

**Minutes of the  
CAREE Annual Meeting  
Philadelphia, PA  
November 18, 2005  
3:30 p.m.**

- 1.0 Members present: Paul Mojzes, Joseph Loya, Gerald Shenk, Paul Wilson, Walter Sawatsky, Ines Murzaku, Charles West, Jim Payton, Paul Crego, Joyce Manson, Les Taylor. (According to our by-laws, this more than constitutes a quorum.)
- 2.0 Paul Mojzes opened the meeting.
- 3.0 The minutes of February 11, 2005, were approved as submitted. Jim Payton gave updates on various matters in the minutes.
- 4.0 CAREE's president, Paul Mojzes, presented a written report.
  - 4.1 Paul noted that this year had been involved with preparations and arrangements for our pre-AAR conference ("Legacy of a Slavic Pope: Prospects for Ecumenism") and the upcoming CAREE session at the AAR ("Quo Vadis Eastern Europe?").
  - 4.2 He pointed out that our major activity during the year, in addition to organizing the annual meetings in February and November 2005, was publishing *Religion in Eastern Europe*. We also added features (including reports and photographs) to our web-site ([www.caree.info](http://www.caree.info)).
  - 4.3 Paul indicated some of the individual activities of members of CAREE, including:
    - 4.3.1 His own involvements in bringing Fr. Ratomir Grozdanoski and Dean Ismail Bardhi from Skopje, Macedonia, for a March 2005 conference. Paul noted that he had taught at the Evangelical Theological School in Osijek, Croatia, April 1-10, 2005. In April, he also lectured on Bosnia at the Harvard University Center for the Study of World Religions, and in October he presented a paper at a conference in Muenster, Germany, on Bosnia-Herzegovina. Also in October, he and Leonard Swidler returned to Macedonia to follow up on the work of the Council on Interreligious Cooperation, set up in 2002 and increasingly working effectively.
    - 4.3.2 Walter Sawatsky has traveled several times recently to Eastern Europe, especially the Czech Republic and Ukraine, during which he has solicited articles for *Religion in Eastern Europe* while participating in various conferences and teaching.
    - 4.3.3 Jim Payton teaches several courses on Eastern Europe at his home institution, delivered a paper at an international conference, and is in the process of writing two books dealing with Orthodoxy for St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, as well as a semi-popular book on the history of Eastern Europe.
    - 4.3.4 Les Muray had traveled again to Budapest, Hungary, interacting with Hungarian philosophers.
    - 4.3.5 David Baer continues to work with many people whom he met while

studying at the Lutheran Theological School in Budapest, and that he has finished a book manuscript on the ethical dilemmas of Hungarian Lutheran leaders under the Communist system which has been accepted for publication by Texas A & M university Press.

- 4.3.6 Chuck and Marie Mercer are again in Moscow serving as chaplains for an English-speaking congregation.
- 4.4 Paul noted that the Europe Forum had met to decide the course of its future meetings. Since the NCC representatives now typically carry responsibility for both Europe (east and west) and the Middle East, their meetings will typically deal with both foci. The forum decided that it would like to have 1 or 2 members of the CAREE executive attend its meetings. Duncan Hanson will be the convener for the meetings.
- 4.5 The president's report was accepted.
- 5.0 CAREE's Executive Secretary, Jim Payton, presented a written report.
  - 5.1 Jim noted that he had continued the regular duties of correspondence, sending out membership renewal forms, receiving renewals, maintaining lists of members and the mailing list, and other organizational responsibilities.
  - 5.2 Jim noted that he had completed the renewal application for standing as a UN-endorsed NGO. On October 24, 2005, he received notice that the application was successful, so that CAREE again has this standing for the next four years.
  - 5.3 Jim pointed out that in the past year more information was sent out electronically to CAREE members. We will be careful not to increase the volume of this, but he noted that it offers some savings (over regular postal costs) and allows for quicker communication.
  - 5.4 Jim indicated that he has been in regular contact with Chris Vandonkelaar, who oversees our web-site, to discuss its development and ways to enhance its usefulness.
  - 5.5 Jim pointed out that, as per decisions at the previous annual meeting, *gratis* memberships in CAREE were offered to the participants in the "History of East European Christianity Project," a group of young scholars in the field. He and Walter Sawatsky met with them in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in June on the last day of their initial collaboration. They promised to keep us apprized of the development of their project, and 10 of them accepted *gratis* memberships.
  - 5.6 Jim offered current membership statistics: CAREE's active mailing list stands at 97. Of that number, 5 are in Canada, 3 in Hungary, 2 in Poland, and we have 1 each in Germany, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, the Czech Republic, and Russia; the remaining 82 are in the USA. [Note: since the annual meeting, the mailing list has increased to 99, with the additions in Serbia & Montenegro, and in the USA.] As of the annual meeting, CAREE's membership stood at 59. [Note: since the meeting, we have received 2 more memberships, to bring the total to 61.] Of these, 5 [since the meeting, 6] are graduate student *gratis* memberships. Jim noted that 2 of those who had received such memberships have completed their Ph.D. programs and are now dues-paying members of CAREE. As of the annual meeting, paying memberships numbered 44 [since the meeting, 45].
  - 5.6 The executive secretary's report was accepted.

- 6.0 CAREE's treasurer, Paul Wilson, presented a printed report.
- 6.1 Paul pointed out that there had been transition mid-year between his predecessor, Chuck Mercer, and himself. Paul indicated various columns of figures in the report which track funds for the segments of the year to date.
  - 6.2 Paul pointed out that, over the last few years, denominations which had formerly sent support funds for CAREE's work have found themselves in financial straits, and that all these former moneys have been cancelled. That has resulted in a more constrained financial picture for CAREE.
  - 6.3 Paul indicated the current status of the bank account. Collectively, the meeting noted that we need to seek some outside funding support, given the elimination of the mailing subsidy we have long enjoyed from Princeton Seminary for REE (see below, item #9.0).
  - 6.4 The meeting discussed seeking funding support from various foundations for CAREE activities; Paul Mojzes and Jim Payton will follow up with this initiative. Paul Wilson offered to write to the various ecclesiastical communions, to seek funding support for theological education overseas in Eastern Europe – which would offer the denominations the opportunity to contribute to a specific service CAREE/REE offers, rather than just supporting an organization. As well, Charles West offered to draft an initial letter for seeking funding that could be used for denominations and for grants. The meeting welcomed both these offers. Jim will forward CAREE letterhead stationery to Paul Wilson.
  - 6.5 The treasurer's report was accepted.
- 7.0 A report on the web-site, prepared by Chris Vandonkelaar, was presented by Jim Payton.
- 7.1 The report indicated that the web-site is increasingly being used. Since June of this year, each month has seen an increase in "hits." The busiest month to date was October, during which there were 213 requests for pages.
  - 7.2 In discussion, we noted that the question of "mirroring" the REE holdings on the George Fox College web-site has not yet been followed up on, to receive permission. Once that is done, it is expected that the "hits" on and the perceived usefulness of the web-site should substantially increase.
  - 7.3 The meeting noted that the web-site is clean and easy to use. That also makes it easier to access from Eastern Europe.
  - 7.4 The web-site report was accepted.
- 8.0 The editor of *Religion in Eastern Europe*, Walter Sawatsky (co-editor, Paul Mojzes) presented a written report.
- 8.1 Walter indicated that the 25<sup>th</sup> volume of REE has just been completed. He noted the wide array of changes that have transpired in Eastern Europe during that time, including the emergence of English as a *lingua franca* in most of Europe. He indicated that this offers REE strategic significance, since it is one of only two English-language publications related to religion and society in Eastern Europe.
  - 8.2 Walter noted, as per the previous annual meeting's decision, REE had moved to a quarterly publication schedule (with the same number of pages as the previous six-issue per year format), in order to save on mailing costs.

- 8.3 Walter noted that, while the subscription base has provided strong financial footing, with the impending need for CAREE to assume mailing costs, an adjustment in subscription rates will need to be considered. (See decision to that effect below, item #9.3).
  - 8.4 Walter indicated that the list of the Advisory Editorial Board is currently under review, and that the February issue of REE will reflect the adjustments.
  - 8.5 Walter noted that the travels to and contacts in Eastern Europe by CAREE members and executive had resulted in new contacts and submitted articles.
  - 8.6 Walter indicated the need for additional translators, so that articles submitted in various other languages can be rendered into English more quickly and thus sooner appear in REE. [Any suggestions or volunteers should contact Walter or Paul Mojzes.]
  - 8.7 The editor's report was accepted.
- 9.0 Discussion of the REE Problem: at this point, the meeting turned to a consideration of the problems occasioned by the decision at Princeton Seminary to suspend the subsidy it has long granted REE for mailing.
- 9.1 The option of moving to an electronic format for REE (urged by the president of Princeton Seminary) was again (as at the previous annual meeting) declined, owing to difficulties which would likely result for use in Eastern Europe, and to data which indicate that electronic journals are less often or regularly read than those in hard copy.
  - 9.2 Charles West reported that we send to North American addresses approximately 200 copies of REE, 4 times per year, at a rate of \$1.42/copy; this comes to \$1136/year for North American mailings of REE. Overseas mail at Princeton goes by airmail: \$4.50/copy X approximately 200 recipients X 4 issues per year = \$3600/year overseas mailing (approximately). These costs (which have been estimated as high as \$6000/year) have been covered by Princeton Seminary in the past, but the institution is no longer able to offer us this subsidy. We need to come up with a few thousand dollars to cover mailing costs – in addition to duplication costs.
  - 9.3 After discussion, the meeting agreed to raise the subscription rate for REE from \$36/year (which has been the rate for many years) to \$50/year. That will generate additional needed funds, while still remaining a very inexpensive journal. (It was noted, though, that the advertising has already gone out, and that some of the subscriptions which come in this year will still be at the older rate, so the full effects of this change will not be evident until the next fiscal year.) Walter will send out a letter advising of the rise in subscription costs.
  - 9.4 Upon discussion, the meeting agreed to transfer the locus for REE from Princeton to AMBS (Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary), where Walter teaches and where much of the other work related to REE is already done. He will seek the best duplication and mailing costs possible; through AMBS, cheaper mailing costs should be available for the overseas mailings.
  - 9.5 The meeting recognized that CAREE still needs additional funding to pursue avenues of service. Various foundations' programs were mentioned; Paul Mojzes and Jim Payton will explore possibilities for grants to serve interaction and

- dialogue, theological education overseas, ecumenical relationships, etc.
- 9.6 In the meanwhile, the meeting agreed, CAREE must run as lean as possible, until a firmer financial footing can be achieved.
- 10.0 Future Activities and Next Meeting:
- 10.1 Those present agreed to hold next year's meeting in conjunction with AAR again. Next year, the meeting will be in Washington, D.C., from November 18-21, 2006. Ines and Paul Mojzes will work on a CAREE session (perhaps in cooperation with the recently established "Religion in Europe" group).
- 10.2 The meeting agreed that Keith Clements' suggestions (in his presentation at the pre-AAR CAREE conference) on supporting theological education offered CAREE some possible venues for service and contributions. We also noted that it would be good if we could have a CAREE representative(s) at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ecumenical Assembly, planned for Sibiu, Romania, in early September 2007. Walter Sawatsky will follow up and make contacts with Keith Clements (or his successor, since Dr. Clements retires at the end of November 2005).
- 11.0 Election of Officers:
- 11.1 It was noted that Paul Mojzes would like to retire from service as President of CAREE. No particular transition plans have yet been made, however.
- 11.2 After discussion of some suggested options in this regard, the meeting asked Paul Mojzes, Joseph Loya, and Jim Payton to come up with a plan for transition in leadership.
- 11.3 The meeting noted that 4 members of the executive – Paul Mojzes, Walter Sawatsky, Charles West, and Jim Payton – will complete their terms of service in 2006 (when we will have our next annual meeting).
- 12.0 Adjournment: we adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Payton, Executive Secretary