



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 anti-
Jewish 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 congregations
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".

