

## STATEMENT

### The Reformed General Convent of the Carpathian Basin is illegal

The Presidency of the *Hungarian Reformed Christian Pastoral Service in Western Europe* (a network of Hungarians living in Diaspora outside the Carpathian Basin), with sorrow and deep concern calls attention of the public on jeopardizing and unworthy activities to destroy the spiritual unity of the Hungarian reformed believers. The so-called General Convent, being an illegal clerical organ created by four bishops, does in fact lack all legal ground of the constitutionally founded institutions of the Hungarian Reformed Church and, in contrary to the declared aim to keep the unity of the Hungarian church, it does in fact damage it.

We, being one of the founding members of the *Hungarian Reformed World Federation* existing since 1991 and being member of the *Consultative Convent (Synod) of the Hungarian Reformed Churches* since 1995, will reassure the public on the aim of these legally existing organizations e.g. preserve and carry on with Hungarian Reformed traditions concerning spiritual values of unity. Both these organizations were established in accordance with the church legislation in vigour, inserted into the constitutional framework of the Hungarian Reformed Churches and do function in accordance with the latter, being in addition, officially registered by the Hungarian State Authorities.

Creation of the so-called General Convent is to be seen as result of the regrettable, but rather ruthless war for power within the Hungarian Reformed Church. It was initiated and lead by *Gusztáv Bölcskei*, the clerical president of the Hungarian Reformed Church Synod and bishop of the Transtibiscan Church District based in Debrecen. He and his colleagues *József Csomós*, bishop in the Cistibiscan Church District based in Miskolc; *István Szabó*, the bishop in the Danubian Church District in Budapest and *Géza Papp* respectively, the bishop of the Transylvanian Church District based in Cluj (Kolozsvár) are together and in close collaboration responsible for creation of a new organization. This so-called General Convent in the Basin of the Carpaths is unfortunately lacking any kind of legal and democratic basis for its existence. Despite press campaigns, the so-called General Convent is lacking any valid legal basis and its way of functioning is spurious. This initiative is outrageous and discredits the Reformed Church by its campaign, recalling the political methods used by the regimen before 1989. The true goal of the so-called General Convent is undoubtedly to take over and simply eradicate at their joint Assembly to be held this year in Pápa August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> these two legally existing and well functioning organizations: the *Consultative Convent (Synod) of the Hungarian Reformed Churches* and the *Hungarian Reformed World Federation*.

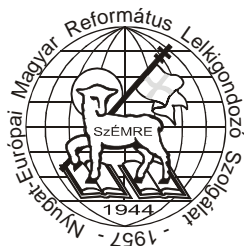
The delegates of the above mentioned four Church Districts being absent a year ago simply blocked

decision making, they obstructed the work of the convention. These delegates, in spite of being appointed for a period of six years, they did not participate nor came with any excuses. Their coordinated action led by their bishops respectively, violated their obligations taken before God and members of the Church, as well the accepted ethical rules in our civilization. Such a boycotting on the part of honest and faithful ministers and church members is otherwise hardly imaginable. Such an action naturally lead to a long and profound crisis in the Reformed Church damaging consequently all the participant institutions.

In order to safeguard the unity of the Church, the presidencies of the *Consultative Convent (Synod) of the Hungarian Reformed Churches* and the *Hungarian Reformed World Federation* made a proposal on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2005 “to proceed with the legal clarification and correct ordering of the relationship of the so-called General Convent, on the one hand, and of the *Consultative Convent (Synod) of the Hungarian Reformed Churches* and the *Hungarian Reformed World Federation*, on the other. Such an effort in accordance with the Church’s Constitution as well as all others previous ones endeavouring a solution finding for institutional relationship between the above mentioned organizations, remained without any answer from the president of the Hungarian Synod, being as usual either silent, or open refusing. The obvious objective of the bishops of the above mentioned four Church districts is nothing else, but destruction and humiliation of the legal church organizations allowing exclusive manipulation well established during previous dictatorships.

We appeal to protect the Church, the Hungarian Reformed believers staunch in faith and in loyalty to the Church, inside and outside of the Hungarian frontiers, to refuse such an unconstitutional, manipulative activity.

August 12<sup>th</sup> 2005.



The Presidency of the Hungarian Reformed Pastoral Service in Western Europe  
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