

Standing Commission on World Mission

March 29, 2007

Charlotte, North Carolina

Members Present:

- Martha Alexander
- Jo Ann Roberts Armstead
- Kitty Babson
- Rose Fichera-Eagen
- Julio Holguin
- Joseph Jerome
- Heather Payton
- Saulo Salvador
- Gordon Scruton
- Carol Taylor

Members Excused:

- Michael Curry
- Leopold Frade
- Veronica Jaramillo
- Robert Munday

Other:

- Michael Barlowe, Special Representative for the President of the House of Deputies
- Mark Harris, Executive Council Liaison
- Margaret Larom, Director of Anglican and Global Relations

Invited Guests:

- Chip Edens, Rector, Christ Episcopal Church
- Marty Hedgpeth, Associate Rector for Mission and Outreach, Christ Episcopal Church
- Josephine Hicks, Lay Representative to the Anglican Consultative Council
- Gregory Straub, Secretary of the General Convention
- Dennis Sullivan and the Rev. Canon Pat Collier, Church Pension Fund
- Nick and Diana White

The Commission Gathered for Dinner on Wednesday, March 28, 2007

The Standing Commission on World Mission (SCWM) went to dinner at the Charleston House in Charlotte. During dinner the commission was treated to hearing of the missionary efforts of Ron Goodwin and his work with the underprivileged of Charlotte. Highlights of his sharing was his work to hire only people who are without a job, his work with homeless men, and the underprivileged of the neighborhood, especially working with youth in the area.

Meeting Opened on Thursday, March 29, 2007 at 8:30a Kitty Babson led us in Morning Devotions.

- 1. Introductions – personal updates**
- 2. Housekeeping**

Group reviewed the Group Norms established at the last meeting and...

- **Added to Norms:** We will pause once every hour for 60 seconds to stand in silence and for a prayer, song or reflection.
- **Norm about travel arrangement** – amend to add that as a group we covenant to be together for all of our meetings and that we commit to be present for the full agenda and to convey changes in travel itinerary to the chair so she/he may inform others and plan accordingly.

Discussed the Methodology of Minutes

3. Presentation from Gregory Straub, Secretary of the General Convention

Handout – Standing Commission on World Mission (SCWM): The General Convention Office (GCO)

- We were reminded that our budget is \$70,000 for the Triennium

4. Minutes:

- After lengthy discussion, the group decided that minutes to be posted on the website will reflect decisions, action items, tasks and broad areas of discussion.
- The General Convention Office has requested that the minutes be posted within 3 weeks, and a draft will be shared with members during this time. Minutes will be approved by email.

5. Communication Issues

- The group requests assistance from the General Convention Office to use the Episcopal Communities Website. Gregory Straub will have information sent to the committee addressing this issue.
- We also discussed conference calls and the General Convention Office will facilitate upon request.

6. Update from Margaret Larom on Anglican and Global Relations Office

Handout: Program Area Report to Executive Council, Anglican and Global Relations

- Discernment Retreat for Missionary Candidates & Young Adult Service Corps (YASC)
- Trip to China with Bishop Lai of Taiwan
- Enthronement of Bishop Kwong in Hong Kong
- Toward Effective Anglican Mission (TEAM) Conference in South Africa

7. Report from Julio Holguin and Gordon Scruton on the recent House of Bishops Meeting

- Bishops shared highlights and answered questions from the Commission. Members were invited to refer to Episcopal News Service (ENS) website for details. Both Bishops were very enthusiastic and praised Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori for her leadership.
- Among other things, the Primates communiqué and draft covenant were discussed. Presentations were made to the House of Bishops by Katherine Grieb and Ephraim Radner. (Available on ENS.) Ian Douglas presented a theological paper on the Millennium Development Goal's (MDG).
- Commission members spent considerable time discussing these documents and their implications.

8. Mark Harris, Presenting on the Executive Council

Handout: From the Executive Council, Letter to the Church, dated March 4, 2007

- Mark Harris noted his disappointment that reports of missionary appointments and returns are routinely put on the consent calendar and not discussed. This is an issue because no one reads through the information on missionaries. He desires to have this brought to the

forefront so that missionaries are known and their commitment recognized. The current roster of missionaries was distributed.

- International Concerns Committee appointed a subcommittee to draft questions to be circulated with the draft covenant issued by the Primates. The subcommittee includes Mark Harris, Ian Douglas, Julio Holguin, Rosalie Ballentine. The process will be completed on Monday with a conference call, and referred to the presiding officers.

9. Margaret – Reporting on the International Concerns Meeting from Executive Council and other Executive Council Business

- Margaret Larom shared information about the Anglican Communion Delegates to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, and their statements on how nothing will cause them to break communion was inspiring to the Executive Council. (Available on ENS)
- Church Pension Working Group was reconstituted to address issues of pension benefits for clergy, retired clergy and widows in overseas dioceses. The Executive Council members appointed to the committee includes Julio Holguin, Wilfrido Ramos Orench and Rosalie Ballentine.
- Seminary for Latin America – a group has been assembled to do a feasibility study for a seminary for Latin America and the Caribbean. This group consists of Mark Harris, Bishop Wilfrido Ramos Orench, and others.
- Ian Douglas was elected to be a representative to the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC).
- Executive Council approved the MDG Inspiration Fund taking the 0.7% of the General Convention Budget and using it as the challenge for a \$3 million mosquito net program for Africa.

Action Item: find out who is on all of the Covenant Committees and when their terms are up. Also need to know how those transitions happen.

10. Subcommittees

- **Prayer Cycle** – only group to begin work. Members developed a number of suggestions and referred those to the Anglican and Global Relations Staff.
- **MDG's**
 - There was much discussion and passion around the importance of relationships in any work regarding MDG's (a check is not enough).
 - Concern about the theology under girding the MDG effort.
 - Resources that are available:
 - Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) publications
 - *God's Mission in the World* Published by Episcopal Church and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
 - Series of Bulletin inserts from ENS for Lent
 - Importance of advocacy with our government was emphasized.
- **Covenant for Communion in Mission**
 - Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Mission and Evangelism (IASCOME) presented the Covenant for Communion in Mission as part of its report to the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) in June 2005. IASCOME requested the ACC to recommend the covenant for study throughout the Anglican Communion, which the ACC approved. Subsequently, a resolution was presented to the General Convention that the

Episcopal Church study the covenant. Although the resolution did not pass both houses at Convention, it was subsequently approved by the Executive Council in November 2006. (INC 012)

- o Standing Commission on World Mission after lengthy discussion decided to approve the following motion by Gordon Scruton:

The Standing Commission on World Mission recommends to the Subcommittee of the International Concerns Committee of Executive Council that it append to its proposal for a means of responding to the Draft Covenant from the Primates a means of responding also to the ACC Covenant for Communion in Mission. That text is appended along with three suggested survey questions: “What did you find most helpful about this Covenant for Communion in Mission? What was least helpful about this Covenant for Communion in Mission? What are your reflections on the comparison between the Primates proposed Covenant and the Anglican Consultative Council Covenant for Communion in Mission?”

This recommendation arises from our desire to be responsible to the ACC request and to General Convention Resolution A166 and INC resolution 012 which call for a church-wide response to the ACC Covenant for Communion in Mission.

Seconded by Joseph Jerome

Discussion:

- The resolution gave the responsibility for the study of the covenant to the Standing Commission on World Mission (SCWM) long before the Draft Covenant Committee did their work. The SCWM feels that it is imperative for the SCWM to share the first covenant with the church and to gather responses.
- Addresses A166 as well as INC 012, and we think that the church might as well discuss both at once.
- Mark will take the proposal to the subcommittee.

Passed Unanimously.

The meeting recessed for the day with Compline led by Jo Ann Roberts Armstead

Friday, March 30, 2007
Meeting at Christ Episcopal Church, Charlotte, NC

Meeting opened with a Eucharist lead by Gordon Scruton

1. Presentation on the Church Pension Fund (CPF) by Dennis Sullivan and the Rev. Canon Pat Coller

Dennis Sullivan presented the status of the CPF. Both were very please to be meeting with SCWM, especially after the resolution addressing overseas pension issues. First, Dennis Sullivan presented the structure and organization of the CPF to the Commission. He shared his desire to have a representative from an overseas diocese to be on the Board of Trustees for the CPF, so that the overseas clergy would have a voice in the Pension. Dennis Sullivan also shared the differences between the CPF for clergy and laity. He also shared that the fund is doing quite well, and a report, as well as more information on the Fund is available at: www.cpg.org The CPF is currently undergoing a review to ensure that all is going according to plan by an independent outside group. The CPF has developed goals for the Triennium for the first time, instead of year to year, which they hope will allow for some great things.

2. Visit from Chip Edens, Rector of Christ Church

Chip Edens welcomed the group to Christ Church and shared news from his trip to Costa Rica, which he had just returned from the night before.

The SCWM discussed the CPF. Issues that were raised concerned the good work of the CPF for the clergy affected by Hurricane Katrina. Mark Harris shared that he took early retirement so that he could do non-profit work for the church, which the CPF helped him with. Issues were raised about the CPF for oversea missionaries. This is an area that will need further research. The Commission also discussed the disparity of wages, between being in a small parish that doesn't pay well and a large parish. Dennis Sullivan was receptive to all of these comments and said that it would require major changes to address these issues and that has to come from the Church for the Fund to respond.

Pat Coller shared of her work with Pastoral Issues relating to the Domestic Diocese. She works to help educate and counsel people about the Fund and how best to access their pension. She also share that the CPF has Bruce Woodcock, manager of International Relations who works with the CPF in the overseas dioceses. The CPF wants to focus on places where we already have a relationship, cannot set up the CPF in areas or for things that aren't related to the Episcopal Church. One of the issues is that the CPF wasn't involved when the Covenant Committees were set up, so there is a bit of catch up going on.

The group recessed for lunch.

3. Josephine Hicks, lay Representative to the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) Presenting

Josephine Hicks began with some background on the ACC. This information is available at:

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/acc/index.cfm> She also shared her insights and experience at

the TEAM meeting, she feels that people want to remain in Communion and work on the issues associated with the MDGs.

The Commission discussed the role of Theological Education, budget of the ACC and how the Episcopal Church is committed to fulfilling its pledge even though we are going through a rough patch with the ACC.

4. Marty Hedgpeth, Associate Rector of Christ Episcopal Church for Mission and Outreach

Marty Hedgpeth shared with the Commission what is going on in terms of ministry and outreach at Christ Church. She told us about the Interfaith Hospitality Network which helps families who are homeless transition back into a home. She also shared that her parish and diocese are committed to the MDGs. The parish has mission trips to El Salvador, Costa Rica and local trips as well.

The Commission discussed with Marty Hedgpeth the work of the parish. There was great interest in the educational aspect of taking groups outside of the country and about the possibility of having a group from the places they visit come to Charlotte.

5. Housekeeping:

- Updating of the contact sheet.
- There is an Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission (EPGM) meeting at the end of April and we as a Standing Commission are invited. It is at the end of April at Procter Farms Camp and Conference Center in London, Ohio.
 - In the past, the Commission has designated people for the Triennium to go and represent us.
 - The Commission needs to pay its dues to remain in EPGM.

Gordon Scruton moves that we would like to continue our membership in EPGM by paying our dues.

Seconded by JoAnn Roberts Armstead

No Discussion

Approved Unanimously

The Standing Commission agreed that Kitty Babson would continue to be our Representative to EPGM.

6. Minutes:

- Review of the minutes from yesterday.
- Review of the resolution.
- Minutes returned to the secretary for amendments.

7. Covenant Committees:

- Margaret Larom reported and reminded the group that we needed to decide upon our representation to the Covenant Committees as we discussed in Chicago. The Covenant Committees are undergoing restructuring, so we need to decide how we want to handle our representation. The Commission discussed that consistency was important to us, in terms of our

leadership on the Committees, therefore, junior members of the Commission will be asked first to serve and then serve for the full six years.

- Margaret Larom shared the job description with the members. Each committee meets twice during the Triennium. It also requires learning what the committee has done thus far, as well as writing a report after the meeting for the SCWM. It is very important that each person know and understand their covenant, as each is quite different.

The Commission appointed the following representatives:

Covenant Committee	Representative	First Alternate
Brazil	Carol Taylor	Martha Alexander
IARCA	Joseph Jerome	Saulo Salvador
Liberia	Heather Payton	Julio Holguin
Mexico		Saulo Salvador
Philippines	Jo Ann Roberts Armstead	Kitty Babson

Action Item: Gordon Scruton asked if there is an outline, or a model of a report that the AGR office would like from the Covenant Committee meetings. Margaret Larom will work on this and get back to us.

8. Current Status of Missionaries, Margaret Larom reporting.

Handouts on Anglican Women’s Empowerment and the Current List of Missionaries

- The AGR website has a current, updated often, list of missionaries and their blogs/websites. <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/agr.htm>
- Mission program has evolved over the years, it used to be (prior to mid-1980’s) were appointed and fully funded for 3 years and were renewable. Then there was a group of volunteers for mission, and would serve for at least one year and could renew, and raised their own funds. Then there are volunteers on special assignment – not residential in the other country, and a modest amount of money is given to assist with travel. YASC started in 2000 and need to be under 30 and serve for one year and raise half of their funds and are provided with the other half. The office is in conversation about eliminating the volunteer and the appointment because they are becoming the same thing. So there would be missionaries and YASC only.

The Group discussed AGR and the status of Missionaries.

- Pensions once again were the topic of discussion. The Commission continues to be concerned and interested in how pensions are dealt with, especially concerning our overseas missionaries. One of the issues is that pensions for overseas missions is for clergy only, needs to be extended to the laity as well.
- We currently have 35 people who want to be missionaries, but can’t find funding. There is a need for recognizing official missionary work, like having missionaries teach in seminaries as well.
- Gregory Strumb asked if the AGR tracks all of the Episcopal Ministries.
 - Margaret Larom shared that there are missionaries from the other organizations, which AGR does not track. EPGM is important for doing this work, which is why they are

interested in recruiting more groups who are engaged in mission to be a part of the network.

Meeting recessed for dinner.

Saturday, March 31, 2007
Meeting at Drury Inn, Charlotte, NC

Members Absent: Rose Fichera-Eagen, Julio Holguin and Mark Harris

Morning Devotion

Agenda:

- 1. Housekeeping** – travel arrangements
- 2. Review of Resolution A112, A159, D031** – these were for all of the committees to review.
- 3. Review of Subcommittees**
 - The Commission discussed the subcommittees that had been arranged in Chicago. Martha Alexander pointed out that we seem to be a group that works better as a whole, and that if we need subcommittees in the future we can try it. The Commission decided to dismiss the subcommittees.
- 4. Setting the Agenda for our next meeting**
 - Margaret Larom proposes a visitor to invite: The Rev. John Kafwanka, Mission and Evangelism Officer for the Anglican Communion in England. Margaret Larom will investigate if the dates work, and then Martha Alexander will officially invite him.
 - Martha Alexander asked that our next meeting overlap with the Executive Council meeting so that we can all share dinner together. Gregory Strumb will see to this.
 - Martha Alexander asked how we might best arrange our mission site visit while in Michigan. Gregory Strumb suggested that she contact the bishop and get suggestions.
 - Kitty Babson asked if we should respond to the Anglican Covenant. The Commission discussed this idea, and Gordon Scruton proposed that we each individually answer the questions for both covenants when they are released. The Commission discussed the proposal that Mark Harris is making on behalf of the Commission and decided not to add any other discussion points to it, but to trust Mark Harris to be a good representative of the Commission and the feelings of the group.
- 5. Checking back in on norms, have we met our goals?**
 - The group agreed that we did fairly well. We did not adhere to our prayer schedule as well as we would have liked. The cell phone list will also be quite helpful in the future for keeping track of one another.

Meeting adjourned with Noonday Prayers and lunch.