

**Meeting of the Executive Council Committee on
Science, Technology & Faith (ST&F)**
7-8 April 2005, Ghost Ranch, Santa Fe, New Mexico

--Minutes--

Attendance:

Committee Co-Chairs **Robert Schneider** and **Barbara Smith-Moran**
Committee Members **Norman Faramelli, Jim Jordan, Paul Julienne, Tom Lindell, Sandra Michael, John Miers, Johnnie Ross, Stephen Stray, Susan Youmans.** [Committee Member **Neil James** could not attend.]

Consultants **David Bailey, Josephine Borgeson, Sr. Claire Lofgren, and John Keggi**

Guests **Bonnie Anderson** (Executive Council member and Vice President of the House of Deputies) and **Nan Cobbey** (Associate Editor of *Episcopal Life*)

Thursday, 5/7/05, morning, afternoon and evening sessions

Following morning prayers, attendees shared announcements, introductions, and personal updates. Bob chaired the business agenda.

I. "A Catechism of Creation"

A. Roll-out. Everyone expressed excitement and relief over the completion of "A Catechism of Creation" (CC) and its posting on the church's website in March.

B. Suggested additions and revisions to the text. Members discussed some additions and revisions that might be made in future "editions."

C. Copyright concerns. The group thought that a copyright notation should appear at the bottom of each PDF page. Advice will be sought from Tony Jewiss and others.

D. Supplementary material for the CC and issue of user-friendliness. The group held a discussion about terms and concepts that should be hot-linked to the CC. Some commented on aspects of hotlinking to other web sites and the necessity of monitoring sites to ascertain whether they still exist and provide the information desired. Permission to hot link should be obtained in some cases, even as just a courtesy

1. Language. "Ordinary language" should be used in the hotlinked definitions and concepts, so that (unsophisticated) "ordinary" people can understand. The group agreed that a Spanish "literal translation" needs to be done quickly, while a more carefully done "cultural version" would be prepared from the literal version.

ACTION ITEM: Get a Spanish translation of "A Catechism of Creation" made. Barbara will handle this.

2. Download format. Jim has formatted the CC so that it prints out in booklet form. A PDF of this format will be added to the CC website.

ACTION ITEM: Put the PDF of the booklet format on the CC website. Jim and David will do this.

3. Website appearance.

- Some problems with appearance remain to be worked out.
- The CC (written by the Committee) is currently hosted by the Network's website, because Website Chaplain David has access to that, and hosting it there was the quickest way to put it up. We knew that some Committee-Network confusion would probably

result. • The Committee's website and the CC are difficult to find by navigating the National Church website. Tell people just to Google "Catechism of Creation" or "Committee on Science, Technology & Faith."

4. Helps for teachers and discussion leaders in using the CC. The group agreed with Phina that a series of model lesson plans or suggested discussion openers will facilitate a wider usage of the CC. She volunteered to start to work on such materials, to be posted on the website. She asked that those who have tried out the CC in Adult Forums or other venues to send comments and responses to the CC to her.

II. Web-based Resource Center Bonnie encouraged the Committee to post articles in its Resource Center that Committee members think are of timely importance to the church. Barbara said that the Committee expects to research and report on the science and religion of specific topics as commissioned by the Executive Council or any other body or church leader. Bonnie said that both modes of operation should be exploited for maximum effectiveness. Barbara explained the importance of the Network members in building the Committee's Resource Center: they comprise a large pool of science-and-religion-savvy Episcopalians willing to lend their experience and expertise in service to the church. As consultants, they augment the possibilities of what the Committee by itself can accomplish.

Articles in the Resource Center will serve a number of purposes, e.g., provide clarity in thinking about complex issues that may be muddied by coverage in the secular press, contribute toward literacy in science and in Christian belief, and help Episcopalians live with ambiguity in matters without simple answers. Members of the Committee and the consultants generated a short list of topics that they thought should be addressed first, because of timely importance. They agreed that the writing should be simple and concise.

III. Antiracism training. Five Committee members have completed their training and seven need to find training.

ACTION ITEM: Members who need it will take charge of finding an Antiracism Training session and arranging to attend, traveling on the Committee's budget. They will notify Bob and Barbara of their plans.

IV. Preparations for the 2006 General Convention, 13-26 June, Columbus, Ohio.

A. The group discussed who of its member is running for elected office, who is a Deputy to General Convention, and who is planning to attend..

ACTION ITEM: Find out which members of the Network are Deputies. Sandra will do this.

B. The Committee considered submitting several resolutions.

After evening prayers, the session was adjourned until morning.

Friday, 5/8/05, morning session

After morning prayer, the chair was turned over to Sandra, Convener of the Network for ST&F, for a presentation of the first Genesis Award. [See Network Steering Board meeting minutes in the Appendix.]

Barbara took the chair, and the Committee continued its meeting.

IV (contd).

ACTION ITEMS: Draft the following resolutions

- **Commendation of the CC to the Church.** Bob will draft the resolution to commend the CC to the church, to be submitted to the Executive Council at its 13-16 June meeting. He aims for a deadline around mid-May and will send the draft to all the Committee for comment. Johnnie will attend the Council meeting and speak to it; Bob also plans to attend and speak to it.

- **Extension of the ST&F Committee mandate to include clearinghouse function for diocesan science and religion committees.** Bob and Johnnie will draft the resolution, to be submitted to Council at its June meeting. Both will attend and speak to it.

- **Reaffirmation and update of the 1982 resolution on sound science teaching.** Stephen and Phina will draft it, to be submitted as part of the Committee's Blue Book, and it will be considered at General Convention. This will be part of the draft report, due on 16 September.

- **Food Security.** Susan, Neil, John, Norm will update the resolution that failed to pass at the 2003 General Convention, commending and extending the related resolution that did pass in 2003 (C036, Health: Spirituality of Food Production).

V. Diocesan faith-and-science committees. Assuming the resolution to extend the Committee's mandate is passed by Council in June, the Committee prepared for the collection of information.

ACTION ITEM: Collect information about diocesan faith-and-science committees. Members of the Committee will do this, with help from Network members.

VI. Future meetings, ST&F and other.

A. A two-hour conference call will be made on 16 October 2005, at a time tba.

B. The chair of the Presbyterian Association for Science, Technology and the Christian Faith (PASTCF), requests that the ST&F Committee consider sharing the cost of a display table at next February's AAAS Annual Meeting, in Washington, D.C. It's an important witness that falls within the Committee's mandate. The following was voted unanimously:

Resolved: To join PASTCF and other organizations in the rental of a display table at the 2006 Annual Meeting of AAAS, in the amount of around \$350, to be paid from the 2006 ST&F budget. [The ST&F Network will be asked to match this amount.]

ACTION ITEM: Help plan the display for the AAAS Annual Meeting. Sandra will be on the Planning Committee for this display.

C. The AAAS conference called "Our Brains and Us: Neuroethics, Responsibility & the Self," to be held at MIT on 17-19 April 2005 will be attended by Norm and Barbara (not using ST&F funding).

D. ST&F will host the 2006 Ecumenical Roundtable on Science, Technology & the Church. The ideal dates are April 27-30.

ACTION ITEM: Host the 2006 Ecumenical Roundtable. Jim and Sr. Claire will join the Planning Committee for 2006 and make arrangements for hosting the Roundtable at a suitably frugal site near a major airport, if possible.

E. For the Executive Council meeting, 13-16 June, in Louisville, Johnnie will be the ST&F point person. He will give the CC to the Standing Committee on Congregations in Ministry (a committee of the Executive Committee).

ACTION ITEM: Presentation on the CC to the Executive Council. Johnnie and Bob will make a presentation about the CC the June meeting.

VII. Resource Center start-up. A realistic schedule and process were decided.

ACTION ITEM: Write, vet, and post articles on the website. By September, six articles will be written for the resource center; by next April another six.

VIII. Other business

ACTION ITEM: Publicize the Genesis Award. Phina will write up something for ENS, and Barbara will write something (or reprint Phina's article) for the Network Newsletter.

ACTION ITEM: Draft report from ST&F for the Executive Council. Barbara and Bob will write this by the deadline of 16 September 2005.

The Committee meeting was adjourned with prayer, as the annual meeting of the Network was convened by Sandra. [See minutes in Appendix.]

Appendix:

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Board of the Network for Science, Technology & Faith, including the Report to the Ecumenical Roundtable on Science, Technology & the Church.

Episcopal Church Network for Science, Technology & Faith
Steering Board Meeting
8 April 2005, Ghost Ranch, Santa Fe, NM

--Minutes, with Report to the 2005 Ecumenical Roundtable--

Attendance:

Steering Board Members: Sandra Michael (Convener), David Bailey, Phina Borgeson, Barbara Smith-Moran, Jim Jordan, John Keggi, Sr. Claire Lofgren, Bob Schneider, Susan Youmans

Network members: Norm Faramelli, Paul Julienne, John Miers, Stephen Stray

(Absent Steering Board Members: Peter Arvedson, Jim Burke, and Joyce Wilding)

Sandra called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. John Keggi opened with prayer.

The Convener's report was received, with highlights as follows:

1) Financial support of DoSER's conference, "Our Brains and Us: Neuroethics, Responsibility & the Self, 17-19 April, at MIT. The Network's financial support is not acknowledged in the conference brochure. How will the Network be recognized? Norm and Barbara will attend and watch for Network sponsorship, if any. Susan asks us to keep our ears open for topics for our website.

2) *The Living Church* "Technology Issue" (15 August 2004) focused on the Network and gave it good publicity. A few new people joined the Network because of it. The article was picked up by Sandra's diocesan newspaper.

3) The 2005 Genesis Award, given earlier today to the Rev. Dr. J. John Keggi, in the context of the meeting of the ST&F Committee. The citation read as follows:

The Genesis Award for Science and Religion
presented to
The Reverend Dr. J. John Keggi, S.O.Sc.
Prophet & Pioneering Leader
Convener of the Episcopal Fellowship of Ordained Scientists
Co-Convener of the North American Chapter of the Society of Ordained Scientists
Convener of the Episcopal Delegation to the
Ecumenical Roundtable on Science, Technology & the Church
April 2005

In the late 1980s John Keggi participated in meetings that became the Ecumenical Roundtable. Over many years he helped to build up a group of Episcopalians with an interest in faith-and-science issues, which led to both the ST&F Committee and the ST&F Network. He currently serves as the Network's Communications Officer.

After the Treasurer's report from Claire was received, the group discussed briefly a proposal to share expense of table rental at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the AAAS. The vote was unanimously affirmative.

Resolved, to share rental expenses for a table at the Annual Meeting of the AAAS, in February 2006, Washington D.C., the Network to cover half the expenses for the

Episcopal Church's portion, expected to be approximately \$350 each for the Committee and the Network.

Peter Arvedson, the Membership Chair, sent his greetings by email. His report was received. An updated list of members, including their interests and specialties, will be requested of him. Sandra obtained dues and updated membership information for all Episcopalians at the Roundtable.

The report from the Communications Chair consisted of the Newsletter Editor's report. Barbara was able to put out two issues of the Network Newsletter in the past year, one last October and the second in March. After a brief discussion, the following resolution was passed unanimously:

Resolved, to make Barbara Smith-Moran the Newsletter Editor and John Keggi the Associate Editor; John Keggi remains as the Communications Director.

The report of the Seminary Liaison, Phina, was received. She noted that the "stand-alone seminaries," like Sewanee, are more successful in organizing science-and-religion programming than seminaries in consortia, like Episcopal Divinity School. Phina said that she would like to resign from this position, but that she will continue "in a nominal way until someone else comes forward with some energy."

ACTION ITEM: Ask the Membership Chair to identify someone in the membership who fill this position when Phina resigns. Such a person might have ties to a theological school or seminary.

The report of the Episcopal Ecological Network Liaison, Joyce Wilding, was received. Phina reported that Joyce is hopeful that the two Networks (ST&F and EpEN) can work more closely together, as EpEN needs better science, and ST&F needs stronger input from the environmentalists. The group encouraged Susan to ask Joyce for support in liquified natural gas concerns.

The report of the Graphics Designer, Susan, was received. Sandra wants her to continue working on some logo that "speaks science" in combination with the three-ring Network logo. A subcommittee was formed to work on design: Sandra, John, and Jim. A logo is needed for large posters to be used at conventions and conferences. A related logo is needed for the Network's website.

The report of the ST&F Committee was omitted, as everyone was present for the Committee meetings.

The report of the Web Chaplain, David, was received—which is the website itself. Further, David reported that he had established a new Yahoo listserv called ECUSASTF, and all attending this meeting have been invited to join. It is both private and closed (David as moderator screens members). This group will be a test group to work out glitches before sending invitations to all on the Network members. Phina suggested establishing some basic rules of "netiquette".

In open discussion, Phina said she wants all members to tell her about conferences they're attending so she can write about some of them for ENS.

Paul said that he plans to submit a paper to the "Einstein, God & Time" conference at the Clarendon Labs, Oxford, 12-15 September.

Sandra wants to put an emphasis on membership development in the coming year. She has a list of organizations she wants to approach. In addition, she brought to discussion the following:

- packets to take to meetings where potential new members might be; like an Army recruiting poster, with a pocket for brochures
- website: Sandra will email a wishlist for the website to the Steering Board

Sandra said that she wants to try to get information about Episcopalian members of DoSER from Jim Miller, the staff person at AAAS.

Phina described a letter drafted in response to a local school district under seige by "intelligent design" advocates in Wisconsin; it has now gone national in its appeal for signers by members of the clergy and other Christian leaders. National Center for Science Education (NCSE) staff advised on it, but did not initiate it and it's not an NCSE project. She said that she is willing to try to track down the Episcopal members in the list of signers of the NCSE letter.

After prayers, the meeting was adjourned around 3 p.m.

The Episcopal Church Committee on Science, Technology & Faith
and
The Episcopal Church Network for Science, Technology & Faith

Report to the 2005 Ecumenical Roundtable on Science, Technology & the Church

9 April 2005, Ghost Ranch, Santa Fe, New Mexico

The Committee on ST&F was pleased to be joined this year by a member of the Executive Council (Bonnie Anderson), the body to which the Committee reports, and by (Nan Cobbey) the Associate Editor of Episcopal Life, the church's national newspaper.

Our greatest accomplishment of the past year is the completion and roll-out of a document called "A Catechism of Creation," authored by Bob Schneider and a small subcommittee, with substantial help from the Committee as a whole. Bob Schneider and Phina Borgeson, a member of the subcommittee, will be reporting on the Catechism later this evening, so I won't say anything further.

The Catechism has been enthusiastically received by our Presiding Bishop and by the church's Canon Theologian. And having passed muster to this extent, the way was clear to put the Catechism up on the church's national website. Google "Catechism of Creation" or "Creation Catechism," rather than trying to find it by negotiating the church's complex website. We plan very soon to have a Spanish translation also available. And we will be writing some suggested lesson plans to assist parish educators in using the Catechism for Adult Christian Education and Confirmation classes, for example.

This major document represents a sort of foundational document on our web-based resource center. This resource center is intended to offer assistance to all levels of the church in thinking about and making decisions about how to live faithfully in American society. We will be adding vetted papers to this Resource Center at the rate of about 1 per month during the coming year. Most articles will be originals, written by members of the Committee and the Network, all of them vetted by the Committee.

We began some substantive planning for our 2006 General Convention, meeting next June in Columbus, Ohio. This planning includes the crafting of 4 resolutions in the area of science and religion. One will commend the Catechism for use by the Episcopal Church. One will be in the area of food security. One will update a 1982 resolution in support of strong science education; the resolution was written before Intelligent Design became a threat to the integrity of secondary school science education. And the last resolution will extend the mandate of the Committee to become a clearinghouse for diocesan work in the area of science, technology and religion.

Since our mandate from the church's Executive Council says that we are to represent our church at appropriate conferences, including AAAS Annual Meeting, we voted to use part of our budget to share purchase of a table in the Exhibition Hall at that meeting next February.

The Network for Science, Technology & Faith produced two issues of its electronic newsletter, last October and this March. The Network is our membership organization, and Sandra Michael, the Convener, is working to increase membership numbers. All here are invited to join the Network as Associate Members at the rate of \$20 per year. Sandra has sign-up forms.

The Network is working toward closer relationship with the national church and also with the Episcopal Ecological Network, a grassroots network that helps Episcopalians to advocate and articulate protection of the environment as God's creation.

The Network proudly presented its first "Genesis Award in Science and Religion" to the Rev. Dr. J. John Keggi. The citation reads as follows:

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Ecumenical Roundtable on Science, Technology & the Church
April 2005

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Smith-Moran, Committee Co-Chair
Robert Schneider, Committee Co-Chair
Sandra Michael, Network Convener