



ECUMENICAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
of the
World Council of Churches
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

Albert M. Pennybacker, *President* John B. Lindner, *Director*

April 22, 1994

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10016-4885

Dear Archbishop Barsamian:

Forgive me for waiting so long to write to thank you for agreeing to be part of the significant task of raising ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) for the Archbishop Iakovos Endowment for Faith and Order.

We delayed the actual campaign until all those invited to be part of our committee had a chance to respond. We were not disappointed, for nearly every person invited has responded affirmatively. That leads us to conclude that this endeavor is in accord with the will of God.

Another indication of God's will at work here is the fact that the Faith and Order Movement embraces the whole Christian family -- more, I believe, than any other ecumenical initiative. Still another is that a good beginning at raising funds has been made, and early indications of more to come are favorable.

Last August, Dr. Albert Pennybacker and I were present to interpret the Ecumenical Development Initiative at the Fifth World Conference on Faith and Order at Santiago de Compostalo in Spain. There I made a very brief address, a copy of which is enclosed. I trust that it will give you a sense of our approach and what is expected of those who are active in Faith and Order matters.

And now you, as well, must be wondering what is expected of you. Without exception, members of this committee are all busy people, and we do not wish to impose undue burdens upon any of you. The very fact of your involvement and interest will be a valuable asset to our endeavors, for your names will attract others. Your personal commitment and pledge will be most welcome, as you may have prospered and are prompted by God.

We do not currently plan to have a single large national meeting. Rather, there will be several regional events and meetings in which we will hope for your participation.

Since we are sure that you know individuals in your part of the country who are in a position to consider committing funds to our program, we would of course like you to help us identify them. At appropriate stages, some of you will also be most helpful on teams who will call on prospective donors.

A small steering committee has been assembled and will hold a meeting on April 26th at Notre Dame, hosted by Fr. Theodore Hesburgh. At that time, strategies will be developed for securing significant gifts, especially from four sectors: from the Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant communities, and from leading foundations and corporations.

We are eager to achieve early success. Already a number of persons capable of leadership gifts have been identified. Under God, we can believe and hope that our intentions will be realized.

Sincerely,

+ James Mathews

James K. Mathews
Bishop, United Methodist Church and
Chair, Iakovos Endowment Committee

cc: His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos

Enclosures: Iakovos Endowment Brochure
Iakovos Endowment Committee member list
Address by Bishop James K. Mathews