

STANDING COMMISSION ON ANGLICAN AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE WITH JUSTICE CONCERNS

Draft Minutes for October 18-21, 2004

The Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns held its second meeting of the triennium Oct. 18-21, 2004 at the Maritime Institute of Technology, Linthicum Heights, Maryland

Members present:

The Rev. Randolph K. Dales, Chair	New Hampshire, 2006
The Rev. Theodora N. Brooks	New York, 2006
The Very Rev. Allen W. Farabee	Western New York, 2009
The Rt. Rev. James L. Jelinek	Minnesota, 2009
The Rt. Rev. Carol Joy Gallagher	Southern Virginia, 2009
The Rev. Michael Kinman	Missouri, 2009
Ms. Mary H. Miller	Maryland, 2006
Mr. Dennis Case	Southwestern Virginia, 2006
Dr. K. Tyler Miller	Newark, 2009
Mrs. Guadalupe Moriel-Guillen	Los Angeles, 2009
Ms. Michele K. Spike	Churches in Europe, 2009
Ms. Jacqueline B. Scott, <i>Secretary</i>	Colorado, 2006, secretary
The Rev. Edward E. Godden, <i>Executive Council Liaison</i>	— Delaware

Members Absent:

The Rt. Rev. J. Gary Gloster	North Carolina, 2006
The Rt. Rev. John Lipscomb	Southwest Florida, 2006

RESOURCES FROM THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Brian Grieves, Director, Peace and Justice Ministries
Maureen Shea, Director of Government Relations
Richard Parkins, Director of Episcopal Migration Ministries
Alex Baumgarten, International Policy Analyst, ECUSA

The commission began its meeting discussing topics of peace and justice and areas of concern around the world. It heard reports from various members of the commission and members of the national church staff who had traveled to some of these areas since the last meeting:

- Mary Miller and her husband, Ron, along with Brian Grieves, reported on Israel and Palestine, having attended the Sabeel Conference in Jerusalem in April. Palestinian-controlled land is so reduced and divided that it appears a viable state for Palestine is currently an impossibility. The Separation Barrier/Wall winds into what had been considered Palestinian land and divides communities. Many new settlements now surround Jerusalem, and Israelis control the water for both Israeli and Palestinian communities throughout the entire country, allotting significantly more to Israelis than to Palestinians. Despite all the negatives, there is a strong peace movement that believes only the United States can make a difference. There was discussion of the Presbyterian Church's intention to study how it might recommend divestment in Israel. Without supporting divestment at this time, the Commission proposes a joint trip to Israel with members of the Executive Council and the Social Responsibility in Investments Committee (SRI) to consider investment strategies for shareholder resolutions based on existing Episcopal Church policies on settlements, bypass roads, demolition of Palestinian homes and the security wall/fence.

- Maureen Shea, Director of the Office of Government Relations, joined Bishop Tom Shaw of Massachusetts, who took a group of bishops to Israel/Palestine in May. Their visit sought to hear from Palestinian and Israeli peace and civil rights groups and to meet and support Jerusalem Bishop Riah and the priests of the dioceses and Christians in the Holy Land. Standing Commission member the Rt. Rev. Gary Gloster and his wife, Judy, were on the tour. A DVD of the tour, called “Today’s Holy Land,” is available for \$18 plus mailing. Contact Kathy Huycke, Henninger Media Services, 703-908-4016, Kathy@henninger.com.
- Richard Parkins, Director of Episcopal Migration Ministries, reported on a September trip to Haiti. The major problem faced by Haiti today is security. With a police force of approximately 2,500 for a population of nearly eight million, lawlessness is widespread. The United Nations has committed to a peacekeeping force of 6,500 but less than half of these are on the ground. There are plans for elections next spring, but loyalties are divided among some 72 political parties. Bishop Duracin of Haiti has indicated he would welcome a visit from a delegation of the Episcopal Church. The commission is interested in participating in such a visit, focusing on issues of democracy, human rights, the need for economic development, and U.S. immigration policies.
- Alex Baumgarten, new International Policy Analyst at the Office of Government Relations, reported to the Commission on the history of the American embargo of Cuba dating back to 1962-63. In 1991, General Convention voted its opposition to the embargo and ban of travel to Cuba. New regulations put in place this year severely curtail visits to Cuba by Cuban family members living in the US and limit the amount of money that can be sent to family members living in Cuba. Commission members would welcome an invitation to visit the Episcopal Church in Cuba to make up-to-date recommendations to General Convention.

On Wednesday, Oct. 20, members of the Commission traveled to the Office of Government Relations in Washington, D.C., for briefings on current world concerns. After a meeting with Richard Parkins, Director of Episcopal Migration Ministries, it was voted to send a message to the conference committee of Senate and House members to oppose inclusion of numerous restrictions on the rights of immigrants and asylum seekers in new legislation recommended by the 9/11 Commission.

The Commission received a further briefing on Haiti from Joan Maruskin, Washington Representative for Church World Service, and listened to a presentation on China from Alex Baumgarten. He described the religious demography of China and the restrictions on religious freedom.

The Commission received a briefing on Israel/Palestine from:

- Ambassador Samuel Lewis, former U.S. Ambassador to Israel from 1977-1985
- Toni Verstandig, senior policy adviser, Center for Middle East Peace & Economic Cooperation
- Ambassador Phil Wilcox Jr., president of Foundation for Middle East Peace, former U.S. Consul General in Jerusalem, former ambassador-at-large and coordinator for counterterrorism

All three agreed that a long-term solution to the problems of Israel/Palestine is profoundly important to the United States and its security. Ms. Verstandig was involved in the Camp David talks when a potential agreement seemed close, and it is particularly difficult for all of them to accept the current situation and the massive loss of lives since the collapse of those talks. All three spoke at length about the history of the U.S. involvement with peacemaking in the Middle East, calling for an enhanced engagement with Israel, Palestine and other Middle East countries.

The Most Rev. Njongonkulu Ndungane, Archbishop of South Africa, spent an hour with the Commission speaking about poverty and debt cancellation in Africa and on the United Nation’s Millennium Development Goals. Asked what MDG goal, in his opinion, is a priority, he said, “There is one thing that is amoral, that is

sinful, that is totally unacceptable. It is that, in this information age, we still have 115 million primary school children not able to go to school, a majority of whom are girls. \$1 trillion worldwide is spent each year on armaments, and that amount could guarantee universal education for every child.” In 2002, the total debt owed by developing countries was \$523 billion. He suggested that this debt be forgiven, with the guarantee that money previously earmarked for debt be used for clean water and universal access to education. Archbishop Ndungane said that along side everything we do is the crisis of HIV/AIDS and malaria. Fourteen million children in the world have lost both parents to AIDS, 75 percent of whom live in sub-Saharan Africa. There will be 25 million AIDS orphans by 2010. The archbishop thanked the Episcopal Church for its strong affirmation of the Millennium Development Goals, encouraging strategic partnerships between the West and Africa to encourage debt cancellation, development initiatives, and contributions to the fight against HIV/AIDS and malaria.

The Commission returned to Baltimore and spent the remainder of its meeting considering its areas of concern for the triennium. The Commission plans to produce four to five concise teaching papers to be shared with the church and included in the Blue Book. These brief, educational documents may cover:

- The place of the United States in the World (including the policy of pre-emptive strikes, Just War principles, and American actions in Afghanistan and Iraq)
- Immigration, Asylum and Detention (What are the issues and concerns for current U.S. policies?)
- Nuclear armaments (Who has them? Who wants them? What can the United States do?)
- The U.N. Millennium Development Goals (including the response of dioceses in the Episcopal Church to the challenges in 2003 General Convention Resolution D-006)
- Liberia (Resolution D023 from the 2003 General Convention was referred to the Commission which plans to report on the transition to a new government and the status of Liberians seeking temporary protected status in the United States)

The Commission proposed that, if possible, its members travel to and report back on four or five areas of concern around the world, including:

- Sudan and the region of Darfur (to consider issues of HIV/AIDS, orphans, health care, civil war, genocide, refugees, economic development and education)
- Israel/Palestine (possibly with SRI and Executive Council members to meet with peacemakers and to examine and learn methods to wage reconciliation)
- Cuba (to evaluate the impact of the embargo on Cuban people and the Church and to better understand the state of religion and civil rights in Cuba)
- Haiti (to examine issues of poverty, politics, racism, economics and environment)
- China (to consider issues of nuclear proliferation and Pacific Rim; to learn of the work of the China Christian Council; security; and to engage with China regarding reform and mutual understanding)
- Iraq/Afghanistan (If possible, some commission members wish to go to these sites of conflict to learn about the effects of United States’ policies)

In each of these areas the Commission hopes to consider as appropriate: Millennium Development Goals; HIV/AIDS education, prevention and treatment; environment (especially water); women’s roles; threats to peace; and justice concerns.

The chair and vice-chair of the commission will be working with Brian Grieves to arrange travel for commission members next year. The next full meeting of the commission is set for Sept. 12-15, 2005, at

College of Preachers, in Washington D.C. The commission tentatively set its final triennium meeting for the first week in January 2006, as Blue Book Reports are due Jan. 9, 2006.

Respectfully submitted by Commission Secretary Jacqueline B. Scott