

3 November 1969

Dear Dean Woods:

On Thursday, December 4, 1969, NBC Television will tape a one-hour Christmas special to be shown on Christmas Day, coast-to-coast, at 10:00 am E.S.T. This service is a "first" in that leaders of the nine denominations involved in the Consultation on Church Union will participate in The Celebration of the Lord's Supper, using the order of worship created by Massey H. Shephard, Jr. and the Commission on Worship of COCU.

My purpose in writing is to enlist your cooperation in "creating" the congregation that must participate on the 4th of December in the flesh -- and might then "participate" at home on the 25th in their earlier participation!

It must number about 250, and it must respond, and sing, and commune, standing, and exchange the peace, and process in Thanksgiving at one point -- and it ought to be as ecumenical as the service, and broad in all ages and conditions of men and women. It will worship together once "in rehearsal" and at least once or perhaps twice for the cameras.

It must report at 10:30 am on that Thursday, and it will be released when finished, probably at 2 pm, but possibly as late as four, should a second take be required. We provide ample "breaks" and a sandwich lunch.

The National Council of Churches will provide busses for transportation to and from the Cathedral for such of your men (and families, please) who might be enabled to attend. I can assure all who would sign up for a definite commitment to this project of a most interesting day. It is hard work -- worship! -- in which they will be deeply involved. All preliminary indoctrination and preparation I will send to them personally, that they have a whole understanding of the aims and experience.

Finally, this invitation on behalf of Dean Sayre, NBC, NCC and myself is most certainly and warmly extended to you and your family. I would welcome discussing this matter by telephone (966-3500) or in person at your early convenience, should the possibility of your lively cooperation permit.

Cordially,

Richard W. Dirksen
Precentor

The Reverend Cecil Woods
Dean, Virginia Theological Seminary
Seminary Hill
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RWD.b