

“AN APPEAL FOR RECONCILIATION”

Comments and Opinions by: Reynaud Moore, April 28, 2019

Why Your Posted Comments Will Help Reconciliation!

By posting your opinion/comments to this blog it gives you as a member of the International Church of Christ (ICOC), the opportunity, and I believe the mandate, to express your opinion on this subject and for you to read the opinions by others that will hopefully motivated you to speak-up and take action as you deem appropriate. Your opinions/comments should be limited to responses to the following three questions:

- 1) Do you believe, “God wants and prefers all his children/people to be one”? [Limited to 25 words.](#)
- 2) Do you believe, “If One Faith and LACC both want to reconcile that both should proceed with reconciliation and implement as soon as possible”? Do not be distracted by some of the ugly things that have been said in recent years. [Limited to 25 words.](#)
- 3) Other suggestions. [Limited to 25 words.](#)

Please limit your responses to the above three questions only. Under no circumstances mention any names. No personal or institutional grievances only constructive recommendations.

Our Spirit Must Be True

- 1) I believe we are God’s chosen people, “both LACC members and One Faith members are believers in God Almighty, Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. ***Romans 8: 14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.***
- 2) I believe God wants us to be One with Jesus and with each other.
 - a. *John 17: 11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name- the name you gave me- so that they may be ONE as we are one.*
 - b. *John 17: 20 My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be ONE, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are ONE: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

This suggests, if not dictates, that all who serve God, join together to “Go and Make Disciples in the World”; including One Faith membership and LACC membership joined together to make Disciples throughout the world. I recognize that spiritual unity may come without organizational unity. But how powerful would it be for our kids and our hearers to see us split and come back together in some form of organizational unity?

- c. Whatever resources God invests in his people there is an expectation that we will use it wisely and yield some return on His investment in us, at least a minimum return, including growth in the Kingdom. *Luke 19:23. 23 Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?* If members are to assist LACC leadership in implementing management changes to improve administration of the Kingdom, it must be done through love, constructive input, precise steps and direction. This document is intended to do that. *Acts 6:2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.*
- d. We want to hear from our campus ministry, our teen ministry, are preteens and all members of our church. *Matt 21:16. "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise?"*

What Happen? . . . Why Are We In This Situation?

- 1) Churches in America today, not just LACC/ICOC, are under attack. 1) from the public; 2) from frustrated members particularly kids; 3) from government; etc.
- 2) The moral fiber of America has deteriorated in some respects
- 3) Breakdown in management practices
 - a. Transition of Leaders
 - i. To frequent changes of leadership
 - ii. Process is much too often confrontational and seems to negatively break from our basic doctrine of agree and disagree agreeably. This includes personal and institutional grievances.
 - iii. Sometimes members feel as if seemingly overnight a leader goes from revered to outcast
 - b. Shortage of properly trained staff
 - i. Metro LA had/needs multiple elders, possibly one fulltime, but recently only one part-time elder.
 - ii. Many, if not most, of LACC leadership, including MLC, Regional and Sector Leadership are volunteers with major time commitments to family and full time jobs which are also God's work.
 - iii. At times RFAC's role was not adequately defined and documented to sufficiently identify and resolve critical management issues
 - iv. Often staff training has focused on doctrinal and counseling training and omitted or underemphasized key management policies and procedures, particularly in leadership growth and accountability.
 - v. The lack of adequate staffing and possible undertraining in some instances, lead to situations:

1. That could not be fully and properly addressed in a timely manner
2. That were improperly diagnosis
3. Were partially addressed, but staff simply did not have time to fully address
4. That were fully and properly addressed by some staff, only to be undermined by other external and internal factors
5. Etc.

Maybe Nobody's At Fault . . . But We Are All Responsible

- 1) The staff works hard and we should be grateful to them. I assume every staff member worked as hard as they could and used the resources available to them efficiently
- 2) I've seen evidence of extraordinary work and sacrifice by our church leaders, time and time again. They love God and serve diligently.
- 3) However, I've seen what I believe to be errors by leaders that have various degrees of implications to our Kingdom
- 4) Leaders always seemed to listen to constructive criticism and recommendations, but far too often don't know how to implement, or are unwilling to do so in some areas they probably should

The Straw that Broke . . .

- 1) Metro LA has experienced numerous transitions in leaders in the 26 years I've been a member and the abrupt and recent departure of the Regional Leader and Sector Leaders, probably overburdened the remaining leadership, elder and MLC
- 2) As a result, the remaining leadership step-up to fill the gap but made mistakes
- 3) The initial Core Issues/Requirements, brought by what's now called "One Faith" to LACC, was largely a call for modifications in LACC Management Practices, not doctrinal issues.
- 4) Although the initial "**Core Issues/Requirements**" at that time were generally acceptable to all parties, the process of negotiations unfortunately became confrontational or distrustful partially due to the magnitude of the issues and overwork load of participants. Also, mistakes may have been made, maybe even sin, by participants, which lead to "**Peripheral Issues**", issues that developed during the process, like, 1) what you said, 2) how you said it, 3) perceived untruths or unfulfilled commitments, 4) bad attitudes, 5) important factors and acts probably by both sides that hampered and eventually halted an amicable resolution.
- 5) As church members begin to discuss results of our transition of leaders based on bits and pieces of the facts they were given, members formed opinions and personal positions that were heartfelt, but sometimes not fully consistent with the full facts and truth. These strong personal positions sometimes became "**Peripheral Issues**", that greatly hindered the reconciliation process by allowing

members to blame people not fully understanding that person's situation or intentions.

Summary Results – All my comments, including these summary comments are my opinion and are not complete without reading this document in full.

- 1) The **Core Requirements** for One Faith and LACC to reconcile appeared to be closely in agreement by both parties, with only minor differences.
- 2) That although our leaders, independent consultant and church members worked hard and sincerely and a lot was achieved, mistakes were made
- 3) The mistakes that may have contributed to the split as much, or more than other factors came as members focused on their personal feelings about a person, a person's perceived actions and assumptions about their motives that was disliked, particularly as members shared feelings with others sometime on incomplete or inaccurate information. I call these **Peripheral Issues**, which are important but not fundamental differences between One Faith and LACC, and should never be allowed to stop the reconciliation of God's people.
- 4) In past years our management process broke down when institutional and personal grievances became overwhelming; which then negatively impacted our leadership and the transition of leaders.
- 5) Our frequent transition of senior, long standing and beloved leaders that had admirably served hundreds of members in their spiritual growth lead to undefined: a) leadership roles, b) leadership priorities, c) resources to our leadership, 4) even misunderstandings or distrust among our leaders
- 6) Unintentional sin, and maybe some intentional sin occurred

My Recommendation on How to Reconcile

After much prayer and consultation, the best solution may be to send an invitation to the leaders of the Los Angeles Church of Christ and the leaders of One Faith Ministries to attend and participate in a reconciliation meeting on Sunday, June ??, 2019, 1 PM, at the Gardena Church building. **(This recommended date is off, pending posted responses and sufficient time for responses.)** It is open to members of the International Church of Christ. I will moderate with discipline (no attacks) the program that will include representatives from both One Faith Ministries and MLC. A draft agenda will be provided with the invitation. More to come once we see your comments.

Deuteronomy 10:16

“CIRCUMCISE YOUR HEARTS, THEREFORE, AND DO NOT BE STIFF-NECKED ANY LONGER “

PLEASE POST YOUR OPINIONS/COMMENTS NOW . . . AND PRAY !!!