

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS
June 10-13, 2002

PRESENT: Robert Sessum, *Chair*, Keith Ackerman, Thomas Bates, Louie Crew, Francisco Duque, Edward Goddard, Anthony Guillen, Carole Jan Lee, Rita Redfield. **Staff:** Patrick Mauney, Brian Grieves, Sandra Swan, Jere Skipper, David Beers. **Guests:** Erik Nelson, *Institute on Religion and Democracy*; Steve Waring, *The Living Church*; Cate MacMahon, *Communicator, Diocese of New Hampshire*; Saulo Salvador, *Translator*; Cheryl Dawkins, *Recorder*

MONDAY, JUNE 10

The International Concerns met jointly with Administration and Finance Committee at 4:00pm prior to INC's meeting on Monday. The purpose of this meeting was in regard to the Mexican bishops' misuse of funds in the Diocese of Western Mexico and Northern Mexico. A joint committee was formed to respond to this situation. The joint committee consist of: Richard Miller and Tim Vann, (A&F) and Anthony Guillen and Louie Crew (INC). The joint committee will meet again at 9:45 a.m. on Wednesday.

Following the joint committee, the full committee of International Concerns met at 5:40pm with Sandra Swan, Director of Episcopal Relief and Development. She reported income for the first quarter was down by 50%; however the second quarter was up 9% over last year during the 2nd quarter. She also reported that ERD was pleased to send money to Colombia, as well as El Salvador and that the Honduras program in housing was winding down. It was noted that Ms. Swan has been elected to the board and an officer of InterAction, Association of International Relief and Development not for profit association.

Brian Grieves reported that ECUSA will have a delegation going from Anglican and International Peace with Justice Commission to Colombia and Brazil July 22- Aug 1, 2002.

International Committee met again after dinner. Bob Sessum reviewed the committee's agenda for items of old business.

Several people gave an update on the monitoring situations around the globe. Interaction is done through chat-room to monitor situations. It was reported that Carole Jan Lee, Rita Redfield, and Warrew Ramshaw traveled to China earlier this year. They visited various government buildings and the Episcopal Church in Beijing. One must have a passport in order to attend services at the Church. They visited an American couple and Gai Yung, a missionary who teaches at the seminary. Gai Yung came to the United States in the 80's and wanted to know about the Episcopal Church and, who later was confirmed is a highly placed person in the Church. Louie Crew reported on his Africa and Korea visits. It was a transforming experience and certainly connected with the peace and justice people in the area. He distributed notes on the assignment on Africa, along with a map indicating the locations of the cities. He suggested that the monitoring reports not be abandoned because it would keep the committee updated on the international relations. Ed Godden said Eastern Europe and Russia have the whole refugees situation as a priority and there is a fair amount of governmental work to be done in that area. The committee chairs were asked to review the Evaluation Process that was done in San Antonio

with their committee. INC reported that the evaluation was most helpful and the actions were overall satisfactory. The best practices for functioning in INC were acknowledged and the committee will continue to work with them.

Question was raised: "how are committee chairs chosen to serve on the Executive and Agenda Committee?" The Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies make those decisions through the experience the individuals bring on board regarding the work of the committee, the chair provides the knowledge and is helpful about what is presented before Council. The chairs meet once before the upcoming meeting to develop an agenda, and they are kept abreast of changes that may be effective. Bob Sessum will send out a timetable in the future about the items that are being considered.

Tom Bates reported on the Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission and the Sending Proposal. He said EPGM has processed a process regarding member organizations being recognized by the Executive Council and how to list the membership. The following resolution suggests the recognition:

Resolved, That the Executive Council recognize as missionaries of the Episcopal Church the following persons:

- Mr. John Doe of the Diocese of Louisiana, appointed by the Presiding Bishop for the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, assigned as Diocesan Secretary in the Diocese of Heavenopolis in the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil, for a term of the three years beginning June 1, 2002.
- Mrs. Jane Doe of the diocese of Florida, appointed by the South Pole Missionary Society, assigned as Development Officer of the Diocese of Central Melanesia in the Province of Melanesia, for a term of two years beginning July 1, 2002.

After the inauguration of such recognition, Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission sending organizations will attend subsequent meetings of Executive Council to be determined, and forward to the EPGM Steering Committee the particulars of the missionaries for whom recognition is sought. The Steering Committee will forward the particulars to the Anglican and Global Relations Office for inclusion on the Council's agenda, most appropriately to coincide with recognition of DFMS missionaries. For returning missionaries, the wording will be similar.

The liability issue in regard to Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission was raised. David Beers was consulted and said we could go ahead with recognition, but EPGM should get their own insurance policy and to do so they would need to be incorporated. It was suggested that they need to go ahead and incorporate themselves so the policy can be effective by an insurance company, i.e., American International Group, who could be the facilitator.

It was agreed that the committee will adopt the procedure (format) of recognizing missionaries provided that they would be incorporated and have liability insurance by the next Executive Council meeting. Tom Bates and Rita Redfield will report the information back to EPGM and Sandy McPhee. It was suggested that we pass the Procedures. It was approved.

Louie reported on the Mexico situation. (See report information)

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2:30PM

The meeting was convened and prayer offered by Bishop Duque. The Minutes of the meeting held in San Antonio were moved for acceptance and approved.

Bob Sessum reviewed the draft minutes from the previous day and a discussion about how the selection of chairs of committees on Executive Council are chosen.

A001 - Louie Crew said the resolution previously presented at the last Council meeting on micro-loans was not approved. The General Convention office did not approve the resolution because it was to be a special independent inquiry. The Committee agreed to resubmit the resolution without the phrase "independent query." It was seconded and approved to remove the words and submit the resolution to Council (INC-18a).

Committee approved INC-19 and INC-20 relating to appointment and appreciation of DFMS missionaries' assignments.

Translation - Rita Redfield was asked to update the Committee on the resolution regarding translation of certain documents into Spanish and possibly French. When she attended a meeting of Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission, they asked if documents could be printed in various languages. Anthony Guillen added that academically there will certainly be nuances that would have different effects. Certainly, the Church related documents would basically be standard. However, regarding 2020 before the General Convention, the Committee needs to ask the Executive Council to organize something so that there is finally an action in place. This would at least be the beginning of an important work. The Committee reworked the resolution.

(INC-25) -*Whereas* our Church is a Spanish-speaking Church in at least five dioceses, and whereas our membership increases constantly by the arrival of Spanish-speaking people in the United States, the necessity to communicate in their primary language with this vital part of our church is imperative. Therefore be it resolved that documents/announcements/cyber publications produced by the Episcopal Church Center and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society will be fully implemented no later than the General Convention of 2006 in both English and Spanish including but not limited to the following:

- Episcopal New Service (ENS) press releases
- The Presiding Bishop's monthly message
- House of Bishops pastoral letters
- Summary reports of General Convention actions
- Executive Council resolutions/actions
- Official communication from the Episcopal Church Center

Resolved, That all materials produced in Spanish be sent to the Hispanic Desk to be included in their website for easy retrieval or be mailed by them; and be it further

Resolved, That mailing/communication lists be maintained at the church center of the designated recipients of the above materials who wish to receive that information in Spanish; and be it further

Resolved, That an advisory committee of Executive Council and Church Center staff be established to formulate a process for an effective, fiscally responsible and creative way of fulfilling the above and to consider the creation of a position of Director of Translation; and be it further

Resolved, That the committee consider the translation of the above-mentioned materials in French for the future, and be it further

Resolved, That a report be made to the advisory committee at the January, 2003 meeting of Executive Council to be held in the Dominican Republic for further action by Executive Council for General Convention.

The resolution was approved to present to the Council. Anthony Guillen and Francisco Duque have agreed to translate the resolution that will be submitted to the Council in Spanish.

The Chair called upon the Committee to review the resolution on Diamonds, Sierre Leone. Jere Skipper from the Washington Office gave an update of the situation. She said the resolution at General Convention 2000 called upon the Church to monitor free and fair elections in Sierre Leone. The resolution for this meeting encourages support of the Church to end illegal diamonds smuggling especially in Liberia. This has caused enormous violation of human rights. It is hoped that this would end any diamonds sold in United States that may be the conflict diamonds. The Committee approved the resolution to be submitted to the Council. (INC-21)

The Chair received a resolution from Russ Palmore, concerning John C. Danforth endorsement on matters concerning the peace process in Sudan.

Jere Skipper spoke for the resolution and said Senator Danforth calls for ceased fire in the Nuba Mountain, and the raising the issue would ask the United States government to become engaged in the peace efforts in Sudan. The resolution lifts up the points of the actual negotiation between the Sudanese government and US.

Richard Parkins suggested the Committee get a further review of the whole discussion on the Sudan. There is a comprehensive policy from General Convention. It may be that the Council should commend Senator Danforth on the peacekeeping efforts concerning the Sudan region. He asked that the Committee accept the resolution and that there be further opportunity to monitor the situation.

It was agreed that several people would work on the resolution and submit it to the Committee for approval before Council.

(INC-26) *-Resolved*, That the Executive Council, meeting in Durham, New Hampshire, June 10-13, 2002 reaffirms its existing Sudan policy of the 2000 General Convention (A130) and the resolution adopted by the Executive Council on October 17, 2001 in Jacksonville, FL; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council is committed to monitoring the peace process in Sudan to ensure that the Episcopal Church supports policies consistent with a just and fair peace and the aspirations of our Church partners; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council commends The Rev. John C. Danforth from Missouri and special envoy for the United States, for his efforts in helping to bring about a cease-fire in the Nuba Mountain region of Sudan, as well as the adoption by the warring parties of related “confidence building measures intended to reduce civilian deaths and disease; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council joins Senator Danforth in urging the United States Government to increase its involvement in bringing about meaningful peace negotiations between the Government of Sudan and the Sudanese Peoples’ Liberation Movement, with a particularly emphasis on:

- Bringing about an early cease fire in the Upper Nile region, particularly in the oil producing and oil exploration areas where heavy fighting and government-sponsored ethnic cleansing have taken place over the past several years;
- Protecting the legitimate rights of the southern Sudanese to oil and water resources in their part of Sudan against unjust exploitation by the Government of Sudan, third countries, and foreign commercial interests

- Stopping religious persecution by the Government of Sudan and its militias
- Assuring that Sharia law is not imposed on southern Sudan or on Christians elsewhere in Sudan.

Brian Grieves reported on two resolutions: one on Palestinians and Israelis peace in the Middle East; and, the another on Iraq. He said the resolution requests the President to take some initiatives in support of peacekeeping efforts in these countries. Brian met with Senator Schumer and heard some of the issues that favored the support to push the Israeli government to cease direct action against terrorism. The Iraqi resolution opposes any military action against them just to overthrow the regime of Saddam Hussein. The two resolutions were accepted to go before Council. (INC-22 and INC-23)

David Beers reported from the Administration and Finance committee on the draft resolution Statement on Recent Reports from the Church in Mexico that will be brought forward from INC Committee. After final revisions, it was moved that the resolution be accepted as changed. Motion accepted. (INC-24)

Richard Parkins gave an update on International Refugees program regarding the Ceiling and Admissions to the United States for the fiscal year of 2002. To date, the ceiling has only been 12,000 of the 70,000 admission allowable. The ceiling figures are much less than what was the official numbers to be admitted in the United States in recent years and resettlement of the refugees are not carried over to the next year. Richard said Episcopal Migration Ministry is deeply concerned about the situation of refugees that have been denied entrance into the US. Several organizations have proposed measures that would aid the efforts to identifying vulnerable refugees for protection and need our support. He said funds for refugees are being supported at 30% less this year and have been on a decline throughout the European countries. The whole operation has affected the support of staff assistance because of the decline in financial support for the refugees.

Francisco Duque asked Richard Parkins about the situation in Colombia and what the office can do to help his country. Generally, people would seek asylum and then get work permit and temporary protected status of authorization. Richard has agreed to work with Francisco to help develop a resolution to support the crisis in Colombia to bring forward at the October meeting.

Blue Book report - Rita Redfield will edit the report before it is submitted for approval.

Pat Mauney reported on Province IX and the request of General Convention calling for its self-governance in the future. The Standing Commission on Structure pulled together a Consultation with the bishops of Province IX and members of World Mission. The report of the Consultation was a reassertion by the dioceses in Province IX to make the province work. The Consultation elected the bishop of Puerto Rico as the tentative president. They have called for a synod meeting July 27, in Bogota, Colombia. They are asking when General Convention meet in 2003 that Puerto Rico, Cuba and Venezuela would be readmitted back into the United States. Ultimately, instead of the current five dioceses there would be up to eight dioceses. It would become a stronger and more viable province. Pat said one of the reasons they voted to be readmitted was that in 1979-80 Puerto Rico became autonomous and sought self-governance. They expected the whole Ninth Province to form a whole region within itself -- but it did not happen. They are asking General Convention to allow them to return under the jurisdiction of the United States.

Some committee members expressed concern about the process of the development of these dioceses being readmitted into the Church. It was suggested that dialogue between World Mission and the Structure Commissions be encouraged concerning this situation.

Pat Mauney said the amount of funding for our overseas diocesan loans have frozen at the same flat line over the past ten years. Staff and some Council chairs have assessed the situation and using data on past history to get some data where each diocese is. We will look at what adjustment that might need to be taken and mutual accountability.

Recessed

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 10:30AM

The meeting reconvened and Ed Godden offered a prayer.

The Chair called to the attention the resolutions INC-22 to be submitted to the Council for final acceptance. He mentioned that the resolution on the Middle East conflict had some concerns over the usage of the words "occupation territory." Bp. Ackerman explained for the sake of clarity, the Committee could request Erik Nelson to explain the official term of using the word occupation/occupied territory. There were a few moments spent discussing the proper use of the words throughout various religious and other institutions/media.

Anthony Guillen agreed to translate resolution, INC-24 into Spanish that will then be submitted before the Council.

Pat Mauney reported on the Covenants relations regarding our financial commitments and other aspects of the life of the Church with the Diocese of Liberia, Mexico, Philippines and the Province of Central America. At the time the diocese left the General Convention, the presiding bishops of the two churches appointed a Joint Covenant committee consisting of three people: a bishop, clergy and lay person. They are charged with monitoring the terms of the Covenants and meet every couple of years. After the meetings, the members report to Executive Council to let them know they have done what was requested by the Covenant agreement. Each time reports were submitted to INC, they were also aware of any resolutions that needed to be supported by our Church. Those dioceses under the Covenant agreement have not had specific ordinances that required audits, but they do submit a report to the Treasurer of DFMS.

The Committee was invited to ask questions. One question was "should DFMS check to see that regular review or audits have been done?" and, to check with the Treasurer to affirm that the action has happened. Council would make certain that the Treasurer has met the particular requirements of the covenant that come to that office. The Chair requested Pat Mauney to offer suggestions and guidelines to be brought back to the Committee. It is hoped that there would be certain expectations and procedures that would require the responsibility and accountability of the Covenant Agreements.

Recessed for Holy Eucharist

RECONVENED AT 2:30PM

The Chair called the meeting to order and Carole Jan Lee offered a prayer.

The Chair clarified the resolutions to be presented to the Council.

The Blue Book report was reviewed and changes were indicated. Please refer to the updated draft distributed. Rita Redfield has agreed to continue to update information in the report as may be necessary.

Cate McMahon, Editor of the New Hampshire Episcopal Life, was welcomed as a visitor to the Committee.

The Chair highlighted the upcoming issues to be noted: Colombia gatherings, Blue Book report, Dominican Republic meeting, Province IX and an update on the Covenant relations.

Tom Bates shared a report on Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission meeting that was held in Charleston, SC in April. There was the signing of EPGM covenants document that are central and foundational to the life of the network. They commit member organizations to partnership mission that explore theological diversity, affirm the mission to unreachable people and information sharing. They discussed the long term and short-term Mission Sending Standards for those who will be a part of the group. Jane Butterfield discussed the medical mission that would develop better understandings for coordinating with dioceses. A grant was submitted to UTO to underwrite the assistance for local help in with that work. Tom commended Titus Presler for the marvelous work he has done with the Committee.

Rita Redfield also participated in the meeting and said that small committees were formed to discuss the work and vision for the future. They will continue to interact with each other over the years to come. The General Convention subgroup of EPGM would like to focus on the issue of AIDS in Africa; and will discuss major fund-raising projects. Rita and Tom are the liaisons for the Executive Council and not representatives to the organization. The representatives hope to be invited to the Council before the end of the triennium. It may be that the Council meeting in Dominican Republic could arrange for someone to visit from SAMS (South American Missionary Society) with the Committee and make a presentation to Council.

Bishop Ackerman said it would be a good idea to have members from the Committee visit the medical mission in Dominican Republic that his diocese is sponsoring during January 16-30. The Chair will check with the Secretary to see if it would be possible that an early arrival could be done before the meeting of Executive Council.

The Chair expressed concern that the Committee has a tremendous amount of work and does not have enough time to be effective and productive as they would like.

Francisco Duque reflected on issues that have affected the Diocese of Colombia since he became bishop. He requests that we continue to pray for the people in his country.

Recessed

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 9:45AM

The meeting was opened with a prayer offered by Tom Bates. The Committee continued sharing of their lives and ministry. The meeting was adjourned at 10:48am.

DRAFT 3 – BLUE BOOK REPORT
INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Members: The Reverend Robert Sessum, chairman; The Reverend Anthony Guillen, The Right Reverend Keith Ackerman; Dr. Thomas Bates; Dr. Louie Crew, The Right Reverend Theodore Daniels, The Right Reverend Francisco Duque, The Reverend Edward Godden, Ms. Carole Jan Lee, Ms. Rita Redfield

The purpose of the Executive Council's Committee on International Concerns is to monitor the international policies and programs of the Episcopal Church to assure that Executive Council is complying with the will of General Convention and of council itself and to propose actions as needed.

Directors or representatives of Episcopal Church Center offices having relationships with the international community attend most meetings keeping the Committee apprised of their work and bringing forward pertinent matters for discussion. These offices include: Anglican and Global Relations, Episcopal Relief and Development, Migration Ministries, and Peace and Justice Ministries. Also acting as consultants were the Directors of Government Relations for the Episcopal Church, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, Office of Bishop for the Armed Services, and Steering Committee members from Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission. An interpreter for Spanish speaking members is present at all INC meetings.

Reports have been received throughout the triennium on overseas dioceses and churches in covenant relationship. These reports are reviewed by INC and appropriate resolutions of acknowledgement or action are presented to the Executive Council.

To be proactive with ongoing issues throughout the world, members of International Concerns Committee (INC) have assumed responsibility for monitoring various areas and reporting at each meeting. Currently attention is given to Africa, the Middle East, Central America, the Caribbean, Mexico, Canada, the Philippines, Eastern Europe and Russia.

The covenant agreement with Liberia was revised due to urgent priorities facing Liberia. Practical ways of meeting those needs were suggested. In another resolution, money from trust funds for the Diocese of Liberia were released to assist with the reconstruction of the Episcopal school system and Cuttington College.

Several resolutions were forwarded to the Executive Council in support of peacemaking efforts between Israel and Palestine.

Recognition is given by the Executive Council to all missionaries appointed by the Presiding Bishop as they undertake and complete their commitment. As of November 2002 --- have been appointed and --- have returned.

Resolutions from the 73rd General Convention, referred to INC, were tracked or submitted to appropriate committees for action.

Episcopal Relief and Development responded to resolutions on the AIDS crisis in Africa and needs in Haiti. An African conference on AIDS, held in August 2001, was one of several programs sponsored or supported by ERD. Several initiatives in Haiti are in various phases of development.

Mission sending standards were composed by the steering committee of Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission (EPGM) for missionary sending agencies. These Standards for Sending Long Term Missionaries and a process for inviting one of these agencies to address Executive Council each year were approved by the council.

A comprehensive report on the Sudan by the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns was reviewed by INC. Further attention was given to the Sudan through a resolution condemning the April 11, 2001 actions of the authorities in Khartoum against Christians. The council passed an additional resolution urging Episcopalians and Episcopal organizations to consider appropriate ways of divesting any entity that supports the current government and military efforts in the Sudan.

Considerable discussion has focused on the diversity of language in the Episcopal Church. A resolution to translate the 2020 report into Spanish was approved by council. Other possibilities for concurrent release of English and other translations of some announcements and documents is under consideration.

Other discussions and resolutions focused on environmental concerns, AIDS in developing countries, issues in Zimbabwe, Uganda, Colombia and Haiti, and an extensive report on Episcopal Migration Ministries, including the refugee crisis.