

Towards Greater Unity : Alex.
10.3.94

1) John 17 vs. 20-23

2) 1 Cor. 12 vs. 12-14; vs. 24-27

This is the last Sunday on which we will meet as a RCA in Alexandria & every other congregation of the DRCA. Next Sunday, God willing, we will be meeting & worshipping as the unifying Ref C in St. Mark's. Why is this change in name taking place? And what does all this mean & also for our congregation?

1) Act of Obedience: Council decision taken at G.S of DRCA in Worcester in 1975. (mention) DRCA part of families of 4 churches to take it.

Why? Because of pol. or racial or social reasons?
NO! It was because the Church believed that, in accordance with Scripture:

1) The Church of J.C. is one Body — his Body — and that that unity should not only be ~~seen~~ ^{understood} as a spiritual unity → but ^{also} seen in structure & visible witness

2) Churches of the same confession even if their membership is comprised of people of diff. languages, races, cultures & customs, should be ~~seen~~ one structurally

2) Act of Faith :

- Did not know in 1975 whether other member churches of the N.G. Family would respond
- Did not know whether it would financially be better or worse for the cause of SPCA
- Knew very well ~~it~~ ^{this stand} would be rejected by the Govt (appt) & ~~its~~ ^{all other} structure, but it knew this is what God & his Spirit of love & justice required.
- We do not know to-day whether everything will go well with the unification: risk of bringing people of diff languages, cultures, customs, econ. incomes together (from very rich to desperately poor): We should have no illusions, but that is the very heart of faith: to believe in what is right, in what God's love demands — & then act!

3. Act of Witness :

1. Witness to the other members of the family of the SPC : "We believe!"

Therefore : "Please come!" (Therefore the

choice of the cumbersome word : UNIFYING

Also : SOUTHERN AFRICA

2. Witness to all Reformed Confessions in South Africa, Africa, Europe +

the world : at least all churches

of the same confession should not

be divided into separate church

structures

3. Witness to our country or possibly to the world community :

SA : Deep longings on one hand to be one country, one nation . Also : deep tensions, conflict, danger of ^{large} bloodshed + death

World :