

Standing Commission on World Mission

An Interim Body of General Convention

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday April 23rd –Friday April 26th

St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center, South Carolina

Present: Ms. Nancy Broadwell; Mr. Dennis Case; the Rev Canon Kathleen Cullinane, Vice Chair; Ms Diane Dillenberger Frade; Mr. Willis Jenkins; Ms. Carole Jan Lee, Executive Council liaison; Ms Helena Mbele-Mbong; The Rev. Dr. Titus Presler, Chair; The Rt. Rev Wilfrido Ramos-Orench; The Rt Rev. William Skilton.

Staff: Ms. Margaret Larom , part time (for the Rev. Canon Patrick Mauney); Ms. Jane Butterfield.

Guest on Wednesday: The Rev. George Werner, Vice-President of the House of Deputies.

Unable to Attend: Ms. Joan Hermon; The Rev. Harold Lewis; The Rt. Rev. James Folts; The Rev. Canon Patrick Mauney, Staff.

This meeting was a joint meeting with the Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission which has traditionally been held once during each triennium. The joint meeting began on Tuesday with dinner and fellowship with the group as a whole. The rest of the joint meeting time was in three sessions during which the vision subcommittee of SCWM made presentations of their work to date and asked for small groups to discuss and comment . The comments of each group will be used by the vision sub-committee in their future work on a document which will be reported as part of the SCWM report to General Convention 2003. Thursday evening was also spent as a joint time for fun and fellowship with EPGM.

The minutes of the standing commission separate meeting are done by topic as the meeting times were separated by the time with EPGM.

The SCWM began its meeting by checking in with each other on the time since our October meeting. Congratulations were in order for Titus Presler on his selection as Dean of the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin. Titus has arranged for the publication of the papers presented at the consultation on Race, Money and Power at the October 2001 meeting. Cowley Publications will print the book.

Vision

Reflection on the Presentation of Part I:

- The presentation was good but was perceived as a document that needed refining or revising for immediate approval. Parts II and III were, as a result of this, presented more as talking points by presenting concepts, themes. Discussion was held as to the best way to talk about definitions and distinctions.
- The statement made in the comments about evangelical experience needs to be more positive as the perception was that the experience was not valued. “The Holy Spirit is powerfully at work and we need to take note of it”.
- The statement that arose from more than one group about working themselves out of a job was not included in the document, but helped define where they were.

Part II

- Short term mission projects were perceived to need the same kinds of guidelines as those already developed by EPGM for long term missionaries.
- There was discussion of pilgrimages and how that plays out in reality, does a servant heart make the difference.
- Discussion was held as to the geographical representation of the people present at EPGM. The west and Midwest are not well represented due to the fact that many of the agencies are located in the east and south. Will this change as the population shifts and the culture changes? The lack of minority and youth presence was also noted.

Part III

- Networks are a way of doing/being church. What should the future EPGM be, what are the present strengths and weaknesses? How does money or the lack thereof affect mission? *Money is the grease that makes the wheels run, it can also be the acid that corrodes.*
- What is the future role of EPGM in relation to Anglican and Global Relations, The Episcopal Church Center, and General Convention?
- The presentations of Part I and Part II were better received due to the perception that they were being asked for input rather than critiquing a prepared document.
- Debriefing from the total time with EPGM on the vision process consisted of questions, comments and suggestions:
 - Were enough mission partners included in the process?
 - Should the vision group connect with the successor organization to MISSIO by at least an exchange of information? Partners could not own the document but might be asked to comment. Proposed partners for connection: Latin America, Africa, Asia, the Phillipines, other mission societies and ECUSA dioceses.
 - The vision group will develop questions to be asked as members of SCWM travel. The vision group will meet before the October meeting of SCWM.
 - The interview process for returning missionaries is seen as needing work.

European Anglicanism

Helena: Thanks to Bishop Rowthorn the convocation is strong. The learning center for lay people has been formed but does not yet have a name. Joe Britten will head the center and continue as canon missionary. The center will strengthen lay ministry and look at those interested in ordination. Bishop Whalon is working with the Anglican Church in Europe (English), he and Bishop Geoffery Rowan have a good working relationship. The relationship between the English and American churches needs to develop from the grass roots level before talk resumes on structure.

Partners in Mission has been held in some churches and some suggestion for the life of the church have come out of that . A full consultation will be held next year.

The churches are growing, non Anglicans are being brought in, people of all nationalities, cultures, religions. There is an incredible spirit with many exciting ministries including Spanish and refugee ministry.

The convocation and the bishops were welcomed in Rome in November and contacts are now open. The consecration of Bishop Whalon was a very special part of this convention as he was the first bishop to be selected by the convocation. Bill Skilton who represented SCWM at the convention and consecration told of Helena's receiving of the Bishop's award for her work in the convocatio

Discussion was held as to what the continuing role of SCWM should be in the convocation. The SCWM should continue to be visible and share where possible. The 2002 convention will take place October 24-27 in Geneva. Bill Skilton and Helena will represent SCWM.

Staff Reports

Margaret Larom reported for Anglican and Global Relations. Patrick Mauney was unable to attend this meeting because of a scheduling conflict. The new staff person for Africa is The Rev. Benjamin Musoke-Lubega who brings many good credentials and experience to this position. He began work in March and will be the convenor of the Africa staff team which will look at all of Africa, in particular Sierra Leone, The Sudan and Nigeria. A resolution is being prepared for Executive Council about Sierra Leone so that the Washington office can be empowered to act. More educational resources are being prepared about Sudan. Liberia is beginning to reopen some schools. A grant from Episcopal Relief and Development has been used to begin construction. Cuttington College has 500 students scheduled to begin the new class in July.

The World Mission Sunday theme for 2002 is Companions in Mission. Posters were mailed to each parish and a variety of materials have been made available on the AGR web page. The web page continues to expand with a variety of resources and information. The theme of reconciliation is being considered for the 2003 theme for World Mission Sunday. Titus Presler applauded Margaret for her work on World Mission Sunday.

The Rev. Emily Morales, Diocese of Puerto Rico, is the new companion diocese representative for Province IX. The AGR staff is trying to provide support for the Anglican Observer at the United Nations. Richard Parkins of Episcopal Migration Ministries is an effective advocate for global mission. He receives no money from the Episcopal Church budget for his work. Is this an area where the SCWM could be an advocate for support?

Church World Service is working to study the issues of duplication and visibility among its member church, especially in the areas of relief, development and refugees. The need is for an overall strategy for ecumenical involvement.

Budget meetings are underway at the Episcopal Church Center focusing on the clusters. Patrick Mauney is addressing the planned reduction in funding for the newly autonomous provinces and the concern that those funds need to be specified for continuing mission. This issue was addressed by the SCWM in its report to General Convention 2000.

The Rev. Jane Butterfield reported for Mission Personnel. The budget is deceptive as to what it really costs to have missionaries. What would doubling missionaries as suggested in the vision sessions with EPGM require in staff; at least two full time people. The Episcopal Youth Corps is continuing to attract people interested in service even without advertising. Benefits for missionaries need attention. Could this be part of SCWM's effort to deal with pension issues. The AGR website has good information on missionaries and is a good tool for recruitment.

Autonomy

Titus Presler reviewed a process that began with his invitation to attend a meeting in the spring of 2001 at which time Puerto Rico began the discussion of the possible re-incorporation as part of ECUSA. Titus, Nancy and Wilfrido attended the Caribbean Covenant meetings in May in New York and October in Connecticut. The New York meeting was a time of honest discussion about the possibility of Haiti

working toward a Francophone province and Puerto Rico asking to be reincorporated into ECUSA. This continued in October with the idea that Cuba might also seek re-incorporation. The question as to the possibility of the three Spanish speaking dioceses in the Caribbean forming a province was raised by Bill Skilton. Titus replied that this has not been mentioned and it is unlikely that this could be a viable province at this time.

Nancy Broadwell gave the report on the Consultation on the Future of Province IX . Resolution B005 of the 2000 General Convention directed the Standing Committee on Structure to work with Executive Council to study and make recommendations to the 74th General Convention on the future of Province IX , working with the Standing Commission on World Mission and the individual dioceses. This consultation was convened at the request of the Standing Committee on Structure, April 17-19 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Titus was unable to attend.

Participants were:

Bishops of Province IX

- The Rt. Rev Julio Holguin, Bishop of the Dominican Republic
- The Rt. Rev. Lloyd Allen, Bishop of Honduras
- The Rt. Rev. Neptali Larrea, Bishop of Central Ecuador
- The Rt. Rev. Alfredo Morante, Bishop of Litoral (Ecuador)
- The Rt. Rev. Bernardo Marino, Bishop of Columbia
- The Rt. Rev. Francisco Duque, Bishop Coadjutor of Columbia

Extra Provincial Bishops

- The Rt. Rev David Alvarez, Bishop of Puerto Rico
- The Rt. Rev. Jorge Perera, Bishop of Cuba
- The Rt. Rev Orlando Guerrero, Bishop of Venezuela

House of Bishops Office of Pastoral Development

- The Rt. Rev. Clay Matthews

Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

- The Rev. Canon Gene Robinson, The Very Rev, Jay Atwood

Standing Commission on World Mission

- Mrs. Nancy Broadwell

Episcopal Church Center Staff

- The Rev. Juan Marques, Anglican and Global Relations
- Ms. Sonia Francis, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop for Program
- Mr. Jose Gonzalez, Treasurer's office

Church Pension Fund

- Ms. Linda Curtis, Vice President, The Rev. Efrain Huerta, Director of Companion Pension Relations

The dioceses of Puerto Rico and Cuba have resolutions from the convention of each diocese requesting re-incorporation into ECUSA. Each resolution states that re-incorporation depends on acceptance by ECUSA of both dioceses. The diocese of Venezuela brought to the meeting, a resolution by its convention requesting incorporation into ECUSA.

The bishops present began some conversations with each other that will need to continue if the proposed restructured Province IX is to succeed. Lack of communication between the bishops had resulted in no provincial meetings being held.

Bishop Larerra had recently resigned as President of Province IX. Bishop Alvarez is the present vice-president and raised the issue as to whether he should be president as he is not officially a member of the province. The bishops agreed that he would serve until a provincial synod meets in the fall to elect a

president. Bishop Allen will serve as vice-president until the fall and will serve on the Presiding Bishops Council of advice. The intention is to structure Province IX the same as are the other ECUSA provinces. All present agreed that all parties need to be intentional about communication and response for this to be possible. The province presidents and vice presidents will hold a meeting in Puerto Rico in June and Bishops Alvarez and Allen will attend.

The bishops present prepared a resolution that will be used as support for the resolution that will be prepared by the Standing Committee on Structure in consultation with SCWM. This resolution will be in both Spanish and English for the 2003 Blue Book Report. The bishops resolution was received and distributed in English during the SCWM meeting.

Linda Curtis made a presentation for the Church Pension Fund and dealt with questions as to how the re-incorporation of Cuba and Puerto Rico and the incorporation of Venezuela might be possible. These have no precedent so will not have quick answers. The addition of Efrain Huerta to the staff was well received by the bishops present.

Nancy suggested that Resolution 235A, adopted by General Convention of 1985 be rescinded as it continues to promote regionalism in the thinking of some of the bishops in Province IX. There was discussion on this in the light of the SCWM plan to look at 235A as part of the overall autonomy recommendation in the Blue Book report. The proposal to revisit Resolution 235A was adopted on a motion by Helena Mbele-Mbong, seconded by Kate Cullinane.

Concern was expressed as to whether the decision to re-enter and enter ECUSA was known and approved by the grass roots in these dioceses or was a top down decision.

The resolutions presented were passed by the conventions of each diocese so at least some of the people know.

Wilfrido Ramos-Orench raised concerns about the proposed Province IX and its consequences for the Province of the Caribbean. Margaret Larom reported that Patrick Mauney had spoken with Bishop Gomez of the Province of the West Indies who serves on the metropolitan council for Cuba. Bishop Gomez feels positive about the process and that Province IX would be strengthened by the addition of Puerto Rico and Cuba. There are concerns that pension is the driving force behind this move and that some of the dioceses are not strong enough to be viable. The issue of missiological concerns in the light of Resolution A129 as presented by SCWM and adopted by General Convention 2000 was discussed.

The following resolves were agreed to in principal on a motion by Bill Skilton, seconded by Wilfrido Ramos- Orench.

The Standing Commission on World Mission, in the spirit of Resolution A129, offers the following resolves.

Resolved: that the request of the Diocese of Cuba to be re-incorporated into The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society be approved:

Resolved: that the request of the Diocese of Puerto Rico to be re-incorporated into The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society be approved:

Resolved: that the request of the Diocese of Venezuela to be incorporated into The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society be approved:

Resolved: that the Standing Commission on World Mission receives and endorses in principal the resolution from the bishops of Columbia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Central Ecuador, Honduras, Littoral, Puerto Rico and Venezuela and recommends that the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church work with the above mentioned dioceses to create a revitalized Province IX.

The Rt. Rev. Martin Barharona has been elected as primate of IARCA to succeed the Rt Rev. Cornelius Wilson. Bill Skilton will represent SCWM at his enthronement in August. Bill chairs the covenant committee for IARCA.

Other Agenda Items

Kate Cullinane received a reply from Linda Curtis of Church Pension Fund declining the invitation of SCWM to have one or more representatives at this meeting and explaining what has been done to assist in the new and forming provinces. There was discussion but no action as to what the next move of SCWM should be in this area. The question was raised as to the possibility of a resolution that would address a policy change for CPF. A person who more fully understands the CPF and its charter is needed for consulting prior to any action being taken.

Dennis Case suggested that future meetings with EPGM be scheduled to overlap rather than being concurrent so that the time for our business as a commission would be less scattered and stressful.

The fall meeting was discussed. The issues are whether to go to Cuba as discussed in October or to meet with the Province IX synod when they meet in the fall. If we send a partial group to the synod does that show the proper level of support? Do we need to combine the two? How? These questions were not resolved but left to Titus to communicate with the concerned parties and make the decision. The possible dates of October 5-12 or October 31-November 7 are proposed and those present indicated what dates they would not be available. Nancy will contact those who did not indicate dates and send the information to Titus.

The dates for the January 2003 meeting are set for January 7-11, place to be determined. Helena will contact Joan about the possibility of meeting in the Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico and St. Christopher Conference Center are also possibilities.