

UNITED CHRISTIAN COUNCIL IN ISRAEL
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, March 21, 2002 10:30 am
Baptist House, 4 Narkis Street, Jerusalem

1.0 DEVOTIONS:

Ray opened and led in prayer.

2.0 ROLL CALL

2.1 Present: Chuck Kopp, David Lauffer, Ray Lockhart, Torkild Masvie, Jeanine Navarro, Juha-Pekka Rissanen, Harri Tees, Peter Wells

Control: Wayne King, Sue Mottershead

Guests: Duane Pieper, Jonathan Teo and Eugene Mitrea

2.2 Absent: Warren Graham, David Newman (out of the country), Philip Sa'ad, Suhail Ramadan

3.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Ray motioned and Peter Wells seconded. Agenda adopted.

4.0 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Ray motioned and Harri Tees seconded approval of the minutes.

5.0 REPORTS

5.1 Chairman (Ray Lockhart)

Ray gave an overview of the Nazareth Mosque building, which has now been halted by the Israeli government. There is still a general consensus that confrontation is still possible in the region over the affair.

Ray introduced guest Duane Pieper of the Bible Society, who is considered an invitation to serve on the Control Committee. Duane has also worked for Anglican School and Holyland Institute and comes to UCCI with lots of experience in the community.

Ray also welcomed Eugene Mitrea, a local Jerusalem Romanian pastor and Jonathan Teo the CMA Chinese pastor. Both men gave a brief overview of the problems of their people group. Ray asked what UCCI could do to help with the minority worker. They asked for prayer for manpower who speaks their languages and ways to reflect the workers problems to the authorities. Jonathan and Eugene agreed to try and organize a committee of the pastors of foreign workers in the country to see how they can work together to form a Social Action Committee. Ray, on behalf of UCCI, suggested that we should also try and find ministries with the same heart that could partner with these groups. Consideration should be given by the next ExCom to co-opt a representative of these pastors to serve as a liaison with UCCI.

5.2 Treasurers Report (Peter Wells reported)

David Newman is out of the country. Peter Wells has not had to take any financial action in his absence at this time apart from the payment of Jeanine's university fee.

5.4 SUB-COMMITTEES

5.4.1 Planning Committee (Peter Wells)

Peter presented a rough draft of the Spring Conference. He with ExCom members fine-tuned and settled on the attached brochure. Ray motioned and Torkil seconded to approve the fee for the conference as 60 NIS per person. This would require a subsidy of 10 NIS per person, plus official guests, to come from membership dues.

5.4.2 Liaison and Public Relations (Chuck Kopp)

Chuck had a meeting with prison authorities to support the approval of House of Light Director Anis Bahoun for prison liaison. The meeting was favorable and Anis will now be able to meet with Arab prisoners who request a Chaplin.

5.4.3 Scholarship Committee (Harri Tees)

Harri stated that they had received two thank you notes from Bethlehem Bible College and one other applicant thanking UCCI for its assistance.

5.4.4 Structure Committee (Peter Wells)

Peter discussed the upcoming elections and after talking with all members of ExCom motioned that Chuck Kopp is unanimous choice for Chairman, Peter Wells for General Secretary, David Newman for Treasurer, Porter Speakman for Communications and Jeanine Navarro for Recording Secretary. Various member affiliates were suggested for ExCom since there will be several vacancies.

Esko of the Finnish Lutheran Mission has again been contacted and their official application to join UCCI is expected soon. It was unanimously agreed to propose their membership to the Annual Meeting subject to final scrutiny by Ray, Chuck and Peter.

5.4.5 Media Committee (Harri Tees)

Harri again requested articles for an Easter addition and noted that Porter Speakman would be coming on board to assist in this area.

5.4.6 Legal Action Committee (Peter Wells)

Chuck reported on Visa problems that have occurred among member bodies. It was moved by Ray, seconded by Peter, to hire Yuval Jerushalmi as UCCI'S lawyer. His immediate task would be to represent member who have current an urgent visa problems. His longer-term goal would be to communicate the seriousness of the issue to pay Israeli government officials and to work for the full recognition of the rights and privileges of the evangelical Protestant community. Although there is some provision in the budget, which would help to cover Yuval's initial fees, it was agreed that an additional levy would be required from member bodies. It was agreed that this levy should only be expected from those who had officially asked UCCI to act on their behalf in these negotiations with the government of Israel.

5.5 Control Committee

Sue Mottershead reported that the audit was done and everything is in order. Wayne King reminded the committee that they would be voting on prospective new Control committee soon. After years of serving he will step down as control committee member. Ray thanked Wayne most warmly for his faithful service.

6.0 OLD BUSINESS

6.1 ID Cards

ID cards have been produced and have been distributed to several Ex-com members.

6.2 Pastoring of Foreign Workers in Israel

Discussed at the beginning of the meeting. See note under Chairman's report.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Copyright of UCCI articles

Victor Smadja, of Antes printing company, had written wrote to Chairman Lockhart to request copyright of UCCI articles. It was suggested that the copyright should remain under UCCI's authority, but agreement to allow Victor to republish articles if he wished.

8.0 Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be the General Member Body meeting at Yad HaShomna on May 22nd. A transfer of leadership ExCom meeting should occur immediately afterwards to satisfy Amutah regulations. Meeting adjourned 2:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanine Navarro, Recording Secretary UCCI

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Co-opt a representative of these Pastors to serve as a liaison with ucci.

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Harri again requested articles for an Easter addition and noted that Porter Speakman would be coming on board to assist in this area.

5.4.6 Legal Action Committee (Peter Wells)

Chuck shared of the Visa problems that have occurred among member bodies. It was moved by Chuck and seconded by Juha-Pekka to hire Israeli lawyer Yuval Jerusalemi as UCCI's lawyer to ~~coordinate efforts to stabilize visa situation for member bodies leadership.~~ The task of Yuval would be to immediately help with members that have current and urgent visa problems. His long-term goal would be to offer visible support of the seriousness of the situation as he did when he joined in the meeting with the US embassy last month.

N.B. Spelling as per his business card !!

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Meeting adjourned 2:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanine Navarro
Recording Secretary UCCI