

The State of the Church
September 28-30, 2001
(Episcopal Church Center, New York City)

Minutes

The State of the Church committee met in New York City at the Church Center from 9:00 a.m. on Friday, September 28th to 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, September 30th in the year 2001.

Present at the meeting were:

- ♦ The Rev. Reynolds S. Cheney II, chair
- ♦ Mr. Wesley Baldwin
- ♦ The Rev. Canon Cecily P Broderick y Guerra
- ♦ Ms. Ann C. Brown
- ♦ The Rev. Canon Mark Dunnam
- ♦ Mrs. Susan W. Hansell
- ♦ The Rev. Paul Lambert
- ♦ Mr. John D. McCann
- ♦ The Rev. Antonio Munoz
- ♦ Mrs. Terry Roberts
- ♦ The Rev. Susan C. Skinner

Ms. Verlyn Hines was with us, representing the church center, on Friday and Saturday.

In accordance with our intention to glean information about how our various ministries are reflected in our population, we had presentations from Charles Fulton, President of the Episcopal Church Building Fund, and Lee Clark of the Church Report Company. Charles Fulton reported that he has seen the census and feels that it asks some good questions. Younger generations are not “joiners” so counting membership may not be nearly as important as average Sunday attendance. We should be counting the lives that we are touching.

Rosemari Sullivan visited and reported that 20/20 has been mailed and it has important things to say about how we proclaim the gospel - we are a multiethnic, multilingual church.

Our committee discussed the information heard and what was learned from reading the Zacchaeus report . We decided that we needed to focus on the process, not the structure, of our church. Look at the things that make us different and build on them as our strengths. We should be driven by our mission.

We began to discuss various themes around which our eventual report would be woven. As a church of small congregations - we are family.

We decided that we need to think about a resolution that would make data collection more uniform, i.e. not count summer camps, day schools, summer congregations, etc.

We discussed the problems of racism, Hispanic ministries, etc. and how our lack of attention to these problems is preventing us from ministering to all people. We need to look at how we, based on our research and discussions, are going to challenge the church.

There will always be people at opposite ends of the issues and we need to look for a both/and - we need to look for the Holy Spirit.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan W. Hansell, Secretary