

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

**GELC ARCHIVE**

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**Title**

UELCI (UNITED EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN INDIA)

Volume:

Running from year: 1997

till year: 1998

**Content:**

- **Extract from minutes of the enlarged Executive Committee Meeting of UELCI on 16-18Nov. 1997**
- **Letter to all members, CC, GEL Church by John Bodra on 23.02.98**

# FOLDER FILE

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### CLOTH PATTY

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Extract from the minutes of the Enlarged Executive Committee meeting of UELCI held during Nov.16 - 18, 1997 at Chennai.

## 12.2 Matters regarding CASA

Dr. K.Rajaratnam informed the members of the UELCI Enlarged Executive Committee regarding the turn of events in relation to the relationship between CASA and its member churches. Initially CASA was the development wing of the NCCI. But lately CASA has made concerted efforts by announcing its total autonomy and independence from its parent body vis-a-vis the NCCI by making remarks and announcements at the CASA Golden Jubilee celebrations which was held at Delhi. He also informed the members that all along CASA has been seen as a related agency to the churches but now CASA would like to see itself as independent of NCCI with complete autonomy and with no accountability to NCCI. He also reported that the members of the CASA were hand picked by the Director CASA. In view of this, Dr.Rajaratnam requested the member churches to discuss this aspect of CASA's present status vis-a-vis its relationship to the member churches as represented by NCCI. After an intensive discussion on the understanding of member churches on the status of CASA Enlarged Executive Committee passed the following resolution :

EEC RES. No.33/97

Resolved to communicate to both NCCI and CASA the following statement as the position of the Lutheran Churches which are members of both NCCI and CASA Board on the relations between these two organisations :

- i) The National Council of Churches in India is the only national ecumenical organisation of the Orthodox and Protestant Churches in India which is expected by its member churches to engage in the ministry of Christian Witness and Service in the vast sub continent of India on behalf of the member churches.

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- ii) The National Council of Churches in India has over the many years created several instruments of Christian Witness and Service and CASA is one of such instruments of NCCI.
- iii) CASA therefore functions as an instrument of the NCCI in the discharge of its functions and it is by no means a parallel ecumenical organisation competing with NCCI.
- iv) CASA however, is autonomous in its functions of administering and implementing the projects of development, and administering the projects of funds, subject to transparency and accountability to NCCI of such administration of project funds. The NCCI will respect this autonomy of CASA as it was NCCI, which encouraged them in good faith to be autonomous.
- v) The UELCI makes it clear that the Lutheran Church members of CASA will not support any move to make CASA independent of NCCI under any circumstances.
- iv) This resolution is adopted unanimously by the Enlarged Executive Committee of the United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India and the Lutheran members of CASA are requested therefore not to sign any CASA documents proposing independence of CASA from NCCI.

Extract from the minutes of the Enlarged Executive Committee meeting of UELCI held during Nov. 16 - 18, 1997 at Chennai.

### 10.3 GELC-NWGELC Negotiations

After a lengthy discussion on the floor about the long negotiations process initiated by the UELCI and after a discussion between the UELCI Officers and the NWGELC leadership on the future of negotiations and upon the written request of NWGELC to remain independent church, it was :

EEC RES/No.11/97

Resolved to accept the decision of the NWGELC to remain as a separate church. Therefore the NWGELC will henceforth ceases to be an Associate member of the UELCI and its application for full membership in the UELCI will be discussed at the next UELCI Executive Committee in 1998 following the full procedures as per the Constitution in this regard.

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Our reply to 10 - 8 GELC-NWGELC Negotiations and EEC RES/  
No 11/97 is as under :

Ref.No.CC-90/69

Date 5.2.1998

To,  
Rev.Dr.Prasanna Kumari  
Executive Secretary  
UELCI, Chennai.

Dear Madam,

Greetings to you from G.E.L.Church, Ranchi.

We hereby acknowledge the receipt of the minutes of the Enlarged Executive Committee Meeting held during Nov 16-18, 1997 at Chennai with thanks.

We may draw your kind attention to para EEC RES/No 11/97 whereat it is written " to accept the decision of the NWGELC to remain as a separate church ". The words ' to accept ' and a ' separate church ' are being interpreted to suit ones interest. Similarly misinformation is systematically being spread in remote congregational areas that by proclamation UELCI has made the NWGELC a separate independent church. It is also being circulated by NWGELC that UELCI will place the NWGELC in a special category and has assured all facilities.

The discussion and decision was not in favour of granting a separate church to NWGELC and this is creating confusion. As such we disagree with the composed words i,e " to accept the decision of the NWGELC to remain as a separate church. Therefore the NWGELC will henceforth ceases to be an Associate member of the UELCI " and want that above stated sentence may be deleted. And that be replaced by " that the NWGELC henceforth ceases to be an Associate member of the UELCI ".

Likewise para 2 of EEC RES/No 11/97 should have appeared in a separate heading.

With all sincese good wishes.

Sincerely Yours,

\$d/-

CC : Dr. K.Rajaratnam.

( JOHN BODRA )  
General Secretary,  
G.E.L.Church,

To,  
All Members,  
Central Council, G.E.L.Church.

Hon'ble Member,

This is in continuation of our No.49/98/CC-5/82  
dt 11.2.98 regarding holding of the 5th meeting of Central Council.

Agenda for the 5th meeting of Central Council  
scheduled to be held at HRDC conference Hall, G.E.L.Church Ranchi from April 21 to 25, 1998 is as under :

AGENDA.

01. Devotion - Moderator.
02. Attendance
03. Important matters from previous minutes - to be placed by the General Secretary.
04. Short discussion based on item No. 03.
05. Brief reports from a) Moderator and b) General Secretary.
06. Budget:
  - i) Budget of Gossner Theological College - Principal, GTC.
  - ii) Budget of HRDC - Director.
  - iii) Budget of G.B. BPK, Govindpur.
  - iv) Annual Budget (1998-1999) and Treasurer's report.
07. Written report on G.E.L.C Properties - Chairman, B.O.P.
08. Written reports on life and works in Diocese - Diocesan Bishop and Dean or his representative ( C.C.Member ).
  - a) N.E.Diocese
  - b) S.E.Diocese
  - c) N.W.Diocese
  - d) S.W.Diocese
  - e) Madhya Diocese
  - f) C.R.C.
09. Short working reports from institutions under Central Council:
  - 1) Gossner College. 2) Bethesda B.Ed.College.
  - 3) Bethesda Women's Inter College. 4) Bethesda P.T. Training College. 5) Bethesda Girls' High School.
  - 6) Gossner High School. 7) HRDC 8) Gossner Theological and 9) G.B.& B.P.Kendra, Govindpur.

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10. Short working report from :-

- a) Kalishiya Mahila Sangh
- b) Central Youth Organisation
- c) CMAI and HCDI

11. National and international church affairs

- i) UELCI ii) NCCI iii) LWF iv) WCC

12. Any other matter with the permission of the chair.

13. Closing prayer and benediction.

Please bring the minutes of the 4th meeting of the Central Council (despatched vide No CC-49/516 dt.19.12.97) and this agenda with you so that it may enable you to discuss the related issues.

Please make it convenient to attend the meeting of the Central Council commencing from April 21, 1998.

Sincerely Yours,

John Bodra

( JOHN BODRA )

General Secretary,  
G.E.L.Church.