

**Minutes of the  
CAREE Annual Meeting  
February 11, 2005  
9:00am**

1. **Members present:** Paul Mojzes, Paul Crego, Gary Bittner, Chris Vandonkelaar, Jim Payton, David Baer, Charles West, Paul Wilson, Joe Loya, Ines Murzaku, Walter Sawatsky. (According to the by-laws, this constitutes a quorum for the meeting.)
  - 1.1 Guests present: Thomas Bremer (Münster, Germany), Mitja Velikonja (Ljubljana, Slovenia).
2. **Opening:** The meeting opened with those present introducing themselves.
3. **The minutes of March 20, 2005** were approved as submitted.
4. **Matters from the Minutes:** Jim Payton led a review of these items, with the comments noted below:
  - 4.1 Item #2.2 – not yet done; Jim Payton will follow up on this.
  - 4.2 Item #2.3 – not yet done; Jim Payton will pursue these opportunities.
  - 4.3 Item #2.4 – done.
  - 4.4 Item #6.3 – done (and posted on the web-site).
  - 4.5 Item #6.4 – this will need to be done at a future point.
  - 4.6 Item #8.1 – this has been done, but it is an ongoing challenge, since new clergy-training institutions keep being established in the region.
  - 4.7 Item #9.2 – given the lack of clarity about what this originally intended and was supposed to achieve, this will be dropped.
  - 4.8 Item #9.3 – not yet finalized; Walter Sawatsky and Paul Mojzes will work further on this, to complete the revisions to the list. Walter suggested sending a letter to each of those listed, to inquire as to their willingness to continue on the list of editors. Paul Mojzes pointed out that it would be important to have scholars and/or religious leaders from Eastern Europe included in this list.
  - 4.9 Item #9.4 – the person who had expressed interest in this is no longer available to do it. Additional options were discussed, but it was noted that each would entail CAREE paying for the service, which CAREE could not (at least, at present) afford.
  - 4.10 Item #9.6 – Jim Payton has not yet been in the Detroit area in the past year, so he could not yet follow up on this. David Baer noted that student exchange or placement programs existed between some Hungarian seminaries and North American institutions; Thomas Baer noted that there are many such arrangements between various German seminaries and North American ones.
  - 4.11 Item #9.9 – not known whether Leslie Taylor has started work on this. Joe Loya volunteered to work on this project (since he has experience in writing institutional histories). Charles West will follow up with Leslie Taylor to find out

- whether he has initiated work on this project, and will carry forward Joe's offer.
- 4.12 Item #9.10 – still to be determined; Charles West will look into this.
- 4.13 Item #9.11 – Jim Payton contacted Gary Bittner a week ago about this. Gary has not yet had time to act on it.
- 4.14 Item #10.1 – Robert Smylie has recently advised Jim Payton that he would like to step down from this responsibility. In accordance with this item, Duncan Hanson has been appointed as CAREE's United Nations NGO representative. (Duncan has accepted this opportunity.)
- 4.15 Item #10.6 – attempted, but could not be arranged for this year. In light of the discussions at the CAREE/Europe Forum conference the preceding day (February 10, 2005), it was noted that this issue may become moot. If the Europe Forum decides on a different format for its meetings in the future (than joint meetings with CAREE), the meeting recommended that CAREE should seek to return to the pattern formerly used with the Europe Committee, in which the officers of CAREE would meet with the Europe Forum, as consultants for Eastern European matters.
- 5. President's report:** Paul Mojzes' written report was presented and discussed.
- 5.1 Walter Sawatsky suggested that Jim Payton work on and submit some grant proposals to various organizations, to seek funding for CAREE projects and initiatives. Jim will pursue this in the coming year.
- 5.2 The president's report was accepted unanimously.
- 6. Executive Secretary's report:** Jim Payton's written report was presented and discussed (with two corrections Jim noted).
- 6.1 It was noted that CAREE has regained the general number of members it had attained in the mid-1990s (around 45-50). We still need to seek to increase the membership.
- 6.2 The executive secretary's report was accepted unanimously.
- 7. Treasurer's report:** Charles Mercer's printed report was distributed and discussed. (Chuck was unable to attend the meeting).
- 7.1 It was noted that former denominational subventions (still granted in 2001) have all dried up, owing to financial exigencies faced by the respective denominations. This reduction in funding restricts what CAREE can hope to accomplish. (This also encourages the suggestion noted in Item #5.1 above.)
- 7.2 Joe Loya asked that a dedicated line in the budget be added to next year's treasurer's report for amounts associated with writing the history of CAREE.
- 7.3 It was noted that it would be helpful if next year's report indicated the number of subscriptions to Religion in Eastern Europe.
- 7.4 Jim Payton noted that Charles Mercer had requested we find a replacement for him as treasurer. Paul Wilson volunteered to take on the responsibilities of this position, and Paul Crego offered to become an assistant or

future successor in that regard.

7.5 By common consent, Paul Wilson was appointed treasurer, to replace Charles Mercer (at Charles' request – see 7.4 above). Paul will take on responsibilities for this position as soon as the transition in service can be effected.

7.6 The meeting noted with gratitude the faithful service offered by Charles Mercer as CAREE's treasurer over the past many years.

7.7 The treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.

**8. Publications/REE report:** Walter Sawatsky's written report was presented. Much discussion ensued on mailing costs, as well as the pros and cons of electronic publication.

8.1 The discussion on mailing costs arose especially because of the recent letter from President Torrance of Princeton Theological Seminary, indicating the seminary's desire to reduce its financial underwriting of REE's mailing costs.

8.2 It was noted that what we are paying for printing and stapling REE at Princeton has been virtually "at cost" and consequently could not be improved on by looking for alternatives. The meeting indicated a preference to continue to pay for this service at Princeton.

8.3 Discussion of the alternative of an electronic version of REE led to the determination to continue with the print version (since it was noted that studies have shown that readership drops for electronic publications as over against printed counterparts). Even so, the possibility of electronic versions was not rejected as a future possibility.

8.4 It was discussed and approved to move from the current six issues per year format to a quarterly one; this will save mailing costs (and will probably prove to be less work for the editors).

8.5 It was decided to pursue mailing in bulk issues of REE intended for Eastern Europe to an address in Eastern Europe, from which they could be much less expensively mailed to individual addresses. Duncan Hanson will look into possible venues in Eastern Europe where this could be done.

8.6 Charles West asked Walter Sawatsky to identify the number of overseas addresses to which we send REE (and these to be compared with the list of Eastern European clergy-training institutions in Eastern Europe to which free copies are sent).

8.7 The Publications/REE report was accepted unanimously.

**9.0 CAREE web-site report:** Chris Vandonkelaar presented an oral report. He noted that the web-site has averaged 130 "hits" per month over the last four months (the period since most of the web-site items have been functional).

9.1 The meeting expressed no interest in having dedicated e-mail addresses at the web-site, so the expenses for that can be dropped. It was agreed that the personal addresses for the officers of CAREE could be posted there.

9.2 Chris suggested that a printable "pdf" format be used for distributing CAREE Communicator, instead of the "WordPerfect"/"MicrosoftWord" options

recently offered on the membership renewal form, explaining this would be easier to use by the readers and would obviate the necessity of keeping up with various “levels” of the other formats. The meeting accepted this. Jim Payton will communicate this to those who have opted for either WordPerfect or MicrosoftWord reception (noting that a few members had indicated a preference for a print copy, which they will continue to receive). Chris will transform the newsletter submitted to him by Jim into a pdf format. It was noted that electronic distribution of the newsletter will reduce costs for CAREE.

9.3 Chris invited those present to submit reports of their trips to and involvements in Eastern Europe (preferably, with photographs) for posting on the web-site. (Jim will extend this invitation again to all members.)

9.4 Chris noted that there should be no problem with a “mirror” of the REE posting on the George Fox College web-site, since this is a common practice on the web. Given that, the meeting asked him to go ahead and post REE on CAREE’s web-site in the coming year. Chris noted that, once that has been done, he could develop the capacities for our CAREE web-site to allow word/phrase searches of the articles, which would considerably enhance the usefulness of the REE articles for research. The meeting encouraged him to pursue this.

9.5 Chris noted that 2005 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of CAREE as an organization (although its predecessor organization had been in existence since 1958). Charles West volunteered to write a new description highlighting this for the front page of the web-site.

9.6 The CAREE web-site report was accepted unanimously.

## **10. Future Activities and Next Annual Meeting:**

10.1 Gary Bittner raised the question whether “The Institute for Peace and Understanding” should continue or whether it should be phased out. He and Paul Mojzes rehearsed the rationale for establishment of the institute some decades ago, but they noted that the rationale no longer held. The meeting agreed to phase the institute out; Gary will take the appropriate steps to secure this.

10.2 Duncan Hanson noted that CAREE would be welcome to hold its future meetings at the Reformed Church in America offices on the 18<sup>th</sup> floor of the InterChurch Center in Manhattan. The meeting noted this offer with appreciation.

10.3 Discussion ensued as to how to plan future CAREE meetings. We noted the rationale for the practice of the last few years of having CAREE’s annual conference held in conjunction with the meeting of the Europe Forum. We also recognize that, with the possibility that the Europe Forum will begin to meet with the Middle East Forum, and with the Europe Forum’s question as to the ongoing usefulness of having its meeting regularly coordinated with CAREE’s conference, CAREE should consider other options.

10.4 It was agreed that CAREE should seek to hold a conference as a pre-meeting with scholarly associations; the two associations most promising in this regard are the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and the American

Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), both of which meet annually in November. Holding such CAREE conferences just before the AAR had become a practice in the early 1990s and had worked well to attract scholars to the sessions in significant numbers. It was agreed to try to hold such a conference, and to seek permission to advertise it in the AAR bulletin for its upcoming conference (which will be held in Philadelphia). Joe Loya, Ines Murzaku, and Paul Mojzes agreed to pursue this and arrange such a CAREE conference.

10.5 It was noted that a possibility for this conference would be to invite Dr. Keith Clements, General Secretary of the Conference of European churches (CEC) to make a presentation there (possibly on “transatlantic relationships,” which has become a “hot” topic throughout Europe recently). Duncan will check into this possibility.

10.6 Jim Payton reported on “The East European History of Christianity Project,” undertaken by and for younger scholars of Eastern European history (and social sciences) who want to learn how to incorporate the treatment of religion in their discipline. This group will have its first meeting June 6-10, 2005, in Grand Rapids, Michigan; the group plans to hold its next meeting in the fall of 2006. Jim has been in touch with one of the organizers of this group; that person indicated the group would be happy to have CAREE (which has more senior scholars and others experienced in the field) meet with the group in the fall of 2006, when the members of the group are to present their respective findings. Jim will also contact that organizer, to seek permission to meet with the group this June 10 (the first day Jim could get there, owing to teaching responsibilities), to tell them about CAREE, distribute copies of last year’s issues of REE, and offer the members of the group *gratis* memberships in CAREE (including receiving the newsletter and REE) through 2006 – noting that this could result in new memberships in CAREE. Charles West will arrange with Jim to get copies of past issues of REE for distribution to the group. (Charles had noted that a large quantity of past issues of this year’s REE was still available.)

## **11. Elections of Officers:**

11.1 Paul Mojzes noted that he would like to step down from the president’s office at the end of his term.

11.2 It was noted that the officers were elected last year to a two-year term.

11.3 It was suggested that a vice-president be elected in the future who would succeed the president, in due course.

11.4 It was suggested that the executive committee of CAREE be selected from among members present at the meeting, and that Jim Payton draw up a proposed list of “terms” for this group for the next two years; this suggestion was approved.

## **12. Adjournment:** We adjourned the meeting at 11:52 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Payton, Executive Secretary