

# Provincial Council Meeting

Episcopal House in Newark

February 8, 2008

Present: Rt. Rev. George Councell, Louie Crew, Rt. Rev. Michael Garrison, Dahn Gandell, Sare Gordy (Guest), Martha Gardner, Chuck Perfater, Dorothy-Jane Porpeggia, Michael Rehill, Petero Sabune, Tim Schenck, Laurie Wozniak

Network representatives attended in the afternoon. See page 7.

Absent: Kim Byham, Peter Hausman,

Friday, February 08, 2008

9:00 am Opening prayer by Bishop Garrison

We approved the minutes of the October 12, 2007 meeting.

## Budget

The treasurer is unable to be here and will email a report to us. Chuck Perfater anticipates no problems for our budget.

Michael Rehill noted that we now have the \$28,528 from the funds in the savings account at Chase. We had long delays accessing the account because a former treasurer died in office, and her signature was required. The account is now closed.

Martha Gardner noted that there may be cuts in our budget as a result of decisions Executive Council will need to make at its meeting in Ecuador next week. Petero Sabune expects the budget to be cut for the next two years. He and Kim Byham will look closely at the program budgets being proposed and meet with the Administration and Finance Committee if the proposals will force closing of major programs in the province. For example, would Executive Council really want to shut down the camp we run for the children of people who are incarcerated?

We discussed how our own dioceses have had economic hard times as part of the pattern all over the country. Local exigencies reduce the money available to the General Convention budget. We discussed the need for better stewardship and the importance of leadership in the education of donors. People need a clear sense of what their money does. Sare Gordy emphasized that the focus of stewardship appeals should be on mission.

Other reports

**Bishops visit to Haiti:**

Bishop Councill convened the Provincial House of Bishops at a meeting held in Haiti in January. Other bishops attending were Bishops Walker, Beckwith, Sisk, Roskam, Adams, and Garrison.

- **Bishop Garrison:** The visit was one of the highlights of my life. The Diocese of Haiti is an amazing gift to The Episcopal Church. The diocese has the largest number of communicants of all dioceses.

We were in Port-au-Prince for five days. We needed security and traveled in an armed convoy. That was sad and reduced our interaction with people. In 2007 only 28 people were kidnapped; in 2006 more than 70 were kidnapped.

We found many opportunities for partnership. On Sunday afternoon we attended a concert at Holy Trinity Parish.

The U.S. Ambassador met with us for an hour and a half. We also met the Prime Minister. We visited many places.

- **Bishop Councill:** It was important to go. We were wonderfully hosted by Bishop Zache Duracin. I have never seen such brutal poverty up close. Children are digging through garbage for food.

The worship was glorious. The music was fabulous. We presented a gift of \$20,000 to the seminary, and Oge Beauvoir, its dean, has designated that the gift will purchase a second water purification system so that the seminarians can deliver good water to many who do not have it.

Haitian Seminarians are the opposite of ours: all black, all young, and all willing to go where the bishop wants them to go.

I promised that we would come back. I am proud that we are acting like a province.

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Petero Sabune noted that another medical mission will be going to Haiti on April 5<sup>th</sup>, The contact is Gene Squeo, a Roman Catholic priest who directs the Haiti Solidarity Network of the Northeast (HSNNE), 39 Bleeker Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102 (973) 437-0020. See <http://www.hsnne.org/index.html>. See also the Haiti Connection at <http://thehaiticonnection.org/> -- a place to share medical, educational, spiritual, and humanitarian activities that help Haitian people. The Connection brings members together once a year.

Louie Crew expressed concern for systemic issues in Haiti, notably the steady degradation of the environment to the point that many experts say Haiti will be able to sustain life of its citizens for only a few more years. The country is so poor that there is no debt forgiveness (cf. the HIPIC initiative of the MDGs by which the most heavily indebted nations seek debt forgiveness), because few cared enough for Haiti even to lend money there. It is the poorest country in the western hemisphere.

Petero Sabune said he has been part of an ecumenical prayer group once a month in Jersey City. Congressmen Donald Payne and Congressman Chris Smith have met with us.

### The Executive Council

Because of the episcopal election in Chicago, Petero Sabune, who was a nominee, missed the last meeting of Executive Council. Kim Byham is on his way to an Executive Council meeting in Ecuador. The last Council meeting was spent almost exclusively on reorganization of the Church Center and the creation of regional sites in five new places: Atlanta, Omaha, Seattle, Los Angeles, and Seattle – in addition to the existing offices in New York and Washington. Petero Sabune feels that the reorganization definitely needed to be done, and several General Conventions have refused to call for it. The Presiding Bishop feels that it is her responsibility to exercise this leadership.

Petero Sabune feels that budget reduction is a major concern currently.

The Presiding Bishop brings to the task an incredible spirit of grace, energy, and mission. Her being a pilot and an oceanographer influences how she sees the church --- from above and from the bottom up.

We discussed in detail the current problems in the Diocese of San Joaquin regarding the Presiding Bishop's refusal to recognize the Standing Committee until the remaining Episcopalians meet in convention and elect a new Standing Committee. We asked Petero Sabune to support any effort for Executive Council to affirm the Presiding Bishop's call for a new Standing Committee to be elected.

In January the Title 4 Review Committee judged Bishop John David Schofield to have "abandoned the communion of this Church by an open renunciation of the Doctrine, Discipline or Worship of this Church." When all three senior bishops (Leo Frade, Peter Lee, Don Wimberly) concurred, the Presiding Bishop inhibited Bishop Schofield and gave him 60 days to recant his position or renounce his orders. At their meeting in March, the House of Bishops will decide what action to take if he has not done so. All substantive responses to those remaining Episcopalians are on hold until the Bishops' decision.

Provincial Leadership Conference (PLC)

The president, vice-president and executive director of all nine provinces meet twice a year – in December and in the spring. The PLC met here in Newark on December 6-7. The next meeting will be in Atlanta in May.

See the Chuck Perfater's written report.

The December meeting was a good meeting, well focused and without any wrangling.

The PLC has a principle that every province ought to be able to pay at least half of the support of the coordination expense. Province 7 has had the hardest time meeting that amount. Few have reserves.

Bishop Councell stressed that Executive Council needs to review priorities to support programs in jeopardy because of some of the budget fall-out from the current reorganization.

Christian Formation Workshop.

Roger Ferlo and Jim Lemler will be the two presenters at the Province's Christian Formation Workshop on April 26<sup>th</sup> at Garden City, NY. People will be able to register online at <http://www.mercerschool.org/ecommerce/proddetail.asp?prod=CCE080426>

Post Lambeth Conference.

The conference is scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton. Bishop William Love and Bishop Gene Robinson have agreed to be keynoters. Professor Gordon Graham, Henry Luce III Professor of Philosophy and the Arts at Princeton Theological Seminary ([http://www.ptsem.edu/PTS\\_People/faculty/graham.php](http://www.ptsem.edu/PTS_People/faculty/graham.php)) will also speak and will give a broader Anglican perspective. We expect to add one more scholar. All bishops from the province will have time briefly to share their passions.

*Episcopal Life.* Tim Schenck went to his first Board of Governors meeting in Los Angeles in November. There is more excitement than fear in the reorganizing of *Episcopal Life*. Jerry Hames has retired; Nan Cobbey is retiring. Episcopal Life Media (Jan Nunley is executive director) is the new main emphasis, as is *Episcopal Life Online* (<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/elife/>) where we get the current items, with emphasis on video and other new media. ENS continues, and Jan Nunley oversees that. Bob Williams is the communications czar. Neva-Rae Fox is the public affairs officer; she does the bulletin inserts, and she organizes relations with the press. The board is made up of the representatives of each of the nine provinces of the Episcopal Church.

In the reorganization of the Church Center, *Episcopal Life* will be based in Los Angeles. They are currently searching for a new editor.

InProv2 Report. By Laurie Wozniak

I have enjoyed doing *InProv2*, especially the graphics. The first two issues have been PDF files, and we had no way to track who is really reading it. I propose using an online email service, so that you immediately face the text in email. It eliminates the need to download and open again. It will let us track who actually opens the email and which links are used the most frequently. Email distribution is easier to forward, and it will help us build our mailing list.

The fee is based on the size of the mailing list and you pay it whether you use it; but it's so cheap that should not be an issue.

It would probably be best to send shorter issues (ca, 4 pages; 2-4 articles) more frequently. I think it would be best to send it once a month, or at least bi-monthly.

Constant Contact is the software. See <http://www.ConstantContact.com>

With the new distribution, I won't be able to express the design we have had in the first two editions of *InProv2*.

We authorized Laurie Wozniak to move forward on this proposal and to commit to the minimal costs she cited.

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Executive Coordinator's Report. See handout.

Consecrations in Rochester and Maine. We voted to congratulate the two new bishops. Louie Crew, secretary, will write and send the letter on our behalf to Stephen Lane and Prince Singh.

Ann Lovejoy Johnson [alovejoy@wiscasset.net](mailto:alovejoy@wiscasset.net) at St. Phillips in Maine is the contact person for Steve Lane's consecration in Maine, on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 10:30 am at the Cathedral in Portland.

Dahn Gandell [motherdahn@hotmail.com](mailto:motherdahn@hotmail.com) is the contact person for consecration of Prince Singh as the new Bishop of Rochester at the Eastman Center in Rochester on May Reorganization of The Episcopal Church.

At the recent PLC meeting, Linda Watts, the Chief Operations Officer, gave details of the re-organization taking place at the Church Center.

There will be four major departments, whose chairs will report to a new Director of Missions, for whom a search is underway.

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The four department leaders are Brian Grieves – Center for Advocacy & Justice; Suzanne Watson, Center for Evangelism & Congregational Life; Margaret Rose, Center for Mission Leadership; and Toni Daniels, Center for Partnerships. Thom Chu remains on staff as program officer for Christian Formation and Bud Holland remains as program officer for Ministry Development. Charles Fulton will retire in September. Jasper Vanhelden will replace Tony Jewiss In the Office of General Convention. Terry Parsons will become Program Officer for Diocesan Services. There is a search for a new stewardship director. Regional offices will be quartered in diocesan offices or cathedral spaces.

The Provincial Leadership Conference will meet again May 27-29 in Atlanta, hosted by Province IV.

The 2009 Province II Synod will meet at the Crowne Plaza, Albany, May 7-9. This is our Pre-convention meeting and we give it the highest priority. All deputies to General Convention are expected to be there, and key staff from the Church Center will be there to address us and help us prepare for General Convention.

At Synod we will elect:

- a lay representative to Executive Council (Kim Byham will complete his term at the end of General Convention)
- the synod president
- the synod vice-president
- the synod secretary
- the synod treasurer
- other elections occur for an episcopal, presbyter and lay representative to Council and for a Court of Review

The lay representative to Executive Council and the synod treasurer will not be eligible for re-election.

Chuck Perfater noted that we need someone to chair the Synod 09 meeting. He was authorized to sign a contract with the Crowne Plaza, Albany after it has been reviewed by Dorothy-Jane.

Convocation of American Churches in Europe. We are sending a gift of \$20,000 to the Diocese of Haiti next week. It will be used to underwrite purchases to enable the Seminary to make the sale of potable water an income producing project. In the recent past, we have strengthened our relations with the Diocese of Virgin Islands, but we have done almost nothing with the Convocation of American Churches in Europe. We need to send a small team over there to discern how to collaborate more meaningfully.

We authorized \$250 for our chancellor to join the national chancellors network..

==Lunch break==

### **Council Meeting with Network Chairs 1p.m**

Network Chairs Present:

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- Petero Sabune for our Prison Network and for our Immigration Network
  - Sue Legnani for the Christian Formation Network
  - Sare Gordy, for the Stewardship Network
  - Kep Short for Youth Network
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- Doris Crocker and The Rev. Nathanael St. Pierre for The Haitian Network.
  - Constance White for the Ministry Network

Chuck Perfater reported on absentees:

Donna Devlin is ill.

Kim Rossi, ERD, could not be here.

Jennifer Kenna, ECW, could not be here.

Pam Stewart, UTO, could not be here.

Leslie Adams sent a report on campus ministries which was circulated.

Bob Dennis, Brotherhood of St. Andrew, was unable to attend due to a tragic loss when his daughter-in-law was killed in a recent automobile accident .

The Rev. Lynne Bleich Weber, (The Church of the Atonement, Tenafly, NJ, in the Diocese of Newark) will replace the Rev. Dr. Richard Visconti, LI, as our Ecumenical Network leader. That Network meets twice a year.

We welcomed our guests and all introduced ourselves.

#### Upcoming Events

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1. Christian Formation Network, April 26, 2008
  2. Stewardship Conference, Summer '08
  3. Post-Lambeth Conference, October 4, 2008
  4. May7-9, 2009. Provincial Synod
  5. Synod in April, 2010. Venue and date to be determined. Likely not to be in Albany. Most likely in Binghamton.
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We noted two consecrations important to those of us in this province:

May 3<sup>rd</sup>: Steven Lane as Bishop-Coadjutor of Maine (Steve held almost every office in the Province, and he served as our clergy representative to Executive Council

May 31<sup>st</sup>: Prince Singh as Bishop of Rochester. Bishop McKelvey will retire at the same time. (Bp. McKelvey's retirement party is May 10<sup>th</sup>.) Prince Singh is the rector of St. Alban's in Oakland, NJ, in the Diocese of Newark. He was elected a Newark clergy

deputy to General Convention one week before he was elected to step down to the 'Junior House.'

See the contact information on page 5 above.

#### Christian Formation Network

Sue Legnani noted that the conference "Toward Full Maturity in Christ: A Workshop on Adult Learning and Formation" will target persons in their 20s and 30s. It will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Mercer School for Theology in Long Island. Roger Ferlo and Jim Lemler will be the two presenters at the Province's Christian Formation Workshop on April 26<sup>th</sup> at Garden City, NY. People will be able to register online at <http://www.mercerschool.org/ecommerce/proddetail.asp?prod=CCE080426> We definitely want clergy trying to reach persons in this age group, as well as lay people committed to evangelism.

Sue recommends *Unchristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity... and Why It Matters* by Michael Kinnaman. It's a book about why young people are turned off by church. Kinnaman has followed Bob Edgar as the Executive Director of the National Council of Churches.

#### Prison and Immigration.

Petero Sabune provided a map of where people are being detained in our province, mainly in New York and New Jersey. The detention centers are growing. Petero Sabune participated in an Ash Wednesday vigil on their behalf.

"Illegal" and "criminal" have been conjoined in the minds of too many people. The August 4<sup>th</sup> killing in Newark now allows people to question anyone who "looks" illegal. Governor Spitzer in New York wanted to give driver's licenses to persons who are illegally in the United States, to make it easier to track them; but current hostility towards undocumented workers forced Spitzer to back down.

Petero Sabune showed us a thick notebook titled "The Province II Prison Ministers Manual" and noted that the project is now almost complete. Bishop Ambrose Gumbs (Virgin Islands) requested such a manual at an earlier meeting of the Synod.

The detainees in Elizabeth are there on average of seven years. One has been there over eleven years.

Louie Crew recommended *Infidel*, by Somali refugee Ayaan Hirsi Ali, who for a time served as a member parliament in the Netherlands. The book highlights the vulnerability of female in Islamic fundamentalism, especially those forced to live in the refugee camps.

Someone else recommended Fauziya Kassindja's *Do They Hear Me When I Cry?* as a good introduction to the plight of asylum seekers. Kassindja was at the center of the



landmark U.S. case that legitimized giving asylum to a woman who flees her country to avoid ritual genital mutilation.

Michael Rehill: “Why are we dealing with long-term detention? The government should release them sooner.”

Petero Sabune: “It would take 25-30 years to get the legal status, given the backlog of applications.”

Louie Crew: “The delays are often extended because those who have arrived fled with very little notice of plots on their lives and arrived with little or no documentation. It is very difficult for them to get the documentation from back home, where they are so unwelcome that they had to flee in the first place. Inquiries put their families back home in still greater danger.”

Sare Gordy suggested that the Immigration Network organize persons to contact the appropriate representatives who connect to immigration and urged our participation in the Public Policy Network (PPN) of the Episcopal Church Washington Office. See <http://www.ecusa.anglican.org/eppn.htm>.

Martha Gardner: We hear these stories and are moved each time but do very little. What should we be doing?

Petero Sabune:

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1. visit
  2. do advocacy
  3. write
  4. pray for specific persons
  5. let the congressmen know of injustices
  6. sponsor people out of the detention center
  7. get people blogging about it
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The Haitian Network. Doris Crocker

Bishop Councell summarized for our guests the account of the visit to Haiti that we heard this morning (see pages 1-3 above).

The bishops met with the Prime Minister as well as with the American Ambassador. It was a blessing to be in solidarity with the people.

Bishop Garrison talked about the pain of seeing the poverty.

Our guest The Rev. Nathanael St. Pierre is now six months into his service at the Church of the Good Samaritan in the Bronx. He is a native Haitian. Then he spent 10 adult years in Montréal before coming to the United States. He noted:

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“Regardless of the poverty, we Haitians are a people of hope. We are dreamers. The priest is the lawyer, the teacher, the notary, the psychic... everything for the local people. The Episcopal Church has been present for 60-70 years in education and health in Haiti. I don’t know of a parish where there is not a clinic or a school. In a country where handicapped people are not considered persons, The Episcopal Church has always been welcoming. We have many famous musicians who came out of the school for the handicapped.

I, too, am fortunate to be a beneficiary of the ministry of the Episcopal Church. I went through schools in Haiti, from grammar school through seminary. I went to Montreal to study computer science. Unfortunately the political situation got worse back home, and I worked as a computer programmer in Canada rather than at home as a priest. In Quebec I became involved in helping Haitians to learn to survive there. The Haitians in Montreal have a higher level of education than the ones who arrive in the United States. In Good Samaritan I am trying to establish a bridge between here and Haiti.”

Doris Crocker: “How might we expand our involvement?”

The Rev. Nathanael St. Pierre: “Presence is what matters most. With your eyes you can see what is going on. The Salvation Army first provided a church, and then food and clothing. But when Haitians brought goods, all the shoe makers and other local industries disappeared. We must first identify the real needs. Don’t treat Haiti as a dump for what you don’t need. We need to help Haitians by giving access to liturgy and to education materials in Creole. We are too much the church of the bourgeoisie. The way we worship is still a legacy of colonialism in Haiti. We have to help people discover their own their gifts and what they have to share.”

Province II Ministry Development Network Report. Reported by Constance White

See the written report by Constance White. Most of the discussion at our last meeting was about structure, with a few things about process. Our next meeting will be at the Church Center. Bud Holland remains on the staff and we will meet on a date when he is in town.

Atlanta and Omaha will be the new sites of the Ministry Development offices.

The Youth Network by Kep Short

We meet twice a year. We will participate in Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) on July 8-13 at Trinity University in San Antonio. We are competing with the Lambeth Conference for any participation by bishops. We will also meet on October 3-5 for an EYE reunion, Given the schedule to conduct the Provincial Council meeting in Trenton on the October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we may try to be in Trenton that weekend too.

We have no active participation from the Dioceses of Albany and Haiti. All others in Province 2 are active.

Most young people are not interested in the history of the church or in its structural mechanisms, but they manifest vast interest in social justice and civil rights.

Dorothy-Jane Porpeggia suggested reaching out for the many young participants in the Albany Via Media group. For more information, contact the Rev. James Brooks-McDonald [james@saintstephenscheneectady.org](mailto:james@saintstephenscheneectady.org), rector of St. Stephens in Schenectady.

Network on Stewardship. Reported by Sare Gordy [sgordy@trinitybuffalo.org](mailto:sgordy@trinitybuffalo.org)

We have representatives from five of our dioceses: New Jersey, Newark, Western New York, Long Island, and Central New York.

We need to access the resources for implementation of planned giving.

Petero Sabune stressed that principles of stewardship need to be led from the top.

Sare Gordy pressed for multiple stewardship models. She noted that healthy giving requires having a healthy relationship with money in personal, parish, diocesan, and provincial life. Don't give God your left-overs.

Petero Sabune noted that the generosity of youth in Obama campaign shows those are wrong who stress that the young are stingy and self-centered. All people will give to that which excites them and energizes them.

Louie Crew noted that many promote the MDG goal of giving .7% of annual income towards development projects only as an organizational commitment, not as a personal commitment. General Convention has challenged individuals as well as parishes and dioceses to meet this goal. .7% amounts to giving only \$7 out of every thousand. That is not difficult, not a strain on anyone, yet the amount can make a huge difference to those who receive it.

**The Diocese of Western New York** has made .7% a routine part of its diocesan budget. Each parish has been encouraged to do the same. The same is true of the **Diocese of Newark**.

In **Rochester** the youth brought a resolution to honor of the McKelveys' retirement. A McKelvey fund will be used to fund different missions. Diocesan Council funded numerous projects. Dahn Gandell knits rosaries, sells them for \$5 each, and uses the money to fund Kiva loans, to entrepreneurs in the developing world. See <http://kiva.org/>. In the Diocese of **New Jersey**, the deacons have taken on MDGs and have settled on the first MDG goal...reducing poverty and hunger by half by 2015. The Council budgets the .7%; "we need to do more to engage people, not just check books." See the

Carpenters Kids homepage at <http://www.carpenterskids.org/>. See also Mike Kinman's site promoting Global Reconciliation, at <http://e4gr.org/index.html>.

Martha Gardner: "We need to add a page on the Province 2 website showing what each diocese is doing regarding MDGs."

### The Fingerlakes Conference

The final Finger Lakes Conference will be held June 22-27, 2008, on the campus of William Smith and Hobart Colleges. The Rev. Barbara Crafton will be the General Lecturer. A celebration of the 70-year-old ministry is being planned.

For more information, visit <http://FingerLakesConference.org> or contact the Registrar: Susan Chadwick, 607-741-0175, [susiechad1@aol.com](mailto:susiechad1@aol.com).

Higher Education Network: see Lesley Adams' report. She was unable to attend.

Chuck Perfater: "We have not had enough conversation about how provinces will fit into the new structure of the church. There are nine provinces who serve today as regional outposts. The question to be answered is, 'How can the provinces enhance the reorganization, rather than what's happening to the provinces as a result of reorganization?'"

Martha Gardner suggested that Chuck contact Charles Fulton to query him about the current status vis-à-vis provinces in the reorganization? He is our liaison.

===Break===

We brainstormed about how the province might function as a province at General Convention. We might try to sit together in the House of Deputies. Louie Crew will inquire about that possibility.

Michael Rehill reported that the last General Convention created a "province night" only at the last minute and then did not honor it because on that night the House of Deputies sat in session through the dinner. Only the Haitian visitors attended.

At the May 2009 Synod, we might share our major priorities regarding issues before General Convention.

We might have a central provincial resource person at General Convention, someone who could assure that messages related to the concerns of deputies in the province reach the bishops and deputies on the floor.

Most of our deputations meet for hospitality at the end of each legislative session. We might explore doubling up for various combinations to bring us closer together.

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We might designate one person with a crackberry in each deputation. (For the uninitiated, in 2006 Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia, designated *crackberry* as “The New Word of the Year.” For more information see <http://crackberry.com>.)

We can make better use of the May synod to know each other by sight as collaborator. It would help to distribute committee assignments at that time

Louie Crew will send to all deputies and first alternates in the Province the dates for the 2009 synod.

Theme for Spring of 2010.

The only theme suggested so far is “The Millennium Development Goals.” 2010 will be the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of MDGs. We did not make a definite commitment to a theme, date, or location. Chuck Perfater will query all dioceses to find a good date for locking in on a place and date by summer of this year.

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Respectfully submitted, Louie Crew, Secretary