

## SUMMARY GROUP REPORTS

Group reports from the ICUU meeting held in Kolosvar from the 2nd to the 6th September send some very clear messages about the achievements ,issues ,resources and future directions for the ICUU.

Amongst the member groups there is wide diversity of cultural expression and celebration of our UU faith and vast disparity between the capacity of the largest member groups and the resources available to our small emerging and some stagnating groups.

Realization of our future opportunities will develop proportionally with the willingness of members to share resources, not only of a financial nature but also intangibles such as energy, creativity enthusiasm, focus and passion which are in bountiful supply in many of our Emerging groups.

Highlights of achievements of ICUU member groups in the 2007-2009 period fall into 4 major areas

Administration

Training and development of resources

Activities

Profile building

Administration

1. Increased strength of organizational structure, some national groups being formed and constitutions being written or reviewed.
2. Strategic planning for growth and stability
3. Structured group meetings and reformed democratic administration model

Training and Development of Resources

1. Introduction of professional ministerial leadership
2. Empowerment of new potential leaders with education
3. Ongoing training for ministers and lay leaders
4. Involvement with other congregations and international to further strengthen relationships
5. New service materials
6. New hymnbook
7. Involvement of youth in religious education

Activities

1. Family and congregational retreats
2. Youth leadership camps
3. Community economic assistance
4. Development of a charity to support social action
5. Rebuilding program for churches
6. Shared sabbatical opportunities

Profile Building

1. Creation of a strong church identity
2. Strong national voice
3. Strong ministry

## STRENGTHS AND SKILLS

Congregational Skills Development

1. Ability to work cooperatively towards a common goal
2. Use of individual skills to support the group
3. Commitment and focus on congregational involvement
4. Development of a sense of independence
5. Growth of structure of the church and interpersonal teachings
6. ABILITY TO COLLECT STRONG FINANCIAL BACKING FOR THE CHURCH
7. Manual of instruction to run retreats
8. Ability to involve young people

Ability to be flexible and change

1. Enthusiasm and solidarity in the face of change
2. Ability to attract new members
3. Awareness of the need to improve
4. Awareness that UU can be a living religion as well as being grounded in tradition

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Congregational membership

1. High average age of church membership
2. Instability of membership
3. Loss of membership , more funerals than recruits
4. Need to attract more young members
5. Need to grow congregations , attracting more families

Financial

1. Diminishing financial resources
2. Budget restraints for planned activities
3. Economic stability in GFC

Structure

1. Need for better church administration
2. Planning for growth
3. Need for trained ministers and training for professional and lay leaders
4. Regeneration of leaders
5. Imbalance of size amongst member groups

HOPES AND DREAMS

Education and training

1. Establishing international training/service program for youth
2. Training seminary for new church leaders
3. Development of own service manual
4. Development of sabbatical model for UU ministers
5. Establishment of theological training process for ICUU ministers

Group Cohesiveness

1. More nationally united member groups
2. Globalisation of UU through ICUU
3. More member church /member group support for ICUU
4. Greater cooperation between member groups

Church Structure

1. Attracting younger generations to the church
2. Steady growth of congregations
3. Formal incorporation
4. Increased local voice
5. Email contact with all members
6. Stability of membership

Activities

1. Continued retreats
2. Community outreach
3. Workshops and sharing rituals with other congregations
4. Social action
5. Continued publishing