

**GOSSNER EVANGELICAL – LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN CHOTANAGPUR AND ASSAM**

GELC ARCHIVE

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AGREEMENT

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Content:

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**The Agreement entered into on June 17, 1957 between the Church Council
and the North Zone, of Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church
in Chotanagpur and Assam.**

PREAMBLE:—Under the convenor ship of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Manikam of Tranquebar, invited by the officers of the Church Council of the Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chotanagpur and Assam, representatives of the Church Council and those of the North Zone Council, of the G.E.L. Church met at the B. N. R. Hotel and came to the following agreement on the 17th June, 1957. By the phrase "Church Council" is meant that body which consists of representatives of the Synods and three officers elected by the Mahasabha on March 25-29, 1957. By the "North Zone Council" is meant that body which constituted itself on the 15th of August, 1956.

1. We both agree that there should be a Commission consisting of five persons from North Zone and five persons from the Church Council nominated by the respective bodies. This Commission will consider all the problems arising in the Gossner Church and propose amendments to the existing constitution in order to restore peace and unity in the Gossner Church. It is expected that the Commission would finish its work within three months from the date of the commencement of its work. It shall appoint a neutral Chairman to guide the deliberations of the Commission.

2. Until this Commission's report is out a gentlemen's agreement is arrived at between the Church Council and the North Zone.

- (a) The North Zone will continue to function as usual but it will stop temporarily its further activities directed against the Church Council and cease making propaganda for its own interests. The other groups in the Church, if they so desire may submit constructive proposals for the work of the Commission, but they should not direct their activities against the two groups mentioned in this document viz the Church Council and the North Zone.
- (b) The Church Council in its turn:—
 - 1 Agrees to withdraw the orders of dismissal against the pastors hitherto taken.
 - 2. Appoints Rev. J. Lakra as the Principal of the one and only Theological College at Ranchi on the understanding that the Rev J. Lakra will abstain from the activities of the North Zone. In other words, he should be a neutral person administering the College under the Seminary Board.
- (c) No penal action of any kind by either party should be taken during the period.
- (d) It is the unanimous desire of the Church Council and the North Zone to have one united Church Service at Ranchi as early as possible pending the Commission's report.

The C. C. on the other side declares that its congregation is ready for one church service at Ranchi.

The two groups express their desire for one Church Service at Ranchi as a concrete symbol of two groups coming together as early as possible. The North Zone officers agreed to meet the North Zone Mandli Panch and pastors, convince them of the necessity of having one Church service and report the result to the officers of the Church Council. The Church Council pledges itself to co-operate with the North Zone to devise a scheme for the maintenance of the one united Church Service at Ranchi.

(e) *Formation of the Commission:—*

Chairman—1. Dr. Lokies or 2. Dr. Birkely or 3. Dr. Oberdorfer. The invitation to the Chairman is to be issued separately by the Church Council and the North Zone. The Church Council will provide accommodation for the Chairman designate and the North Zone agrees to co-operate.

*Period of duration:—*Three months from the date of the commencement of the work of the Commission.

*Members:—*As mentioned above in (I.)

Terms of Reference:—

- 1] The Commission is requested to draft a constitution, either by revising the existing constitution or by producing a new one which would work for the best interest of the one undivided Gossner Church.
- 2] The Commission is at liberty to consider any issue brought to its attention and take action on it. Its final report along the lines of the terms of reference outlined above will be sent to the Church Council and to the North Zone. The Church Council on receipt of the report will take steps to convene the Mahasabha. If, however, in the judgement of the Commission some other procedure is preferable it will so indicate.

Sd/-J. J. P. Tiga 18-6-57

President

G. E. L. Church

Sd/-N. E. Horo 18-6-57

Secretary

G. E. L. Church

Sd/-C. M. Horo

Treasurer

G. E. L. Church, Ranchi

Sd/-H. Borutta 18-6-57

Sd/-R. B. Manikum

Chairman 18-6-57

Sd/-J. A. Kujur, 18-6-57

President

G. E. L. Church North Zone

Sd/-P. D. Panna 18-6-57

Secretary

G. E. L. Church North Zone

Sd/-Joel Lakra 18-6-57

Sd/-Z. Khalkho 18-6-57

NOTE:—It is to be kept in mind that the Church Council has not yet seen this document. Wherever the expression "Church Council" occurs, it only means that the officers of the G. E. L. Church recommend to the Church Council to accept and carry out the same.

Ranchi,
22.6.1957.

J. J. P. TIGA,
President,
G. E. L. Church.