

# Union Christian College Alumni Association of North America, Inc.

(IRS Section 501(c) (3) Tax Exempted Non Profit Charitable Organization—Est 2006)

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## A Brief History

In 1996, Dr. A. M. Chacko, the former Principal of UC College, visited various cities in the United States and held meetings with a number of alumni of the Union Christian College. He had meetings in New York, New Jersey, Washington DC, Chicago, North Carolina, and Ohio, and encouraged the alumni to form local chapters in these cities and to be active in alumni programs. The enthusiasm thus generated lasted a few years, but no formal organization was formed. Following a lull for a short period, in 2005 Dr. K. C. Chacko of Colorado contacted a few alumni, and took the initiative to organize an alumni association in N. America. After several discussions, a decision was made to form an alumni association in N. America.

With encouragement from the *alma mater*, in April, 2006 we incorporated the UCCAANA as an independent, non-profit organization in the State of Ohio, USA. *Membership in the association is open to all alumni, family members of alumni, current or former faculty members, friends and benefactors of U.C. College.* The main objective of the Association is to promote a meaningful relationship among the UCC alumni in North America, and to maintain closer relations with the College. In addition, the Association will act as a link between UCC and other colleges, universities and research institutions in the United States to promote academic collaboration for faculty and students.

The founding organizers were Dr. K. C. Chacko, Colorado (President), Attorney Lal Varghese, Dallas (Vice-President), Mr. George Varghese, NJ (Secretary), and Dr. Thomas P. Mathew, Ohio (Treasurer). We prepared bylaws for the Association, and in June, 2006, with the assistance of Attorney. Lal Varghese, we filed for tax exemption with the Internal Revenue Service of the USA. In March, 2007, UCCAANA was approved by the IRS as a 501(c) (3) tax-exempted non-profit charitable organization. The bylaws of the Association envision a Board of Directors and an executive board to conduct the day to day governance and leadership of the Association. The Board of Directors is responsible for the overall policy and direction of the Association and delegates responsibility for day-to-day operations to the Association Chair.

In 2007, Dr. Kamakshi Krishnan of New Jersey became the President of the Association, and Mr. Thomas Mathew of New Jersey was elected the Secretary. We held the official inauguration of UCCAANA in September, 2007 in Bergenfield, New Jersey. We were very fortunate to have Dr. A. M. Chacko as our chief guest at the inauguration. He came to the United States solely for the inauguration ceremony. Since then, the Association has been slowly, but surely, moving forward. In 2008, we formed a focus group of ten UCC alumni and retired UCC faculty to plan our strategy to promote the Association.

With the support of UCCAANA, UC College has established an alumni office and the office has developed an alumni directory which contains names of some of the former students dating back to the year 1921. In 2009 UCCAANA, with a donation of \$7000.00, supported UC College to obtain computers for the library and internet access to various journals. Dr. K.C. Chacko through UCCAANA donated \$15,000 to establish an International House in UCC. Since sufficient progress was not forthcoming in the International House project it was decided to use some of the funds as a seed for the UCCAANA educational endowment. In October 2010 and again in 2012, we contributed \$1500 each year to the Vidwan P.G. Nair Endowment at the Malayalam Dept. at UCC through a donation by Dr. Sarngadharan, a member of UCCAANA Board. In 2010 Dr. Titus Mathews, Calgary, Canada was instrumental in establishing the Centre for Study of Religion and Society at UCC. He contributed \$7500.00 for the start-up of this project, and he hopes to contribute an additional amount of \$2500 for this project as the center develops.

In October, 2008, we held an alumni get-together in Toronto, Canada, which was well attended. In September 2010, we had a regional alumni get-together in Chicago, USA. Other national level alumni meetings were held in Sept 2012 in Toronto, Canada and in Baltimore, USA.

Dr. James Jacob of Tampa led the Association as its President from 2008-2011. Dr. Jacob was succeeded by Dr. Simon Thomas as the UCCAANA President, and he continues in that role currently.

We published an updated directory of those alumni who have formally become members of the Association. While it is believed that well over 1000 UCC alumni reside in the USA and Canada, many still remain to be reached. We hope more alumni will join the Association in the coming years and be connected with like-minded people who share the heritage of UCC. *May we encourage you to become a member of the association to enjoy the activities of UCCAANA and to keep abreast of the developments at your alma mater?*

More information on the Association is available at [www.uccollegealumni.org](http://www.uccollegealumni.org)