

Revised Draft
December 4, 2005

Minutes
of the
SCCC Subcommittee on White & Dykman Revision-Update

June 22, 2005

Diocese of Olympia Offices, Seattle, Washington

SCCC Members present: Stan Runnels, Greg Jacobs, Tom Little, Duncan Bayne (*ex officio*)

Guests: Ann Karoly, Robert Royce,

1. Following a prayer from Duncan Bayne, Stan Runnels opened the meeting with an overview of the day's work. He handed out an outline of that he hoped to accomplish, under the headings "Rationale," "Objectives" and "Strategy." He noted that this meeting has been a long time coming, and raised the following issues for discussion and evaluation:

- There is no "official" process for revising the Annotated Constitution and Canons.
- There seems to be consensus that we will need to hire a professional "indexer."
- There is no "official" funding source for this work, although some potential sources have been identified and discussed.
- The national church archives folks are eager to assist in this effort.
- What is SCCC's role in the effort?
- What is the timeline for completing and disseminating the next edition of White & Dykman? Should the work be broken down into logical parts, e.g., the Constitution; Titles I, II and V; Title III; and Title IV?

2. Bob Royce mentioned that there is risk of losing a collective, shared understanding of certain large, significant developments in our Canons. He suggested that scholarly commentaries, or expositions, on these issues and topics could be a part of the W & D project, and if well done would help preserve the Church's institutional, or collective, memory and understanding.

Tom Little noted that there is little true legislative history to accompany the canonical and constitutional changes made at General Conventions. A good, new edition of W & D would help in this regard, although it would not be an "official" history.

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This led to a discussion of whether and how the next edition would be “authoritative” (see Fred Scribner’s forward to the 1981 edition of W & D). The consensus was that we should seek to have the next edition be “authorized,” in some sense, by SCCC, in the context of the 2003 GC Resolution directing SCCC to undertake this project, and perhaps a follow-up Resolution at 2006 GC. We sense that the new edition is authoritative will depend on how well the work is done in the eyes of those who use it.

3. Stan lead a discussion of his draft statement of the rationale for the new edition. He accepted suggestions and will revise and circulate the next draft shortly.

4. The meeting moved to a discussion of the “objectives” of this project. We all agreed that the principal objective is to produce a new, thorough and comprehensive edition of the Annotated Constitution and Canons in an electronic, digital format that facilitates easy printing into hard copy. Secondly, we agreed that where appropriate, the new edition should use commentaries and references to commentaries, where the scholarship of the commentary is of good, sound quality, keeping in mind that such commentary will not be a part of the Annotated Constitution and Canons.

Another agreed-upon objective is to secure a sustainable source of funds for ongoing updates and revisions. Bob Royce noted that the copyright for W & D is now owned by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. The group agreed that copyright ownership should not be an issue in the preparation and dissemination of the new edition of W & D. Bob Royce stated that there should be roughly \$4,000 in funds remaining from earlier W & D fund-raising efforts, that should be available to this group for this effort.

Duncan Baynes offered the thought that the SCCC Canon, Title I.1.2(n)(3), might be amended to explicitly delegate W & D revision authority to it. There was a consensus that this would be a sensible amendment to Canon I. Greg Jacobs and Matt Livingood agreed to start drafting this effort.

Bob Royce urged that every effort be taken to assure that the finished product of a new edition be given the widest possible distribution.

5. The meeting then addressed the “strategies” for achieving the “objectives.” Bob Royce advised that he has completed substantially all of the W & D revision work on the Constitution and Titles I, II and V, subject to the editorial review of SCCC or its designee.

The subcommittee discussed the format of the new edition, agreeing that it should follow that of the 1979 revision, printing the most recent text of the Canon and then presenting a (reverse) chronology of amendments, with appropriate annotations and comments. The group agreed that it would be necessary to develop an editorial policy for which Canonical or Constitutional changes were so technical or insignificant that no mention need be made of them in the new and subsequent W & D editions.

Stan Runnels stated that it made sense for this subcommittee to look at the Royce draft, focusing on General Convention revisions from 1994 forward, since Bob Royce had addressed changes through the 1991 General Convention. The group agreed with this.

As a footnote, Bob Royce explained that in 1981, some of the 1954 W & D content was excised as somewhat quaint or unnecessary. He observed that perhaps that these excisions should be revisited.

6. Stan Runnels recommended that this group solicit and obtain the close involvement and support of the Church's Communications' Office, to assist with the conversion to an accessible digital format. There was agreement about this, subject to obtaining assurances that this support would be available on reliable basis. When the group was asked to state the components of the new edition, the result was the following:

- A thorough Annotated Constitution & Canons;
- Links or references to commentaries approved by the editorial group;
- A bibliography of other sources of commentary and explication; and
- References to secular and ecclesiastical court decisions.

Tom Little agreed to investigate what other resource were available and in use for collecting and disseminating civil and ecclesiastical court decisions.

7. The group agreed that a serious assessment of the W & D indexing system should be undertaken. Among the questions raised were whether new index categories should be added, and what innovations the Internet offered in lieu of a conventional index.

8. Tom Little identified a challenge for the W & D project: make the new edition more accessible and useful, without diminishing its authoritativeness.

9. The meeting then addressed the funding of the new W & D edition. Runnels, Bayne and Karoly agreed to explore this thoroughly and report back. Specific cost items were identified, including: an indexing professional, conversion to digital format (XML, e.g.), printing and distribution. Concern was expressed that these costs not be underestimated, considering the unknowns about an electronic edition and the anticipated multiple changes to Titles III and IV.

Bob Royce offered that he would waive any copyright ownership he might have in the new edition.

10. The group discussed the timing of the new edition and of future revisions. Should the revision work wait until after a General Convention's changes have been certified by the appropriate Committee Chairs? And until after the Journal has been published? Or, can the effort start earlier?

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11. The subcommittee then discussed a specific timeline for completing the new edition of W & D. Bob Royce stated that the Constitution, and Titles I, II and V could be ready for publication in the fall of 2005. The group agreed, and there was a consensus that with hard work the other portions of the Canons could be folded into a new edition in the spring of 2006.

The group also agreed to explore the possibility of publishing digital versions of the 1924, 1954 and 1981 editions of W & D.

Duncan Bayne reminded the group that it would be advisable for SCCC to vote to authorize and approve such actions. There was consensus about this.

12. Stan Runnels advised that he would be meeting next week with an editor of the Sewanee Theological Review to discuss STR publishing an issue about TEC canonical law issues.

13. The subcommittee concluded its work by reiterating its consensus that its primary goal was to publish a new edition of the conventional W& D text, tracking and explicating Constitutional and Canonical changes from General Conventions; the secondary goal being to provide more detailed and scholarly commentaries on these changes and on larger movements in TEC canon law.

Respectfully submitted.

Thomas A. Little
Scribe