

July 21, 2010

To the Amended and Unamended Signatory Ecclesias of the UA08

Dear Brethren,

We are pleased to have benefited from the information presentation meetings on Friday and Saturday, the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2010.

As indicated in the letter from the Unamended representatives of the UA08, we have worked with our Ontario brethren for many years in the pursuit of unity with our Amended brethren. We have always shared and worked toward the same goal of unity with our Amended brethren as our Unamended brethren in Ontario have done.

We were delighted to hear of the unity that you have enjoyed with each other in Ontario on the basis of the UA08 and feel strongly that it is an appropriate response to the heartfelt prayer of Jesus “that they may be one”.

Our ecclesias have voted, and without dissent our members expressed that they would like to respond positively to the information you shared, and immediately be added as signatories to the UA08.

We would like to sign onto the UA08 understanding that: a) we share the 4 statements in the text box overleaf in this letter, and b) we understand the second clarification is not intended to mean that God is restricted to meting out punishment to the deserving only at the resurrection.

We thank you for your efforts in this work and look forward to being included in full fellowship by way of the Unity Agreement 2008.

In the shared Hope,

The following ecclesias:

Bloomington, Illinois  
Champaign County, Illinois  
Chicago, Illinois  
Marion, Illinois  
Rockford, Illinois

1. Our ecclesias accept the whole UA08, including the announcement, which we have posted in accordance with the UA08 (page iii) as prescribed by the agreement. We intend to continue posting it for the foreseeable future as a measure of continued good faith.

2. As signatories to the UA08, we are committed to seeking out, extending, and enhancing unity with Amended ecclesias who are also signatories to this agreement. In the spirit of the unity agreement, we will with due care be sensitive to the needs and well being of these other signatory ecclesias, and all ecclesias, especially during its critical and challenging implementation.

3. Our ecclesias view loving fellowship among fellow believers as a matter of Scriptural directive (John 13:34-35, 14:21-24, 15:12-14, 1 John 1:3) and many members believe that refusing fellowship to brothers and sisters of the Lord Jesus Christ could be an offence against Christ himself (Mark 3:33-35, Matt. 25:40, 45, Rom 14:1-4, 10-13, 23, Rom 15:7, Jas 4:17; also Prov.17:15)

4. A number of Unamended ecclesias have declared their rejection of NASU and of our ecclesias due to our support for NASU, finding the expressions on doctrinal issues fundamentally unacceptable. Accordingly, we are no longer in fellowship with these ecclesias. We continue to consider members of other Unamended ecclesias to be in fellowship with us, provided they do not declare their rejection of our ecclesial position. We believe we have spiritual obligations to them as our brothers and sisters for whom Christ died. Thus, we will engage in a process to encourage these ecclesias to participate fully in unity. This is similar to the concerns and approach of our counterpart Amended ecclesias regarding other Amended ecclesias not part of the UA08. Should these withdrawing ecclesias seek fellowship with us at some future point, we would continue to view them as out of fellowship, thus requiring comprehensive discussions with them to satisfy ourselves that we are indeed walking together on a sound common scriptural basis.