

MOLNÁR B. LEHEL, *Notes on Formation of Unitarianism in Transylvania and the Issue of Religious Tolerance*

**Abstract:** According Gerhard Ebeling, interpretation of the Bible as theological discipline is present not only in sermons, Church prophecies and comments but also in the manner by which the Church is functioning. Relation with the Bible – even if implicitly – is expressed through prayers, liturgies, personal opinions, religious/confessional debates, through organization of the Church, its policy, by religious wars, martyrs, but also burning at the stake of witches. Historically, all these may be regarded as history of Church belief, meaning history of the Church.

Events of the Protestant Reformation from the 16<sup>th</sup> century may be understood especially from the perspective of the relation of the cults with the Bible. Confining the issue, the most radical branch of Transylvanian Reformation, Unitarianism, formed as result of the constant study of the Bible, along years of ideological turmoil. The centre of Unitarianism was the city of Cluj. These ideological and theological fights represent the period of Protestant confessionalization. Implicitly, during this period, also the diets of the Principality of Transylvania discussed religious issues and enacted laws, which, by their characteristics were unique in Europe of those times. Amongst these, the most famous is the edict from Turda from 6 and 13 January 1568, which proclaimed the freedom of religion and conscience. In fact, this date represents the foundation of the Unitarian Church.

**Keywords:** Transylvania, Unitarianism, religious tolerance, edict from Turda, Ferenc Dávid.