

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

I. SOME INTRODUCTORY MATTERS.

- A. The United Church of Christ (hereafter UCC) is a religious body (so called) that is gaining significant influence in America.
 - 1. This is especially true in the northeastern portion of our nation.
 - 2. However, the UCC is a growing force in other areas as well.
 - 3. The UCC is currently undergoing a television advertising campaign to garner more members.
- B. The UCC is **not now, nor has it ever been**, associated with the Lord's church.
 - 1. They are not a "branch off" group.
 - 2. They are not associated with what is sometimes referred to as the "Boston Movement" (a.k.a. The International Church of Christ/ Disciples of Christ).
 - 3. They **were** founded in 1957 by a merger of four little known denominations.
- C. What follows is a synopsis of a few key positions that the UCC adheres to, based upon a telephone conversation I had with one of their "pastors" on 1-3-05.

II. SOME THINGS THEY TEACH.

- A. **Ecumenicalism pleases God.**
 - 1. This is due to a gross misunderstanding of **John 17:20-21**.
 - 2. Ecumenicalism does not please God.
 - (a) **Matthew 16:18**
 - (b) **Ephesians 1:22-23**
 - (c) **Ephesians 4:4**
 - (d) **1 Corinthians 1:10**
- B. **A profession of faith (in any form) is the demarcation point from lost to saved.**
 - 1. For example:
 - (a) "The Sinner's prayer."
 - (b) Infant baptism.
 - (c) An inward response to dreams, visions, etc.
 - 2. The Bible teaches one is saved when they obey God's plan for man's salvation.
 - (a) **Hebrews 5:9**
 - (b) **John 3:36**
 - (c) **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**
 - (d) **1 Corinthians 15:1-2**
- C. **People are "warmly invited to join the church."**
 - 1. This is done by simply stating that one wishes to identify with their group.
 - 2. No one can "Join the Church."
 - (a) **Acts 2:47**
 - (b) **1 Corinthians 12:18**
- D. **Each congregation is allowed to decide whether or not original sin is true or false.**
 - 1. This kind of talk is what I call "religious profanity."
 - 2. Babies are born sinless (**Ezekiel 18:20; Luke 18:15-16 w/ Romans 14:17**).

E. Women not only can, but are expected to take many roles in leadership.

1. Some examples cited to me by the “pastor:”
 - (a) Women teach men.
 - (b) Women pray publicly in mixed assemblies.
 - (c) Women preach.
2. God forbids such in the New Testament.
 - (a) **1 Timothy 2:8, 12**
 - (b) **1 Corinthians 14:34**

F. Each congregation votes to decide if homosexuality is acceptable.

1. We are not free to decide what constitutes sin.
 - (a) God has already decided.
 - (b) We must not think beyond that which is written (**1 Corinthians 4:6**).
2. Homosexuality is a sin:
 - (a) **Romans 1:26-27**
 - (b) **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**
 - (c) **2 Peter 2:6; Jude 7**
3. Below are some pitiful quotes taken from a “sermon” entitled, “*Sanctification*” (delivered 7-11-04) by Emily Hassler, “pastor” of the Washington Park congregation of the UCC in Denver, Colorado:
 - (a) *“Could someone please tell me which is truly more threatening to the health and fabric of our society; the fact that Anne and I have sustained a healthy and loving relationship for 11 years, or the fact that 43.6 million people in this country have no health insurance?”*
 - (b) *“Tell me which is more threatening to the fabric of our country, the fact that Anne and I share a bed, or the fact that a ½ million homeless people in this country have no bed to go home to?”*
 - (c) *“Congress needs to hear from you. You will be distracted by those who would blame diversity for the ills that assail the nation; from those who do not know that to participate in the divine life, means to embrace diversity.”*

III. **CONCLUSION.**

- A. The preceding is just a few points of error that the UCC is spewing.
 1. They are not Christians.
 2. They are sinners who need to repent (**Acts 17:30-31**) and be added to the real church of Christ (**Acts 2:36-41, 47**).
- B. I hope this “help sheet” proves beneficial if you ever come across a member of the UCC.