



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### DUP now part of the mainstream ecumenical movement in Ulster

Back in October of this year, a copy of an invitation issued by the Northern Ireland Assembly Christian Fellowship, along with an introductory leaflet about the NIACF, came into my possession. The invitation was to a meeting at which the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland was to speak.

What was especially interesting was the fact that the Roman Catholic MLA, Alban McGuinness, was listed as one of those organising the meeting.

A reply to the invitation was to be sent to Mr Jonathan Craig, a Democratic Unionist MLA.

#### Email

I sent an email to Mr Craig on October 15th. I sent the same email again a short time later. I even sent a printed copy of the email to Mr Craig's constituency office in Lisburn but I received no response from either emails or the letter.

I must say that Mr Craig's silence is not surprising. It is a standard response by those hiding from the truth and wishing to avoid any highlighting of their compromise.

Below is a copy of the letter I sent to Mr Craig, a scan of the invitation to which I was referring in that email and a scan of part of the NIACF introductory leaflet.

*Dear Mr Craig,*

*A leaflet issued by the ACF which comprised an invitation to a meeting at which the Chief Constable was to speak on 8th November and which requested a reply to you, has come to my attention.*

*What really intrigued me was the presence of Alban McGuinness, a Roman Catholic, amongst those who were apparently organising the meeting.*

*I understand, Mr Craig, that you attend a Free Presbyterian congregation. The Free Presbyterian Church does not recognise Roman Catholicism as part of the true Church of Christ. Its position was made abundantly clear in recent statements issued by the Presbytery on the occasion of the Pope's visit to the UK and also the booklet it published: 'Roman Catholicism examined by Scripture.'*

*Do you agree with the position of the Free Presbyterian Church or do you indeed embrace adherents of the Roman Catholic faith as true believers?*

*Your involvement with the AFC would suggest that you do.*

*Looking forward to hearing from you regarding this conundrum.*

*Sincerely,*

*Ivan Foster.*

#### Ecumenism embraced

It is clear from the contents of the NIACF invitation and also the accompanying leaflet that the NIACF is thoroughly ecumenical with regular meetings for prayer involving Roman Catholic MLAs.

It is also clear that Free Presbyterians are involved in its activities.

The DUP, having departed from the paths of political morality with its power-sharing with the murderous Sinn Fein/IRA, is now leading the way to mainstream ecumenical activity and that despite the avowed separatist position of some of its members.

#### Warning

As was warned back in 2006-2007, when the DUP embarked upon its political backsliding, those who shut their eyes and hardened their hearts against the obvious wrong they were engaging in would find themselves sucked into more and more compromise and disobedience.

It is even more clear now that such warnings are proving to be true.

Every Free Presbyterian should turn their back upon the DUP's ecumenical programme by resigning from the party. The alternative is further disobedience of God and His Word and a repudiating of all that they ever stood for politically and more importantly, spiritually.



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Having stood firm against the betrayal of Bible Christianity for over 60 years, are Free Presbyterians going to sell their heritage for a mess of Stormont pottage?

“Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears,” Hebrews 12:15-17.



Danny Kennedy MLA, Peter Weir MLA,  
Alban Maginness MLA, Jonathan Craig MLA  
and Chris Lyttle MLA  
On behalf of the

## ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Invite

to a Breakfast in the  
Members Dining Room  
Parliament Buildings, Stormont

On  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011  
at 8.00am

Special Speaker:

***Chief Constable Matt Baggott CBE, QPM, BA (Hon)***

RSVP BEFORE TUESDAY 1st NOVEMBER TO:

Betty Green  
c/o Jonathan Craig MLA  
29 Castle Street  
Lisburn  
BT27 4DH  
Tel: 028 9266 8378

Email: [jonathan.craig@laganvalleydup.co.uk](mailto:jonathan.craig@laganvalleydup.co.uk)

## INTRODUCTION

The Fellowship brings together Christians who are Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly (MLA's), staff who work in the Assembly and believers from across the province. It has been born out of a desire to promote prayer for our government, those who make our laws and for our country. We meet regularly in Stormont Parliament Buildings to pray as Jesus has taught us and to uplift our legislators and politicians in prayer before God.

## TIMES OF PRAYER

Our activities include monthly prayer and fellowship times and prayer breakfasts with inspirational speakers. We will have an annual prayer conference, communicating with Church and community leaders about the importance of engaging with and praying for government. It is our earnest prayer that MLA's from all parties may know Christ in all His fullness and that they may be guided with His wisdom in all decision-making.

## PRAYER BREAKFASTS

Prayer Breakfasts in particular give a valuable opportunity for Church and community leaders to meet in fellowship and prayer with our politicians. Inspiration comes from special music and guest speakers who's lives and work display an uncompromising commitment to Christ, irrespective of their vocation.

Our past speakers have included the First Minister, the Rt Hon Dr Ian Paisley, Church leaders, barristers and Members of Prayer for Parliament in Westminster. Jeffrey Donaldson MP MLA and Danny Kennedy MLA host these events in the Long Gallery and many other MLAs have participated in readings and prayers.

Visit the Northern Ireland Assembly Christian Fellowship website [here](#).