

STATE OF THE CHURCH COMMITTEE
FOGELMAN EXECUTIVE CENTER
APRIL 26-28, 2002
Minutes

The State of the Church committee met at the Fogelman Executive Center in Memphis, Tennessee, from 9:00 a.m. on Friday, April 26th to 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 28th in the year 2002.

Present at the meeting were:

The Rev. Canon Augusta Anderson
Mr. Wesley Baldwin
The Rev. Canon Cecily Broderick y Guerra
Miss Anne C. Brown
The Rev. Reynolds Cheney II, Chair
The Rev. Canon Mark Dunnam
The Rev. Susan Hansell
Miss Verlyn Hinds
The Rev. Canon Antonio Munoz
Mr. Alfred Price
Mrs. Terry Roberts

The Very Rev. George Werner was with us on Saturday.

Because our committee had two new members, appointed by George Werner to fill vacancies, we spent our first morning introducing ourselves, building community, and reviewing our progress from past meetings. There was some sense that using the Baptismal Covenant as a theme, as discussed in our South Carolina meeting, seemed contrived. There was a consensus that we were struggling to put issues under the various categories of the covenant.

George Werner suggested that we examine the question, "What is common prayer for us?"- in light of our changing population. Without giving up our uniqueness, how can we meet the needs of all the various ethnic groups represented in our pews?

In our discussion of the format for our final report to General Convention, it was decided that we would report on the statistical data, pinpoint areas where the data is inaccurate or doesn't present a picture of the church, and then suggest methods and resources available to complete, or make clearer, the picture. It was felt that we did not need to search for the solution to the statistical inadequacies, but rather provide options and alternatives to supplement the data.

Our committee brainstormed for: possible theological and/or Scriptural themes and an outline for the final report. We broke into three subcommittees to: discuss the limitations of the parochial report, craft questions we can ask of other resources, and clean up the

work that we had done up to this point during this meeting. (It was felt that we had looked at so many different possible outlines and discussed so much a group was needed to zero in on a focus.) When these smaller groups reported back, we all seemed to have a clearer picture of what our remaining tasks would entail.

Our committee will request that Lee Clark update the statistical charts and graphs, that he showed us in South Carolina, to include the years 2000 and 2001. That will give us an eleven-year snapshot. Al Price is going to have Warren Ramshaw study the statistics and make some cogent observations and conclusions.

Before our next meeting, we will be reading pertinent resources such as: 20/20, information on clergy issues, Gen X materials, CCM impact, and anything else that will assist our understanding of the state of the church. Anne will be working on a preliminary draft of the report. Verlyn will be contacting Lee Clark to make sure that Al gets all of the statistical data. Al reported that he had contacted George Werner and the Presiding Bishop is considering Misseo Dei as a possible theme for General Convention 2003.

BY THE END OF MAY 2002: EACH COMMITTEE MEMBER IS TO SUBMIT, TO ANNE BROWN, A PARAGRAPH ON A BURNING ISSUE THAT THEY FEEL IS IMPORTANT TO THE FINAL REPORT!!!

Our committee agreed that we want our report to begin with connections – with positives about our beloved Episcopal church.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan W. Hansell, Secretary