

November 26, 2001

To all Brothers and Sisters of Christadelphian Ecclesias in North America,

Greetings in the Hope of Israel.

As many Brothers and Sisters have heard, there have been ongoing meetings pertaining to unity of the "Amended" and "Unamended" communities over six years. This package of material provides information to the brotherhood about details and status of this initiative.

Unity Information Package

This package is available (through ecclesial Secretaries or Recording Brethren)* for all Christadelphians in North America to study and review. The objective of this distribution is to provide all Brothers and Sisters with a full report and explanation of the unity initiative now known as "The NASU Process", as well as a copy of the North American Statement of Understanding (NASU) itself. This package is for information purposes only. No response is required. We are not asking for a vote or formal endorsement. Our purpose is to provide the brotherhood an explanation of the NASU process.

This package includes:

- Background Information on the unity initiative (in this letter)
- The NASU document

We recognize the value of consulting the brotherhood broadly for its advice and assistance in planning future steps. Accordingly "Details regarding implementation of reconciliation between the two communities will be developed (God willing) at a later date."**

*Extra copies may be obtained by writing to the Christadelphian NASU Steering Committee.

**This acknowledgement is part of the NASU document and is found at the bottom of page 6.

Background Information

Over the past six years, brethren from approximately 40 Unamended and Amended Christadelphian ecclesias in Ontario, the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic states have pursued the following objective:

Work together as brethren, to heal the Lord's body, for the glorification of God

Consistent with Christadelphian values and priorities, this effort has focussed on the Word of God and the doctrinal truths, which are the foundations of our faith. Delegates from participating ecclesias in each fellowship were encouraged to study the doctrinal issues in advance of joint meetings in their regions. They examined each of the four topics, which have traditionally been associated with the division between Amended and Unamended Christadelphians:

1. Adamic Condemnation
2. The Lord's Involvement in His Own Sacrifice
3. In Adam/In Christ
4. Resurrectional Responsibility

Through advance preparatory study and candid joint discussion, in a non-partisan and Christ-like spirit, the delegates have worked to develop a first-hand understanding of each other's beliefs. These discussions have involved approximately 100 brethren directly as ecclesial delegates, and over 1000 Brothers and Sisters indirectly, representing a broad cross section of perspectives in both communities. The Ontario and Midwest brethren have completed the process on all four topics to their mutual satisfaction. The Mid-Atlantic brethren have likewise completed discussion of the first three topics to mutual satisfaction and have held both joint and independent discussions on the fourth topic, with plans for a final joint discussion in the near future, God willing.

From this process, a clarification document dealing with the above subjects has been completed, which is now known as the North American Statement of Understanding (NASU). The brethren involved in guiding this process have jointly decided that it is now time to share the result of this work with the rest of the Christadelphian community in North America.

Current Situation

Recent sobering world events appear to herald the imminent return of our Lord and Master, Jesus the Christ. We earnestly pray for the Father's blessing on this effort, that we may greet our Lord as a united household fulfilling Jesus' fervent prayer at the end of his ministry "*That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*" Let us stand together as a brightly lit lamp-stand to provide a strong, effective witness in this dark and troubled age. Time is running out. We will soon all face our Master to account for what we have done in our probation. None of this generation is responsible for creating this sorry breach in the brotherhood, but we are all responsible for what we do about it now. It can be healed now if we beseech God for His mercy and His help, and consider this work with humble spirits.

Future Plans - God Willing

Representatives from the participating ecclesias are prepared to travel to each region of North America to meet with brothers and sisters in both communities to fully present and explain the background and process, which has resulted in the NASU as a basis of future reconciliation.

We anticipate that by April 2002, all Brothers and Sisters in North America will have had a full opportunity to study and review the NASU document. After this distribution/evaluation phase, we wish to work with Christadelphians across the continent to develop and implement a plan for a united body to be realized by the end of 2002 should our Lord not return.

We ask for your individual and combined prayers to our Heavenly Father that we may soon be blessed with a united Household.

With love In the One Hope we share,

Brethren of the Christadelphian NASU Steering Committee:

Ken Curry; Don Davies; Don Elliott; Doug Finlay; Ian Finlay; Rod Ghent; George Jackson; Ian McPhee; Ron McPhee; Noel Peare; Andrew Peare; Ron Waye; William Yake; Paul Zilmer; Colin Badger, Advisor to the Committee.

In order to handle all questions and enquiries efficiently and promptly,
please send all correspondence to the postal or email addresses shown on the letterhead.