

Report on the meeting of the Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council July 10-11 2002, Nashville, Tennessee, USA

Olivia Masih White, WARC Representative

I bring warm greetings to the World Alliance of Reformed Churches Executive Committee and to Dr Setri Nyomi from Dr David Thompson, Robert Welsh and the participants of the DECC meeting in Nashville. I was invited by DECC to report on the DECC/WARC Consultation held in Geneva in January 2002. The Committee spent considerable time reviewing the report (*Doc 2.1 appendix 2*), which was received with thanks and appreciation for the hard work of the consultation team. The goal of a comprehensive partnership between DECC and WARC was affirmed. A friendly amendment to the wording of the first paragraph was suggested which simply strengthens the spirit of the goal.

The original paragraph was: "...that the goal of relations between WARC and DECC should now be the development of *comprehensive partnership in pursuit of the vision of the two eventually becoming one.*" The text in italics was amended to read as follows: "...comprehensive partnership in pursuit of the visible unity of the church."

The Reference Committee discussed each of the specific recommendations set forth in the January document, and gave strong endorsement to the proposals, especially affirming the call for a conversation between the DECC and the WARC on our dialogues with the Roman Catholic Church, with the exception of two items:

- a) It is not feasible to synchronise the DECC International Assembly with the WARC GC in 2004 at this late date. The option to consider this in the future is still a possibility.
- b) While the DECC is willing to explore the possibility of establishing a joint youth office and the participation of Disciples youth in WARC youth activities, DECC cannot provide staffing because staffing is not in the nature of the DECC.

Report of the Disciples-Roman Catholic Dialogue:

One of the major items on the agenda was the report of the third phase of the Disciples-Roman Catholic dialogue. Dr David Thompson, moderator of DECC, and Robert Welsh, General Secretary of the Council for Christian Unity, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) USA were both participants in the dialogue.

- Phase one of the dialogue took place from 1971-1982;
- Phase two of the dialogue took place from 1983-1992; and
- Phase three of the dialogue took place from 1993-2002.

During this third phase, ten meetings took place and resulted in the final report which will be published in Disciples publication, *Midstream* and the publication of Pontifical Council of the Roman Catholic Church. The group also approved the 4th phase of this dialogue.

Robert Welsh will send the official report of this DECC meeting along with the report of the Disciples-Roman Catholic Dialogue to WARC.

Participants of DECC:

1. Dr David Thompson, (Moderator of DECC), United Reformed Church, UK
2. Stan Litke, Christian Church Disciples of Christ, Canada
3. Nixon Chiwala, Churches of Christ in Malawi, Africa
4. Phillip Woods, United Reformed Church, UK
5. Hazel Wilson, Fellowship of Churches of Christ in England
6. David Brooker, Churches of Christ in Australia
7. David Couter, Associated Churches in New Zealand
8. BJ Mpofu, Churches in Christ in Zimbabwe
9. Richard Nelson, Uniting Churches of Christ in Jamaica
10. Lindsey Jacobs, General Secretary, World Convention of Churches of Christ
11. Robert Welsh, General Secretary, Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council