

INC Minutes
2-4 March 2007, Portland OR

2 March 2007

Present: Sandi McFee (chair), Petero Sabune (vice-chair), Ian Douglas, Julio Holguín, Rosalie Ballentine, George Frazer Stain, Mark Harris, Lee Alison Crawford (secretary)

Excused: Timothy Kimbrough

The meeting came to order at 1.30 PM. In addition to the above members, the following persons were present: Margaret Larom, Brian Grieves, Robert Radtke, Michael Ingham (Canada).

Sandi announced the special orders of business: Bishop Johncy Itty (Oregon) would talk about the Philippine Covenant Committee and Church World Service. On Saturday at 9.00, INC would meet with NAC, to hear from John Johnson.

Agenda:

Consent Calendar

Staff reports

Bishop Itty

Africa desk

A166, this INC is to follow and participate in our church's response to Anglican draft Covenant. INC will need to talk about process.

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The following items were raised as possible topoi for discussion in the course of INC's meeting.

- speak with Bonnie Anderson to talk about the composition of group that will gather information and respond to covenant
- Bishops Holguín and Alvarez wish to discuss issues related to CETALC, Comisión de Educación Teológica para la América Latina y el Caribe
- Panel of Reference and Anglican Consultation of the Americas
- Nigerian bishop in VA
- Anglican Women at UN; mission conference TEAM in South Africa
- Resolutions to consent calendar
- Brian and Rob (written report)
- Concilio con Church Pension Fund overseas pensions
- Comité con los convenios [Covenant Committees], integration of this part has changed, EC will designate people who will be representatives to covenant committees.
- African desk at TEC
- Inter-Anglican Commission on Communion and Mission; A126 SCWM tracks it

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Ian moved, Mark seconded that INC 013, 014, 015 be placed on the consent calendar. MC

VARIOUS REPORTS and GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Brian Grieves spoke about the TEAM conference: 31 provinces will be officially present; 350 people are registered and expected to be there. There are visa problems that may cut into people's ability to attend. Frank Griswold, Eugene Sutton, Bonnie Anderson and 70 other people from US will be there. Some of the subjects to be covered are poverty, AIDS as seen through prism of MDGs. The meeting will be headlined by the Archbishop of Canterbury at the opening event and our PB will make the closing address. It is a significant event and INC will want a report on the outcomes and see how some provinces are working on mission.

Maureen Shea is back from a trip to Iran. **At our next meeting, INC would discuss some kind of policy review of our relationships with Iran, particularly to engage in dialogue.** The trip was more successful than hoped for. She met with the president of Iran and raised with him the holocaust conference as well as trying to find points of communality. They are very pleased that as soon as they got back and released a statement about participating in talks, the next day Condi Rice announced that US would engage. This is a piece to look at more as we continue our work.

Sunday, 15 April, the new bishop of Jerusalem will be installed. Mark Sisk and Brian Grieves will be going. It is an important milestone.

Ian asked if Brian sensed a need of urgency for a resolution. Brian replied he feels disadvantaged because Maureen isn't here. She thinks something should be developed. She has points she could get into a resolution form tonight. If responding is not as urgent, it would be good to receive her report and do something well thought-out. Brian will ask her.

Margaret has a copy of the program for the TEAM conference, the agenda and the most up-to-date list of people from around the communion; there is a wide variety of names from around communion; the US delegation is the largest by far. It's a way to pay for the conference; it was restricted to invitation only and people who would benefit by it. The URL is: www.team2007.org.

Robert said his report was distributed as of 1 March. Margaret said that ERD and Brian Grieves have done an extraordinary amount of work to make this conference work. It is a sign of how deeply TEC believes in communion-wide events to get everyone together to talk about major issues.

Petero/Rosalie approval of November 2006 minutes. M/C

- Margaret apologized for all the detail in her report but it relates heartening experiences. Mary Brennan has been working to upgrade and expand the website. AGR got World Mission Sunday materials up earlier than before and then promoted the fact that materials were available; according to the hit meter, there was a huge spike the day of and day after WM Sunday.

She spoke about partnership officers with the Latin America and Caribbean, Asia, and Africa desks. Each has been to a major gathering recently that has been very heartening in terms of relationships. Peter Eng and Margaret went to Hong Kong for the installation of their bishop who now is archbishop. China Christian Counsel and US had the largest contingent. Other provinces including SE Asia were there. The networking that went on was remarkable. Bishop Paul Kwong (the new bishop) has done more for the Anglican Communion in these three days than what has happened over the past three years. The Archbishop of Singapore wants to visit and TEC reps were invited.

Juan Marquez was at the Assembly of the Latin American Counsel of Churches. Another Episcopal bishop, Julio Murray of Panamá, was elected president. There were 30 or 40 Episcopal/Anglican leaders at that ecumenical assembly.

Margaret Rose was with the Anglican and Episcopal Church delegations to the UN Commission on the Status of Women, beginning on Friday 23 February. PB KJS preached and presided. The conference meets until next week. Their focus is on the eradication of all violence against girl-children. The women are talking day and night about how to increase the representation of women in all bodies around the communion. In 2005 they took a resolution to Nottingham (50% representation of women in all official bodies), in an attempt to have gender desks in every province, to do studies in every province on the role and empowerment of women.

- Africa desk: Petero brought this issue up in November of why TEC has a part-time position since the 12 provinces are not monolithic. Answer: We are put in the awkward position of having to say that GC voted a FT position, but we don't have that position. We need to look at a FT position at 815 if we are going to take Africa seriously. This body needs to look seriously at how we take that. The person who currently occupies position is PT.

Margaret outlined staff structure in November. In the Mission Personnel Office (1 person with three support persons for 70 missionaries in 30 countries) they handle the following: budgets for companion dioceses, Good Friday offering, overseas leadership training. There are three partnership desks (initially it was one, Latin America and the Caribbean with all the covenant groups), and they added the Africa position. When the staff person resigned in 2005, Margaret Larom made the decision to take money for that staff position and split it in two for PT Africa/PT Asia and Pacific. If one lists out provinces and dioceses, the lists are equally long. Patrick Mauney had tried to handle Asia and Pacific. They have struggled in that manner ever since. Executive Council, in trying to balance the budget last spring, said that there would not be new money for staff. To balance the budget there has to be trimming. AF is working on that issue now. That is why she cannot replace the assistant or to expand both positions. Both African and Asia need to be expanded to FT. They are saved by fact that these are staff teams so that all those people in ERD, UTO, ethnic congregational desks, anyone's portfolio sits together and they stay in consultation with Trinity Wall Street. It still is not enough. Both the Africa and Asian Pacific officer have other jobs.

Mark: when there were FT staff positions for partnership officers (Middle East, too), PT or no officers for the regions, the church center put together teams related to specific areas of the world. The church center used the notion of a team. That was not universally the case with FT partnership officers. While it looks like it has been a reduction, there are other ways in which the church center has stepped up to in other terms of how it's organized.

Petero: Sometimes perception is reality: having reduced that position shows.

- Sandi: Should we send a message to AF?

Mark: as budgets shift away from the support for overseas jurisdictions, those moneys remain connected in one way or another to world mission of the church. Our hope that DFMS would continue to be represented in the budget. It's important to remind AF that the last GC did in fact ask AF to remember where the money came from and where it should go. We need to send a message to AF that reminds them of this issue.

Ian: it's not our process to pass a resolution that is already on the books. This isn't just chairs talking but **INC wants to remind AF of resolutions that are on the books, in this case, from a 2003 resolution.**

Who gets to make input into the budget process? It is an area of where clarity has yet to emerge. Other committees don't get input.

- Overseas pensions: last triennium, EC asked CPF to revise the pensions overseas and the new president of CPF came to talk with EC. They created a joint commission that gave an increase to oversea pensions, created a specific formula for clergy, and those active who want to receive a

pension. It was agreed that they would continue negotiating pending matters. In the last communication, Danny Sullivan said he hoped we would continue with conversation. But they have their own commission and he is its head. Jim Lemler is part of process. What would proceed at this point with a restructuring of adding new members? People who would be part of this commission to have as a priority that these pensions have to be increased. CPF recognizes that the pensions are low because the salaries are low because the diocese is poor. GC doesn't have the money to give for better salaries but CPF has abundance of money. Danny has been very open.

What INC needs to come up with two or three more names and suggest to presiding officers that these people be appointed to committee to work with CPF to deal with issues of overseas pensions. It would have to be ratified in EC.

Rosalie: What was the charge of the task force/committee? From EC, it was created to ameliorate the quality of pension. The commission becomes the voice of EDC interest about pensions for CA, LA, Mexico and Brazil, Philippines. All are related dioceses such as Province IX, Virgin Islands, Haiti, anywhere where salaries are astronomically (in a reverse sense) different from US salaries. If there's a better pension in overseas dioceses, the clergy feel more secure and they are less tempted by US salaries. It affects all the missionary work of the region.

Mark: One of the difficulties in the way that pensions have been understood has been that the difference between abject poverty and scraping along in US. There's the difference between what you made FT and poverty is minimal, no one dares retire and you spend the rest of your whole career to put together security. The US pension system never was able to deal with the realities for so many people on the ground. People need to be very sensitive to this kind of issue, i.e., either from countries not of the US but larger TEC or people who have had extensive experience working with people from other countries.

In the latest negotiations, there were clergy who got \$100-150 as pension, but with the new formula, the minimum is \$250/month. There are some Brazilian clergy who were getting \$100/month (when they were part of this province). It seemed as though they had forgotten people and they didn't get the increase. The raise started in April 2006. Last week, the Primate of Brazil said that they are going to receive the funds retroactively. There are not many who were part of the church at the time of autonomy but that group is happy. When we accepted this pension and the way it is being applied, we agreed that we would continue negotiating.

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Special Order of Business: Welcome to Bp Johncy Itty of OR to speak about work in the Philippines and Church World Service.

Church World Service

Church World Service: TEC ministries are enhanced by international partners. CWS is connected with NCC; it separated as an entity two triennia ago. Its strength is we have access to CWS that brings together 38 provinces and denominations. It is an association of different organizations and other NGOs that work over projects. E.g., the tsunami in Dec 2004, ERD was involved with CWS. ERD was active in 2005, providing temporary canvas housing. CWS took initiative with UNICEF on water purification/sanitation. CWS is involved in long-term sustainability. Bishop Itty is chair of education advocacy and human rights. That group is focusing on Water for Life, and other water related access issues. Domestic issues: CWS works on farm bill and its implications for farmers. Relationships we develop ecumenically are significant. They work beyond politics and persuasions but over a common goal that demands our very best.

ERD/CWS/Oxfam/Bread for the World have been working on MDGs. They need to encourage the commitment of governmental resources. This is done through advocacy days and congress. Progress best made incrementally. Malaria: they provide care for those who have conditions that encourage malaria. WHO: they are near eradication of smallpox. This is an example of intentional effort.

One issue is still before CWS is the global debt crisis. CWS wants to look at economic enterprises of world order and see why we still sustain great levels of poverty. Structural adjustment policies of World Bank have changed for the better because of work of church groups.

Denominational and ecumenical work is complementary. In the area of the tsunami, CWS has opportunities that ecumenical partners may not have. That route is used for assistance. In some places where the Anglican Church may not be as strong, it can work through partners. CWS asks: If there is an issue or need or response, can we find a way of responding to it so the best resources of denomination are brought to bear?

CSW tries only to take a position that responds to needs of member constituencies. CWS taking a clear-cut position on a thematic topic is not that easy. Some principle tasks required of humanitarian relief, if the need is made known, CWS responds to it either using its own resources or with others. With post-Katrina CWS has worked more in partnership with local organizations in rebuilding. There's a lot more we can do ecumenically especially in the face of dwindling resources.

The Anglican Church of the Philippines (IAP)

TEC has historical mission with the Anglican Church of the Philippines and moving to time of greater autonomy. There are historical ties between the US and Philippines. Every 18 months there is an opportunity for TEC and IAP to gather.

One issue is how the joint partnership will let itself out. There has been conversation with CPF over clergy pension. The relationship within an individual diocese seems better than relationships with other places around the world. One challenge of dioceses and communities seeking autonomy, like movements in the 1950s and 1960s, is that financial integration has not taken place.

Covenants with IAP and in general

There was discussion about the covenant with the IAP. The plan was to scale back over time, to a point where the church in the Philippines would be self-sufficient, in terms of pension capacity, the goal was 2008 or somewhere. It is a good thing to have as a goal but we need to be sensitive to economic and political climates may not make that happen right away. If the church is not in a place to fully embrace it, the object will be lost.

Ian: This question is important for INC, especially if this question is coming down the path: lost finances when the covenants are stepped down. TEC's first covenant with Liberia started in 1984, a ten-year covenant with the understanding that at the end of ten years, our commitment would end. When it ended, Liberia was in the midst of the war so that covenant still is in effect. The Philippines was next in 1990, 15 year-covenant with a 33% reduction every 5 years. Next was Mexico, they got a 25 year with a 4% step-down, beginning in 2000; IARCA in 1997 was 40 years. We are appropriately asking that the 15-year was ambitious. **Is SCWM revisiting the whole covenant idea if we say one thing on paper, take action with budget and the result at the end of time is still another phenomenon?** Having a covenant in lean times is better than not having one. Then you won't get nicked.

Mark: It is important to have targets. We must continue to do this. We lose our 'evangelical whammy.' IAP worked very hard to get through process to be able to say at the end of 15 years to say they are autonomous. Should we stop funding their work? No. Say they have a project, e.g.,

to establish in every district capitol of the country (66) a congregation. They can then say: 'Now that we are no longer financially dependent on you, we can ask questions of you as partners, not providers.' Then the covenant is not about sustaining grants but developmental grants. That opens into ecumenical work. Given the fragmented missionary moneys available in US, it can become part of other efforts. It's not about TEC but about them.

Shouldn't we look at core relations as outreach? But they are relational. We are fulfilling our task as the DFMS. We are engaging in partnerships to accomplish God's work wherever that vineyard may be.

Ian: There's a new understanding of covenant post financial sustenance. **Does INC have any responsibility to help those conversations be nourished in TEC or is that the role of SCWM or an overworked staff who would look as they are trying to establish their budget? Does INC have a role?**

Petero: We need to remember to whom much is given, much is required/expected. We call it abundance. INC is the body to say to the rest of the church, we have these sisters or brothers in the church, how can we cut them off when they are going through what they are going through?

Rosalie: Is there anything to help these churches to gain that financial autonomy? How do we monitor that? How do we help them?

Margaret: There's a huge commitment to the covenants, \$6,500,000; over \$2 million go to overseas dioceses and \$2 million goes to the covenants. They are still a significant proportion of the budget. Prior to 1991, we had a large overseas development office. That whole office was eliminated in 1991. The Philippines benefited the most because most of the work had been done. There have been midcourse adjustments. With Liberia, an actual financial step-down schedule was never written.

Mark: INC has two roles: the move to autonomy is part of a process that has a next step to it. Autonomy is not so that you can be totally on your own but so that you can become an equal partner. It's about being able to make claim on one another. The move needs to be supported so we can be responsible in a different way. We need to address the whole issue as a group, either by asking SCWM to undertake the task or do it ourselves, to re-examine the question, "What is a covenant good for? What happens next?" E.g., in the Philippines, there will be a roundtable meeting of those partners throughout the world that support the work of the church in the Philippines, like Church of Sweden, who are not related to us by blood or marriage but are part of us as a community that cares about the church of the Philippines. That happens better with the church of the Philippine autonomously gathering its partners. What happens to our relationships with these new autonomous churches?

Bishop Holguín spoke about the processes of autonomy provinces — some cases we acted too quickly, though only in the financial factor; we signed the *convenios* (covenants), gave the autonomy but there wasn't a plan about where the province would go or how they would get there.

What would be the financial factor: in terms of finances, it would seem that over time TEC would cover less, but some new provinces can't cover the proportion. If the province will take 40 years to get to \$1 million, what will have happened with the province? They are stuck financially. They should have more resources for self-propagation for a church that is growing and expanding. New covenant committees have to review all the covenants to proceed to a restructuring or amendments to establish a mission/vision that would allow those provinces and dioceses in particular to bear fruit.

George: I think that many things are true but some weren't able to manage the assets given us. At least in Latin America, I feel that we get things and we should be a little more careful in using

the assets given us. The evangelical church is growing in LA and the projection is growing the same amount of resources they have been able to manage in a 10-year period, self-sufficiency. We need to plan the project, and the support of the EC to be able to administrate these resources.

After this broad discussion, the INC thanked Bishop Itty for his presence and report.

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The INC then named people to be members of pension working group.

Three people: Obispo Wilfredo Ramos, Rosalie Ballentine, Obispo Julio Holguín. It is the will of this committee to submit these names to the presiding officers.

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The INC next undertook a discussion of EC's approach to the task regarding draft Anglican covenant.

[16.15] The committee went into closed session.

The committee came out of closed session at 17.55. Bishop Ingham asked if the INC members would like to see the resolution on Iran.

The meeting recessed at 18.00.

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INC/NAC Saturday morning March 3, 2007 [the minutes here to the end are thanks to notes taken by Canon Margaret Larom]

The morning began with a joint meeting with National Concerns Committee, co-chaired by Sandi McPhee and John Vanderstar.

Office of Government Relations/Episcopal Public Policy Network/John Johnson

The committees heard a presentation from John Johnson of the Office of Government Relations, concerning Episcopal Public Policy Network, Farm Bill and other legislation being worked on. He explained the relationship between farm bill and MDGs. The EPPN page on Episcopal Church website, news and information section has a page on the farm bill.

Petero asked: By subsidizing American and European farmers, we are undermining the people we try to help through aid in Africa or Mexico and Latin America. Markets are flooded by food from rich countries where governments subsidize our own farmers. The MDGs aim at subsidizing farmers locally in other nations to help them be self-sustaining.

Bishop Holguín said that is one of the worries they have in Latin America and the Caribbean. As we have just signed March 1 a free trade treaty between Latin America and the Caribbean, and USA... the subsidies provided here to US growers will affect the Latino growers directly. For growers, it is cheaper to purchase subsidized rice (from US) than the non-subsidized rice grown in the Dominican Republic. He has heard that the average subsidy provided to farmers in US, represents 15 times the per capita income of Latin America farmers. Something else that perhaps we don't see at first sight: imports with US dollars will increase from US side, so there will be a strong demand for imports with dollars in the US... if there are not enough dollars, then there is devaluation in our country, which then translates into further poverty. So we must be really careful to maintain an equilibrium; otherwise one side pushes everything to another side. Impoverishment encourages further immigration to this country, especially the brain drain, worsening the situation even more. It becomes a vicious circle.

John answered that reason is exactly why the farm bill is so important, which is why the community has come together along with energy and nutrition and environmental protection, plus economic trade and aid issues. While General Convention policy on the MDGs provides sufficient policy background for us to work in, once you start moving into specific trade agreements, the policy becomes thin. We might want to come up with a resolution that is more specific, later... Alex Baumgarten can provide more input on this.

Rosalie – You mentioned that there are a number of Episcopal Church resolutions and policies regarding farming etc. It would be helpful to me if you could indicate what there is in the farm bill that challenges what we have established as policies. Tell me how these things connect, so we know how to advocate.

John – given the complexity of this legislation is why we chose to do a Lenten series, raising the moral aspects, and connecting to public policy. For next six weeks that education will occur.

Bishop Epting – In 13 years as bishop in Iowa, I got very involved in farm issues. They are enormously complex ... food safety, rural poverty here and abroad, environmental impact, etc. I am so pleased we are paying attention to this. Our church hasn't been terribly visible in rural America, so your work is very helpful. Things that affect large corporate farmers aren't necessarily the same as things that affect local, family farmers, who experience issues much more like international farmers do.

John – this not a Republican/Democratic issue, but a regional issue that hits dairy farmers, wheat farmers, etc.

Petero – farmers are having problems with genetically engineered crops. Zambia and Brazil have gone to WTO to protest... if you accept aid you're sort of forced to accept the engineered seeds.

John – re: genetically engineered crops: seed makers engineer their seeds so they only grow one season, so you have to go back and buy more next year. I've seen floated at last two General Conventions policy in those areas, but don't think it passed. (Check.)

Richard Parkins, EMM

EMM's newsletter called the Messenger has just been put in everyone's boxes. (EMM will send it to every member of Executive Council.)

The same environment in which John Johnson functions, affects EMM. In the Judiciary and Foreign Operations Committees there are new chairs, and EMM feels that the landscape is more hospitable.

He gave an update on immigration reform: the last Congress ended without getting a bill. The leadership is now looking at comprehensive immigration reform as something for new Congress to address. There are 3 resolutions that came out of General Convention – pathway to citizenship, subject to filling conditions; allowing new people to come in, to help fill certain sectors in labor force; and removing the family reunion backlog. All these resolutions are buttressed by Episcopal Church's commitment overall to immigration.

Anthony Guillen will talk later about a new sanctuary movement.

Patriot Act – if a person has given material support (broadly defined) to a terrorist organization (also broadly defined) it prevents their ability to come into US. This affects the Karen and Chen (people) plus the Hmong and Montagnard people, plus others such as from Iraq now. We've had some incredible breakthroughs with current Administration, thanks to efforts of Overseas Refugee Council.

New legislation – duress notion – if you gave assistance to combatants, under duress they are seeking waivers for these people, who deserve safe haven here.

The situation in Haiti has deteriorated, despite a brief period of recovery. Legislation is pending, and we are supporting it. We have good policy on this. We don't want Haitians returned to a dangerous environment. It is very hard to get such protection, because of such reluctance concerning Haitians (linked to racism, and fear of large numbers coming into the country).

Iraqi refugees... they are one of the casualties of the war. There are thousands and thousands going to Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Syria. Now there are over 2 million refugees in the adjacent countries. EMM is asking for Council to advocate for generous humanitarian assistance, to assist the 2 million displaced, plus increasing numbers of internally displaced. The ones who could get out were initially persons of some means... now poor Iraqis are trying to escape, many of them Palestinians, but often they are not welcome in these countries. The question is how to support basic livelihood needs particularly Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, who don't want more Palestinians. Many have family connections in this country. There are also large numbers of Chaldeans who are Christians. Many Iraqis have connections with the US government. They helped the intervention in Iraq, and they now need help. This could be supplemental to Iraqi appropriations bill: insist we be generous in assistance to those who are casualties of war. It's a refugee crisis of our making, to large extent.

Petero asked about Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for Haitians, and the coming debate on immigration reform bill. Can we talk to our representatives and senators, and what are chances of this being passed?

Richard said it's part of comprehensive immigration reform. We keep saying what we've always said: neither we nor the coalition of which we're a part, have departed from the basic principles outlined. Nancy Pelosi has said this will be a priority for the House. Molly Keane and Richard Parkins have experience on the Hill and they've [the House leadership] been getting a lot of negative information, because they rarely hear from people with a positive point of view. Immigration continues to be a very difficult and contentious issue, and those to the right will wage assiduous battle against what they say is recommendation for amnesty (which isn't even part of the bill).

This is bipartisan effort, broad support from faith-based organizations, evangelicals and main line and RC. We have a good base for our advocacy.

TPS can be done administratively; they don't need congressional action. If the administration doesn't act, congress will have to.

Bishop Holguin asked in the case of Cubans: do they still get same preferential treatment from US? Yes, that's another difficult issue. But, the "material support" bar now affects Cubans because they gave material support to Castro. We have had examples of Liberian women who were forced into sexual slavery in West Africa, but were denied admission because they lent material support. It's not believable, but true! We have been winning this battle with Homeland Security and National Security, but it has taken two years. We will now bring thousands of Burmese, the Burmese Karen are Episcopalians and Baptists because of missionary patterns.

Petero: When I called Congressman Payne in NJ about the Haitians, he said he doesn't get many calls from "our side." He needs to hear more. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center and Anti Defamation League, KKK is growing partly as a result of pushing against immigration reform. The congress reps are very glad to meet with us. Payne is one of strongest advocates for Haitians.

NAC left and INC resumed its deliberations.

Iran resolution proposed (from Maureen)

Sandi is concerned that there is no explanation at bottom of text.

Ian – 5th resolve, TEC is already on record concerning the two-state resolution. He doesn't want to get into discussion on this when we already have policy base.

George – what happens after you pass the resolution? How do we know what effects are achieved from these resolutions?

Sandi – Office on Government Relations uses this in Washington, for advocacy in Congress or in the Administration.

George – how do we know what success they are having?

Sandi – the staff reports back.

Brian – the new part is the first part of the resolve... peace between Israelis and Palestinians is essential to the region.

Ian – then when we say this, we should reassert GC position.

The committee has no problem with the substance of this resolution.

Rosalie – When we as a committee pass a resolution, is this considered to be the final form? Is this the sense of what we want to have done, and there are drafters who put this in better form and to clean it up? Response: It's our job.

Petero – to Brian – does “end of occupation” refer to the recent occupation? Also, a question of shared Jerusalem, haven't we resolved on this before?

Brian – the language we have is Jerusalem is capital of two states... but we can put that language back if you want.

Mark – third resolve. Change – more than soldiers, expand to all military personnel. Also, “recognize” seems really weak – what about expression of sorrow? Strike whole thing or make it stronger.

Ian – we passed this in Columbus too.

Sandi – perhaps Ian and Brian can clean this up during lunch? Bring a perfected resolution to us after lunch.

Rosalie – what is the purpose of this resolution? It covers a host of different things in my mind. What is the Office of Government Relations wanting us to address? Yesterday, I thought it was Iraq. Now it's Iraq, Iran, Palestinians...

Brian – the resolution needs to address the changing realities in the broader region. Our prior work has focused on Israeli-Palestine and the Iraq War. We haven't talked about Iran or Lebanon; we had a war in the latter, and see a threat of incursion to Iran, and have said nothing about either. Maureen was on a highly publicized delegation. This a critical time in relations between our countries. This resolution opens our focus to the region and its changing realities and gives us opportunities to engage in some principles as we dialogue with administration and congress.

Perhaps there should be a separate resolve in Israel/Palestine. With regards to expression of gratitude (Mark's comments on third resolve), should we redo, restate our gratitude more to people working to help those trying to help, and not the soldiers who are associated with violence?

A resolution on the wider zone should be more geared to the fact that the church could be the conscience of the politicians and those who are engaged in the war because there are a lot of people who are out of control, as we can see from outside. The thought of many people outside the US is that the only thing important to us is controlling the oil-rich region (Afghanistan, Iraq, or Iran). In those countries where we have allies, or who are our friends, we don't have to touch them (the petroleum is there). We do have reason to think the real reason is oil. To conclude about Israel and Palestine, it's not very ethical for a country openly in favor of Israel, and not Palestine, [to be] a mediator because it's not objective. It doesn't make sense.

Lee – can we tease out key points and put in three resolves? This is about dealing with changing geopolitical situation in the Middle East. We could refer to previous positions in the Explanation. Perhaps less is more, here.

Lee, Ian, and Brian will work over lunch.

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Bonnie Anderson arrived to talk about how to go about responding to the draft covenant. INC went into Executive Session to discuss this matter.

When the INC came out of Executive Session, **Sandi McFee (chair) appointed the following persons to a subgroup that will create a study guide and accompanying letter: Rosalie Ballentine (chair), Bishops Holguín and Cathy Roskam, Ian Douglas, Mark Harris, Josephine Hicks and Lee Alison Crawford. Ian will contact Josephine and Cathy.**

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After lunch, Brian presented the reworked resolution on the Middle East. **The committee approved it (INC 016) unanimously.**

It also approved INC 017.

Finally, the committee presented a report on the Anglican Covenant Response Process.

The meeting concluded with this work.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Alison Crawford, Secretary
(with thanks to Canon Margaret Larom for her Saturday notes)