

Executive Council
Standing Committee on International Concerns
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
January 27-29, 2003

Present: Robert Sessum, Chair; Keith Ackerman, Thomas Bates, Carmen Brooks, Louie Crew, Theodore Daniels, Francisco Duque, Edward Godden, Anthony Guillén, Carole Jan Lee, Rita Redfield

Staff: Patricia Mordecai, Brian Grieves, Patrick Mauney, James Solheim, Ed Cimafonte, Juan Marquez

Guests: Salvador Saulo, Translator; Anita and Michael Dohn, Ellen and Robert Snow, Frank Oberly, Karen Parker

The Committee was convened on Monday at 5:15 p.m. Bishop Ackerman offered prayers.

Anthony Guillen facilitated the session with comments of the concerns relative to the By-Laws. Pat Mordecai met with the Committee to assist with the conversation of discussion. Two questions were asked “What has the Council learned? and What Changes need to be made, what is the driving principles.”

- It seems Council has power only when the PB agrees with it. What authority does Council have and what changes should be made. There needs to be some means where a few members on Council have a better communication with PB so he can understand the connection on a one-to-one basis. (He has to be aware of what Council’s role is.)
- What happens when there is a need to act before (between) Council meetings? What should be the role/power of the Executive on issues of concern? It was suggested that the Executive Committee be recommended as an advisory committee when the need to be.
- Communication through conference calls is certainly a way to get immediate decisions made. Council needs to be informed.
- Appointments made by the selection of PB are not something of desire.
- Disconnect is based on perceiving what people thought they heard or think they heard.
- It would be a great idea to reiterate what the discussion that people heard. Give some additional guidelines on continuing information is on-going.
- Lack of Communication -- The committee can do telephone conference calls since there is a trust level with each other.

What have we learned and what to recommend:

- When actions of Executive Council discovered to have canonical flaws (items that need further interpretation) Management Team should make decision only when in consultation with Council.

Pat Mordecai said all this says something about trust. The word “decision” was used a lot, but it was never the word of Management Team. They did not make the decision. There were never

any expectations that the Team made. Management had heard that you wanted to be kept informed between meetings, but to hear that the opinions should be held until the upcoming meeting. The Team was trying to be responsive. Despite what Council had heard there are two sides to each story. (Russ Palmore remarks clearly states that the staff had nothing to do with the decision). Three-person steering committee said they did not want any influence from the PB and others upon which the decision was made.

- What the Council heard from Pat was that “you wanted them to micro-manage the situation.” Council would not like to hear that the PB made the decision. However, it was what he said at Camp Allen and thus leaving Council out on the limb.
- When you ask people to engage in this type of discussion they need to be present to be heard and they then have something to base their decision on. Appoint people who have been privileged to be a part of the whole process.
- In future, when Executive Committee requests something to be done – it needs to be done just as directed.
- If there are reasons to change the decision then everyone should have the opportunity of offering information.
- Look at mission statement constantly and see how it measures up into the goals.

Part of the disconnect is when you live in something everyday, one needs to step back and see what may have been missed by people who don't live into that experience.

- Are there point people (liaison) who can have specific contact with those necessary to get a prospective or point of view?

What does Pat Mordecai think the authority of Council is? Council is the Board of Directors and is charged with setting policy, information and budget, initiating new work and the responsibility broadly for oversight of all the work carried – it delegate. (They are Advisors/Director) Are the Council managers?

- Decisions – Council needs some help in understanding how decision-making get made. PB could persuade the Council in which way to go. The leadership makes decisions.

Break

MEETING RECONVENED AT 8:10PM

- Suggestion for By-Laws is that the Executive Committee should meet more often and with a representative committee for decisions to be made. There needs to be an appointed interim body that can be trusted by Council for situations of important concern.
- The Executive Committee should be the four appointed by the PB with two additional people At-Large as representative/advisory to the PB. (Presiding Bishop and George Werner both have voice and vote and sit in a seat as the Council)

Becky Snow is to be consulted about some issues that have been discussed here regarding the Executive Committee.

- The appointment of the three people for the General Theological Seminary process may not have been the best decision, and it put pressure on one person on Council to be responsible for the final conclusion.
- Clarity on lines of authority (**do we** have it or **did we** have it) – who is ultimately responsible for the decision?

It was suggested that “Between meetings of Executive Council, the Executive Committee may be called upon to make decisions on an issue of extreme importance.” The Chair of the committees can then communicate with members of their committee to discuss what is going on and then is given the authority to act on behalf of the Council.

Bob thanked Pat Mordecai for her participation at the meeting.

The Agenda of International Committee was distributed for work that will come before the Council at the meeting.

It was **moved** and **seconded** that the Minutes be accepted as submitted. **Approved**

Bob reviewed the items on the Agenda and made suggestions on how to proceed with the work of the committee.

The Committee will meet at 2 p.m. on Tuesday with members on Administration and Finance, and one member of National Concerns regarding the Covenants on an update of the overseas dioceses.

The meeting was recessed.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28 – 5:30PM

The Committee met in the Plenary with A& F and members of staff on the discussion of the financial affairs in Ecuador. Bishop Clayton Matthews and David Beers communicated legal advice during a telephone conference on the discussion of Ecuador’s financial situation.

Discussion continued on funding of Block Grants.

Mexico Covenant and Telephone Conference with George McGonigle

Pat Mauney read the ECUSA/IAM Covenant Committee minutes that was meeting held Nov 19-20, 2002, in San Antonio, TX. (See attachment included in the Minutes for documentation, as well as the Questions and Answers relating to Media Release).

Members on Executive Council have all received the report. George McGonigle was then called for continued conversation on the matter.

Pat Mauney, Director of Anglican Global Relations, greeted George McGonigle and said members of members on International Concerns and Program, Budget and Finance committees were present to hear any comments he had on the issue related to Mexico.

George first reiterated that “without Executive Council knowing anything of the situation in Mexico, they have no idea the good that these dioceses have.” He said there are reports that Bishop Espinoza of Western Mexico and Bishop Martinez of Northern Mexico have fled the country.

A question was raised about their being prosecuted. Pat Mauney and Juan Marquez, staff liaison and Staff Officer for International Partnership were in Mexico and reported that criminal suits are underway. Pat told the committees that Bishops Martiniano Garcia, of Cuernavaca and Sergio Carranza-Gomez are very fine men and that the Church in Mexico is fortunate to have them as representatives of the Church.

What lesson have we learned from people of the Covenant committee? George said there are four questions to ask:

- “How do you create “mutual responsibility” without mutual ministries?”
- “How do you create “interdependence” without the partners being in mutual ministries?”
- “What does ECUSA seek to receive from its partners?”
- “What do the partners seek to receive (besides money) from ECUSA?”

He continued to say that **A Design for a Covenant Relationship** should be an important factor in developing a covenant relationship. Before you start getting involved in the situation, develop a covenant relation group – how do they plan to get there; how is it going to be governed -- how is it going to work. George suggested the following:

- Convene a “Covenant Definition Group (CDG)” to develop the issues of mutual interest and concern
- Assess the issues for their financial, organizational, and personnel aspects
- Develop a strategy for addressing the issues within these parameters
- Assign responsibilities and authorities for implementing the strategy
- Agree upon milestones for program elements
- Develop a periodic reporting and assessment process to track progress toward strategic goals

Also important for a relationship, George suggested: **Key Ingredients of a Successful Covenant Relationship**

- A core group of clergy and laity from both partners who care deeply about this relationship and will give it priority in terms of their own ministries
- Sufficient resources (personnel and money) to make the particular relationship viable and results oriented
- Willingness within the “Authority Structures” of the partners to support an active, useful and efficient partnership in mission and ministry
- Availability of staff resources to assist the core group in staying connected to the broader mission of the partners

And, lastly, education of the partnership: **Examples of Partnership Programs:**

- Congregational leadership (lay & clergy)
- Congregational finance
- Early childhood & youth education (Sunday school and Catechism)
- Adult theological education
- Facilities planning
- New member development
- Ecumenical relations

George advised to take a hard nose look at all the relationship that is going to be entered and find ways to work through it.

Bob agreed and said that the Committee is going to work hard in developing a working relationship with the Covenants.

Bob thanked George McGonigle very much for assisting the Committee in understanding the issues involved in a Covenant relationship and how to question what is being asked of the partnership.

George said Mexico is a difficult case in that they have a language problem and then it is heavily populated with the Roman Catholic Church. The government in Mexico does not have a clue about Episcopal Church and its existence. The government respect religion, but Mexico is a long way off from being an independent province. The relationship between the Mexico Church and United States is massive one.

Bob urged the Committee to get as much work done on the Covenant process as can be possibly done before the triennium is over.

The Committee reviewed a draft resolution on the bombing in Jerusalem. The Committee was recessed.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 9:45 AM

The Chair reviewed the legislation that will require approval by Council.

The Committee agreed that INC 32 – Returned Mission Partners, INC 33 – New Mission Partners, and INC 34 – Theological Education Grants for Latin American and the Caribbean Theological Education Fund would go on the Consent Calendar. It was **moved** and **seconded** that the resolutions would be placed on the calendar. **Motion accepted.** (Resolutions are finalized in the Minutes of Executive Council meeting)

INC 35 – Bombing of Ahli Arab Hospital Chapel in Gaza and INC 36 – Report of the Mexico Covenant Committee were discussed and a few adjustments were made within the body of the

resolutions, the Committee approved them to go before Council. It was **moved** and **seconded** to submit as amended. **Motion accepted.**

Pat Mauney said Pat Mordecai was working with him on the Mechanisms of Accountability for General Convention Block Grants resolution for approval by the Council.

Resolution INC –37 was discussed and it was agreed that the language needed to be done in Spanish. The Committee agreed that the Bishop of Dominican Republic, the Rt. Rev. Julio C. Holguin be consulted to assist with the translation for clarity.

The Chair introduced the Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission representatives, Anita and Michael Dohn, MDs who offered a reported on SAMS (South American Missionary Society) relationship. (A copy of their “Basic Principles in Community Health Development document is on file in the Secretary’s office. The document was also distributed to the Committee.) The community health concerns are the basic health needs that everyone needs to survive. It is important to get information to the people and offer support on the simple health concerns as promoters of health related matters. The marriage of economics and health are a major concern in reaching the needs of community programs.

Rita Redfield will connect the Dohn’s with Don Hammond to possibly assist with getting funds from Episcopal Relief Development (ERD) for their ministry.

Bob and Ellen Snow were introduced as ECUSA (Episcopal Church in the United States of America) representatives and reported on the mission and ministry they have in the diocese.

Bob and Ellen Snow reported on the life as missionaries in the country. They have completed their seventh years in Dominican Republic. He is deacon and an assistant to the Bishop of Dominican Republic. Ellen is responsible for the support of teaching what is needed of people who want to be missionaries and preparing them the way of their call. The Snow’s are residence of Lincoln, NE. They began their ministry because each had a desire to serve Christ and a calling to be missionaries. They both agreed that it isn’t easy being called for missionary work and believe the Church has to make it easier for people who people to get into the field. There are approximately forty to fifty work teams who are in the Dominican Republic aiding in some type of volunteer work. There is a need for more volunteers and those who feel the call should “come with a servant heart.” The work of missionaries takes a lot of dedication, perseverance, sacrifice and financial support. They have learned so much and would not trade the experience for anything.

Bishop Ackerman said the Diocese of Quincy is a partner with the Diocese of Dominican Republic. Tom Bates, MD performed missionary work prior to the meeting of the Council.

The Committee applauded the reports and thanked the missionaries.

The Chair moved the Committee along with the other business for discussion. He said the Presiding Bishop was working on a Statement regarding Iraq. Bob asked the Committee to review it and offer comments to the Statement.

Louie Crew asked about the Episcopal Church and the possibility of re-admitting Cuba, Philippines, Puerto Rico and Venezuela at General Convention. He wants to vote approval for them to enter back into the Episcopal Church. He, however, would like them to have a clear understanding of what we are doing about the reconnection. One example is the reason why they want to be joined/received back into the Church.

The Chair asked if everyone was clear on the areas of the budget that concerns International Concerns program with regards to the allocation of funds. The appropriations will need to be adjusted to fix the actual situation in dioceses.

Carmen said the bishops in Latin American should be more encouraged to concentrate on the urban centers of these areas. Urban areas are looking for people to administer to them through true evangelism and missions. The Executive Council is structured to have people academically prepared to participant in the field educationally knowledgeable, and that is not often the case.

The Blue Book report for INC has been submitted and the Committee reviewed the final edits of the document.

Rita suggested that members of the senior class get together to make notes on “what could be preparation for the next class of Executive Council.”

Other Business

The Committee will continue to look at the covenant format at the meeting in Maryland. They will review George McGonigle comments in relationship to covenants; review the Philippine covenant; investigate the work of the Task Force on Spanish Translation Committee. The task force membership has not been announced.

It was also suggested that someone bok into the people newly elected members at General Convention. The last class offered a brief overview of the Executive Council to members who were at convention. Someone will need to get the ball rolling on that matter to ensure that a continental breakfast is arranged and meeting dates information as will be available.

The Chair has asked the recording secretary to get the dates for EPGM meetings: April 21-23, Ridgecrest Conference Center, North Carolina.

The Chair called upon Bishop Daniels who offered closing prayers.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 7:00AM

The Committee met jointly with Administration and Finance members. Those who were present: Ralph O’Hara, Pat Mordecai, Rebecca Snow, Diane Pollard, Barbara Mann.

The Committee dialogued on the matter of “Mechanisms of Accountability for General Convention Block Grants and the eligibility for receiving funding. After a few corrections in the body text, the joint committees approved the document to be submitted to Council. It was **moved** and **seconded** for approval. **Motion accepted.**

The Committee thanked A&F for their assistances in perfection of the document.

The Committee worked on resolution INC 37 – Human Rights in Dominican Republic. **Accepted.**

The Committee reviewed PB’s statement on Iraq, INC 38 - . **Accepted.**

Louie Crew offered a resolution commending the service of Tom Hart, INC-39. **Accepted.**

The Chair acknowledged Carmen Brooks, who offered comments on her concern regarding examining the way the Church look at funding. She said an office needs to provide legal assistance to prisoners who have been held for long periods of time. Louie suggested that the Standing Commission on National and International Concerns should look into the requests and make recommendations to the next members of the Executive Council committee in the next triennium. Carmen will bring the suggestion to the next triennium of Council. It was suggested that her deputation bring a resolution to that affect to General Convention so that it can go into a committee of convention so that it can be offered as a resolution of General Convention. Assuredly, some members will be on a committee at convention to support the effort.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, it was adjourned. A prayer was offered by Bishop Ackerman.