

**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND FAITH  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Minutes of the Meeting on April 27-28, 30, 2006  
Emrich Retreat Center, Brighton, MI.**

Members present: Deacon Phina Borgeson, Dr. James Jordan, Dr. Paul Julienne, Dr. Sandra Michael, Mr. John Miers, Rev. Canon Johnnie Ross, Dr. Robert Schneider (presiding), and Ms. Susan Youmans. Absent: Rev. Norman Faramelli, Dr. Neil James, Rev. Thomas Lindell, and Dr. Stephen Stray. Also attending: Rev. Peter Arvedson (Network Steering Board) and Rev. David Bailey (consultant).

**Thursday, April 27**

The meeting began with prayers led by Miers.

The following agenda items were disposed of this day.

- (1) A draft resolution was revised and approved to send to the Executive Council for the Council's approval that honors former co-chair, the Rev. Barbara Smith-Moran, for her outstanding leadership to the Church in the area of religion and science.
- (2) Norman Faramelli, who drafted the resolution to Barbara, was unable to attend this meeting due to a death in the family. The committee authorized Schneider to draft a letter of condolence and appreciation to Norm.
- (3) Discussion on resolutions from the Committee before the General Convention:

Michael will attend as a deputy, Ross as a first alternate; Jordan and Bailey also expect to attend; Schneider and Youmans may attend. Discussion on resolutions followed

Resolution on Committee Membership and Rotation: it was pointed out that tying new membership to the Network on Science, Technology and Faith was canonically problematic. A revised wording and explanation was produced by Jordan, Julienne, and Schneider. The committee approved the revision and voted unanimously to forward the restatement as a substitute to the appropriate committees of the General Convention (Appendix).

Resolution to Affirm Creation and Evolution: discussion considered possible opposition to the resolution from "Intelligent Design" Movement supporters. Borgeson will craft a set of talking points for use of members speaking to the resolution.

Resolution on Sustainable Agriculture: Borgeson suggested that Youmans follow up with the Minnesota group whose resolution was passed on the 2003 General

Convention to see if they have done anything to advance their mandate. Youmans will come up with an “elevator speech” to use at Convention and a set of talking points.

(4) Discussion on the Catechism of Creation and supplemental materials

Schneider reported on two substantive revisions to the text of the Catechism. Discussion followed on developing supplemental material for the web site, and offering workshops and other sessions to prepare clergy and Christian education teachers for using the Catechism.

Jordan presented a draft of a tri-fold statement, “A Layman’s Guide to Good Science.” The statement prompted by a suggestion from Bonnie Anderson, who attended the 2005 spring meeting of the Committee. Jordan’s text was praised and reviewed, and suggestions for improvement of text and formatting made.

(5) Drafts of letters of thanks and appreciation to the Most Rev. Frank Griswold, the Very Rev. George Werner, the Rev. Canon Anthony Jewiss, and Ms. Nan Cobbey were reviewed, revised and unanimously approved. Schneider will print and mail the letters.

**Friday, April 28**

The meeting opened with prayer led by Miers. The Committee continued with its agenda.

(6) Steps toward fulfilling the Committee’s mandate to conduct a survey of concerns and activities relating Christian faith to science, technology, and care of creation. The materials in draft put together by Stephen Stray were reviewed and a lengthy discussion ensued.

A model protocol was drawn up: (1) draft a one-page letter than would go to two or three persons in the diocese, e.g., the bishop, the Canon of the Ordinary, the communications officer, lay ministry and education officer to solicit contact persons; (2) write the contact persons, explain the purpose of the survey and offer them a telephone or email communication; (3) gather the data from the survey; (4) collate the data; (5) send it to 815 for posting on the Church web site.

Contents of the follow-up letter: The two major questions should be these: what are the programs and what are the issues? It should give examples of “hot topics,” e.g., bioethics, environmental science, food science, programs about science and theology (e.g., the evolution/ID issue). The letters will go out under the names of the committee members and others who will survey the various provinces. The list from the fall meeting includes the following:

Province I: Borgeson and Faramelli; Barbara?

Province II: Michael

Province III: Julienne and Miers

Province IV: Ross and Schneider  
Province V: Network member chosen in consultation with Arvedson?  
Province VI: Youmans and Network member  
Province VII: Stray  
Province VIII: Borgeson and Jordan  
Province IX: to be named; consult with Joyce Wilding

Who should do the collating? Suggestions: A subcommittee of the Committee; members of the staff at 815; a single person experienced in the work. Once we have a draft in some kind of shape, Schneider will send a report to National Concerns on what we are doing. The initial letter should go out a week before or after Labor Day; we should try to collect the names of contact persons by November 15, the date of our fall meeting in Chicago.

- (7) “A Lay Guide to Good Science”: Jordan brought back a revised draft, and further discussion ensued. The guide can be seen as the first step toward building a base of useful materials. One suggestion: include in the supplementary material one-page reviews of useful books on STF for clergy and others.
- (8) Report from Joyce Wilding regarding Episcopal Ecological Network and related activities. The committee reviewed Wilding’s proposal for a Metanexus Local Societies Initiative grant to fund a summer program at the University of the South that would include the Catechism of Creation, focusing upon Part III: Caring for Creation. We agreed that Schneider should write Wilding and say that we would like to see her proposal revised to have the Catechism enfolded into the Education for Ministry (EFM) program developed and administered at Sewanee.
- (9) Activities by Committee members related to the Catechism of Creation and the general topic of the relations between religion and science: a number of activities were reported.

The day’s session was closed with prayer led by Miers.

### **Sunday, April 30**

A final session of the Committee was held following delegate presentations at the Ecumenical Round Table on Science, Technology and the Church, held at the Emrich Retreat Center April 28-30. According to the regular rotation of responsibilities, the Episcopal Church delegation will be responsible for the program for the 2007 meeting of the Round Table. A “brain-storming” session was held and members suggested several possible topics for consideration and also suggested possible speakers.

Submitted by Robert Schneider, with assistance from David Bailey.

## APPENDIX

### **SUBSTITUTE TO RESOLUTION ON COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR GENERAL CONVENTION 2006 BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND FAITH, AND PRINTED IN THE BLUE (I.E., GREEN) BOOK:**

#### Resolution as submitted:

##### **Resolution A000 ST&F Membership**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That one-third of the members of the ST&F Committee, or as near as possible, be rotated at the conclusion of every triennium, to be replaced by members of the network for ST&F. A list of new members, selected for their personal and professional qualities and expertise from among the members of the NST&F, shall be suggested to the Presiding Bishop (in the case of bishops) and the President of the House of Deputies (for Lay and other Clerical members).

#### Substitute Resolution:

##### **Resolution A000: Committee on Science, Technology and Faith Membership**

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, that one-third of the members of the Committee on Science, Technology and Faith be rotated at the conclusion of every triennium. The co-chairs of the committee shall forward the names of potential new members, recommended for their personal and professional qualities and expertise, to the Presiding Bishop or the President of the House of Deputies, as appropriate.

#### Original Explanation and added comment:

##### EXPLANATION

The NST&F, a membership organization, represents a pool of Episcopalian women and men across the church with impressive experience and expertise in many areas, including the sciences, engineering fields, history and philosophy of science, and the science-and-theology field. They are used as consultants to the ST&F Committee in its work. When rotating new members onto the ST&F Committee, the ST&F leadership, in looking to maintain a balance of disciplines and other qualities, will recommend members drawn from the NST&F membership.

##### Added comment:

NST&F is the Episcopal Network for Science, Technology and Faith

Submitted for consideration by the Committee on Science, Technology and Faith,  
meeting at the Emrich Retreat Center, Brighton, Michigan, April 27, 2006.  
Dr. Robert J. Schneider, Chair