

# United Church of God *an International Association*

Clyde Kilough  
Chairman

Roy O. Holladay  
President

## Letter From the Chairman and President January 17, 2003

Dear Brethren,

We have all witnessed occasions in our history in the Church where matters have arisen that were not at all pleasant to communicate to everyone. However, we have also seen that in a vacuum of no information, rumor and confusion quickly fill the void. In the end, especially when some situations involve high-profile matters that affect the whole Church, it is our responsibility to keep you informed, and such is the intent of this letter.

For quite some time now, some of our brethren and the National Council in the British Isles have been unsuccessfully trying to work through several issues, but the situation has grown increasingly difficult. The Council of Elders has been aware of these matters and has tried in every way, from collective formal meetings to informal personal talks, to help bring about resolution and reconciliation.

We do not consider it scriptural, nor in anyone's best interest, to go into discussing the details of these problems in this letter. There is no need to unnecessarily add to anyone's hurt. However, because part of this issue involves a Council of Elders member, and because of the nature of some recent actions and their impact on the Church as an organization, it is important that you hear straight from the Council the following:

On Monday, January 13, 2003, the Council revoked the ministerial credentials of John Jewell and removed him from the General Conference of Elders of the United Church of God, *an International Association*. Consequently, as defined in our governing documents, he is also no longer a member of the Council of Elders. Mr. Jewell was not removed as a member of the Church.

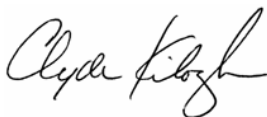
As you may well imagine, the Council did not take this action lightly, and we are very saddened by this and all of the events that led to it. We also deeply empathize with the brethren, the ministry and the members of the National Council in the United Kingdom. Such circumstances are stressful and often emotionally charged. We pray that everyone remembers that "the testing of your faith produces patience" (James 1:3), but also to "let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (verse 4).

The process for replacing a vacant Council spot is defined in UCGIA Bylaw article 8.4.3, "Filling Vacancies," which says it "shall be filled from the list of runners-up in the final ballot at the preceding meeting of the General Conference...." At the May 2002 Annual Meeting, Joel Meeker was the runner-up to Mr. Jewell, and will serve in his place until the next meeting in May 2003 when the GCE must ratify his appointment. If so confirmed, he will serve the remaining two years of Mr. Jewell's term.

The Council has communicated with the Church members in the British Isles in greater detail, but we again express to them here that our concern and prayers are with them. We have confidence that the UCG-British Isles ministry and the National Council will carry out their respective ecclesiastical and Charity functions in unity and teamwork, and in the safety and wisdom provided by a multitude of counselors (Proverbs 11:14 and 24:6). Resolution, righteous judgment and reconciliation demand the most from us spiritually, but God does provide the most for us through His Spirit.

In difficult times Jesus Christ's words in John 14:27 serve as a stabilizing reminder. "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you," He said. "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." We certainly pray for His peace to be upon all of our brethren around the world, and ask that you join us in heartfelt prayers for all concerned in the United Kingdom.

In Christ's service, with kind regards,



Clyde Kilough  
Chairman



Roy Holladay  
President