

# CAREE Communicator

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## A DOUBLE ISSUE – ACTIVITIES, HONORS, MINUTES, AND WEB-SITE

This newsletter has information about CAREE members' activities and about honors bestowed on a couple of our members, plus the minutes of CAREE's annual meeting on March 20, 2004. One of the decisions adopted at the annual meeting was to create a web-site for CAREE, so you will want to read the minutes, not only to find out about what our organization has been doing and what it hopes to accomplish, but also about this significant new venture.

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### ***Oriente Lumen Euro-East I Conference (Istanbul, Turkey)*** – report by Joseph Loya, O.S.A.

Istanbul, Turkey, was the site of the “*Oriente Lumen Euro-East I Conference*” held from May 10-13, 2004. This conference was the eleventh in a series held in various places throughout the world over the last seven years. The title of the conference is taken from the 1995 Apostolic Letter of Pope John Paul II, “Light from the East”; the conferences are intended to be opportunities for Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, and Eastern Catholics to gather for the purpose of experiencing shared insight and mutual edification. Some eighty participants from these traditions gathered on the anniversary of the founding of Constantinople (May 11, 330 C.E.) for a conference on “Liturgy as the Foundation of Dialogue.”

The conference moderator was the Very Rev. Dr. Robert Gribben, Professor of Worship and Mission, Ormond College, University of Melbourne. In his opening remarks Dr. Gribben noted that just as the Bosphorus both unites and divides the cultures of the East and West, so too worship has served both to unite and separate Christian East and Christian West. The metaphor was picked up and extended by Archbishop Vsevolod of Scopelos of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, who affirmed that worship indeed unites and divides, but the ecumenical task is to serve the Holy Spirit in transforming the waters of the Bosphorus into the baptismal waters of the Jordan that only unites. Archbishop Vsevolod proved to be by far the most hope-filled of all the participating hierarchs with regard to the course of interchurch relations in the near future. During a question-and-answer session this reporter requested him to identify a reason for his optimism, given the spate of difficult and prickly issues that currently seem to stymie and befuddle Catholic/Orthodox ecumenical progress in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. His response was, “Because we are here!”

Patriarch Gregory III (Laham) of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church of Antioch and of All the East led a delegation constituted by bishops, clergy and laity from Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Jerusalem. His Beatitude asserted that, theologically and liturgically, Eastern Catholics represent to Roman Catholics the “Orthodox brother who is always present, always absent.” He reiterated Pope John Paul II’s frequent affirmation that there is more that unites the Churches than there is that separates them.

His All Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, “first among equals” of the world’s Orthodox hierarchs, was scheduled to open the conference, but due to unexpected issues that required his presence in Bulgaria his appearance at the conference was delayed until May 12. In his cordial welcoming remarks, His All Holiness stated, “This Conference is a noble and necessary endeavor. The inheritance of our rich history is the healing of the wounds that can help mend our differences.” The Patriarch’s sincere and gracious address contained a sober reminder, though, that external factors sometimes trump the unifying function of worship in interchurch relations: he explicitly and firmly expressed the opposition of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the efforts of Ukrainian Catholics to establish a patriarchate based in Kiev, Ukraine.

Archimandrite Robert Taft, S.J., Professor Emeritus of the Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome, read a paper highlighting the unifying work of the Holy Spirit in the liturgies of St. Basil and St. John Chrysostom. Among other points, he noted that the word “heavenly” that precedes “kingdom” in many of the liturgical litanies is a late addition to be lamented, in that it distracts from the fact that love, peace and unity – qualities of God’s divine reign – are to be qualities that mark our life in the “here and now,” and not just in some transcendent, post-death realm. After the conclusion of his paper Fr. Taft received from John Figel, editor of *Eastern Churches Journal*, a beautiful pectoral cross. In a warm ecumenical gesture, Patriarch Bartholomew insisted on being the one to bestow the cross upon Fr. Taft by lowering the chain on which the cross was suspended over the eminent liturgist’s bowed head. Spontaneous displays of interchurch respect were frequent: another example came while the conference members visited the tomb of the late Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras at the Panagia Monastery of Baloukli, when Patriarch Gregory requested that *Oriental Lumen* Conferences henceforth be dedicated to the late ecumenical patriarch’s ideals.

The venue for a paper read by Bishop Kallistos (Ware) of Diokleia (Greek Orthodox Church, England) was the main meeting hall of the Greek Orthodox Theological College on the Island of Halki, a twenty-five minute ferry boat ride from Istanbul. The school, for many years the Patriarchate’s premier institution of theological study and research, was closed by the Turkish government in 1971. The Ecumenical Patriarchate greatly desires that it be reopened. For this the Patriarchate is counting on pressure being exerted by the European Union, which Turkey seeks to join, to force the government to abide by its 1923 Lausanne treaty obligations on the protection of non-Muslim minorities. In his paper Bishop Kallistos pressed the following point: the deacon’s words “It is time to sacrifice to the Lord,” which commence the celebration of the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, may more properly be translated, “It is time for the Lord to act.” This translation is to be preferred, since it ascribes the liturgy in its essence to divine rather than human activity.

Others addressing plenary sessions were His Eminence, Bishop Emmanuel of Region, Bishop of France and Executive Director of the Office of Interreligious and Intercultural Relations of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the Rev. Raymond F. Collins, former Dean of the School of Religious Studies at Catholic University, Washington, DC, and active promoter of the *Oriental Lumen* Conferences.

The conference agenda included a variety of liturgical services in English, Greek and Church Slavonic. Among such services were an Ecumenical Prayer Service to the Holy Spirit, the Akathist Prayer Service to the Mother of God, and both an Orthodox and a Catholic Divine Liturgy. A choir constituted by Eastern Catholic clergy and laity sang the responses for the Orthodox Liturgy. The texts of papers and addresses will be available in a Proceedings book available through Eastern Christian Publications ([www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com)).

A summation statement for this conference report may be composed with reference to the World Council of Church's recent affirmation of dialogue as the most appropriate approach to foster interfaith relations. The dimensions of ecumenical dialogue are usually elucidated as the dialogue of doctrinal exchange, the dialogue of service, the dialogue of prayer, and the dialogue of hospitality. The richness and value of *Oriental Lumen* Euro-East I was that, during course of four full days, participants witnessed the dynamic of each of these dimensions.

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### **CAREE Member Becomes University President**

Dr. Andrii Krawchuk is a long-time Canadian member of CAREE. For a number of years, he has served as professor of theology at St. Paul University, in Ottawa, Ontario. Dr. Krawchuk has recently been appointed president of the University of Sudbury (federated with Laurentian University), in Sudbury, Ontario. He takes up his new duties on August 1, 2004. Congratulations, Dr. Krawchuk!

(information taken from *University Affairs*, June-July 2004 issue)

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### **CAREE Member Honored in Hungary and in Romania**

Dr. Frank Sawyer, a CAREE member, is an American scholar who has been teaching at Sárospatak Reformed Seminary in Hungary since 1992. Supported by the Christian Reformed Church in North America, which has ecumenical relationships with the Hungarian Reformed Church, Dr. Sawyer teaches philosophy and sociology. He recently received two signal honors, one in Hungary and one in Romania.

Over the past dozen years, Dr. Sawyer has managed to learn the notoriously difficult Hungarian language well enough, not only to lecture in it, but even to publish monographs in it. He has written and seen published two books in ethics, in addition to three volumes (of a projected five-volume series) on the history of philosophy and its relation to theology and a Christian worldview. Impressed by his accomplishments, the Debrecen University Doctoral Committee decided to consider him for a "capacitation doctorate." The committee invited him to present two lectures: one was on the paradigms articulated by Richard Niebuhr on the relationship of Christ and culture, and the other dealt with a classical Hungarian drama, "The

Tragedy of Man,” written by Madach in 1886.

After hearing the lectures, the committee made a positive recommendation to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, which granted the degree. With it, Dr. Sawyer received the designation, “University Professor,” the highest honor Hungary can bestow on a professor. At a recent session of parliament in Budapest, the prime minister bestowed the honor on him.

As well, Prof. Sawyer’s accomplishments attracted the attention of the Theological Institute of Cluj, Romania. It recently awarded him an honorary doctorate.

On both of these, congratulations, Dr. Sawyer!

(information taken from *Proclaim*, the magazine of Christian Reformed World Missions, and from e-mail correspondence with Frank Sawyer)

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**Minutes of the  
CAREE Annual Meeting  
March 20, 2004  
9:00am**

1. Members present: Paul Mojzes, Joe Loya, Paul Crego, Chuck Mercer, Marie Mercer, Charles West, Leslie Taylor, Paul Wilson, Walter Sawatsky, Chris Vandonkelaar, Jim Payton. (According to the by-laws, this constituted a quorum for the meeting.)
2. **Website discussion:** Following up on the presentation Chris Vandonkelaar had made the previous day (preliminary to the CAREE/Europe Forum Conference on March 19), he presented further suggestions as to how to proceed with setting up a CAREE website and developing it in the next few years. He answered several questions and clarified possibilities.
  - 2.1 A motion was moved, seconded, and unanimously carried to have Chris Vandonkelaar create a CAREE website, with expenditures up to \$3000 for 2004, in collaboration with and under the oversight of Paul Mojzes and Jim Payton.
  - 2.2 Suggestion was made to contact communions, churches, and Church World Service (through David Weaver) to advise them of the CAREE website and the possibilities for outreach it will offer, and to invite financial support for the venture.
  - 2.3 Jim Payton will examine information about various granting agencies, to see whether funding might be available for the website from any of them.
  - 2.4 Discussion followed regarding further possibilities: it was suggested that the website could carry a calendar of events, and that recipients of *CAREE Communicator* should be invited to submit information on and photographs from trips they have made to Eastern Europe, for posting on the web-site.
3. **Nominating Committee:** for election of officers (see below, Item #11), it was decided to have the members present act as a Nominating Committee of the whole.
4. **The minutes of the annual meeting of February 14, 2003,** were approved as submitted. (Matters from the minutes were dealt with below [under Item #9], after the reports.)

5. **Treasurer's report:** Chuck Mercer presented a written report.
  - 5.1 It was suggested to include a separate category in future reports for special projects for which contributions are granted, as a way of distinguishing such funds from the regular CAREE expenditures and receipts.
  - 5.2 Chuck noted a correction: the refund listed should be listed in 2002, rather than in 2001.
  - 5.3 The Treasurer's report was adopted unanimously.
  
6. **President's Report:** Paul Mojzes presented his report orally. He noted that, while there was question a few years ago about CAREE continuing, CAREE has seen positive developments, a good deal of service, and regular annual conferences with the Europe Forum. He noted that most of the service offered comes via individual members, and in various forms. He observed that CAREE is continuing to do well, based on the volunteer contributions of its members: he stressed that this showed a high level of commitment to CAREE's purposes. Discussion followed.
  - 6.1 It was pointed out that there are many foci which now call for attention in Eastern Europe, but that CAREE's membership has many areas of expertise and concern. It was also noted that cooperation with the Europe Forum offers an avenue of service for Eastern European concerns in North America.
  - 6.2 Paul Mojzes noted that CAREE, with members from a wide variety of church backgrounds and different kinds of expertise, serves as a model agency for ecumenism in North America and Eastern Europe, and as an agency of reconciliation and peace-making in Eastern Europe.
  - 6.3 It was noted that CAREE would be well served if it developed a mission statement. In this regard, it was recommended that Paul Mojzes work toward a mission statement, in consultation with others.
  - 6.4 Jim Payton noted that, once such a mission statement is adopted, CAREE's by-laws would need to be reviewed and updated.
  - 6.5 The President's report was accepted unanimously, with expression of deep appreciation for all that Paul Mojzes does for CAREE as president.
  
7. **Executive Secretary's report:** Jim Payton presented a written report on his work over the past year.
  - 7.1 He noted that the current mailing list to which the *CAREE Communicator* is mailed stands at 175. Of these, 4 are in Canada, 2 in Hungary, 1 in Russia, 1 in England, and the remaining 167 are in the USA.
  - 7.2 The Executive Secretary's report was accepted unanimously.
  
8. **REE Editor's report:** Walter Sawatsky presented a written report and offered further comment on it.
  - 8.1 Walter noted uncertainty regarding how complete our coverage of seminaries is in Eastern Europe, in regard to our practice of sending gratis copies to each of them. (Since seminaries have been developed in many places and by various groups, it is difficult to be sure that the list [of some 200+ seminaries in Eastern Europe] is comprehensive.) He will look further into this.
  - 8.2 The REE Editor's report was accepted unanimously, with appreciation expressed

for the work of Walter and of Paul Mojzes (who shared editing responsibilities).

**9. Matters from the Minutes:**

- 9.1 Item #5.1 (CAREE website): dealt with over the past year and initial steps taken earlier in this meeting.
- 9.2 Item #5.2 (Contact with Hungarian pastors): nothing yet has been done. Jim Payton will contact Anne-Marie Kool about this.
- 9.3 Item #5.3 (list of editorial board of REE): has not yet been reviewed. Walter Sawatsky and Paul Mojzes will review it this coming year.
- 9.4 Item #5.4 (REE translation into Russian): has not yet been decided how to proceed with this.
- 9.5 Item #8.2 (list of European recipients for REE, to be compared with lists of REE editor): done this past year.
- 9.6 Item #9.1 (asking Bruge Rigdon about taking North American seminarians to Eastern Europe): not yet done; Jim Payton will contact Bruce Rigdon about the possibilities.
- 9.7 Item #9.2 (letters to seminaries): delayed by not receiving list of seminaries until yesterday (March 19). The annual meeting decided to forego this for the present, until decisions are made about whether there will be such a trip (see item #9.6 in the 2004 minutes immediately above) and what the trip would entail.
- 9.8 Item #9.3 (ATLS handbook): received by Jim Payton yesterday, March 19, 2004.
- 9.9 Item #12.1 (working on a history of CAREE): this has not yet begun. Leslie Taylor and Charles West made suggestions about how to proceed. Leslie Taylor will start work on this.
- 9.10 Item #12.2 (ownership of CAREE archives deposited at Princeton Seminary): not yet done. Charles West will check on this question.
- 9.11 Item #12.3 (archives of Institute for Peace and Understanding): not yet done. Jim Payton will contact Gary Bittner about this.

**10. Discussion of Future Directions and Plans:**

- 10.1 UN-NGO representative: Upon receiving information from Robert Smylie (currently, CAREE's NGO representative at the UN) and from Duncan Hanson, the annual meeting unanimously adopted the following motion: "Provided that Bob Smylie no longer wishes or is unable to be CAREE's UN-NGO representative, that Duncan Hanson be appointed to that position."
- 10.2 We again discussed holding conference sessions or linked meetings at the conferences put on by scholarly societies (especially AAASS and/or AAR). For this year, the idea was broached to do so with the AAR meeting this November, provided Keith Clements (General Secretary of the Conference of European Churches [CEC]) is able to attend. (Donna Derr had indicated that possibility in the conference yesterday, March 19.) No final decision was made in this regard.
- 10.3 Discussion ensued of holding a joint conference with CEC (or a segment of it) on peace and reconciliation issues. Perhaps a focus could be on what the churches are saying about terrorism.
- 10.4 Walter Sawatsky brought up the possibility of a group from CAREE participating in an upcoming conference to be held in Berlin in July of 2005. He will look into

whether it is still possible to register to offer a session and, if so, will contact other members who are interested in possibly participating.

- 10.5 Paul Mojzes brought up the possibility of modifying the name of our organization, but so as to retain the acronym. His suggestion was to change the name to “Christians Associated for Reconciliation in Eastern Europe.” Discussion ensued: some asked whether the “A” component should also be changed; Charles West raised cautions about the change, pointing out that CAREE has done and still does more than what would fit under “reconciliation,” and said that “relationships with” still seems a more accurate designation. This issue will be considered further; in the meanwhile, no change was decided on.
  - 10.6 Fixing dates for CAREE/Europe Forum conferences: we discussed this. Paul Mojzes will contact Peter Makari (who has been coordinating Europe Forum meetings) to set the date already for 2005 and try to arrange a “set” weekend (in February, or perhaps March) for CAREE and the Europe Forum to meet and to hold their joint conference on the Friday, with the Europe Forum perhaps meeting on Thursday and CAREE holding its annual meeting on Saturday. Dates suggested were either the second or the fourth weekend in February.
11. Election of Executive: it was proposed that the current slate of executive members be nominated and approved for a renewal of office for two years: Paul Mojzes as President, Chuck Mercer as Treasurer, and Jim Payton as Executive Secretary; as per the suggestion of Charles West, Chris Vandonkelaar was added to the list, as Webmaster. This all was adopted unanimously.
12. Adjournment: we adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Payton, Executive Secretary

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### **About That Web-Site**

As mentioned above in the minutes of the annual meeting, CAREE has made the requisite plans to launch a web-site. It is currently in the process of construction. Along with all the things necessary for a good web-site which will attract attention and “come up” when the appropriate terms are entered in a “search,” CAREE’s web-site will need to be readily accessible by readers on other continents, working with whatever computer and internet capacities are available to them. We are fortunate that an experienced web-site designer, Chris Vandonkelaar, is constructing the web-site for us. He has already worked out the basics in such a way that the homepage comes up in color, with a background map, logos, etc., but also so that a computer which will not process such “extras” will get a full-page text format, with all the “hot buttons” and connections functional.

Plans include the typical “structural” components (the “who we are,” “what we do,” “history,” etc., stuff), plus access to back issues of *Religion in Eastern Europe* and of this newsletter, connections to other web-sites offering information about Eastern Europe, etc. (The “New Series” designation under the masthead refers to the newsletters I have put out since becoming executive secretary. The “new series” will be posted on the web-site.)

The web-site will be: [www.caree.info](http://www.caree.info) – you can check it out now and periodically return

to see the progress being made on it. (Something like this takes some time to get done right – we have been advised that it is much better to set up a web-site carefully and work its “bugs” out ahead of making it fully operational than to set it up quickly and try to make fundamental changes afterwards. So, please be patient – but join us in excited anticipation of what this may mean for CAREE’s service and membership.) We were not eligible to use the “.com” address, since we are not a business; the “.org” address had already been claimed; but the “.info” address is increasingly becoming a recognized one, and it squares well with much of what CAREE does.

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### **A Recommendation**

If you are ever in Vienna (as I was at the end of April), make plans to take the one-hour train trip to Bratislava, Slovakia (or take the hydrofoil from Vienna to Bratislava, which takes slightly more than an hour but offers the trip on the Danube River). You can easily spend a couple of fascinating and rewarding days in the capital of Slovakia – and since Slovakia has not yet “sold” itself all that effectively as a tourist destination, the costs are reasonable for meals and accommodation; public transportation can get you virtually anywhere you want in the city.

As the capital of Slovakia, Bratislava is a center of interest, of course. It also has some remarkable historical monuments: the magnificent city center, the castle overlooking the Danube, and a side-trip to Fortress Devin (about a half-hour trip, by city bus). Bratislava served as the coronation city for Hungarian kings in the period when Budapest was under Ottoman Turkish control (so, from the late 1520s to almost 1700); in St. Martin’s Dom, you can see a list on an inside wall of the kings who were crowned in the cathedral (as well as the royal marriages performed there). Bratislava also was the site of the first university on Slovakian territory; you can still visit it. At the confluence of the Danube and Morava Rivers, Fortress Devin served as a bulwark for various states over the course of many centuries; archaeological excavation and restoration has been going on there since 1965. The first remains come from the ninth century and the Great Moravian Empire period. The fortress was erected by order of Prince Rastislav – the ruler who invited Cyril and Methodius to evangelize his people. The excavated remains include the foundations of a three-apsed church built soon after their epochal labors began in his realm. As a historian of Eastern Europe with special interests in medieval and ecclesiastical history, being there was worth the price of the trip for me.

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Patricia Lefevere forwarded the following information, which you may find interesting; it was publicized by Ecumenical News International in Geneva (June 22, 2004):

#### **Serbian Orthodox Church Pledges Closer Ties With Roman Catholics**

“Serbian Orthodox leaders have pledged closer cooperation with the Roman Catholic church after inaugurating contacts with the Vatican. ‘We must be aware of the responsibility we bear,’ Serbian Orthodox Patriarch Pavle told participants at a Belgrade meeting of the Council of European Roman Catholic Bishops Conferences (CCEE). ‘If we remain solely at the level of speaking and writing, we will be like a tree with beautiful leaves but without fruit.’ A joint press statement said closer inter-church contacts ‘disproved the position of atheist circles that churches are a divisive factor in society,’ and would further ‘the real spiritual unification of Europe.’”