

United Church of God *an International Association*

Clyde Kilough
Chairman

Roy Holladay
President

Letter from the President May 12, 2005

Dear beloved brethren and ministers,

“Busy” certainly describes the weeks leading up to the annual meeting of the General Conference of Elders, which takes place this weekend! The smooth operation of all activities surrounding this event is due to careful planning by the conference planning task force, Charles Melear (our conference coordinator) and many on the home office staff and Council of Elders. The selection of United’s new president took place today, and tomorrow are numerous planning meetings—such as ministerial and international—and the weekend will embrace a special Sabbath service followed by conference business and activities.

This year’s meeting of the General Conference of Elders marks the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the start of the United Church of God. We will be celebrating our 10 years of history and preparing to face the challenges of the next decade. However, we have certainly been tested and tried during the development and growth of United. We have learned some profound lessons in the Church. We have learned deeply the promise from God that He would never leave us or abandon us. He has been with us and has held on to us. He still leads and guides. He is preparing a people to lead and govern in the future and giving hope to the world today by the preaching of the gospel. His eternal purpose continues to be worked out on earth.

This 10th year commemoration is to celebrate what God has done and acknowledge our total dependence on Him and His guidance. As God in the flesh, Jesus Christ acknowledged that God receives the credit for any accomplishments. Christ stated, “Most assuredly, I say to you, *the Son can do nothing of Himself*, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner” (John 5:19), and He acknowledged in John 14:10 that “*the Father who dwells in Me does the works*” (emphasis mine throughout).

Christ is the Head of the Church today and we are His Body. We understand that all credit for anything accomplished goes to Him. In John 15:5 Jesus clearly explained that “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for *without Me you can do nothing.*” Paul understood this fundamental principle when he stated in 1 Corinthians 3:5-7: “Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but *God gave the increase.* So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.” God expects us to work, but He produces the increase or growth.

It is appropriate to acknowledge the resources that God has given to the Church to accomplish the work. God does work through human instruments, and we fully recognize that God gives to each one of us different gifts, talents, opportunities and responsibilities. On the top of that list is the membership of the Church. The backbone of the Church is made up of you, our brethren. United has been blessed since its inception with a large core of members who have been in the Church for a long time—some 20 to 40 years. This makes for a mature, dedicated group of people.

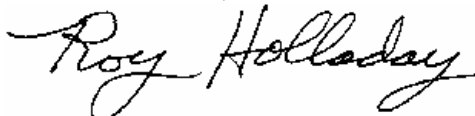
One of the founding principles of United was the desire to involve the membership as much as possible in doing the work. Many have served directly and indirectly in almost all facets of the work of the Church: local, regional, national, in the congregation, in humanitarian projects, in media efforts, etc. Our members are our greatest asset—an army of Spirit-filled, committed and faithful servants. Without your dedication, involvement and service, there would be no work. We deeply appreciate your support, prayers and involvement in continuing the work of God. As we continue into the future, your involvement will continue to increase. Ephesians 4:16 clearly mentions that “the whole body, joined and knit together *by what every joint supplies*, according to the effective working by which *every part does its share, causes growth* of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” Consequently, we look for much growth in the future.

One of the greatest gifts and blessings that United has been given is the ministry. God has provided United with hundreds of elders, some employed by United and others who serve voluntarily, most of whom have also been ordained for 10 years or more. United started with the approach that we would provide shepherds and servants to pastor and serve each congregation that we have. We recognized the need for a loving and serving ministry to help and assist the membership. All ministers in United have been asked to fulfill more job responsibilities than in the past. These include the following and more: writing, editing, serving at teen and preteen camps, coordinating Feast sites, special committees and task forces, Council duties, speaking more often, etc. Their maturity and sound teaching have provided stability to the Church. We thank all the elders and their wives for the tireless service you have given to God, to His Church and to the community.

The credit and glory for what has been accomplished goes to God and to Jesus Christ. The last 10 years demonstrate what God can do in spite of our human frailties and deficiencies. What do we have now as a Church? We have a solid Church with a solid ministry. We have made major strides in proclaiming the gospel to the world. In the immediate future we have media opportunities with the ability to break out of the box. We have experienced financial stability and soundness. We look forward with great anticipation for the future. We will continue to capitalize on the human resources God has given us.

On a personal note, Norma and I want to thank you for your support and involvement in the work of the Church. We appreciate greatly your prayers and support for us while we had the opportunity to serve you in the office of president. We know that you will support the next president of United in the same manner with your prayers and love.

In Christian love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Holladay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roy Holladay