

WEST AVENUE CHRISTADELPHIAN ECCLESIA

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February 8, 2005

Christadelphian NASU Steering Committee
Markham and Eglinton P.O. Box 90525
Toronto, ON M1J 3N7

Dear Brethren:

Greetings in our Lord's Name.

We wish to express our thanks for the countless hours you have spent in your endeavour to bring about unity between the Unamended and Amended communities.

The brothers and sisters of West Avenue have also invested prayerful time and energy in trying to understand the Unity Proposal and the impact it would have on our ecclesia and the Unamended community at large. We have held many discussions and have had written submission from individual members to determine areas of agreement. Unfortunately, the areas in question have had a greater impact on our decision than the areas we can agree with. The areas of greatest concern are Resurrectional Responsibility and the impact unity would have on fellowship. This has been our consistent concern since the inception of the NASU unity effort.

The West Avenue Ecclesia will not participate in the vote in regard to the NASU Unity Proposal. On February 6, 2005 we held an ecclesial meeting where the majority of the brothers and sisters present ratified this nonparticipation action.

The following is an overview of what was decided:

1. We decline to participate in the NASU Committee's request for a vote
2. We communicate this decision courteously to the NASU Committee indicating that:
 - The unity of our own ecclesia is the first and most important consideration and that a vote has the potential to be a source of discord and stress that would not be constructive or helpful
 - In our ecclesia's view there are too many unanswered questions and ambiguities to give us confidence that a sound basis for unity has been reached that means the same to all involved, and which ensures fellowship practices consistent with Bible teaching
 - Our decision is not a rejection of their goal to work for unity

3. We recognize the Unamended Statement of Faith as appropriate for inter-ecclesial fellowship
We receive into fellowship those whose beliefs are consistent with our own understanding of scripture

The West Avenue Constitution states the following:

“In view of the uniqueness of our statement of faith, and recognizing the need for a satisfactory basis of inter-ecclesial fellowship and cooperation, we go on record to affirm our conviction that the Christadelphian Unamended Statement of Faith is appropriate for this basis.”

Romans 15: 5-7

“Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

That ye may with one mind [and] one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.”

Unity of the body of Jesus Christ is a desirable ideal but cannot be achieved without true agreement in belief. The Brothers and Sisters of West Avenue fully endorse the principles set forth in Romans 15: 5-7, but we believe the North American Statement of Understand in its present form cannot achieve the desired unity.

Fraternally,

Brothers and Sisters of the West Avenue Ecclesia

cc: All North American Unamended Christadelphian Ecclesias