

**Executive Council Task Force on
Science, Technology & Faith
Episcopal Church Center, New York
28 October 2004
Minutes**

Attendance: The Rev. Barbara Smith-Moran (Co-chair), The Rev. Dr. David B. Bailey (consultant), Dr. Jim Jordan, Dr. Sandra Michael, Ms. Susan Youmans, The Rev. Canon Tony Jewiss (General Convention Office staff).

The Committee was joined at various times by the following persons: Mr. Robert Williams (Director, Communications Dept.), Ms. Bowie Snodgrass (IT), Mr. Alex Dyer (IT), Mr. Barry Merer (IT), the Rev. Canon Carlson Gerda (Presiding Bishop's Canon), and Mr. Jerry Hames (Episcopal Life Editor).

After Prayers for Morning at 10 a.m., Barbara reviewed the plan for the day. This contingent of the ST&F Committee volunteered to come to New York to meet with Bob Williams and his IT technicians in order to develop a design and a schedule for the ST&F web-based Resource Center. This is the Committee's mandate from the 2003 General Convention. It will offer science and scientifically informed theology of importance to Episcopalians and to the policy of the Episcopal Church. The ST&F Network Web Chaplain, David Bailey, was invited as a consultant with special expertise.

Through brainstorming and discussion, consensus was reached on the following plans for the Resource Center, which will be conveyed to the full Committee for approval to:

- post the Creation Catechism and related articles on the Network website that David Bailey maintains, as a first step in a longer-range
- plan for developing the Committee's Resource Center
- spotlight the Creation Catechism as the Center's first centerpiece, together with related articles to
 - find/design a suitable "creation logo" that will appear on all associated pages--to provide visual cue to relatedness
 - review and revise the Catechism promptly, in light of suggestions from the Presiding Bishop and others
 - write a carefully worded 75-word (maximum) introduction to the Catechism
 - write a summary of the Catechism at Fog Index 6-8
- structure this part of the Resource Center to contain:
 - a Network join-up form that can be sent electronically to Network Membership Director Peter Arvedson
 - a "suggestions for improvement" or "comments" form to be sent electronically to Creation Subcommittee Chair Bob Schneider (or whoever is committed to answering the comments)
 - a Comments Page where selected comments can be posted by the Committee, including solicited "reviews" from notables, such as GTS science-and-theology scholar Mark Richardson and *The Anglican Digest* theologian Kendall Harmon
 - a site to download a pdf copy of the Catechism (pdf so it can't be changed in any way)

- links to articles written and approved by the Committee
 - links to creation-related documents, such as the Province I bishops' statement on the Environment (2003), legislation from past General Conventions
 - links to the DoSER program of AAAS, the ELCA Alliance for Faith, Science & Technology, Bob's website at Berea, the Society of Ordained Scientists, and other places
- work toward a "soft launch" of the Catechism and related pages for Committee review by early February 2005
 - work toward "hard launch" around 1 March 2005, in time for the next full Committee meeting next April at the Ecumenical Roundtable on Science, Technology & the Church next April
 - continue work on the longer-range vision of the Resource Center as a usable repository for many themes (e.g., food security) and many disciplines
 - consider seeking grant support for development and support of the Resource Center (Bob Williams said he had some ideas)

Canon Gerdau stopped in briefly to express his appreciation of the Catechism. He suggests that the website encourage its use in personal meditation, which is how he himself has used it, with great success.

Jerry Hames, Editor of *Episcopal Life*, talked with us for about an hour. He expressed a desire to do a cover article on food security, and to do a feature article (separate issue) on the Network and Committee. He wants to announce the launch of the Resource Center, and the "release" of the Creation Catechism. He'd also like to do an article in 6-9 months on stem-cell research. And he'd like to attend the Ecumenical Roundtable next April and do a news story on it.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m. with hearty thanks to all participants.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Smith-Moran
ST&F Committee Co-chair