

Congregations In Ministry  
Minutes of the Meeting  
June 11-14, 2004

Present: Cynthia Black, Chair; RPM Bowden, Dottie Fuller, Sarah Harte, Steve Lane, Ted Mollegen, Wilfrido Ramos-Orench, Terry Roberts, Ed Rodman; Staff: Thom Chu (Young People), Dan England (Communications), Angela Ifill (Black Desk), Charles Fulton (Congregational Development), Bud Holland (Ministry Development), Jan Nunley (ENS), Margaret Rose (Women's Ministries Office), Fred Vergara (Asian Desk); Guests: Mel Alhorn (ECVA), Brian Reid (Standing Commission on Episcopal Church Communication).

**FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2004, 2:30 P.M.**

1. Opening Prayer: Sarah Harte.

2. Minutes of the Tampa Meeting were received. (The Minutes were not circulated in advance of the meeting.)

3. Check-in: The Committee shared stories of life since the last meeting.

4. Agenda review:

Cynthia reviewed the agenda. She distributed copies of Canon 1.1 and discussed the possible visit by a representative of the Standing Commission on Episcopal Church Communications (SCECC) who wishes to express concerns about the Communications Office and the Eames Commission.

Discussion followed on the job descriptions of Standing Commissions and the relationship between the SCECC and the Office of Communications.

The conversation revealed that the request from the Standing Commission was not authorized by the Commission nor coordinated with the liaison (Dottie).

5. Youth and Young Adult Funding:

Dottie Fuller and Brian Prior presented background and questions regarding funding for Young Adults and Youth. The priorities in the report were set by the young people who will receive the support. The resolution past by the Executive Council in Tampa involved more young adults and youth at the expense of members of the Provincial Leadership Conference (PLC). The PLC is now feeling left out. Brian believes that the PLC can be involved in the implementation of the objectives. (There have also been a number of requests for grants.) The PLC doesn't fit well in the church structure. The provincial leaders aren't clear about their role and their place in the church. The issue really isn't about structure, but about who will get the money.

It was moved by Ed Rodman, seconded by R.P.M. Bowden, that we endorse the first priorities for all three reporting groups, i.e., Sabbath Retreats, new internships, grants to dioceses for new campus ministries, in the report of the Executive Council Advisory Committee on Young Adults and Youth.

A question was raised about whether the priorities would impact young people outside the church. Discussion suggested that spiritual training of young adult leaders would impact non-church members. Campus ministry is largely an evangelistic ministry.

The question was called. Priorities were ADOPTED.

How do we implement this? Dioceses will need to make a five-year commitment for new campus ministries. Do we need to create a form, a process?

Thom talked about using the recommendations from the Advisory Committee to set parameters for funding. Ted suggested that some sort of “time-certain” needs to be part of the process.

Dottie, Thom Chu and Steve will develop a resolution for our consideration.

#### 6. A045 – Margaret Rose

A045, a resolution of the 2000 GC that focused on ordaining women in the three demurring dioceses, also included a piece about tracking the ordination and deployment of women in all dioceses. The last Executive Council did a survey, but the data was very noisy. And no report has been made to the larger church. Cynthia is hoping that the information can be shared with the church.

Lynn Grifo (Ministry Development), Margaret Rose and others have been looking at the issue and have gotten the data from Kirk Hadaway. It is indeed noisy. Margaret wants to expand the mandate and look ecumenically at the deployment of women, and work with the Church Deployment Office and various networks.

Justice issue: How do we place women in the jobs they want? What about pensions?

Transformative issue: How do we create a world worth assimilating into? Create good jobs? Exercise vocations?

Ted urged that the data needs to be published and shared with dioceses – “management by embarrassment.” The data can correct our self-deception.

#### 7. Unfunded initiatives (Bud):

- a. B024 Lifelong Christian Formation – a strategic vision for Christian Education and Formation. There was also a resolution (A120) on a strategic vision of theological education from the Standing Commission on Ministry Development that did not ask for funding pending a grant. The grant did not come through. Bud suggests that these two resolutions be combined. The Standing Commission may bring this back to Executive Council in the fall. The desire is to assess and revision theological education for the Episcopal Church.

Council would need to authorize a committee, funded by the Constable Fund, to do this work. Bud suggested that the Offices of Ministry Development and Young Adult and Youth Ministries bring a proposal to fall meeting of Executive Council.

It was suggested that Prayer Book revision is a necessary part of this visioning since the official teaching of the church (the catechism) is included in the BCP.

The CIM members from Connecticut will work with Bud to develop a resolution for our consideration.

- b. A006 – Employment Policies Task Group. Consortium of Episcopal Professional and Volunteer Associations (CEPVA). Unfunded for \$10,000. What should we do about this?

#### 8. Reports from Staff:

DAN ENGLAND (COMMUNICATIONS)

Advertising work and web work have been very collegial, involving several offices in the Church Center. He’ll talk about the ad campaign in a plenary session.

Web site. We're trying to consolidate changes. Site is now 45,000+ pages. We've hired a new consultant to look at MIS for the Church Center. Report is coming by the fall. We see lots of ways to streamline and save money.

Eames Commission. I have a great deal of confidence we will be able to handle whatever the Eames Commission comes up with. We have very good people. We've managed to work with 60 Minutes. Gathered communicators and brain-stormed about what we would do. Coached the PB for his interview. In early July we'll pull people together for a one day retreat to discuss all the possibilities related to the Eames report.

In the meantime, we've hired Matthew Davies to help us write. Matthew is very knowledgeable about the African scene. We have met with Secretary of CAPA and are in conversation with the secretary of the Commission. Have hired a new ENS director – Robert Williams. His portfolio includes development of media relations. Highly respected journalist. Dan and Matthew will be present when Eames Commission meets in London.

There was a question about field testing (focus groups) the ad campaign. Have hired a professional ad company. Will be presenting a range of ads to nine focus groups. Did a four ad preview in NY. Message was well received. Some production values problems. Episcopal Church has great name recognition.

RECESSED AT 6:05 P.M.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2004, 9:30 A.M.**

9. Prayer: Sarah Harte.

10. Mel Alhorn. Episcopal Church and the Visual Arts (ECVA).

Mel brought greetings from ECVA. Priorities for ministry are set by General Convention. ECVA fits Young Adults and Youth Ministry, Congregational Transformation

Today's culture is the most visual in human history. Literacy is now visual, image-based, as opposed to simple reading. Mel reviewed history of ECVA. Website developed. Initial exhibition. General Convention visuals. Website had 4000 visitors last month. Online journal. ECVA chapters (8).

Learnings: We are a multi-disciplinary body. Art is a common language across languages and cultures. Artists are participating in all 9 provinces.

Dan noted there is an evolving collaboration/project with Communications and the whole church. Helps define image of the Episcopal Church – who we are and how we do business.

Rosemari commented ECVA worked with the Secretariat in designing the worship space for General Convention. The Science and Technology Roundtable is connected to a committee of Executive Council. This may be a model for working with ECVA. (NEAC, Status of Women also.) Rosemari also spoke of proposed changes in structure being considered by the Standing Commission on Structure to reduce the need for so many Executive Council committees.

Draft resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Executive Council establish a Committee on the Visual Arts to report to the General Convention through Executive Council, to advise the church on policies, procedures and possibilities related to the visual arts. Set number of members (2 members of Council, 2 members of ECVA).

11. Introducing Fred Vergara – Asian Desk

Fred spoke of the work being undertaken. Seminary education. Planting new congregations.

12. Reading of Report of Interim Task Force on Mission Funding.

13. SCECC(Brian Reid)

George Werner introduced Brian Reid. He is Director of Operations at Google.

Brain indicated he operates by two basic principles: Hire really good people. Have outside review.

Two concerns of the Standing Commission. A published strategy is needed so that there can be evaluation. The review must be done by an out of house agency. Eames Commission report is coming soon. We need a published strategy and external review.

The Commission has asked for a strategy, but hasn't seen one. There was brief discussion about whether there has, in fact, been a request to the Office of Communications. The Committee recommended that the Office of Communications and Standing Commission meet together to address these concerns. We affirmed the need for written strategy and independent evaluation.

14. Report of Interim Task Force on Mission Funding, continued.

RECESSED AT 11:45 A.M.

As part of Council's Anti-Racism training, CIM worked on strategies for it's work.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2004, 4 P.M.**

15. Prayer: Sarah Harte.

16. We will not be able to consider the Boy Scout resolution at this meeting resolution because it is unavailable through the Secretariat.

17. Constable Fund.

We have received the report about the Constable Fund. There are two parts. Report on Religious Education as it's being done in a number of offices. We're going to look at ongoing cooperative efforts and vision for the future. Second part concerns guidelines for utilization of the Constable Fund.

▪ APPLICATION PROCESS FOR CONSTABLE FUND GRANTS

Moved and seconded that CIM propose the following to the Council:

*Resolved*, That the Executive Council, meeting in Burlington, VT, adopt the policy statement and application form proposed by the Constable Fund Working Group on January 27, 2004.

*Explanation*

See attached report dated January 27, 2004.

ADOPTED.

## 18. Perfecting Resolutions

- A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO SEEK NEW MISSION FUNDS

Moved and seconded that CIM propose the following to the Council:

*Resolved*, That the Executive Council, meeting in Burlington, VT, appoint a Task Force of not more than six (6) persons, including the liaison to the Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development and the liaison to the Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Task Force develop a comprehensive plan to seek new funds for mission in the form of major, non-competitive gifts. Said plan would address at least the following concerns:

- What would be the overall scope of the work?
- What should such funds be named?
- How would such funds be used?
- What are the legal implications of New York State law?
- How can we encourage cooperative, non-competitive seeking of new funds among dioceses, congregations, and other church related organizations?
- What kind of personnel and funding would be needed to support this work?
- What pilot projects might initiate this effort?

; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Presiding Bishop be encouraged to seek prospective gifts as an early test of the feasibility of this effort; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Task Force report to the Executive Council at its November meeting; and be it further

*Resolved*, That Administration & Finance be asked to fund this effort at \$8,000.

ADOPTED, WITH ONE OPPOSED.

- TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER B024 AND A120

It was moved and seconded to propose the following to the Council:

*Resolved*, That the Executive Council, meeting in Burlington, VT, in response to Resolution B024 (approved by the 74<sup>th</sup> General Convention with no funding and commended to the Executive Council for further consideration) appoint two members from its Congregations in Ministry committee to consult with sponsors of B024, with representatives from the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, and with staff representatives from the office of Ministry Development and the Ministries with Young People cluster to discuss how the intent of B024 and A120 (approved by the 74<sup>th</sup> General Convention with no funding) might be reconciled into a single proposal or might be otherwise fulfilled; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the findings, recommendations, or proposals from said consultation be conveyed to Congregations in Ministry prior to its November meeting in Boise, Idaho.

### *Explanation*

B024 was approved by the General Convention with no funding and was commended to the Executive Council for further action. A120 was also approved by the General Convention with no funding (no funding was requested) and was forwarded to the Standing Commission for Ministry Development for implementation. Upon review of these two resolutions, it has become apparent that they are seeking similar outcomes, e.g., helping to create a strategic vision for theological education in the Episcopal Church. The further consideration of these resolutions jointly, including the possible opportunity of combining these resolutions into one resolution,

would demonstrate good stewardship of resources, offer the opportunity for the two constituent sponsoring groups of these resolutions to work together and create a stronger, more comprehensive proposal, and model the collaborative work and spirit to which both of these resolutions aspire.

ADOPTED.

- EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND THE VISUAL ARTS

It was moved and seconded to propose the following resolution to Council:

*Resolved*, That the Executive Council, meeting in Burlington, VT, establish a Committee on the Visual Arts not to exceed four persons, including two persons from the Executive Council, to advise the Executive Council and the Church on policies, procedures and possibilities related to the visual arts.

*Explanation*

This resolution creates a committee to serve as a liaison with the Episcopal Church and the Visual Arts organization. The proposed structure is modeled on NEAC and the Committee on HIV/AIDS.

ADOPTED.

- FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND YOUTH

It was moved and seconded to propose the following to the Council:

*Resolved*, That the Executive Council meeting in Burlington, VT, express its appreciation for the work of the Advisory Committee on Young Adults and Youth and receive its report; and be it further

*Resolved*, That Executive Council endorse the priorities in each area established in the report of the Advisory Committee, specifically the Youth Ministry and Spirituality Project, domestic internships for young adults, non-student young adult ministry development, and new campus ministry initiatives; and be it further

*Resolved*, That monies be expended even-handedly among the priorities according to the following principles:

- Groups will be accountable to the Executive Council for the expenditure of funds;
- Priority will be given to program and groups that have the greatest potential for effecting change;
- Funding for broad-based projects will take precedence over diocesan or congregationally-based proposals;
- Priority will be given to projects effecting structural and substantive change serving a long-range vision; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Ministries with Young People Cluster, in consultation with the Provincial Leadership Conference, be charged to bring proposals to the Executive Council for decision no later than the fall meeting each year.

ADOPTED, WITH ONE ABSTENTION.

▪ FUNDING FOR PEER MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT IN YOUTH AND CAMPUS MINISTRIES

It was moved and seconded to present the following resolution to Council:

*Resolved*, That the Executive Council, meeting in Burlington, VT, authorize the allocation of \$36,000 in 2004 and \$72,050 in 2005 for peer ministry program development in youth and campus ministries.

*Explanation*

See attached proposals. The 2004 funds are a designation of the \$49,000 unallocated balance from the February 2004 Executive Council meeting. The 2005 funds are coming out of the \$350,000 for the year.

ADOPTED.

19. It was moved and seconded that Congregations In Mission request information from the General Convention Office regarding action by dioceses and congregations in response to 2000-C031 regarding Clergy Engagement with the Boy Scouts of America on Issues of Sexual Orientation for the November meeting.

ADOPTED.

20. Thom Chu reported on the youth presence at General Convention and the need to provide funding to repeat this in 2006.

Bud reported about PLSE. We'll view the video in Boise.

Questions were raised regarding the General Convention video. People asked about updated copies. Dan will provide them to those who ask. He also thanked the Committee for its support in dealing with the SCECC.

Bishop Ramos-Orench said a resolution will be coming about translation issues. Dan has appointed Matthew to serve a liaison on this issue. Pages on the website are also being translated.

21. Evaluation: What was best and worst?

**BEST**

- Way it was handled was good.
- We have the best committee.
- Really depend on the committee. Collegiality.
- Working relationship with staff.
- Collegiality, recreation.
- Feels like home base. Collegiality.
- Having initial conversation with later follow-up is helpful.
- Genial cooperation. No *ad hominem* attacks.
- Appreciate Cynthia's work. Appreciate Committee.
- Getting to know the staff.

**WORST**

- Problem with the canon regarding the SCECC.
- Process with SCECC.
- Communications mess.
- Contained some of the volatility of SCECC.
- Conflict with the SCECC.
- SCECC - white racism.
- Temperature in the room.
- Pace of the work.
- Support of this committee. Commit myself to being as open as possible.
- Density of work and frantic pace.

Cynthia asked R.P.M. Bowden to serve as chaplain for the Boise meeting.

ADJOURNED AT 6:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen T. Lane, Secretary