

Jewish-Christian Relations



Insights and Issues in the ongoing Jewish-Christian Dialogue

A call to do something about possible anti-Jewish feelings within the Church

03/05/1996 | British Columbia Conference of the United Church of Canada

A Resolution passed on May 4, 1996

British
Columbia
Conference of
the United
Church of
Canada

British Columbia
Conference of the
United Church of
Canada at its
Annual Meeting on
May 4, 1996,
passed the following
resolution based on
a prior resolution
submitted to the
Conference by
Vancouver South
Presbytery:

Resolution No. BC-71-01

A call to do something about possible anti-Jewish feelings within the Church

Whereas

0. the
Holocaust in
which one
third of the
world"s

Jewish

population

was

murdered

continues to

haunt us as

a vision of

the dark side

of Western

Culture; and

0. anti-Jewish

feeling and

teaching in

the Church

has

contributed

to and is in

large

measure

responsible

for anti-

Jewish

atrocities

down

through the

ages; and

0. we as

Christians

can no

longer deny

nor avoid

our responsi

bility in this

matter; and

0. anti-Jewish

feeling and

teaching is

represented

in the

Scripture

readings

and

preaching of

the Church

in spite of

clear

evidence

that anti-

Jewish

sentiment

goes against

the spirit of

both the

New

Testament

and the

central

message of

Church

doctrine;

and

0. there may well be

residual and

semi-

conscious

anti-Jewish

sentiment

present in

United

Church cong

regations;

Therefore be it resolved that

British Columbia
Conference affirm
positive attitudes
toward the Jewish
community and that
the congregations of
the Conference
make use of the
following and similar
suggestions in order
to enhance our
relationship with
Jews and to
displace any antiJewish sentiments:

1. Both Jesus

and the

Apostle Paul

were Jews,

neither

disclaimed

their place

as members

of Israel,

God"s

chosen

people; cons

equently

Gospel

proclamation

and teaching

will adhere

to and

promote this

fact.

2. When in

Scripture

readings,

the phrase

"the Jews" is

used in a

pejorative

sense, the

phrase will

be replaced

by words

such as "the

Judeans"

(southern

Jews around

Jerusalem

as opposed

to "the

Galileans" of

the North) or

the use of

the term "the

Jews" will be

explained in

terms of the

polemic of

the time in

which the

Gospel

writers found

themselves.

3. During Holy

Week congr

egations

might well

be reminded

that while

some Jews

handed

Jesus over

to the

Roman

authorities it

was Gentiles

who killed

him and that

he died and

rose again

for Gentiles

and Jews

alike.

4. Local

Churches

are

encouraged

to use the

following

prayer

during Holy

Week or

during the

next year.

The prayer

was written

by Pope

John XXIII

shortly

before he

died. He

expressed

the hope

that it would

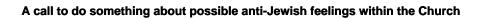
be read in all

Catholic

Churches:

"We now recognize that for many centuries our eyes were covered with blindness, so that we no longer saw the beauty of Your chosen people and no longer recognized the features of our firstborn brother. We admit that the sign of Cain is on our forehead. For centuries, Abel was lying on the ground in blood and tears because we had forgotten Your love. Forgive the curse that we unjustly pronounced over the name of the Jews. Forgive that we crucified You again in their flesh".

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