

Executive Council Committee on
Science, Technology and Faith

January 18, 2001
Episcopal Church Center, New York City

Minutes

Attendance:

J. Thompson Brown, Cynthia Cohen, Milton Coleman, Norman Faramelli, Joan Grimm, Kendall Harmon, Jan Heller, John Keggi, Bruce Jennings, Robert Schneider, David Smith, Barbara Smith-Moran (Co-chair),), Rosemari Sullivan (staff), Mary Terrell White, Mark Winward (Co-chair), Susan Youmans

Mark Winward called the meeting to order after lunch and opened with prayer. Introductions were made around the table.

John Keggi gave a brief history of the development of the Science, Technology and Faith Working Group and its establishment as a Committee reporting to the Executive Council by General Conventions 1997 and 2000. He described its responsibility as the official Episcopal Church delegation to the Ecumenical Roundtable on Science, Technology and Faith in Canada and the U.S. **Cynthia Cohen** and **Rosemari Sullivan** gave a history of the Task Force on End-of-Life Issues and its resolution to become the Task Force on Ethics and the New Genetics, which did not pass the G.C. 2000. In an apparent effort to help these two groups make a stronger cooperative witness for the Church, the Executive Council in November 2000 “fused” the two groups, deleting some former members of the Committee (in a seemingly arbitrary manner) and replacing them with members of the proposed Task Force.

Discussion was invited for how these two groups might successfully become one Committee. The most important stumbling block that emerged was the budget. The members of the proposed Task Force have set an important agenda that will require a larger budget than the G.C. voted for the operations of the Committee. Much of this budget has already been spent in the presentation of two educational conferences (“Genetic Engineering and Food for the World,” to be held 19-21 January, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine; and “Genomics, Robotics, and Nanotechnology,” to be held February, at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco).

It was agreed that Milton Coleman, Norm Faramelli, and David Smith would write a new budget to propose to the Executive Council that would cover the ambitious agendas of both parts of the newly “fused” Committee.

Susan Youmans and Robert Schneider, both heads of subcommittees of the Committee before being dismissed by the Executive Council, were voted back into membership on the Committee, subject to approval of the Executive Council. Assuming this approval, the membership of the Committee is as follows:

Cynthia Cohen	Robert Schneider
Milton Coleman	David H. Smith

Lindon J. Eaves
Norman J. Faramelli
Kendall Harmon
Jan C. Heller
Bruce Jennings

Barbara Smith-Moran, Co-chair
Mary Terrell White
Mark Winward, Co-chair
Susan Youmans

At 4 p.m., the meeting was continued in subcommittee (Coleman, Faramelli, Smith) to work on a revised proposed budget, after which the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes written by Barbara Smith-Moran, Co-chair