

**(Draft) Minutes of the
CAREE Annual Meeting
November 17, 2006
Washington, D.C.
7:00 p.m.**

- 1.0 Present: Paul Mojzes, Ines Murzaku, Walter Sawatsky, Paul Crego, Paul Wilson, Charles West, Jim Will, Angela Ilic, Luka Ilic, and Jim Payton. With 10 members present, we had more than the requisite quorum for conducting business.
- 2.0 Paul Mojzes opened the meeting.
- 3.0 With the addition of the place where we met (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), the minutes of the annual meeting of November 18, 2005, were approved.
- 4.0 Matters from the Minutes:
 - 4.1 Item #6.4: Seeking funding update – All the initiatives listed had been pursued. The letter was written and approved, and 6 letters were sent to denominations: to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the United Church of Christ, the Reformed Church in America, the American Baptist Church, the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., and the Christian Reformed Church. The UCC declined; the CRC has discussed the letter but has yet to make a final decision; to date, no response thing has been received from the other denominations.
 - 4.1.1 Paul Wilson will receive the names for those now responsible for European ministries in the United Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. and will follow up with them.
 - 4.1.2 Ines Murzaku will get the address for Cardinal Theodore McCarick and send it to Paul Wilson, who will send a letter requesting financial support.
 - 4.1.3 Jim Payton will follow up with the leaders of the CRC.
 - 4.1.4 Paul Mojzes will write to Anthony Kireopolous at the NCCCUSA.
 - 4.1.5 Ines Murzaku will write to the Vatican Congregation for Oriental Churches in Rome, requesting support from its prefect, Monsignor Eleuterio Fortino.
 - 4.1.6 Paul Wilson will write to Donna Derr, of Church World Service, requesting support.
 - 4.1.7 Paul Crego will get the name for the person to contact at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.
 - 4.1.8 Jim Payton will write to the Orthodox Church in America, to Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky.
 - 4.1.9 Jim Payton will write to the Antiochian Orthodox Church.
 - 4.2 Item #7.2: Mirroring REE from George Fox College Website to CAREE website. Walter Sawatsky will follow up with this.
 - 4.3 Item #10.2: Third European Ecumenical Assembly (Sibiu, Romania – September 4-9, 2007). Jim Payton sent an electronic request and will follow up with a letter, seeking invitation to attend and to participate. He will also offer REE as a venue

- for publishing papers presented at the preparatory meetings and at the event itself.
- 4.4 Item #11.2: Report of transition committee. On agenda below (see minutes below, Item #11.0).
- 5.0 President's report: Paul Mojzes gave an oral report (since the electricity failed as he was preparing his written one the day before).
- 5.1 He indicated that his attention has been on REE and on the conferences and annual meetings. He noted that we have had quality conferences the last couple of years, but that we are also struggling with financial issues.
- 5.2 He reported that several CAREE members have gone to and traveled in Eastern Europe: among them, Ines Murzaku participated in a NATO-sponsored conference in Tirane, Albania; David Baer is spending a year in Hungary; Walter Sawatsky has again traveled to and taught in Ukraine; and Paul Crego traveled to Georgia. (He also noted that the website carries a good report and some pictures of that trip.) As well, Charles West contributed to the Festschrift for Karoly Toth.
- 5.3 He noted that most of the papers presented at last year's CAREE session in the AAR have been published in REE.
- 5.4 The president's report was accepted.
- 6.0 Executive Secretary's report: Jim Payton presented a written report.
- 6.1 Jim noted that he had continued the regular duties of correspondence, answering inquiries, filling out forms for registration, and sending out letters for membership or renewal membership.
- 6.2 He noted he contacts made with CRC leadership (cf. Item #4.1 above), seeking funding.
- 6.3 He noted that he had put out two issues of *CAREE Communicator*, sent (unless requested otherwise) electronically – resulting in some mailing cost savings.
- 6.4 Jim noted that he regularly meets with CAREE's webmaster, Chris Vandonkelaar, to review the website.
- 6.5 Jim presented current membership statistics [* indicates changes in numbers owing to people joining CAREE at the conference that day, November 17, 2006]: Jim had culled out 20 from last year's mailing list, none of whom had responded to contacts since 1998; CAREE's active mailing list stands at 77 (*82); of that number, 4 are in Canada, 2 (*3) in Hungary, 2 in Poland and 2 in Serbia & Montenegro (these last 2 now in graduate programs in the U.S.A.), and 1 each in Germany, Ukraine, the Czech Republic, *Lithuania, and *Switzerland. The remainder of the mailing list is all in the U.S.A. As of the writing of the report, CAREE has 5 (*6) graduate student *gratis* memberships, in addition to *gratis* memberships for 10 of the participants in the History of East European Christianity Project (HEECP). As of the writing of the report, we have 42 (*46) paying memberships.
- 6.6 The executive secretary's report was accepted.
- 7.0 Treasurer's report: Paul Wilson presented a written report.
- 7.1 In leading us through the figures presented in his report, Paul pointed out that the \$4000 grant received from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), intended for

- support for three years, had all been used during the present year.
- 7.2 He pointed out that we had costs for the previous (2005) conference and annual meeting become payable in the current 2006 year, so the amounts expended were higher than normal. As well, unusual amounts for service by the webmaster added to the expenses.
 - 7.3 In discussion, we noted that the costs had been worked out carefully for *Religion in Eastern Europe*, to assure the lowest possible duplication and mailing costs.
 - 7.4 In summary of the report, Paul noted that, without the MCC grant noted above (Item #7.1), we would have expended almost all of our bank account. Thus, CAREE needs to raise more funds to assure the ongoing work of the organization and the publishing and mailing of REE.
 - 7.5 After discussion, we determined to raise membership fees to \$50/year, with an invitation to offer further contributions to CAREE. (It was noted that the subscription costs for non-members had already risen to \$50/year, that members also receive the newsletter, *CAREE Communicator*, and that they are members of an active organization – so, it seemed warranted to raise membership fees [to a level which is still low in comparison with many organizations' membership fees]). For those retired or on fixed incomes, the fee would be \$40/year. As well, we will ask our *gratis* members (graduate students and HEECP participants) to pay a token \$10 (or whatever they can afford) for membership.
 - 7.6 We decided to stress that contributions will enable CAREE to continue to publish and disseminate REE.
 - 7.7 The treasurer's report was accepted.
- 8.0 Website report: Jim Payton presented the written report, produced by webmaster Chris Vandonkelaar.
 - 8.1 Discussion noted the clean and attractive appearance of the website, that it functions well, and that links work well.
 - 8.2 It was noted that we need to add a few more links to relevant ecumenical and other organizations. Those will need to be forwarded to the webmaster.
 - 8.3 Members are encouraged, if they travel or attend conferences in Eastern Europe, to send in news and photographs for the website.
 - 8.4 The members expressed thanks to the webmaster for his service on the website.
 - 9.0 REE report: Walter Sawatsky presented a written report.
 - 9.1 Walter highlighted several facets of the report, noting especially the comparisons of costs and securing the lowest feasible reproduction and mailing costs, while still improving the look of the journal and ensuring its regular and timely mailing.
 - 9.2 Walter pointed out that Ines Murzaku has been added as Book Review Editor, in addition to David Baer (currently on a sabbatical year in Hungary).
 - 9.3 It was suggested that the papers presented at the conference earlier be published in REE. Speakers may submit their papers (if in completed form); some of them may be transcribed and sent to authors for review and correction.
 - 9.4 The REE report was accepted.
 - 10.0 Discussion of finances: completed above (cf. Items #4.1.1-4.1.9 and #7.1-7.6).

- 11.0 Transition Committee report: Paul Mojzes presented an oral report.
 - 11.1 He noted that the 2006 annual meeting had struck a committee of Paul Mojzes, Joe Loya, and Jim Payton to make recommendations for transition in leadership, in view of Paul Mojzes' expressed desire to retire from the presidency of CAREE.
 - 11.2 Paul noted that the committee had considered a number of options and had come to a decision to recommend an internal candidate, Jim Payton, to succeed Paul in the presidency.
 - 11.3 Paul noted that, after reflection on the recommendation (and discussion with his wife!), Jim had agreed to let his name stand for the office – provided someone else would be willing to assume responsibilities as executive secretary. (Paul noted that the committee recognized that one person could not carry both roles.)
 - 11.4 Paul noted that the committee had considered a number of names as possible candidates for the position of executive secretary, settling on the recommendation of Paul Crego.
 - 11.5 Paul (Mojzes) noted that both Jim and he had contacted Paul Crego, asking him to consider the nomination. The committee was pleased to report that Paul Crego was willing to take on the office of executive secretary, if the annual meeting so chose.
 - 11.6 By acclamation, the members present appointed Jim Payton as president and Paul Crego as executive secretary.
 - 11.7 The members expressed gratitude and respect to Paul Mojzes, on this retirement from the presidency of CAREE, for his many years of faithful service to the organization.

- 12.0 Election of officers:
 - 12.1 The list of executive committee members indicated that Paul Mojzes, Jim Payton, Walter Sawatsky, and Charles West had completed their terms.
 - 12.2 Further, it was noted that, since Paul Crego had 1 year left on his executive committee membership, but that his appointment as executive secretary entailed a 2-year membership, CAREE has need for someone to fill a 1-year appointment (to keep a balance between those completing terms in even and in odd years).
 - 12.3 It was noted that, with the appointment of Jim Payton as president and Paul Crego as executive secretary, they both have been reelected to 2-year terms (to expire in 2008).
 - 12.4 The members decided to reappoint Walter Sawatsky, Paul Mojzes, and Charles West to 2-year terms (to expire in 2008).
 - 12.5 Jim noted that Krystyna Gorniak-Kocikowska had indicated an interest in becoming more fully involved in CAREE. The members agreed to appoint Krystyna to fill out the 1-year term (to 2007) opened by Paul Crego's appointment as executive secretary.

- 13.0 Other business:
 - 13.1 Charles West reported that he and Joe Loya had been working on the CAREE archives, housed at Princeton University, to organize them. The members expressed appreciation for this effort.
 - 13.2 It was noted that Joe Loya is working on a history of CAREE. The members

expressed their support for and interest in this endeavor.

- 14.0 Future activities – next conference and annual meeting:
 - 14.1 Jim noted that CAREE had been successful in holding its conference and annual meeting the last two years in November, in conjunction with AAR, but that in 2007 AAR will be meeting in San Diego, and in 2008 in Chicago.
 - 14.2 He noted that some of our members are also members of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), which also meets in November, so that we could possibly connect with AAASS meetings. However, in 2007 AAASS will meet in New Orleans.
 - 14.3 He noted that, given CAREE's prior history of meeting in other North American regions, neither San Diego nor New Orleans would likely serve us well. In 2008, AAR will meet in Chicago, and AAASS will meet in Philadelphia; either of those might serve us well.
 - 14.4 Given all this, Jim had interacted with Paul Mojzes. They suggest holding our 2007 conference and annual meeting in New York. Duncan Hanson has been contacted, and he has assured us that CAREE can use the meeting room of the Reformed Church in America at the InterChurch Center (475 Riverside Drive), where we have met before, for our meeting.
 - 14.5 For a program for the conference, Jim suggested that we invite our recent Ph.D. graduate members, plus other graduate student members well into their programs, to make presentations from their dissertations or research, as that relates to issues and questions of religion in Eastern Europe. As well, he suggested that we meet with the Europe Forum, if that can be arranged, to hear what the members of the forum are currently finding and encountering in Eastern Europe.
 - 14.6 Duncan Hanson has agreed to try to call a meeting of the Europe Forum, to meet with CAREE. (Paul Mojzes and Charles West noted that, at the Europe Forum meeting they attended last year, the members indicated an interest in meeting with CAREE again in the near future.)
 - 14.7 Jim suggested that, to avoid conflict with the dates for AAR and AAASS in November 2007, and to give Duncan some flexibility for setting a meeting of the Europe Forum to coordinate with our meeting, CAREE meet on the Friday (and Saturday morning, if necessary) of either the first or the second week of November (thus, Nov. 2-3 or 9-10).
 - 14.8 These recommendations were accepted.
- 15.0 The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Payton, Executive Secretary