

International Concerns Committee Meeting Notes
October 24-27, 2003

Meeting opened with prayers led by Mr. Crew.

Members present: Brooks, Crew, Daniels, Glover, Godden, Guillen, Holguin, Kimbrough, McPhee and Presler. *Excused:* Roskam; Church Center Staff: Mauney *Guests:* Hammond, of Episcopal Relief & Development Fund.

The committee met briefly after lunch on Friday to elect the vice-chair, Louis Crew. Mr. Crew chaired the committee sessions on Saturday and Sunday while the chair, Cathy Roskam was absent for Episcopal duties in New York.

Mr. Crew asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to revise and combine two statements that were drafted by Stephen Lane (CIM) and Kesselus (A&F). This statement and is to be issued to the Church from Executive Council at the end of our meeting in response to current issues including but not limited to the consecration of the bishop coadjutor in the diocese of New Hampshire. Mr. Presler volunteered to represent INC on this drafting committee.

The committee discussed the advisability that a Committee of Executive Council on Health be considered to help Council understand and respond to continuing health needs.

The committee discussed the advisability of the creation of a committee to focus on Life Long Christian Formation. This committee would help address the resolution from 2003 General Convention that proposed the allocation of \$1,000,000 for “emerging generations”. Our committee is concerned that if these funds are not available, there will be the need for other (existing) programs to lend morale and financial support to this initiative.

Our committee believes that if new committees of Executive Council are formed, the committee may include persons other than elected Executive Council members since the committees would be accountable directly to Council.

Mr. Mauney briefly described the work of the Anglican Global Relations Group. He reminded us of the upcoming 4th Anglican Congress meeting of lay and ordained representatives of the Anglican Communion (in 2008) from around the world and the need to think about who will represent the Episcopal Church at this meeting. Previous meetings were in 1909 in London, in 1954 in Minneapolis, and in 1963 in Toronto.

Mr. Mauney reminded the committee that the Washington Office can only act on requests from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and resolutions passed by General Convention and Executive Council. They look to us for direction and support.

For background reading about the work of the Anglican Global Relations Group, Mr. Crew suggested the doctoral thesis of Ian Douglas entitled “Fling Out the Banner,” Church Publishing (1996).

The Committee discussed the differences between covenant relations (diocese formerly in communion with the Episcopal Church) and companion diocese relations. This committee gives

its attention to both relationships: we monitor and provide advice to Executive Council on the status of covenant relationships and we recommend approval on requests from dioceses seeking to establish companion relationships.

The committee received a confidential update on conflict in the Diocese of Central Ecuador. Mr. Holguin reported on the recent meeting of the Central American dioceses of the Episcopal Church meeting in Caracas, Venezuela. He acknowledged that the bishop of Ecuador attended the meeting.

Mr. Hammond reported on the activities of EPDF since the creation as a separate nonprofit organization (501c.3) and the successful sitting of its governing board of directors.

Mr. Crew asked for volunteers to attend the upcoming meeting of the Churches of Synod of Mexico. Mr. Pressler, Ms Brooks and Mr. Guillen volunteers. No more than two will attend and they will make a decision about which one as they scheduled permits.

Mr. Presler offered the following suggestions to the Committee for its consideration at upcoming meetings:

- Commended to the members of INC the reading of the publication “Companion in Transformation.”
- Commended to members GC2003 resolution A151- World Mission, World Mission Funds
- Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission – Need liaison from INC to attend EPGM meetings
- Focus effort to strengthen relationships with particular dioceses – Mexico, Ecuador, Venezuela and Puerto Rico
- Millennial Goad (General Convention 2003 resolution D009). Need to keep this activity in mind as we monitor responses to this resolution.
- Fund Raising efforts of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG) – a shared concern with National Concerns Committee (NAC) Committee. USPG is launching a fund effort at selected congregations in the US for their programs in the despite our request to them not to do so. They are seeking funds to serve many of the same global mission needs being supported by DFMS and the partnership between DFMS and ERD.

Mr. Crew shared with the committee a complaint expressed by a missionary serving in Santo Domingo. When the Executive Council visited Santo Domingo, members stayed in an expensive luxury hotel raising a concern about the stewardship of such a choice and its symbolism. Mr. Holguin asked those local bishops to be consulted before a decision is made on where Council will stay when visiting local dioceses. The Committee will request a meeting with the General Convention travel arrangement personnel to discuss the complaint.

The committee received a report expressing concern about a series of disappearances and deaths of young women border regions of Mexico. Our committee is being asked to support of the effort of Amnesty International to ask the local and national govern officials to accelerate their investigations of these events. The committee asked Mr. Holguin to contact the appropriate bishop in Mexico to ask for his guidance before a resolution is presented to Executive Council.

Action on Resolutions:

INC – 1. The committee recommends consent with one editorial change. Replace the word “on” with “ending” on line four after the word “period.”

INC – 2. The Committee recommends discharge and referral.

INC – 3. The Committee recommends discharge and referral. Note: The diocese mentioned should be Northern California, not North Carolina

INC – 4. The Committee recommends adoption with revisions. We encouraged that letters be sent to each of the missionaries who are beginning their ministries by the Secretary expressing our appreciation for their ministry. We request that copies of these letters be sent to the bishops of the sending dioceses, to the bishops of the receiving dioceses and to the leaders of the sponsoring member agencies of EPGM.

INC – 5. The Committee recommends adoption with revisions. We encouraged that letters be sent to each of the missionaries who are returning from their ministries by the Secretary expressing our appreciation for their ministry. We request that copies of these letters be sent to the bishops of the sending dioceses, to the bishops of the receiving dioceses and to the leaders of the sponsoring member agencies of EPGM.

INC – 6. The Committee offered a resolution expressing congratulation to the USPG on the observances of the 300 anniversary of the United Society of the Propagation of the Gospel. Our resolution also requests that the USPG cease its fund raising efforts with the congregations of the Episcopal Church. We encourage the USPG to explore ways of cooperation with the Anglican and Global Relations Cluster of the Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Relief and Development Agency a to avoid duplicating of support efforts and fund raising initiatives.

INC – 7. The Committee adopted a resolution in support of a continuing dialogue between the Diocese of Honduran and the Church Pension Fund concerning the need for coverage for clergy ordained and/or received in the year 1998 and for whom full pension payments have not yet been made.