

May 13, 2015

Notice of Inter-ecclesial Fellowship Initiative

(Ecclesial Secretaries/Brethren, please read this notice to the entire ecclesia. Thank you.)

Dear Brethren,

The Unamended ecclesial community in recent years has experienced a number of challenges. These include a renewed effort to unify Unamended and Amended communities as well as current teachings that have served to divide the Unamended body. To address concerns over the changes represented by these and other issues, some brethren and ecclesias have felt it necessary to reconsider those who they can, in good conscience, receive at the Memorial Table. One consequence of these developments has been a degree of separation among brethren who we've all known and associated with for many years. At the same time, our ecclesial community is aging, and it's imperative that we set faithful examples for our children and young people that they may in due time enter into covenant relationship.

In an attempt to strengthen the Unamended community and address the challenges that we collectively face, the Advocate Committee suggested that an inter-ecclesial meeting of brethren might be productive. A conference call was held on March 6th, 2015, with the purpose being to gather input, ideas, and suggestions as a first step towards planning such a meeting; the initial call included 21 brethren representing some of the larger Unamended ecclesias in the US and Canada.

These brethren expressed many concerns and shared the hope of strengthening relationships focused on resolving current fellowship issues within our community. There was strong support for moving forward with a planning effort for an inter-ecclesial fellowship initiative. It was also agreed that the first step would be to organize a Planning Committee to coordinate goals and develop a plan for a broader meeting of ecclesial representatives. Six brethren were selected for this committee and through additional conference calls have developed the following mission statement:

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. (John 4:23, Psa. 86:11-12, 1st Cor. 6:20, 1st John 1:6-7, Eph. 4:2-6, 1 Thess. 5:21, 1st Cor. 11:28, 1st Cor. 15:58, Rom. 14:19, 2nd Timothy 3:15-17)

As we continue in our planning process, we're hoping that with God's help we'll be able to *follow after those things that edify and make for peace*. We're seeking through the attached questionnaire your initial input. We look forward to receiving the benefit of your perspectives. Watch for further notices and progress updates on the Advocate magazine's website, www.christadelphian-advocate.org.

Sincerely in the Hope of Israel,

Planning Committee:

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