be added to those absent from the meeting. In the paragraph **5.1**, the last sentence "One member of EXCOM expressed thanks ...", the words 'one member' have to be omitted and replaced with 'Members'. The spelling of the name Suhail Ramadan in paragraph **5.4.5** has to be corrected.

In the minutes of **May 16**, paragraph **3.0**, the names of those a) newly elected to the

EXCOM and b) other members of the EXCOM (without renewed nomination) have to be separated. Also the name of Suhail Ramadan has to be still on the list.

In the minutes of the AGM (Annual General Meeting) in the ROLL CALL list among 'The Member Bodies not Represented' instead of Arab Baptist Churches it has to read 'Association of Baptist Churches'. - It was also reminded, that for the Registrar of the Amutot the following documents have to be sent: Financial statement, the names of the new members of the EXCOM with passport numbers and the minutes of the organisational meeting (May 16). In the list of the non-member bodies the right spelling for Moshav Yad-Hashmona is with 'h' also in the word 'Hashmona'. It was also suggested that perhaps what was needed by the Registrar of Amutot was an extract from the minutes of the AGM covering the items of business which, by law, needed to be transacted.

With the above mentioned corrections the minutes of April 18 and May 16 meetings were approved.

5.0 REPORTS

5.1 Chairman [Ray Lockhart] - As newly elected chairman Ray Lockhart did not have any report.

5.2 Treasurer [David Newman]: See attached Treasurer's Report

In the 'General Fund (point 1) - Fees' it has to be noticed that 8 member bodies had not yet paid their membership fee for the ongoing year, some not even for the past year. The fees should be paid a month in advance before the AGM. A letter of reminder to those who didn't pay their fees for past 2 years has to be sent out. That will be done by the Chairman & the Treasurer at the earliest convenience. If the member bodies that did not pay their membership fees for the years 2000 and 2001 will not do so until the end of the year 2001, they will lose their membership in the UCCI. Ray Lockhart will also write a clarifying letter to the Nazareth Hospital regarding their willingness to continue as a member of the UCCI.

In the 'General Fund (point 5) - Office/Travel' most of the expense is caused by the travel expenses of Charles Kopp when attending the WEF Conference in Malaysia.

5.3 Executive Secretary [Ron Jones] See attached Report.

It was specially pointed out, that there is a clear need to find someone for secretarial work. Harry Tees mentioned, that they as Project Redemption/Window Ministries could offer the UCCI a good administrator to assist in the secretarial work. Further inquiries are needed.

5.4 SUB-COMMITTEES

5.4.1 Planning Committee

Clearly positive things were mentioned while reviewing the AGM of May 16 2001. One wish for future meetings was shared: The offering for the Ebenezer Home should be taken earlier during the day than has been the case so far. In addition to this Wayne King presented his list of observations from the AGM in order to improve future conferences. His remarks will be distributed to the EXCOM members.

Regarding *the Fall UCCI Conference* it was decided that the date for the Conference will

be *Nov 14 2001 (Wednesday)*. A proposal was made that Pastor Nisar Sachin together with Pastor David Davis be invited to share on the topic of the unity in diversity in Israel as Jewish, Arab and Expatriate believers. Stella Carmel as a place for the conference will be checked by Ray Lockhart. Fadi Ramadan, the head of the CEF, will be asked to lead the worship during the conference.

The persons on the Planning Committee are Ron Jones, Harry Tees and Peter Wells (convenor).

5.4.2 Torch Publications

Nothing to report.

5.4.3 UCCI News/Media

Harry Tees shared, that next Newsletter will be distributed via e-mail in July, and from then on it will be sent out bi-monthly. It will be a short e-mail letter with 1-2 pages. Mailing list has to be updated soon. Web site is to be developed, at the latest in the beginning of next year.

5.4.4 Liaison & Public Relations

Chuck Kopp will continue as the convenor of the Liaison & Public Relations Committee. Chuck explained regarding certain requests of the tax officials that there is no need to show automatically all the financial book keeping of each and every organization, especially since we are non-profit organizations. Pocket money for the volunteer workers should not be taxed. If the taxation officials of Israel will show any interest regarding the book keeping of any of the member bodies, they should first be advised to turn to Chuck Kopp.

In addition Chuck reported that the Baptist pastor of Gaza, Hanna Massa, and his wife, are in trouble, as the Jordanian-born wife cannot get a visa to stay in Gaza for a long period.

As another matter of information Chuck mentioned, that Mr. Jonathan Ben-Ari in the Ministry of Religious Affairs had been approached in order to help Anis Barhoum to continue in ministering to the prisoners in the Israeli jails. That right has been cancelled for some unknown reason.

Still, in connection to the Malaysia WEF Conference, Chuck informed that the Government of Malaysia will be approached by the WEF and reminded, that all the invited delegates should have had the right to use their own flag, including Israel - and have free access to the media. That was not the case in Malaysia. The officials of WEF will be reminded that in future conferences all the participants have to be accepted equally. Ray Lockhart will write a letter.

5.4.5 Scholarship Committee

Gershon Nerel and Suhail Ramadan functioned as co-members of this committee. Now both of them have resigned. There is a need to gather together during the summer for a brainstorming session convened by Peter Wells - and come out with new suggestions for Sept 2001 EXCOM meeting. The date for the brainstorming was set as Aug 16 at 10 AM at the UCCI Office. There is also a need to clarify whether the resignation of Suhail Ramadan from the Scholarship Committee means at the same time resignation from the EXCOM or not. Suhail's clear answer is needed.

5.4.6 Structure Committee

There is a need to find a permanent and Jerusalem based recording secretary for the EXCOM. The pastors of the congregations in Jerusalem area will be approached in this matter.

Peter Wells read a letter of Apr 18 2001 sent out to Dr. Paul Bianchini regarding the

more detailed information on the functioning of their course center/college and their activities 'throughout Middle East'. The letter was a response to the application of Bianchini's organisation, dated Feb 27, for membership of the UCCI. - No answer as to the specifying request has been received so far.

The chair persons/conveners of the sub-committees are Chuck Kopp in the Liaison & Public Relations Committee, Peter Wells in the Planning Committee, in the Structure Committee and in the Legal Action Committee, Wayne King in the Control Committee.

5.4.7 Legal Action Committee

Ariel Kenet, head of the Department for the Religious Affairs of the Foreign Ministry has asked for the updated constitution of the UCCI in order to proceed in dealing with the change of the legal status of the UCCI. Peter Wells did not respond to this request yet, since it is not completely clear, what is the most updated version of the by-laws/constitution. That is to be sent to the Mr Kenet so soon as possible. Ray Lockhart to follow up.

5.5. CONTROL COMMITTEE

The papers of the UCCI from the years 2000-2001 have to be submitted to the Amutah Office. Among the documents there have to be the following: the minutes of the AGM meetings with two signatures in them and a copy of the report of the Control Committee. Ron Jones will send this to the Amutah Office.

Regarding the membership of the Control Committee, Wayne King will not be able to continue to serve on the Committee for much longer. There is a need to look for a new member to replace him. The other members, Sue Mottershead and Warren Graham, will continue for the time being on the Committee.

6.0 OLD BUSINESS

Chuck Kopp and Peter Wells shared the information, that the Government of Israel will not recognize the right to build the mosque in Nazareth. There is a clear change of policy. - Juha-Pekka shared a bad experience of one FELM worker when applying recently for the visa extension for her 'A'-category visa in the Ministry of the Interior in East Jerusalem. It is not recommended to go to the office on the eastern side, since it is still possible to arrange the visa matters in West Jerusalem (Shlomzion HaMalka St.).

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

Harry Tees informed that Project Redemption will be involved in a worship occasion in Augusta Victoria Centre on Aug 18 2001 at 5.00 PM. It was agreed that the name of the UCCI will appear in the advertisements as 'a backing organisation', but not as the main organiser / sponsor.

7.1 Letters of thanks

Jean and Trevor Marzetti had sent a greeting card to the EXCOM where they expressed their appreciation for giving them a farewell gift during the AGM on May 16 2001. - It was decided that Ray Lockhart will send letters of thanks to Gershon Nerel and Suhail Ramadan for their service on the EXCOM and its sub-committees.

8.0 DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

Thu Sept 13 2001 at 10 AM at the Baptist House [Devotions: David Newman]

Thu Nov 1 2001 at 10 AM at the UCCI office / CMA premises [Devotions: Peter Wells]

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2.20 PM.