

The Standing Commission on World Mission
An interim body of the General Convention

Third Meeting 2004-2006 Triennium
April 27 – May 1, 2005

The Redemptorist Retreat Center, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

The Standing Commission on World Mission held its third regular meeting of the triennium from Wednesday, April 27 through Sunday, May 1, 2005 at The Redemptorist Retreat Center, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

Members present were: The Honorable Martha Bedell Alexander (Secretary), The Reverend Katharine Babson, Dr. Diana Dillenberger-Frade, The Right Reverend Jean Zache Duracin, The Reverend Canon Mark Harris, The Right Reverend Julio Cesar Holguin, Mr. Willis J. Jenkins, Mrs. Helena Mbele-Mbong (Chair), The Very Reverend Robert S. Munday, Mr. Saulo Salvador (Treasurer); as well as, The Very Reverend Titus L. Presler (Executive Council Liaison), and Mrs. Margaret S. Larom (Director, Anglican and Global Relations), The Reverend James Lemler, (Director of Missions), The Reverend Jane Butterfield (Mission Personnel Officer, AGR) and The Reverend Canon Juan L. Marquez (Partnerships Officer, AGR), James Teets (AGR), Sonia Omulepu (AGR), Tracy Andres (AGR), and JoAnne Chapman (UTO) attended part of the meeting as well as Bishop Bill Skilton.

Members absent were: Maria L. Mendez, MD and The Right Reverend Wilfrido Ramos-Orench (Vice-Chair).

The meeting was called to order on Thursday, April 28, at 9:05 a.m. by the Chair, Helena Mbele-Mbong. After a welcome by the Chair, Morning Prayer was led by Robert Munday for the Commission.

The schedule for the meeting was discussed and then Chair Helena Mbele-Mbong led the group in a discussion about *Companions in Transformation* which was reprinted with a study guide. The Chair believes it is a living document and serves as a sound basis for parishes, dioceses and any group interested in mission. People like the portrayals of missionaries in the “Windows on Mission” Video series. Developed by Jane Butterfield’s office to supplement *Companions*, they tell the stories of missionaries in the field in their own words, beautifully filmed by Philip Carr. She extended thanks to Jane Butterfield, Kitty Babson, Ruth Ann Collins and Ross Kane who worked on study questions to go with the videos as well as Philip Carr.

The Spanish translation is finished and will be sent to Saulo Salvador, Bishop Ramos-Orench and Bishop Holguin for their review. Bishop Ramos-Orench has obtained \$3,000 for the printing. Helena expressed hearty thanks to Austin Rios and his wife, Jill, Mexico, who offered the translation. The French translation still needs to be done and AGR and Haiti will help with it.

Update from Members

The commission members then gave an update on what each had been doing since the last meeting.

Dean Munday gave a welcome to everyone and stated that there will be a group from Nashota House going to Nigeria in January. He is making the Bishop Kemper Mission Society more focused on mission again and less on student government.

Saulo Salvador said that he was working with a Spanish congregation of 200 families – most of whom are Cuban in the Miami area. 75% of them are over 65 years of age. They have a healing service on the second Sunday of each month and have ten people serving as visiting Eucharist ministers as well as helping to bring people to the church. Now that they are almost out of debt they are able to pay the minister's salary.

Life was very rich for Mark Harris these days. He recently went to Sri Lanka for three weeks with his wife who was working as part of a series of mental health teams going to villages to help with post-traumatic stress. He is an associate in a local parish where he works with young people and Christian Education as well as writing scurrilous things in the internet. He is intimately involved with world issues.

Margaret Larom reported on her new job as Director of Anglican and Global Relations which she finds exciting and affirming. She has had the opportunity to work with the Evangelical Lutheran Church as well as with the UN Commission on the Status of Women, and with women from Liberia.

Juan Marquez has recently had the opportunity to work with the Commission on Theological Education in Latin America which is organizing a Latin America Anglican Congress which will meet in Panama, October 5-10, 2005, which will take a theological reflection approach to globalization and its impact on the life for the church. There will be five representatives from each diocese. Bishop Ramos-Orench and Bishop Holguin plan to attend the meeting.

Bishop Holguin stated he has one the greatest gifts – his first grandchild who was born on March 21. They had an excellent diocesan convention which included an opportunity for reflection on the local church as means of evangelization, two ordinations and a number of confirmations. He continues to travel throughout the Caribbean as President of the Latin America Council of Churches that gives him the opportunity to have an overview of the region. The World Council of

Churches is holding a meeting in Porto Alegre in Brazil and a large number of youth are expected to be there to assist in the celebration and the assembly. The ministry in the Episcopal Church in the Dominican Republic is well, full of life and growing. Between 2003 and 2004 twenty new missions were established. Three of the missions are located on the border between the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The church went to provide assistance to the people when there was a lot of flooding in that part of the country and sent a person from seminary to work there. Soon people in the community wanted to learn more about the church and thus missions were formed. "We give thanks to God, because he gives us the strength, and to all those who give support."

Bishop Duracin reported he went to Wiesbaden, Germany for the Convention of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe. He had thought it was just a small gathering of people but found out he was wrong. It is very strong with a lot of diversity and many different languages. The church in Haiti held their diocesan convention in January, which was considered the best convention the diocese had had. He reported there had been several hurricanes which had destroyed many places in Haiti but with help from many dioceses in the USA and Episcopal Relief and Development they were able to respond to many of the needs. The church is growing and there are some new missions. There are 37 clergy and 109 congregations. At the moment there is a temporary President and Government. The Episcopal Church has been called on to participate in forming the government along with the Roman Catholic and other Protestant churches. Elections will take place in the Fall.

Kitty Babson talked about her mission in Myanmar. During the post-tsunami days Episcopal Relief and Development mentioned all the impact countries minus Myanmar. Part of her mission is to help inform the Church about the Church in Myanmar. She was last there in January and now feels like she is at home when there. Music in the church is diminishing there and so she has asked Randy Giles, PhD in Musicology, and a missionary teacher at a college in Chennai if he would work with the people in Myanmar. He would like to visit and hold a music workshop for the church. Kitty will return in June to plan a Mothers Union Retreat for women in the province, which she hopes will be held in February. Kitty is also excited to be involved in working on a framework of questions to be used as a study guide to go with Windows on Mission. Philip Carr who filmed the video is working with her.

Martha Alexander reported on her work in the legislature and on a bill ensuring migrant workers have minimum living standards provided to them and their families. She mentioned mission work as well and the frustration of trying to help people understand mission and the personal relationships it takes to make mission a reality.

Missionary Programs - The Reverend Jane Butterfield

Jane Butterfield, Mission Personnel Officer, AGR, was invited to talk about missionary programs. There was a retreat for missionaries in Istanbul which encompassed missionaries from Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Helena Mbele-Mbong and Kitty Babson, two members of the SCWM, were present, as well as Titus Presler. During the last four years it has been a priority for every geographical group to have a retreat every three years. Juan Marquez was present at the retreat as well as Titus Pressler. The theme was "What is the Role of the Missionary in the Councils of the Church?" Pastoral Care is so important for missionaries. Having the opportunity to be together in a relaxing manner is very refreshing and helps ease the pain and loneliness of the missionary.

Between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. the following staff from Anglican and Global Relations presented their areas to the Commission.

James Teets, Manager of Partnership Services, oversees a scholarship program for students from developing world countries other than Latin America and is coordinator of the companion diocese relationship. He also prepares resolutions for Executive Council and is the Manager of the Good Friday Offering.

Jim Lemler, Director of Mission, talked about his job as Director of Missions. He spends a great deal of time teaching, preaching, educating and being a champion for mission and for focus and life and vitality of the church. He is the program mission representative on the management team and helps prepare the budget.

Tracy Andres is an assistant with World Mission; as support staff she is an anchor for the office, providing information and linkages. She also puts in a considerable effort in preparing World Mission Sunday resources.

JoAnne Chapman is the UTO coordinator. This year there were 200 applications for funding and 131 grants that were funded. The requests totaled 8.232 million but they only had 2.7 million to give away. Of this amount 53.8% went to the US and 46.25 % went overseas. They give \$250-\$400 to missionaries serving overseas. This year eight of the twelve provinces in Africa were interested in obtaining grants.

Sonia Omulepu stated she was asked to help complete some projects, particularly the Constable Fund, a brochure for Anglican Global Relations, a map in both English and Spanish and other bulletin inserts on global mission. She also helped with the responses from the church on *Companions in Transformation*. Only three responses were in writing. She began making phone calls for additional responses. Some people felt that the booklet was hard to understand and that it was too academic. It was suggested that a website be utilized for *Companions in Transformation* and *Windows on Mission*. Some people are excited about the *Companions in Transformation* but the reading of the Windsor Report has become very important at the moment. It was suggested that *Companions in Transformation* and *Windows on Mission* be utilized together. (Helena

Mbele-Mbong stated the two tools can help bring a focus on mission. Kitty Babson suggested we might want to work with the AGR Staff to enhance the mutual work between the two groups,)

Thursday Afternoon

There was a joint session between EPGM and SCWM. Sandi McPhee of EPGM convened the meeting and Bob Miner of EPGM opened with a prayer. The Windows on Mission video about the Hardisons and their work in Kenya was shown. There was a presentation on AIDS and one on teaching school. The meeting then divided into groups to discuss priorities in Chapter 5 of *Companions in Transformation*. The group reports are given below. The groups shared in the following discussion and then EPGM held a meeting. (There are also notes from EPGM dated April 29, 2005.)

The following notes are from the meeting with EPGM and the SCWM. These were handed in by the small groups that met on the afternoon of April 28, 2005 at the Redemptorist Retreat Center. Typed by Martha Bedell Alexander, Secretary, SCWM.

Written Comments from Groups

Group 1

Strengthen and tap into the synergies of the voluntary society's wealth of experience and gifts. Also many of those partnerships are not possible now.

We live in a broken communion and the document fails to acknowledge the current conditions of the church. (p. 40) Keep 1-4 and rewrite Section 5 since things may well become messier in the future.

Curricula needs to be developed from data gathered at the grassroots level to determine "what would bring our call to mission to life".

We need to remember that the average person is missing the basic educational and formational pieces about "mission". (P.S. Some of the clergy are too.)

The relationship w/Jesus transforms our lives by allowing us to be agents of transformation in empowering others' lives in the world. "Companions through transformation through Christ."

Would EPGM still be whole and fully functioning without oversight and funding by the Executive Council? In what ways did this impact the loss of members?

Group 2

Affirm an enhanced mission education.

Extend it to seminarians and work with existing networks in each diocese.

Actively recruit racial and ethnic minorities for the ordained ministry to be able to fill positions in parishes that are looking for clergy who will be able to perform services in other cultures and languages so that these persons become part of the fabric of the whole church.

Group 3

Young people's experience in mission often leads to live commitment to Christian service. Example: John Coburn's experience in Zimbabwe. Sending seminarians for such an experience is a good idea.

A parish in San Diego is sending three missionaries.

The booklet “Companions in Transformation” written in 2002 does not include the working out of difficulties of 2003 and the following:

Twenty primates are not with us. Will AFM be a bridge into Nigeria? West Indies? Uganda?

Can there be “Episcopalians serving God’s mission” that could include both factions? “Can the Companions document draw a circle that does not exclude anyone?”

How can the vision statement incorporate or recognize the changes of 2003? Discussion of betrayal. The betrayal felt by many when the Presiding Bishop chose to vote his opinion regarding Robinson, when he could have abstained in order to be shepherd to the whole Episcopal Church. Betrayal also felt on the other side, feeling the exclusion and marginalization and judgment upon homosexuals. These are larger questions than EPGM.

Strengthen mission to under evangelized Iran, Tibet, and new booklet being written about undereached people. Historical look at John Hines and John Allen. Need new PB who could stand in the middle? Decentralize leadership from “815” to other centers.

Group 4

Enhanced Mission Education

Important due to increasing needs of the field to educate the dioceses

Doubtful of way to spread the word (Diocese of MA) created a Program and is worried about dioceses will buy into 815 generated materials unless there are parishes (bishop esp.) providing the agenda

Increase the number of missionaries

More staff to support missionaries – yes/no brainer

More missionaries

but more with special skills (doctors, nurses) water resources people, curriculum specialists, with thought and planning to what skills, specialties would be of help (dentists, financial managers, agriculture specialists, fishing culture, micro-credit, micro business

Increase recruitment of minorities – yes, no brainer

Support Short Term Pilgrimages – Yes!

Some serious reservations about missionaries.....

Very clear standards/covenants/goals so does not become a vacation

Harvard – medical school students

Increased support – Seminaries – Yes!

vital

Strengthen Missionary Network through EPGM

As was defined in Howard’s presentation last night

Example – Gary Hardison (in video) wife whispered in ear – He was not a religious person but his wife was – hence an example of networking by marriage!

With local universities

II Corinthians 8:13-15; Matthew 25: 31

DVD – Jubilee Resources

Network resources – search and develop these

A resource media person to do this kind of work – someone of great competence not of “holy ineptitude”.

How to write/call the DVD

We are not very clear about exploring the media such as Cisco – asking such to put on site links and to be on sites (Microsoft, Gates, Stephen King etc.)

Seek out ECUSA organizations which are willing to put links on their sites.

We do not utilize things well: we are slow as an institution to change.

Group 5

Missionary support including staffing support – mission education

Getting word out about what the church is doing – esp. where the money is going; what the church is doing beyond the parish and the diocese.

No preaching from the pulpit about global mission

What about the education of the clergy and materials curricula development for seminaries as well and make part of M Div core requirements; also continuing education for clergy and lay and support staffing

Intensive approach to Baptismal Covenant

Practicum component

Put materials in the hands of the people and in the pew like Lutherans

“I will commit myself to.....” each Baptismal Covenant Vow (Bishop Griswold when he was in Chicago)

No ethnic minority participation in global missions – no mention or knowledge of Ethnic Exposure Program. Why is there only \$15,000 proposed for the program?

How about a serious amount?

More intention of mission in Anglican Cycle of Prayer (pray explicitly for missionaries by name? and in diocesan cycles of prayer.

Short Term Missions

Need more staff

Using more people already involved in short term missions to do speaking engagements

Cross cultural is important; esp. language training

Networking – very important

Notes from the Oral Reports

Companions in Transformation – good, but needs something more excitable

Margaret Larom’s former position needs to be retained/expanded to encourage/stimulate, move dioceses in mission action

Videos: how best to use/put out there?

Show these to the House of Bishops

Enhance Missionary Education – Yes, in seminaries

Raise up leaders/universities to serve greater church

2nd title on Companions: a clue to cooperation/inclusion with seceding companions?

Missionary support important: staff and money
 Missionary education: getting word out to church: where money goes
 Concern with deficit in clergy numbers of mission aware people
 Concern for need for other language, study and skill
 Need for concrete materials for pew: inserts etc. for people
 Minorities – percentage set too low
 Short term missions are very important.
 SCOM bid important but there is a need for language training
 More “praying about mission” and how to do this
 Need for increased collaboration with interfaith agencies and NGO’s
 Environmental focus/train.right
 Sending and receiving guidelines/covenants
 Hospitality to international students needs attention.
 Companions doesn’t address current church concerns/issues.
 Curricular materials for mission formation needed.
 Flesh out Comp. in Transformation (ex. “through X”)
 Would EPGM be whole and fully functioning without DFMS funding?
 Agree, but how would from 815 to Diocese
 A. More staff, more missions but specialized skills
 B. Yes, South to South, particularly language
 B. Yes, but avoid missiontourism
 C. Mission network strengthen. How to create visuals? Links!! More initiatives

Report from EPGM – Friday, April 29

1. Organizations within EPGM – Concrete ways to strengthen education.
 - Utilize EPGM listserv to keep informed
 - Adult Study on HIV/AIDS – four weeks
 - Tithe 10% of newsletter space as to what all is going on by member EPGM groups
 - All organizations should have links to EPGM website – EPGM web links to all members
 - Resources available through EPGM
 - Double SCOM grants via a resolution from EPGM to General Convention
 - Assist with training/teaching on second language
 - More information from 815 on understanding culture – other faiths to EPGM organizations for their training short term purpose
 - World Mission Sunday – strong push to promote it, support it and have parishes use it. Make it more than one Sunday? Have EPGM members contribute material in overall mission education as concrete examples of doing mission. Downloading material OK, other information listed.
 - Greater awareness on unreached people, lectionary (based material available – how/or means to link to)
 - 815 changed web connection and knocked EPGM offline. Need Better instruction from 815 on how to work new system.
2. Funds from National Church increased?
 - Current: \$25K less 10% assists in operating budget
 - Discussion: Some organizations that have left EPGM left because of the money being given now by National Church – control issue

Whose money is it? National Church or God's money?
EPGM needs to clarify in our own minds whose \$ it is
before asking for more. Dues are suggested guidelines, but we don't
enforce recommended amounts, which is good. Always operate in the
black.

Need a three year budget for EPGM to see what we need \$.

In this holding period can we forecast that far? SCOM is a
priority now. Is this a conflict? And how soon do we need to answer
this? Standing Commission meets again in the fall, therefore EPGM
Steering Committee needs to look at the budget seriously.

Could EPGM funds be used to help EPGM members going to "outside
experiences" such as VIVA – as part of the
"Hear the Children Conference".

Utilize listserv for comments and steering committee will

Look at what response to give at the meeting on September 14.

3. Recognition of mission people by Executive Council – hindrance, help, OK
Discussion: not a hindrance, but some names are not submitted by an EPGM
organization because of where being sent. (Nigeria and Uganda). Member groups need
to vote on this and if this is a problem, or continue with status quo of not sending all
names to Executive Council.
EPGM members (some) appreciate this flexibility – little is at stake. Good to have
option. Consensus is let stay as is. Note: Red Book has a listing that is publicized so
EPGM members are more careful about names being submitted there.

Friday, April 29, 2005

There was an update on the EPGM Meeting. The moratorium they initiated on new members joining EPGM and on members leaving was discussed. There was consensus reached from the group stating this was in line with the House of Bishops calling on a moratorium on the consecration of new bishops. There were strong feelings from some opposing the admission of the Diocese of New Hampshire; if they were admitted, other members would leave. Mark Harris stated that when EPGM was started it was clear that there would be a wide divergence in theological understandings and there would always be tension about being part of the group but there would be a willingness to respect one another. Robert Munday said that proposing a moratorium was a way of continuing dialogue. Titus Presler said that EPGM was born out of lots of pain and division, "liberal" and "conservative" groups. EPGM has an official relationship with Executive Council and gave a place for missionaries from other agencies (SAMS, EWM, SOMA) to be recognized, as well as those funded by DFMS. There needs to be a continued focus on mission and a way to dialogue around mission.

There will not be another EPGM meeting before General Convention since they will meet with New Wineskins which will be held in Lake Junaluska in September, 2006. Therefore, they will wait and see the results of General Convention before making further decisions. It was suggested Sandi McPhee be invited to attend the SCWM Meeting before she leaves to give an update on EPGM.

Covenants

Juan Marquez, AGR, reported on the covenants with the Philippines, Mexico, Central America and Brazil. The Covenant with the Philippines will expire in 2007. The Covenant with Mexico was initiated in 1994 to last for 25 years. Central America's Covenant was established in 1997 and went into effect in 1998 for 40 years. Executive Council receives reports on the covenants on an ongoing basis. There is also a covenant with Liberia. There is a financial aspect to the covenants and the agreements call for a reduction on a percentage basis, with the hope that financial support will be raised within the provinces. Each covenant committee has a bishop on sides as well as a priest and lay person. The people involved look at the financial dimension and how to continue as partners and companions in mission as well as how to continue to minister to one another.

The Covenant with the Philippines will stop in 2005 since they have provided funding for their own sustainability and are in the process of electing a presiding bishop.

The Covenant with Mexico continues to struggle with a number of issues as they learn to become a province, working together. They do not have a real plan for sustainability.

IARCA encompasses diocese in five countries (Panama, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua) where each diocese had an independent life and now need to come together to make common decisions. They must learn to trust each other and build a common vision. Costa Rica is probably in the worst position financially. Panama is very solid. Guatemala is doing well and so is Nicaragua. El Salvador still needs to grow churches.

The relationship with Brazil is unique. There was no commitment to continuing financial support, as with the more recent covenants. Presiding Bishop Browning and the Presiding Bishop of Brazil decided to call for a more formal relationship but there was still no financial support. A bilateral committee was established, which meets every 18 months to seek ways of strengthening mutual support and ministry. There are now companion diocese relationships. They have requested this Commission to look into this relationship and possibly bring a resolution to General Convention expressing support of the relationship. They want to move from being a bilateral committee to a Commitment to be Companions in Christ. The church in Brazil is doing well and has grown in the cities as well as in the rural areas.

EPGM Report – Sandi McPhee

EPGM members discussed how to keep organizations in EPGM and how to develop concrete ways to strengthen mission education. Communication and collaboration are the keys. They want to revitalize their list serve and post resources and curricula. There was a lot of conversation about World Mission Sunday and how to promote and support it and how to have parishes become more involved. To enhance awareness, it was suggested that the theme of the EPGM Booth at General Convention be "Every Sunday is World Mission Sunday". Currently EPGM receives \$22, 500 a year to function. SCOM

receives more money. There will be a meeting of the steering committee mid-September in Chicago to work on budgeting issues. Because of the moratorium being imposed the organization does not know what it will look like until September, 2006. Mission personnel are now recognized by the Executive Council in a formal process and the current situation seems to be fine.

An extensive discussion followed: major points were:

- The EPGM decision for a moratorium was the only thing they could do, and yet the commitment to mission is more important than the things that divide.
- Informal conversations after the decision showed commitment and excitement of all, across differences, concerning mission.
- Concern that the future of EPGM will be in part decided General Convention, whereas it is important to keep EPGM as a forum for mission.
- Several recalled that EPGM was a loose and informal structure that has successfully brought a wide range of people together on mission, where they can talk, listen and work together.
- Mission is something the Episcopal Church does right and it is hoped we can continue to keep focused on God's call to mission. This is part of what brings us together.
- There is agreement we need to keep EPGM as a vital living organization and witness to the larger church.

Helena stated SCWM is a part of EPGM and we will be happy to have a representative at their committee meeting in September, 2005 or be on a conference call or whatever would be helpful.

Bishop Duracin suggested EPGM consider meeting outside of the US since the Episcopal Church is world wide.

Friday Afternoon

Bishop Bill Skilton

Good to be back. SCWM is one of the most exciting and hard-working groups on the national level and it has been a blessing working with everybody. He has just attended his second covenant committee meeting with IARCA. There was a lot discussion about Costa Rica which has been through a difficult period, but responding this crisis has actually helped bring the dioceses closer together as a working group. The province has been struggling and there is real inequality in resources between dioceses: Bishop Skilton was encouraged by the progress, but it will take time. In 2006 they will be electing a new primate. There needs to be greater communication, more consistency and a person who could help make plans for the dioceses. Bishop Skilton said as a part of a covenant committee we are alongside of them but here also needs to be some trust.

A discussion followed on various questions and aspects of the autonomy process and continuing support. There was a long period when the move toward autonomy was not questioned. Only since 2000 has SCWM and the Episcopal Church questioned whether this is the only and preferred policy. In 2003, SCWM supported the incorporation of Puerto Rico and Venezuela into the Episcopal Church, a request initiated by them. Perhaps SCWM should play a greater role in a ministry of discernment ensuring the infrastructure is in place and strengthening covenant relationships through the covenant committees and possible missionary relationships. Bishop Skilton recommended reviewing the report of the Autonomy Consultation which was held in Miami. There was also discussion that the funds released from declining amounts in covenant agreements be held to so support new provinces according to need.

Other provinces and dioceses.

Venezuela – Resolution A142 established some conditions for the initial process to become fully incorporated. The documentation has been completed which includes producing canonical conformity between the diocese and the Episcopal Church. It will be on the Executive Council Agenda in June.

Juan also reported that a number of diocesan training workshops have been held in Province IX (Columbia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Honduras) on issues such as constitution and canons, reporting accountability and management.

Upcoming meetings of Covenant Committees

- JCPC – September 26-30, Chapel Hill, NC
- Mexico – March 6-9, 2006 in Mexico City
- IARCA – May 4-8, 2006 in Guatemala
- Brazil – October 9 – 15, 2006 in Brazil
- Liberia – Fall, 2005

It was agreed that it would be a good idea for SCWM Members to attend the meetings to maintain connection and keep better abreast of developments and needs. The Conveners of the Committees need to be alerted that observers were coming from SCWM. Helena and Juan will coordinate this with those interested in and able to attend.

Margaret Larom discussed the Covenant with Liberia.

Juan stated agreements with Puerto Rico and Mexico have been completed on the pension plans. There will be a meeting on pensions in Province IX in the Dominican Republic May 4-5, 2005. It was proposed that the SCWM write a resolution or memorandum of support for these discussions.

It was also proposed that the Commission consider a resolution to increase the funds to overseas to maintain and raise salaries, funds for activities and ensure equitable treatment of pensions.

Saturday, April 30

Next Meeting

SCWM has traditionally held at least one of its meetings outside the USA. Original plans called for the fall meeting to be in Haiti. Bishop Duracin suggested another time might be more appropriate. After some discussion, it was decided to hold the next meeting in Quito, Ecuador from October 31 to November 5. Bishop Holguin suggested we invite the General Secretary of CLAI to talk about the socio-political and economic situation of the region and how it impacts on the churches.

Helena reported that she needs to send information on resolutions to The General Convention Office by September 16; resolutions A150, A151 and D008. The Blue Book Report is due on January 6. The sub-committee to draft the Blue Book Report will be: Martha Alexander, Kitty Babson, Mark Harris, Julio Holguin, Willis Jenkins and Helena Mbele-Mbong (Chair)/

Anglican Gathering (Resolution D008)

The Anglican Gathering, which had been scheduled to be held in 2008 around the Lambeth Conference, has been cancelled. Some of the options suggested for holding other forms of meetings or conferences were mentioned. Discussion then focused on what the Commission and the Episcopal Church could do in the current situation. Mark Harris referred to the work of the autonomy sub-group and the sections being written by a number of people and uplifted the vision of Mutual Responsibility and Interdependence (MRI), a vision that has been mislaid and overtaken by other matters. It was agreed that this vision provided a framework for our own examination of how we relate with others in the Anglican Communion. It was proposed and agreed that SCWM propose a consultation during the next triennium of SCWM with selected participants on what MRI can mean for the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church's participation in it. This could also potentially feed into the planning process for 2008. This would have to happen fairly soon in the next biennium. Such a consultation would be along the lines of the consultations on Autonomy and on Race, Money and Power: SCWM plus a number of invited participants. If accepted, continuing members of SCWM (and outgoing) could pursue the work of preparation pending appointment of new members. A resolution to this effect will be drafted and shared over the coming months, including budget implications.

Executive Council

Titus Presler gave an update from Executive Council. Bishop James Tengatenga, Malawi, was invited to the November meeting of EC. He reflected on ambiguities of the process by which Anglican Provinces were formed. He addressed the Council on the current turmoil in the Communion and raised questions about actions of the Episcopal Church with sensitivity and an educated and theologically informed voice. This was salutary for the EC. There were reports on Haiti, where cultural and political violence are endemic; on Episcopal Relief and Development which is in strong shape; some

discussion of Anglican Relief and Development (AAC and Network) ; on UTO from JoAnne Chapman, Chair; on discussions on the pensions policy for USA jurisdictions. There was a lot of concern about translations: the Office of Communications needs to be more responsive to the needs of translating materials. Also a pension policy for non-USA jurisdictions is needed. They also discussed the situation in Israel and Palestine and the appropriateness of sanctions being implemented in connection with companies that are used by the State of Israel to build the wall and destroy the homes of Palestinians.

There was some discussion around the response of the Executive Council to the Windsor Report, the decision to send observers and Titus' proposal – Anglican Conversations Initiative – to send delegations of three to simply meet and converse with others around the Anglican Communion. The Commission generally welcomed this response and supported the proposal for more conversations. This is still under discussion in the EC.

It was recognized that the response of the Episcopal Church (General Convention) and our relations with other provinces would impact missionary sending and receiving, how and with whom. At the same time, missionary presence is an important way to engage in conversations. It was also felt that our report wants to take a mission, reconciliatory tone.

1:30 p.m.

Missionary Retreat

Helena reported on the Missionary Retreat Istanbul in early April that included about 25 missionaries from Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, including Kitty Babson and her husband and led by Jane Butterfield with the support of Titus Presler. Their discussions provided important input into SCWM's work with regard to missionaries and missionary support. They felt there is a need for more education and communication on world mission, what missionaries are doing and who they are. The "Windows on Mission" video helps put a face to the more abstract *Companions*. They suggested encouraging diocese to covenant to give a certain percentage to world mission, and helping diocese form a link to individual missionaries. Missionaries are in the forefront of our contact with others, and the number one resource on the ground. They hoped when the Presiding Bishop goes to Asia he would count them. They want to draft a resolution to General Convention to the effect that mission is central to what we do. Helena suggested to them that they work with SCWM on this.

The remainder of the session concentrated on a review of *Companions in Transformation* and particularly on its proposed initiatives for implementation found in Chapter 5.

Enhanced mission education.

There is no doubt that we cannot do enough in mission education. The missionaries, the discussions with EPGM on *Companions*, our own discussions all point to a need for greater education on what is meant by mission, world mission and the distinction between mission and ministry, and the basics of our baptismal covenant. The "Windows on Mission" series offer an excellent view of missionaries where they work; more such

materials are needed of South America and on our overseas dioceses as well. Overall, there is a need to develop more educational materials for all levels, and identifying and sharing materials that exist. This would require an additional staff member in AGR, with strong skills in education, networking and web work.

Increased support for cross-cultural formation through seminaries

Related to increase mission education is cross-cultural formation through seminaries. When you educate a seminarian about mission, you educate an incalculable number of parishioners later. Referring to Title III revision, strongly urging cross-cultural exposure, Dean Munday suggested it be required. This is now more important than ever. This would require considerably more funding as SCOM grants and other sources are not sufficient. At present none of the SCOM grant money comes from the GC budget. There is also a need to support such opportunities for overseas seminaries. The budget proposal of \$60,000 might be doubled to \$120,000. The sense of the Commission was that a significant and dramatic increase is necessary.

Increased number and diversity of missionaries

It was generally felt that the growth numbers be kept. While the budget figures refer to GC and DFMS, the focus must be kept on all missionaries, DFMS and other organizations alike. Willis Jenkins felt that the Young Adult Service Corps had a unique ability to grow at this time: high interest and enthusiasm of youth; opportunities for joint appointments; YASC welcomed throughout the Communion; impact on future leadership of the Church; possibilities for not only sending but also receiving. Discussion also highlighted the need for adequate administration, effective pastoral care, and a support network for all missionaries. Current staff and funding are insufficient and need to be increased.

Increased Recruitment of Minorities

Willis Jenkins said it was important to indicate that 10% of DFMS/YASC missionaries are minorities, so we do not start from zero. Minorities are under-represented in general and we need to be careful of institutional racism. Recruitment depends partly on mission education and seminaries, but it is important to continue the missionary exposure program which has had some positive results. It was suggested we ask Jane Butterfield for a brief write-up of the program.

Support for Short-Term Mission Pilgrimages

There have been consistent requests for support and guidelines for short-term missions. This is one of the fastest-growing activities for encounter around the Anglican Communion, and individuals and groups are often transformed by their experience. EPGM has been working on standards, some dioceses and parishes have very good programs and GEM should be providing some support. There is still a need, however, for a resource person to encourage EPGM and GEM to continue their work in this area and

to liaise and network to help bring resources together and make them more broadly available and to respond to the many dioceses and parishes requesting support and guidance.

Strengthened Mission Networking

It was felt at this time, support for the EPGM should remain where it is.

Other

Helena Mbele-Mbong suggested, and the members concurred, that the SCWM Report should make reference to the state of the church. World mission is more important than ever and is at the heart of the matter for all sides. *Companions in Transformation* provides a vision of how mission – being with others – can be a reconciling force. We need to get some language on mission as the core of everything in our Blue Book Report.

Saturday evening

Margaret Larom shared the proposal for the 2007-2009 budget priorities. She will be handing them in on Tuesday when all of the preliminary information is reviewed.

The Commission recognized some of the needs being addressed by this proposal, but found that it emphasized the relations side of the office (815). While they were glad to see another staff person for YASC, several of the priorities emanating from *Companions* did not seem to be particularly addressed. In particular, they were concerned that there was not more priority given to world mission education and formation, and support for short-term missions, which build up mission and relations from grassroots. They also saw the need for another support staff, if professional staff was being increased. They questioned whether AGR should be providing extensive translation services.

Margaret explained they are not only responsible for missionary programs but for overseas diocese and newly autonomous provinces. They are committed to overseas dioceses and autonomous provinces.

Helena Mbele-Mbong pointed out that the percentage of the budget given to world mission has been declining and warrants more than 15% of the budget. Some of the declining overseas money should go to SCOM grants.

In summary the basic budget document is very helpful but the Commission would like to see short-term missions and education have more or a priority.

There are several Commission members on Executive Council and Deputies to General Convention so they will be able to be helpful as the budget process moves forward.

Sunday Morning, May 1

The Commission discussed and revised the resolution concerning the desire to raise pension benefits for clergy in overseas dioceses.

Helena Mbele-Mbong thanked Margaret Larom for her openness and for sharing the proposed budget.

Willis Jenkins expressed disappointment from the conversation on Saturday night. It seems the Commission and the Director of AGR did not understand each other. The discussion seemed to move from *Companions in Transformation* into priorities for AGR which is not necessarily a budget directive. Secondly there was concern about how much the mission vision is still alive since we had not received a lot of response about *Companions in Transformation* and wondered if this was because attention was distracted. He would like to see more of a mission and reconciliation direction.

Diana Frade thought our work on *Companions in Transformation* was toward resolutions for the funding we need in mission support and that EPGM was very supportive of this.

Saulo Salvador agrees mission is a priority. We have to be aware of the needs of the people. Missionaries can help solve these problems. It might be helpful to know how much dioceses are giving for mission work.

Kitty Babson felt that *Companions* offers a radical departure from the more traditional structures and puts an emphasis on mission awareness and contacts from the grassroots level on up.

Martha talked about the need for us to work closely with EPGM. She expressed frustration that SCWM did not have more time with EPGM and also she thinks people should be supportive of the Director of AGR and SCWM should not micro manage. SCWM needs to stay focused on the policy issues, *Companions in Transformation* and our priorities.

Robert Munday was also frustrated about meeting with EPGM and had hoped there could have been more time spent with them. He also said we need to reshape our vision. Our church needs to grow.

Helena Mbele-Mbong believes everything related to mission should be lodged at AGR. There needs to be more mission education and support for short-term mission groups as well as increasing the number of missionaries.

Margaret Larom has an understanding and commitment to mission education and networking but realizes that there needs to be staff to oversee the Middle East and the Asia and Pacific Region.

Helena Mbele-Mbong said translation money should not come out of AGR but “815”.
Translations are an issue for the whole church.

Willis Jenkins led the group in Compline.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Martha Bedell Alexander
Secretary