

STANDING COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

February 9 – 11, 2001
Radisson Airport Hotel (Atlanta, Georgia)

Minutes

**MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS THROUGH THE
74TH GENERAL CONVENTION IN 2003**

**The Rev. Canon George W. Brandt
Ms Rosalie Simmonds Ballentine
Mr. Duncan A. Bayne
Mr. Paul E. Cooney
Mr. William Fleener, Jr.
Mr. Richard J. Hoskins
The Rev. Gregory A. Jacobs
The Rt. Rev. Charles E. Jenkins
The Rev. Stan Runnels
The Rt. Rev. Stacy Fred Sauls
Ms. D. Rebecca Snow
The Rt. Rev. Catherine M. Waynick**

I. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2001

A. The Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons (SCCC) met for an informal dinner on Friday, February 9, 2001. Present were

MEMBERS:

**The Rev. Canon George W. Brandt
Ms Rosalie Simmonds Ballentine
Mr. Paul E. Cooney
Mr. William Fleener, Jr.
The Rev. Gregory A. Jacobs
Ms. D. Rebecca Snow**

ALSO PRESENT:

The Rev. Anthony H. Jewiss

B. Those present agreed on a preliminary agenda for the initial meeting of the SCCC on the following day. No business was conducted.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2001

C. The following members of the SCCC and guests were present for the business meeting of the SCCC:

MEMBERS:

The Rev. Canon George W. Brandt
Ms Rosalie Simmonds Ballentine
Mr. Duncan A. Bayne
Mr. Paul E. Cooney
Mr. William Fleener, Jr.
Mr. Richard J. Hoskins
The Rev. Gregory A. Jacobs
Ms. D. Rebecca Snow

GUESTS:

The Rev. Anthony H. Jewiss
The Rt. Rev. F. Clayton Matthews

D. General Convention Resolution A073: Revision of Title III.

1. Bishop Matthews noted the passage at the General Convention in 2000 of Resolution A073:

Resolution A073: Ministry: Authorize SCMD to Proceed to Title III Revision
Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, that in implementation of the priority of the Episcopal Church to make disciples and apostles at all levels of the Church, the Standing Commission on Ministry Development be requested, in consultation with the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons, to undertake a full review of the Title III Canons, said review to be informed by the report entitled, "Toward a Theology of Ministry," as well as other reports and papers on the subject of the theology of ministry, and be it further

Resolved, that the Standing Commission on Ministry Development prepare and present to the 74th General Convention any proposed revisions to the Title III Canons, and be it further

Resolved, that the sum of \$77,600 be appropriated for the work of the Commission in implementing this resolution.

2. Bishop Matthews began the discussion by reporting on the work of the Standing Commission on Ministry Development (SCMD) (Chair: The Rt. Rev. John P. Croneberger) concerning the development of a clear theology of ministry which is to be the basis for the review and possible revision of Title III of the Canons of General Convention.

a) Central to this review are two documents, including a paper by The Rt. Rev. Richard F. Grein and a report published by SCMD entitled "Toward a Theology of Baptismal and Ordained Ministry." Bp. Matthews offered

to obtain copies of these documents for reference of members of the SCCC.

b) Bp. Matthews observed that SCMD expects to focus its attention during the present triennium on issues of defining the orders of ministry. The work of SCMD during the following triennium would focus on issues concerning recruitment, selection and formation.

3. There followed general discussion as to the role of the SCCC with respect to the ongoing study of issues underlying Title III. There was consensus that the SCCC does not have a substantive role in this endeavor but rather should be available to support the work of SCMD as needed.

E. Resolution A028. Study of disciplinary canons

1. The Chair noted the passage at General Convention 2000 of Resolution A028:

Resolution A028: Discipline: Establish Task Force on Disciplinary Policy and Procedure

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the General Convention establish, pursuant to Joint Rule 23, a Task Force of not less than 6 or more than 12 persons, of whom one-half shall be appointed by the Standing Commission on Ministry Development and one-half shall be appointed by the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons; and, that in light of the Church's theology and the Church's experience, the Task Force: **(1)** assess the present models of church discipline, as reflected both in the policies and procedures addressing allegations of clergy misconduct and in Title IV of the national canons of the Episcopal Church; **(2)** study and explore other models for addressing misconduct, such as the disciplinary models used by physicians, professors, lawyers and other professionals; and **(3)** at or before the 74th General Convention, deliver a report of its findings and recommendations to the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons, and the Committee on Sexual Exploitation, and the 74th General Convention; and **(4)** at or before the 75th General Convention, deliver its final report of such findings and recommendations to the same bodies; and be it further

Resolved, That the sum of \$60,000 be appropriated for the work of the Task Force.

2. It was noted that the resolution calls for a review of alternative models for ecclesiastical discipline and does not call for the development of revisions to Title IV of the Canons of General Convention. The Resolution calls on the SCCC to recommend persons for appointment to the Task Force that will conduct this review during the triennium.

3. The Chair noted that, as passed, Resolution 028 (apparently inadvertently) omitted any reference to Executive Council Committee on Sexual Exploitation

(SCE). There was consensus that CSE should be involved in the process of nominating persons to serve on the Task Force.

4. There was agreement that the Task Force should comprise 12 members. Six members should be appointed by the SCCC, two of whom should be members of the SCCC and two of whom should be members of SCE. The members from SCCC will be Duncan Bayne and Bp. Waynick, with the understanding that Paul Cooney would be a member of the Task Force if Bp. Waynick is not available to serve.

5. There followed discussion of candidates for appointment by SCCC to fill the positions on the Task Force intended for persons who are not members of SCCC or CSE. After discussion, there was consensus that participation on the Task Force should be discussed with Tim Sedgwick, Steve Hutchinson and The Rt. Rev. Chester Talton. The following other persons were identified as possible nominees for membership on the Task Force: Gene Robinson, Deirde Good, Frederica Thomposett, Clark Grew, Gay Jennings, Sally Johnson, David Beers, Andrea Baldyga, Hartshorn Murphy, Marsha Harper, Altagracia Perez, Robert Kass MD, Chester Talton, Rustin Kimsey

F. White & Dykman. There was consensus that the SCCC should attempt to advance the effort to revise the Annotated Constitution and Canons. Paul Cooney agreed to be in contact with Bob Royce to determine the status of Bob's work on this project.

G. Suffragans: Becky Snow will prepare and distribute a memo outlining necessary legislative action to conform Constitution and Canonical provisions.

H. Language Cleanup.

1. Tony Jewiss suggested that SCCC invite Ray Duncan to attend a SCCC meetings to discuss desirable technical amendments to the Constitution and Canons. Becky Snow suggested that the SCCC begin to compile a brief style manual summarizing terminology and syntax and proper canonical form toward the end of promoting greater clarity and consistency.

2. Paul Cooney noted the desirability of technical amendments to Title IV to address various issues that had arisen in the course of the current ecclesiastical proceeding involving the Bishop of Montana.

3. Richard Hoskins noted the possible desirability of considering alternatives to the existing formulation of canonical residence.

I. Next Meeting: The next meeting of SCCC will be by conference call to be held at 3:00 ET, March 8.

J. Upon motion duly seconded the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Paul E. Cooney, Secretary