

Executive Council Standing Committee
International Concerns
Salt Lake City, Utah
June 8-11, 2001

Minutes

Present: Bishop Keith Ackerman, Dr. Tom Bates, Dr. Louie Crew, Bishop Theodore Daniels, Bishop-Elect Francisco Duque, The Rev. Anthony Guillen, Rita Redfield, The Rev. Robert Sessum (Chair), Dorothy Davies-Flindall (Anglican Church of Canada)

Absent: The Rev. Edward Godden, Carol Jan Lee

We reviewed and corrected the minutes from the previous meeting

Louie Crew volunteered to serve as secretary for this session. In the future, a staff person from the General Convention Office will take our minutes.

A STAFF OFFICER FOR AFRICA; THE PROBLEMS IN LIBERIA

Visitors: Steve Duggan, Patrick Mauney, Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold

Patrick Mauney: The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS) came into being to focus our work in Liberia. Recently, all of our structures there have been destroyed. We've been working with the bishop there to get Cuttington College rebuilt, and trying to get a local school system going so that we don't lose an entire generation

There are groups trying to draw Africa into an incomplete understanding of who we are as ECUSA. We need to have some whose full-time job is to represent us.

Steve Duggan: The Staff Officer for Africa is something that we could do without undoing our budget.

We would be re-establishing the office, which was reduced when we cut back on all programs in the mid-nineties.

Mauney: We lack a person who is identified as the Presiding Bishop's officer in Africa. The person would also have some specific accountability to Brian Grieves and would work closely with ERD.

Duggan: Regarding Cuttington College and the school system in Liberia: I would hate to see things fall apart just because we don't keep informed. We are now keeping the college going on a month by month basis, and I have now exhausted what I can provide from contingency funds. If we have not done something by the October meeting, we stand a good chance of losing the college. It would be devastating for the country and for us. Also we would abandon a generation of children if we don't do something about the school system.

I don't want to understate the problems there. It may be that what we do now will be destroyed if the rebels come and tear it down in three years, but as Christians we don't worry about those risks. This is the site of our first missionary effort. They are ours. We are their only hope against impending disaster. Pat and I will be working with Liberia to have a proposal by our October meeting. We will bring a proposal to the October meeting.

ERD recently contributed a quarter of a million to Liberian education needs.

Liberia left ECUSA in 1982 to join Province of West Africa.

ERD and others are looking for an Anglican summit conference so that grants do not get duplicated.

Crew: I am concerned that the Staff Officer for Africa be irenic to bring persons rather than issues to the table, especially persons identified with issues which are being contested. I would like to feel that the Staff Officer for Africa will be comfortable with persons like me.

The Presiding Bishop: It will be an important part of this persons role to bring all folks to the table.

The Committee approved unanimously a resolution to establish a Staff Officer for Africa. Later Council approved the resolution (INC 6).

ARRIVING AT A MISSION-DRIVEN BUDGET

Visitors: Diane Pollard and Russ Palmore from the Administration and Finance Committee (A&F)

Visitors Pollard and Palmore from A&F sought our support for its plan to engage a consultant to assist in the development and analysis of an information-gathering tool to assist Council in the development of a mission-driven budget.

Pollard: We talked about getting information from a sample of people. Too many feel that you go out, you get information, you come back, but have no feedback from those the information is intended to serve..

Daniels: When we set 20/20 as the goal, that set our priority; and how would this affect our prioritizing?

Pollard: It was not intended that 20/20 be the only mission priority.

Palmore: There are other priorities.

Redfield: Is the ultimate purpose of the survey to get a vision for the church?

Pollard/Palmore: Yes

Redfield: I am concerned that all the bishops are going to be interviewed as are most of the clergy but only a sampling of lay persons.

Guillen: The consulting firms suggested those selections.

Pollard: Consultants know that they have a captive audience in the clergy and bishops.

Daniels: 20/20 is not a narrow goal. It encompasses a whole lot. We need to follow through on the whole of it rather than starting something else. We might look at how we can frame the objective to include others.

Pollard: I don't want to dilute 20/20, but there are other goals that can come forth. E.g., we did some racism training and said we would do it for three triennium and we did it for three.

Duque: It is important to get the information in Spanish. Part of the problem is that the Province 9 is like a second-class province, because of the limitation of the language.

Palmore: I am an alumna of PB&F of General Convention: Those of us on PB&F would work with A&F of Council. A&F would give the draft budget, and PB&F would have hearings. This survey we are proposing seems to be a way to get a jump start on the process for General Convention in 2003.

Crew: We were elected to lead, yet we are passing along that leadership by asking those who elected us to tell us what to do. Also by this initiative it seems to me that we are trying to deal indirectly with a problem at The Episcopal Church Center -- to have a wedge to get action that we are not getting. Consultants will do whatever we want them to do, but can't tell us what is worth doing. That we must decide.

Guillen: The intent is to get ownership of a corporate experience of what the church is about. The plan is to throw out a proposed vision and get people to help us prioritize that. The vision will be ours. We are not passing the buck.

Sessum: I think the people will not know enough to say what is helpful.

Daniels: Eighty percent of Episcopalians would not know about the structure of the church.

Redfield: Every time you turn around we have another consultant, rather than to use the talent that is here.

Daniels: You might begin with our mission statement, what we have done in the past.

Dorothy Davies-Flindall: Have you looked at what should be filed by the national church instead of the local? E.g., international relations. Also maybe ecumenical. relations?

Guillen: There was an additional model about our mission to which the original team was responding.

The Committee was not asked to act. Later Council approved the enabling resolution from A&F. (see AF 5).

At this point we spent time getting updated on each other.

CARIBBEAN COVENANT COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

The Covenant addresses the very poor conditions of pensions for clergy in the Caribbean. Duggan:

Daniels: I am on the Abundance Committee: We are looking at ways to raise the minimums by 20% with the ones lowest on the list to get the most.

Duque: In Colombia Bishop Merino has tended to ordain only those that can work as non-stipendiaries, and the churches have sought such people only. The bill of \$16,000 for pension per person per year is just not in the realm of possibility in Colombia. The situation is so serious that they sent a small committee to the Church Pension Fund to reduce or forgive the debt. When we formed Province 9, the Achilles Heal was the Church Pension Fund. We are not trying to circumvent it, but it is one of the only secure thing we have for our retirement. The Colombian authorities have raised the retirement age for women and men.

Daniels: Who owns the Church Pension Fund? Chancellor David Beers suggests we have flexibility.

The Committee tabled this proposal so that it might come from within the Church Pension Fund. Patrick Mauney will suggest to the Covenant Committee to write to the Abundance Committee to raise the issues to be considered, and will go to Bishop Daniels, who will circulate the Covenant Committee's letter to all on the Abundance Committee.

5013C REQUEST OF EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT

Visitor: Sandra Swan, Director of Episcopal Relief and Development

Swan: We need the 5013C to operate as groups like us operate within other organizations. It will also help us raise funds from organizations that will fund church philanthropy but not ideology.

With the 5013C the Episcopal Church will still own ERD. The responsibilities are clearly laid out in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Now Sandra Swan does not report to anyone; if approved, she will report to the Board of

Directors. This is the only change in the way that ERD has been operating.

Daniels: I want to make sure that ERD continues to report to Executive Council.

Swan: 5013c will make more reporting necessary rather than less. We are not likely to ignore the Episcopal Church: It is our major source of donations; it is our major distribution network.

The Committee did not act on ERD's proposal as this was an informational session. Council will vote on the proposal at our October meeting.

PERSECUTION OF HOMOSEXUALS IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE COMMUNION

Louie Crew reported on his concern for homosexuals being persecuted in certain parts of the communion. He circulated copies of two documents:

1. The Presiding Bishop's statement of in regard to hostile rhetoric towards homosexuals by heads of state in Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe (October 8, 1999)
2. A statement of the bishops of Uganda (November 24, 2000) which twice called lesbigay Christians "inhuman." This is the rhetorical move that made slavery possible; once we define a group as less than human, we have begun to justify our abuse of them.

Crew noted that he is opposed to cutting off funds to those in need, regardless of their views towards homosexuals. It is God's money, not ours. Many are asking him, "How can we afford to fund our own oppression?" -- a poignant question given ECUSA's commitment to socially responsible investments. *Crew offered the comments for information and did not seek action.*

PROPOSAL FOR EPISCOPAL CHURCH RESPONSE TO PEACE PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST (INC 1)

The resolution calls for using some of the Constable funds to support peace-making work in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We might be able to shift the balance of power to give more attention to the Palestinians instead of all of it for Israel (supported by Christian fundamentalists).

We don't have the ability to influence by withdrawing PAC support an other types of clout in organizing voter penalties/rewards. We are able to lobby positively and we can organize support for moderating the debate (as with Colin Powell).

The Committee passed the resolutions (INC1), as did Council.

New Mission Partners (INC 2)

The resolution lists six new appointments by the Presiding Bishop. The resolution puts Council on record expressing our appreciation for these appointments.

The Committee put the resolution on the concurrence calendar. Council later passed it.

Returned Mission Partners (INC 3)

The resolution lists six persons who have completed their appointments as missionaries. The resolution puts Council on record expressing our appreciation for their service.

The Committee put the resolution on the concurrence calendar. Council later passed it.

REVIEW OF OVERSEAS JURISDICTION AND CHURCHES IN COVENANT RELATION

The Covenant Committee needs to sit down with A&F and decide where the Committee should go regarding levels of support..

Many requests now arrive which are trying to make up for loss of support from Canadian church, now in bankruptcy.

Companion dioceses are also often a source of support for dioceses, but Colombia has not been a companion. The stigma hurts Colombia.

Mauney: Dioceses should not rely on companions for budget, but the relationships obviously help.

Duque: My parish is the only self-supporting parish, and it will not be self-supporting when I become a bishop. (As priest, Francisco Duque has been non-stipendiary, supporting himself as a lawyer.)

The Committee encouraged Patrick Mauney's office to review the appropriations, which have not increased over the last 10 years, to see whether they are appropriate, looking also at whether the aided jurisdictions are growing.

GLOBAL WARMING

The Committee passed a resolution (INC 4) calling on the President of the United States to address the issue of global warming and to take the necessary steps to reduce green house gas emissions. Council also passed the resolution.

REPORT ON THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE PHILIPPINE COVENANT (JCPC) (INC 5)

Patrick Mauney noted that the fund-raising has not occurred in the 13 years. Between now and 2007 we will commit to raise 1.5 million. They also want some assistance in raising the money.

The Committee passed the resolutions (INC 5), as did Council.

REPORT ON ANNUAL MEETING OF EPISCOPAL PARTNERSHIP OF GLOBAL MISSION (EPGM)

Tom Bates and Rita Redfield are Councils representatives on EPGM

Mauney: The partnership, now twelve years old, is a success story, because the organizations are all part of the issues that divide us and yet have come together to focus on what unites us, and agree to disagree about the other issues.

EPGM agreed to "Standards for Sending Long-Term Missionaries" and the Committee is being asked to look at the draft now and offer advice. When the standards are in their final format, EPGM will send them back to Executive Council with a request for our approval. Once Council approves them, all organizations will be bound by the standards.

Executive Council is not a member organization: Council created EPGM and they report to us; we do not report to them.

Sessum called attention to the time constraints and expense of all the organizations reporting to us physically (at end of the Standards document).

If the proposal passes, all missionaries will then be missionaries of ECUSA and will be recognized as such, even when their funding comes not through the DFMS but through these organizations which are members of EPGM.

Someone suggested that we need to present an overarching resolution that would let Council know what we are doing, likely doing this at our autumn meeting.

Ackerman: these organizations are going to exist whether we approve these groups or not, but this does give us an opportunity to set standards.

Crew: I hope the final version of the resolution will clear up some of the grammatical problems of the draft. More important: I hope that EPGM will find wording that enjoins anyone designated as a missionary of the Episcopal Church not to misrepresent private views as the official views of the Episcopal Church.

Daniels: I was assured that physical exam must be done prior to going and that the applicant will give a full medical history.

Mauney: The over-arching resolutions should include all specific organizations, and there should be a statement of ECUSA's liability. The document should state clearly what it means for us to approve it and whom we would be recognizing as missionaries of the Episcopal Church.

Crew: The planners need to give us the names of all the organizations we should have the power to refuse recognition if some are added of which we do not approve (e.g., AMIA).

Ackerman: This proposal, if passed, will more accurately reflect the number of our

missionaries.

Daniels: We need to assure the exit interviews with both the sending and the receiving bishops.

Mauney: The proposed process is not a part of the standards.

The Committee took no action at this meeting. The Chair of EPGM will be in touch with Robert Sessum and Patrick Mauney to work on the process. Robert Sessum will let Rita and Tom know of anything done with the proposed process.

**REPORT OF EAST AFRICA SUBCOMMITTEE (SUDAN) OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON
ANGLICAN & INTERNATIONAL PEACE WITH JUSTICE CONCERNS**

The Committee received the full written report of the sub-committee. The Committee passed resolutions calling for ECUSA support of establishing a peace process (INC 6), as did Council.

Next Meeting: October 15-19, 2001, Jacksonville Florida.

Respectfully submitted: Louie Crew