We have receyvyd yo(u)r towe severall l(ett)res thone dated the 13o of Octob(er) sent to us from Strusburghe, & thother the 27o of the same by thandes of yo(u)r dere frend Mr Chambers, & have confered with him at large towching the contentes theroff. And when as after dyvers assembleis & long debating the said Mr Chambers perceivyd that we could not in all pointes warrant the full use of the boke of sevyce (which semythe to be yo(u)r cheife scope & marke) & also warying in consciens the great benefitt that god hath in this citie offered to owr hole nation, not only reioysed at the same, but also promesed to travail in perswading you to the furtherance therof. As towching theffect of the booke we desier thexecution therof as muche as you, as far as Godes worde dothe

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1 Carried by Richard Chambers, *Troubles* xx.
2 *Troubles* has 'debatings'.
3 *Troubles* has 'full scope'. The full use of the 1552 *Book of Common Prayer* was regarded by the Frankfurt congregation as the central demand of those at Strasbourg and Zürich.
4 *Troubles* has 'he not only'
com(m)enndde it, & as tyme & place will serve,⁵ but as for the rest of thunprofitable
ceremoneys⁶ as well by his consente as ours are not to be used. And althoghe they were
tolerable (as some are not) yeat being in a straunge com(m)on wealthe we could not be
suffered to put them in use. And better it were they shuld never be practysed then they
shuld be the subvertion of our churche, which shuld fawle in great hazarde by observing
of them.⁷ The matter is not ours more then yours (except any excell others in godly zeale)
but both wishe godes honour. If a larger gate [40] be opened there to the same then with
us, upon your persuasing⁸ ye shall not finde us to draw backe. For this bretherne we
wishe, the comforthe & gathering together of owr dispersed bretherne.⁹ If any thinke
(ya)t the not using of the book in all poyntes shuld encrease our godly fathers & brethrens
bandes, or ells any thinge deface the worthy ordynances & lawes of our Soveraigne
Lorde of noble memory¹⁰ King Edward the sixt, he semithe either lytle to waye the
matter, or els letted throgh ignorance knowithe not that they¹¹ themselves have upon
consideration¹² of cyrcumestances, altered here to fore many thinges as towching the
same; & if god had not in theise wicked tymes¹³ otherwyse determined, wold herafter
have chaunged more.¹⁴ Yea & in our case we doubt not but they¹⁵ wold have done

⁵ Troubles has only '(so farr as Gods worde dothe communde it)'. The Frankfurt congregation offered the
'effect' of the Book of Common Prayer with the important qualifications that it accord with the Scriptures
and with local conditions.
⁶ Troubles has only 'as for the vnprofitable cermonies'. This was the first time that the language and
argument about 'ceremonies' in the Book of Common Prayer was introduced, especially when practised
within a foreign country.
⁷ Troubles has 'by usynge them'.
⁸ Troubles has 'perswations'.
⁹ Troubles has a different sentence, 'for this is that necessitie, brether, that maie not be neglected, yff we
wishe the comforte and gatheringe together off oure dispersed brether.' The Frankfurt congregation
reiterated their main aim of gathering all the English exiles in a single church and offered to change
locations if a better place could be found.
¹⁰ Troubles has 'of moste famous memory'. The Frankfurt congregation countered two of the arguments
Chambers had probably presented that deviating from the Book of Common Prayer would increase the
suffering of those in England and show a lack of respect for King Edward VI.
¹¹ Troubles has 'even they'.
¹² Troubles has 'considerations'.
¹³ Troubles has 'wicked dais'.
¹⁴ The assertion that there would have been further revision of the Book of Common Prayer if King Edward
VI had lived.
¹⁵ Troubles has 'but that they'
thelyke. Theise few lines concernyng both our com(m)unications we have accordingly
wryten unto you, referring the rest to the discretion of our good frend Mr Chambers, who
knowithe that we have shewed our selfs most conformeable in all thinges that standithe in
our powers, & most desyerous of yo(u)r companyes according to our former l(ett)res. The
spirite of god move yo(u)r hartes to do that shall be most to his glorye, & the comforte of
your bretherne. At Frankford this 15o of November 1554.16

16 No salutation and signatures. Troubles has 'Your louinge frinds etc'.