

Provincial Council – Province II of the Episcopal Church

October 21-22, 2005

Minutes

Friday, October 21, 2005

Present: Jack McKelvey, Chuck Perfater, Charles Fulton, Steve Lane, John Rollins, Debra Wagner, Doris Crocker, John Goldsack, Susan Kynor, Muriel Sobers, Kai Alston, Petero Sabune, Martha Gardner, Carter Echols, Bob Dennis, Peter Hausman

President McKelvey called the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m. Introductions were made around the table. President McKelvey began by the meeting by offering thanks to Martha Gardner, Petero Sabune and Chuck Perfater for planning and implementing the very successful Provincial Convocation held last May.

Reports from the networks

Muriel Sobers. United Thank Offering. The UTO Committee met in April for granting session. Province II received substantial grants. When relating them to the General Convention ministry initiatives, Muriel noted that much is being done toward those goals: eg in the Diocese of Rochester for prison ministries, Western New York for shelter for refugee families, CNY for refugees in Syracuse area, New Jersey for assisting an Hispanic congregation move to parish status and college work in the diocese.

At recent meeting in Washington DC, the UTO leadership looked at the needs of disaster relief. It reiterated that it is not a relief agency, but could assist in projects of rebuilding through diocesan grants.

Martha Gardner. Peace and Justice Network. Martha reported on meeting held earlier in the day, an off-shoot of one of the discussions at the Convocation. The meeting was preliminary but developed some suggestions: have a display table at each diocesan convention; urge the linking of Province II site to diocesan web sites (A Justice website has been established and will be connected to the Provincial website.) The network anticipates asking for financial support and clarification of how financial support is provided.

Bob Dennis. Brotherhood of St. Andrew. Bob explained that this is a network only in the sense that he is the contact person. He is most interested in promoting men's ministry, and attends these meetings to discover how his work can be best promoted.

Doris Crocker. Haiti connection. Doris reported that there was an interest group at the Convocation of which she was a part, and that she had a subsequent meeting with Bishop Councill of New Jersey. Out of that came the suggestion for a pilgrimage to Haiti. Cy Deavours set up a Yahoo group meeting for those interested. Oge Beauvoir, dean of seminary in Haiti, reported seven new seminarians, with tuition available for only 5, and is also looking for

funding for a new housing unit.

Carter Echols. Congregational Development. A group from the lower region of the Province is meeting and looking at case studies with the help of Charles Fulton. The next focus will be looking at issues for congregations moving from pastoral to program size. Jack McKelvey reported some work with Alice Mann in Rochester and surrounding areas.

Susan Kynor. Church Periodical Club. The CPC is less of a network than an enterprise that works as UTO as a granting agency promoting books, and now other audio and video media. Recent grants were made to seminaries, congregations in Newark, New York, and a monastery in New York, as well as grants to international regions.

Kai Alston. Youth Network. Kai, reporting for Jay Phillipi, touched on five areas: (1) The Episcopal Youth Event held in Berea, KY was good event, with strong representation from Province II. (2) "Faith in 3D" to be held in Orlando in January. (3) Consultation for Christian Educators in Indianapolis (same weekend). (4) General Convention will be held in June; Jay is busy selecting two Province representatives, and dioceses may be sending youth contingents. (5) Hurricane relief mission trip to devastated areas for rebuilding to be held next Fall.

Petero Sabune. Prison Network. Petero reported that meetings of the network continue and it is urging dioceses to pass resolutions supporting prison ministry. There are now 6 Episcopal clergy certified to work in prison ministry. Bishop Packard is convening a meeting of prison chaplains. The network recommends considering a "prison spirituality" to model personal living along the lines of reduced consumption of material goods allowed for prisoners.

Petero Sabune. Immigration Network. One of the hardest obstacles to overcome is that Immigration and Naturalization Service is now under the Department of Homeland Security enforcement, so seven persons have been trained as Lay Immigration Volunteers to assist those facing deportation due to paperwork problems. There will be a true network forming in the near future.

Episcopal Life Governors. Debra Wagner. Instead of a report, Debra suggested she would like to receive information about the Province to pass on to Episcopal Life and Episcopal News Service.

Chuck Perfater reported on networks which could not be present. Higher Education, ER-D, Christian Education, Finger Lakes Conference, and the "State of the Church" Conferences on the Windsor Report.

Report on the Convocation. Petero Sabune and Martha Gardner. They began by thanking the other members of the planning group. The event was most successful with all dioceses represented. Plans are to be proposed for a Convocation in Spring of 2007.

Episcopal Church Center. Charles Fulton. Charles reported that renovation work at the Episcopal Church Center is about half done, with mixed reviews. He commended the ER-D, EMM and Chaplains' Office for doing a terrific job in doing what can be done in disaster relief. He recommends that those wishing to help should make arrangements through the Chaplains'

Office. Ground Work 2 is forthcoming aimed around long-term advertising strategy. Another resource will be coming from the Emerging Generations area for discussion about ministry to the next generations. Ben Helmer is retiring and will put together a Small Church notebook to be sent to all congregations. A wide-ranging and productive discussion on issues of growth and decline followed.

The meeting was recessed at 4:45 p.m.

Saturday, October 23, 2005

Present: Jack McKelvey, Michael Rehill, John Rollins, Chuck Perfater, Steve Lane, Charles Fulton, Jan Paxton, Peter Hausman, Peter Sabune, Kim Byham.

The President reconvened the Provincial Council meeting at 8:35 a.m with prayers. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. On motion, the minutes were approved as circulated.

Treasurer's report. Peter Hausman provided a summary of the year to date and triennial to date. Discussion followed regarding the Public Policy Network asking, which line-item allocation has effectively frozen that amount, making it unavailable for other networks. Peter reported that all items are within range and the budget is working as it should. On motion, the budget was received subject to audit.

President's Report. Jack McKelvey reported on the meeting of the House of Bishops held recently in Puerto Rico. It was an impressive visit and a wonderful opportunity to see the ministry of the newest diocese of ECUSA. Discussion was held at the House of Bishops meeting regarding the establishing of a network to help congregations or dioceses who are "fighting for their lives".

Executive Council . Steve Lane reported that Executive Council is in preparation of the Blue Book in anticipation of General Convention. A highlight was the decision not to divest in investments in Israel (a resolution shepherded by Kim Byham). Steve suggested that the meeting was not particularly scintillating because of the inability to decide as to what to do in response to the Windsor Report. The Special Committee on this issue, preparing for General Convention, had not yet met. Kim added that the report made by the team at the ACC meeting was done well, although the report made at the Executive Council by the team was not particularly helpful.

Disaster Relief. Much time was spent at the Executive Council on matters of disaster relief (already \$10 million dollars has been given just for hurricane relief, compared with \$12 million was given for all of 2004). Relief agencies asked congregations to "bank" their compassion as the rebuilding plans will not be concrete until next year.

Virgin Islands Consecration. Chuck Perfater reported on his trip to the Virgin Islands for the consecration of Bishop Andrew Gumbs on June 11, 2005, and his subsequent meeting with the bishop and his staff. The financial situation of the diocese is Spartan, but adequate. Chuck

offered the support of the Province in whatever ways would be helpful. In conversations with the bishop, Chuck heard that the bishop would like help with wellness-training for his clergy; help with youth ministry, stewardship training and congregational development. Discussion followed on how best to support the diocese: to hold a Provincial Council meeting there or to send resource persons to address areas of concern for which the diocese asks. No clear preference emerged.

Provincial Leadership Conference. Chuck attended the June meeting in Portland. He reported that there has been a change in the ranks of the coordinators. Province I, V, and VIII are not fully represented at the moment. The focus of the meeting was on resolutions strengthening the role of PLC as a significant “cog” in ECUSA. Michael reported that the December 2005 meeting will be held in Weehawken, which is the meeting in which the equitable distribution of General Convention funds is made. Also further PLC planning will be done regarding the canonical status of the PLC. The Spring 2006 meeting will be held on March 27-30 in the Dominican Republic.

State of the Church/Windsor Report meetings. Michael commended Chuck on his leadership in pulling the two meetings together. The events were well-received and productive. A request has been received for copies of the video-tape from dioceses who were not able to attend and Chuck will see that this is done. Steve Lane thanked especially Titus Presler and Ian Douglas for their leadership.

The President requested the Secretary to write to the dioceses which are in arrears, copied to the Executive Director. This was moved, seconded and passed.,

Western New York in arrears for \$3,420 for each of two years; COCE for \$200 for 2005

The Council asked the Secretary to write a letter to the Diocese of Albany to thank them for \$500 donation and that Executive Director will be following up with personal contact. A motion to this effect was made, seconded passed.

Audit. After due deliberation, it was discovered that considerable information is not available due to the death of the previous Treasurer. Peter suggested that the audit begin with the opening of the new account, which coincided with this election as Treasurer. A motion to this effect was made, seconded and passed, with the abstention of the Treasurer.

PLC budget for next Triennium. Michael is doing the preliminary work on this matter.

Spring Synod This is to be held April 27-29, 2007, at the Century House, Latham, NY, where a \$2500 deposit has been made. A planning committee chaired by Peter and Michael with the assistance of Chuck was appointed following passage of a motion to that effect. The President appointed a Nominating Committee of Kim, Steve and Bishop Catherine Roskam. It was determined that the Winter issue of the Grapevine be postponed until the beginning of March 2006 in order to carry the slate of nominations, and the Synod details.

2007 Convocation. A suggested focus will be to include rejuvenated networks for a 2 ½ day

event. Preliminary planning is to begin immediately. Discussion followed regarding the need for a longer event and it was felt that it was justified in order to give more time for resource sharing. A motion to name Petero and Martha as co-chairs and to begin planning was seconded and passed.

General Convention and Provincial Night. The only official event for the Province is to caucus for nominations to the Presiding Bishop Election Committee. The arrangements committee of General Convention has no plans for Provincial Nights. Discussion followed. The consensus evolved that this was not worth the effort. On motion, it was moved that no Provincial Night be planned by Province II for lack of provision for such an occasion.

Meetings in Haiti and the Virgin Islands. Peter moved that we commit to attempt a meeting of the Provincial Council in Haiti in the next Triennium subject to local conditions, and consider a meeting in the Virgin Islands (the Virgin Islands in 2007 and Haiti in 2008, if possible). After a second, discussion followed. The question was raised as to whether the ministry networks should also be included in these meetings. The consensus seemed to be “yes”. Passed.

Executive Coordinator’ Contract. Chuck Perfater was excused for this deliberation. He had indicated to the President that he would be willing to serve for another year if asked. Several members spoke of the immense contributions that Chuck has made to the work of the Province, especially providing a sense of balance. On motion by Steve Lane and seconded by Kim Byham it was agreed to extend Chuck Perfater’s contract through the end of 2006. Passed unanimously. Upon his return to the meeting, Chuck accepted the Provincial Council’s offer. The President thanked Chuck on behalf of the Council for his good work.

The next meeting will be February 10-11, 2006, including the ministry networks. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Rollins, Secretary
Province II of the Episcopal Church