

The SACC as an Instrument St. Albans
of Witness, Service & Justice. Pta, 3 March 88
(Ephes 2 vs 11-22)

Expression of gratitude & joy at this service in reconstituting the Pta C of Churches. Most appropriate that it should start with a worship service thereby reflecting the central focus of the life & witness of the SACC - our commitment to Christ & his Church. No better passage to reflect that stand & message than Ephes 2 vs 22 to portray the aims & objectives, the role & witness of the SACC & its Reg. Councils. Because of the many misunderstandings which have, in many cases, deliberately been created in false propaganda ag. the SACC I need to make two initial remarks to put the record straight:

1. The SACC is no church on its own, it is no super-church or ecum. empire - & neither does it wish to be such a body. The SACC is and wishes to be nothing more but also nothing less than an extension of the life, witness & service of its member churches. The policy-making body of the SACC is its National Conference meeting once a year from whom the staff's Reg. Councils get their assignments (with the Exec. meeting quarterly on beh of the Nat. Conf.)

2. The SACC is firmly based on our common confession of the Christian faith - the Word of God & the beliefs in God the Father, J.C. the Son & the Holy Spirit. It has no doctrinal basis of its own - if it would have that it would no longer be a C of C but just another church. denominational. The SACC has to face take

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seriously the sin, the Tragedy & the dilemma of a divided
Prot. community in S.A. & therefore it also reflects
that tragedy (No other country in the world where
so many Christians are so deeply divided in so many
denominations & doctr groupings as S.A.!)

The SACC seeks to discover & present a strong theological
basis for all its work & witness, Role of Bible
Study & worship in Nat. Conf., Exec. meetings & Staff)

The Goals & Objectives of the SACC:

1. Unity.. (Eph. 2 vs 11-22) Both spiritual
& organisational unity sought to be achieved

via :- our member churches : 12 million

- Church Unity Commission

- Catholic Church (Observer Church Status)

- Non-member churches : the 3 white SACC's
the Baptist Church, the Pentecostal Church

the African Indep. Churches. Open invitation

to all: if you ~~accept~~ ^{subscribe to} the consti-
tution, if you subscribe to the ^{anglican} policy

decision of the Nat. Conf. - you -
otherwise come & observe - we have nothing
to hide, nothing to impose! With every
man here to-night to extend this in-
vitation to the NGK: our hand of
Chr. fellowship is stretched out to you -
take it!

2. Mission. The SACC takes seriously ~~to~~ its task of mission & evangelism as entrusted to us by the N.C. Does not undertake wide campaigns of mass evangelism - but it provides the m. churches with the tools, stimulates thought & action

- Vacancy :
- New concept of mission & evangelism

3. Service & Development.

Based on Christ's own example, mandate & demands:

- Hunger & Relief.
- Refugees ($\pm 100,000$)
- Aid programmes via S.C.A.
- Dependants Conference: ± 500 families of pol. prisoners each receiving average of R90 per
- Legal Aid to Victims of Apartheid: Amigos Fund - Biblical & legal justification
- Emergencies: E.g. Cross Roads - (R5000)
- Enforced removals -
- Homes Family life
- Youth Desk

4 Prophetic Witness: Issues of justice & injustice, conflict & peace, violence & non-violence where the credibility of the church & the Christian faith is at stake.
 Few examples:

- 4.1 - Student struggle for justice
 (incl. S.Y.V)
- 4.2 - Worker struggle for justice (incl. Trade union development)
- 4.3 - People's struggle for justice (USF, Azapo, civic organisations, women's orgs)
- 4.4 - Conflicting perceptions of white & black
 on solving the growing ^{racial} conflict in our country.
 (Division of Justice & Society)

Closure: The crucial role of a regional

- Council:
1. To promote Xt-unity
 2. To ascertain reliable facts about these issues
 3. To assess & determine ^{interpret} the attitudes & feelings of the members of cong. parishes
 4. To advise the staff, Exec. & N.E. on respons. action to resolve crises, conflicts
 5. To advocate areas of need & service
 6. To keep records fund