

## Unamended UA08 Ecclesias Statement on Fellowship Practice – May 2009

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 the unity of, and with the 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 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 brethren 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.