

N.B.: The following views are not necessarily representative of the whole of our Commission, being mainly comments made by individuals.

p.2, line 2: It is unusual to refer to the apostles as the "Eleven". It is a bit pedantic to try to be so accurate.

p.2: There is no reference to the symbolism of the twelve as representatives of the twelve tribes and its implications.

The unique position of the 12 in the New Testament is not sufficiently stressed.

Line 28: as regards the section in brackets ("Whether with or without the community's consent we cannot tell"), this was felt to be rather meaningless - the apostles formed the first community: others who joined, joined a community in which they already held a ministerial position.

It is significant that while no. 1 on p. 1 is bolstered up with many texts, there is only one text quoted here in no. 2, and this refers to the heavenly Jerusalem!

Last 4 lines of no. 2: "apostles are similarly represented...": which apostles? the twelve? eleven? others?

It was generally felt that the various meanings of "apostle" were not sufficiently clarified, with the result that now it seemed to mean one thing, now another, throughout the rest of the document. The confusion should be removed.

p. 3: 2nd para.: last sentence ("succession of ministers in office has been seen to be a further sign of loyalty...") is a weak statement of the value and role of ministerial succession.

3rd para: this paragraph was the one paragraph in the whole document that evoked the most criticism. It was felt that its promising beginning did not blossom out into an adequate statement of the problems dealt with. Particularly, a balanced treatment of the relationship between community and ministry was missing - though the elements of their relationship were scattered throughout the paragraph. For example, one of our members felt that the almost "pipe-line" emphasis on the succession of the ministerial body should be set more clearly within the context of the succession of the whole community, even if the former does not derive from the latter. Another comment made concerned the sentence "The ~~commissioning~~ of ministers is also a witness to the fact that the ministry is derived through the apostles..." The comment was that if "apostles" means "the twelve" then there is no N.T. evidence for that, apart from the appointment of the seven deacons. If the wider meaning of apostles is intended here, then we do not have what is normally meant by apostolic succession or "collegiate body".