

# **The Standing Commission on World Mission**

First meeting, 2004–2006 Triennium  
Tampa, Florida, 12–15 February 2004

## **Minutes**

The Standing Commission on World Mission held its first regular meeting of the triennium from 12 to 15 February 2004 in Tampa, Florida.

## **Attendance and Membership**

Members present were: Mrs. Helena Mbele-Mbong (Convener), The Honorable Martha Bedell Alexander, The Rev. Katherine Babson, Dr. Diana Dillenberger-Frade, The Rt. Rev. Jean Zaché Duracin, The Rev. Canon Mark Harris, Mr. Willis J. Jenkins, The Very Rev. Robert S. Munday, and The Rt. Rev. Wilfrido Ramos-Orench, Mr. Saulo Salvador, The Very Rev. Titus L. Presler (Executive Council Liaison), and The Rev. Canon Patrick Mauney (Staff liaison – Anglican and Global Relations).

Present for parts of the meeting were: The Rev. Canon Tony Jewiss (Deputy Executive Officer, General Convention Office), The Rt. Rev. Catherine S. Roskam (Chair, International Concerns Committee, Executive Council), The Very Rev. George Werner (President, House of Deputies).

Members absent were: Maria L. Mendez, MD, and The Rt. Rev. Julio Cesar Holguin (just named to the Commission).

## **Sessions and officers**

The meeting began Thursday evening with dinner together with time for informal introductions and conversation. The Commission decided to forgo meeting that night in order to await the arrival of other members scheduled to arrive later on in the evening.

Sessions were held all day Friday, including the evening; all day Saturday, and Sunday afternoon, concluding at 5:00 pm on Sunday. The sessions began with worship. On Friday, Titus Presler led Morning Prayer, then Wilfrido Ramos-Orench led Bible Study using the African Bible Study Method of Reflection. On Saturday, Robert Munday led Morning Prayer and the Bible Study. On Sunday morning, the members attended the regular service at St. John's Episcopal Church in Tampa.

Officers were elected on Saturday morning, after the participants had had a chance to get to know one another better. Elected were:

Chair:	Mrs. Helena Mbele-Mbong
Vice-Chair:	The Rt. Rev. Wilfrido Ramos-Orench
Secretary:	The Honorable Martha Bedell Alexander
Treasurer:	Mr. Saulo Salvador

## **Introduction and reports**

Introductions: Each member made a self-introduction, with a focus on the experiences they brought to the Commission and their particular concerns and interests.

Tony Jewiss handed out reimbursement sheets and made a presentation on his duties at the Church Center. He emphasized the need to get the minutes of the meetings out promptly, as well as submitting reimbursements within six weeks of the meeting. Handing out copies of the resolutions referred to SCWM, he reminded the Commission that the Blue Book Report is due in January 2006.

### ***Review of previous triennium***

Willis Jenkins gave a review of the three major areas that the Commission focused on during the previous triennium. 1) Race, money and power, including a symposium on that subject area with Edmundo Desueza, Jonothan Bock and Burgess Carr. (It was felt that perhaps the subject should be held open for further discussion and the presentations published.) 2) Autonomy issues, focusing on three dioceses to come into ECUSA: Cuba, Puerto Rico and Venezuela. Cuba decided not to proceed; resolutions were adopted at GC2003 incorporating Puerto Rico and Venezuela. 3) Vision task force and consultation with the wider church and mission organizations (EPGM, ERD, AGR, etc.). Work in this area resulted in the vision statement, *Companions in transformation: The Episcopal Church's world mission in a new century*, presented to General Convention 2003. The General Convention adopted resolution A150, calling on the Church to study the vision statement and on SCWM to gather responses and make specific programmatic and budgetary proposals to the next GC.

### ***Report from Executive Council***

Titus Presler and Wilfrido Ramos-Orench reported on the Executive Council meeting that had just been held. They stated that the budget picture was better than expected, and although there were some reductions, most obligations should be met. Overall there was a positive spirit and a strong sense of community. Of particular interest to SCWM: a resolution on the Covenant with Philippines to assist with an endowment fund; recognition of new missionaries; a resolution reiterating the Millennium Development Goals and the goal of 0.7% of budgets in support of the MDGs; discussion and resolution on the Anglican Church in Mexico.

The Very Rev. George Werner joined the participants for part of the meeting and also reported on the Executive Council and on his Council of Advice.

### ***Report from AGR***

Pat Mauney, Chief Operating Officer for Anglican and Global Relations, reported that the recent focus had been on continuing to build and maintain relations and lines of communication with other parts of the Anglican Communion. Currently AGR's efforts are on the following:

- Receive visitors
- Plan and produce materials for World Mission Sunday
- Attend first meeting of Anglican Telecommunications Commission
- Recruit, train and deploy mission partners
- Nourish relations in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America
- Train new UTO diocesan coordinators and distribute over \$3,000,000 in 2003 grants
- Fulfill ecumenical obligations and cultivate ties among mission agencies.

Pat reported that the leadership in the Diocese of Cuba had been in transition and The Rt. Rev. Miguel Tamayo, Bishop of Uruguay, was appointed as Bishop. Following the passage of the Patriot Act, ECUSA could no longer send money to Cuba through Canada. The US Treasury Dept has now granted an exception to send money to Cuba (pensions and other funds).

### ***Mission personnel orientation***

Titus Presler gave a brief review of the developments in orientation. In the early 1990s missionaries were sent to joint training sessions with ELCA, Presbyterians, and two smaller groups. Although the ecumenical aspect was exciting, the Episcopal missionaries were not getting enough EC nurture. In 2003 the first EC training was held, and it was felt that this was the way to continue.

## **Discussion topics**

### ***General Convention votes and SCWM***

A considerable amount of time was spent in an open discussion of the aftermath of the votes at General Convention. Members felt that they had developed a strong sense of community by sharing individual feelings on the decisions of the General Convention and the current situation in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. All agreed that this issue and its impact on world mission would continue to be of great concern to the Commission and that we must approach it with integrity.

### ***Major areas of focus for the triennium***

Discussion turned to the other topics the Commission needs to consider during the current triennium. Three major areas were decided on, with members in each sub-group as indicated below.

- ***Companions in Transformation***

Martha Alexander  
Kitty Babson  
Willis Jenkins

Helena Mbele-Mbong  
Titus Presler

- ***Autonomy and interdependence***

Diana Dillenberger  
Zaché Duracin

Mark Harris  
Wilfrido Ramos-Orench

- ***Mission support***

Martha Alexander  
Kitty Babson

Willis Jenkins  
Robert Munday

Part of the sessions on Saturday and Sunday were spent working in subgroups. The discussions on these and other topics considered are summarized under the headings below.

### ***Vision statement: Companions in Transformation***

With reference to the mandate given to SCWM in resolution A150, the Commission needs to develop a study guide for dioceses and other groups to study and provide feedback on the vision statement. In support of this, the booklet also needs to be reprinted (by Morehouse), for which funding must be sought. The total cost of the original printing was \$8,500 and was partially funded by Episcopal Publishing, Diocese of Connecticut.

When the study guide is completed, it should be mailed to various groups with an appropriate cover letter, including: the GEM Network, EPGM, and other mission groups; diocesan mission committees; the 20/20 Task Force; other standing commissions. Dioceses should be encouraged to invite their parishes to be involved as well. Work on the draft study guide begun during the

meeting would continue over the next few months. The study guide should be completed and sent as soon as possible.

In developing recommendations to the next GC, the Commission should also continue to collaborate with as wide a range of other groups as possible, including: EPGM, IASCME, GEM, companion dioceses, UTO, ERD, Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation, and the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice

The study of *Companions* itself, as well as the recommendations back to GC, should challenge the church to send and receive missionaries, including provide funds.

### **Autonomy & interdependence**

Nearly half a century after the autonomy process began, it was felt opportune to reexamine the notion of mutual responsibility and interdependence. It was hoped that the Anglican Gathering in 2008 would also look at this. The sub-group members agreed to write papers on the following issues, and to review them among themselves, for consideration at the next meeting:

- Reconciliation (Zaché Duracin)
- Mutual responsibility: 40 years later (Mark Harris)
- Autonomy (Saulo Salvador)
- Partnerships and covenants (Robert Munday)
- Mutuality and companionship (Wilfrido Ramos-Orench)

It will also be important to continue to maintain close relations with the two dioceses incorporated in ECUSA at the 2003 GC (Puerto Rico and Venezuela) as well as Cuba and to continue to monitor the covenants with other dioceses. Hopefully it will be possible for at least one member of SCWM to visit each of the three dioceses during the triennium. It was proposed that the next meeting be held to overlap with the meeting of the Mexican Covenant Committee in San Antonio in October.

### **Mission support**

Title III requires that all candidates for ordination have cross-cultural exposure. The Commission might contribute guidelines, monitor, and/or facilitate this. SCOM has a limited amount of funds for grants (Titus Presler, Chair), and there will be increasing applicants for limited resources. This is one possible use of A151 funds.

The sub-group will focus on the nurture of missionaries, cross-cultural mission experience for ordinands, guidelines for short-term missionaries/mission trips (contact EPGM), empowering international communities in the US to host missions, and honoring visitors and returning sojourners alike and making their stories better known.

### **2008 Anglican Global Gathering**

SCWM has a responsibility to contribute to preparing financial provision for this gathering and to assist in developing the program (resolution D009). The Rev. Ian Douglas (member of IASCME) will be the main conduit in this process, as well as Bp Roskam (EC). This is another possible use for A151 funds.

## **Other items**

- ♦ Develop liturgies to celebrate the incorporation/existence of international dioceses in ECUSA, or of launching newly autonomous dioceses. Collaborate with the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music.
- ♦ Importance of looking seriously at the name of the church so that it reflects foreign dioceses of ECUSA.
- ♦ Need for documents to be translated into French and Spanish.
- ♦ Need of SCWM to meet jointly with EPGM once during the triennium.
- ♦ Need to ensure that all members have taken anti-racism training. There is a possibility for specific training for SCWM.

## **SCWM representation at other meetings**

- ♦ Cambridge Consultation/Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation: Boston, February 27, 2004. Kitty Babson and Willis Jenkins (supported by SCWM) will represent SCWM.
- ♦ Mission with Children and EPGM: Camp Allan, May 2004. Kitty Babson, Diana Dillenberger and Titus Presler will be attending.
- ♦ GEM, Austin, June 16-19, 2004. Mark Harris, Kitty Babson and Titus Presler will be attending.
- ♦ Convention of the Convocation of American Churches in Europe, Wiesbaden, Germany, October 21–24, 2004. Tentatively Wilfrido Ramos-Orench will attend (SCWM funding).

## **Next meetings of SCWM**

- ♦ October 6–10, 2004, San Antonio. Arrive Wednesday, October 6; meet Thursday and Friday, including a joint session with the Mexican Covenant Committee. Travel day, Saturday, October 9, with those who are able staying through to Sunday in order to meet with the diocesan mission committee. Helena Mbele-Mbong and Titus Presler will coordinate with the Church Office and Bishop Folts, Diocese of West Texas.
- ♦ Spring 2005: April? With EPGM. Robert Munday offered the possibility of meeting at Nachotah. To be followed up with Robert and EPGM.
- ♦ Fall 2005: Venezuela? With possible stops by some members in other dioceses in the region.
- ♦ January 2006: Zaché Duracin extended an invitation to meet in Haiti.

Faithfully submitted,  
Diana Dillenberger-Frade  
Acting Secretary

## Acronyms

AGR .....	Anglican and Global Relations (Episcopal Church Center)
EC .....	Executive Council
ELCA .....	Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
EPGM .....	Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission
EGR .....	Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation
ERD .....	Episcopal Relief and Development
GC .....	General Convention
GEM .....	Global Episcopal Mission (GEM) Network
IASCOME...	Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Mission and Evangelism
MDGs .....	Millennium Development Goals (of the United Nations)
SCOM .....	Seminary Consultation on Mission
SCWM .....	Standing Commission on World Mission
UTO .....	United Thank Offering