

December 29, 2015

## Update on Inter-ecclesial Fellowship Initiative

*The Mission: With God's help and using His word, bring the Unamended body back together to serve the Lord in Spirit and in Truth, glorifying our Heavenly Father by achieving Scriptural solutions consistent with the BUSF to address the issues affecting Memorial fellowship throughout the Unamended community. Work together as brethren practicing the principles of Christ, to edify and bring peace and cohesion to the Unamended community.*

Brethren,

In September of this year, our committee sent a letter to your ecclesia updating you on the results of the May, 2015 Questionnaire. This letter is a second update of the Inter-ecclesial Fellowship Initiative Committee's progress and planning. Two things are underway: 1) Initial planning for regional ecclesial meetings, including a meeting agenda and format concerning the four top issues identified through the May Questionnaire responses, and 2) Committee discussions assessing the viability of such regional meetings. This work is being progressed by committee conference calls every 2-3 weeks.

**REGIONAL ECCLESIAL MEETINGS.** We envision four regional meetings: West, Central, Northeast and Southeast. Initially the meetings would be conducted by conference calls with the possibility of face-to-face meetings as and when needed. At the conclusion of the regional meetings, we would begin organizing a North American consolidation meeting, perhaps with the regional delegates meeting with representatives from other regions, first by conference call and followed by face-to-face meetings.

**MEETING VIABILITY.** In order to assess the viability and probability of success for the regional inter-ecclesial meetings, the committee has undertaken a "beta test" to see if we, as a committee and as brothers representing many of the crosscurrents within our community, can find a common path forward leading to joint fellowship. During our conference calls, we have been discussing the topics derived from the Questionnaire results, specifically: Cross-Fellowship between BUSF, BASF, UA08, etc.; 2) Contamination by Association; 3) Ecclesial Autonomy ("Independence"); and 4) Belief and/or Acceptance of Doctrinal Error. Our committee includes representation with a diversity of views on many of these subjects. For this reason, it is our belief that if we can come to a collective understanding and agreement on these issues, then perhaps our efforts may offer some guidance for the larger community. Accordingly, we will continue to update the community on our internal process, asking for your prayers and support in our endeavors.

If these internal efforts do not bear the desired fruit, then we will seek your advice on a search for alternative approaches to bring peace to our community, understanding that in consideration of the signs of the times we must make every reasonable effort, with God's help, to *follow after those things that edify and make for peace.*

While this is an independent effort on the part of the Inter-ecclesial Planning Committee, the Advocate website is being used to make Committee information available. Please watch for further notices and progress updates on the Advocate magazine's website, [www.christadelphian-advocate.org](http://www.christadelphian-advocate.org).

In the Hope of Israel,

The Inter-Ecclesial Planning Committee:

Brothers: John Bouma, Scott Cram, Ian Cude, Jim Millay, Art Sankey and Sid Strickland.