

Minutes of the
Province 2 Council Meeting
Episcopal House in Newark, NJ.
October 20, 2006

Present: Kim Byham, Rt. Rev. George Councill, Louie Crew, Martha Gardner, Michael Garrison, Peter Hausman, Chuck Perfater, Dorothy Jane Porpeggia (by phone), Michael Rehill, Petero Sabune, Debra Wagner

Absent: None. (David Robinson has resigned, to accept a job in Maine)

Guest: Charles Fulton

President Michael Rehill called the meeting to order at 9:30a.

We approved the minutes of April 28th meeting.

Bishop Garrison will consult with colleagues in upstate New York and advise us of a person to appoint as a clergy member, especially someone from Central New York, to replace David Robinson, who has resigned to accept a job in Maine. Michael Rehill will circulate to us the name of the proposed appointee for our approval.

Treasurer's Report

Peter Hausman presented "Budget Results as of September 30, 2006" (Attachment 1, PII Budget Report 9-30-06.xls).

Newark has not yet paid its 2006 amount, nor has Rochester and Western New York. Martha Gardner will investigate the Newark delay, as will Bishop Garrison for the other two.

We anticipated costs to us of \$5,000 for the Synod and rejoice that the expenses came in at only \$3982.

Michael Rehill noted that we will not likely need our one-ninth share from Executive Council and will recommend that we not take the full amount as other provinces may need additional amounts for their programs.

Chuck Perfater noted that we will host the Provincial Leadership Conference in 2008, hopefully in the Virgin Islands, and cautioned that we may need some of the funds from the provincial budget for that event. Most costs are born by the participants. We

also are looking at visiting Haiti within the next year, which will have an impact on provincial funds.

Michael Rehill said that we should not be surprised if we end 2007 narrowly within our budget.

Michael Rehill will contact Chase Bank regarding our savings account. We will be transferring it to New Jersey rather than have to go into New York City for each transaction.

Synod

Chuck Perfater noted that many have shared with him positive responses to Synod this year.

We will change the venue for next year's Convocation, to Crowne Plaza in downtown Albany, and will have an opportunity to compare.

Michael Rehill said Synod was well attended, informative, and done in the least costly manner. Our two earlier meetings on the Windsor Report helped us focus on a broad range of issues

Louie Crew and Bishop Councell suggested that we be quite clear in advance publicity so that more people plan to stay for the full meeting. Some stayed for the dinner, and others did not. Early departures of many in the past prompted us to make the final dinner optional this year.

Kim Byham suggested that we try to structure a mix of the people from many dioceses so that all meet new people. We should discourage the current practice of sitting together by diocese. It was suggested that there be assigned seating to mix up the groups at each table.

We discussed ways that we might irenically involve more of the persons from the Diocese of Albany. Many in that diocese are not clear about whether their diocese will stay in the Episcopal Church.

General Convention

Michael Rehill reported that we decided not to organize an event but sponsor a brief social at General Convention. The social happened on the night that General Convention did not adjourn until 7:30 p. As a result we had a small turnout except from the Diocese of Haiti. It was disappointing that more were not present to enjoy

interacting with them. Unless there is a formal night for provincial dinners, it is likely not wise to organize a gathering.

Martha Gardner suggested doing a luncheon, where there is usually more flexibility, especially early on.

Debra Wagner suggested that we have our own booth in the Exhibit Hall. Kim Byham noted that a booth is enormously expensive. Debra noted that we would have a lower rate because provinces are “in house.” The possibilities are worth exploring. At the meeting of the provincial leadership, Chuck Perfater will explore the possibility that provinces collaborate to share one booth.

Michael Rehill noted that we brought most people out for the election of our nominees for the Nominating Committee for the Presiding Bishop.

Chuck Perfater thought it was unfortunate that he did not go to General Convention. He was the only provincial coordinator who was not there. It is an important opportunity to network to the advantage of the province. He feels that our Executive Coordinator should attend in 2009.

House of Bishops

Bishop Cancell and Bishop Garrison noted the House has not met since General Convention and will not meet until next spring.

Province 2 bishops will meet in New Jersey at Stella Maris, NJ in January.

Executive Council

Executive Council last met before General Convention, March 6-9, in Philadelphia, the most expensive site for Council meetings during the triennium. For example, lunch with only cold cuts cost \$45 per person. Such are the constraints of meeting in the Northeast. The next meeting will be in Chicago. November 11-15, immediately before the meeting of the interim bodies at the same location.

Executive Council will take up any resolutions that passed one house at General Convention to address the problems of legislation lost or delayed in Columbus. Resolutions which never reached the floor of either House but were approved by legislative committees will be sent to interim bodies with recommendation that they act quickly and send their recommendations back to Executive Council.

Charles Fulton noted the huge problem with resolutions that pass but are not funded.

Louie Crew urged that Executive Council stress the need for an engine to search the text of resolutions at General Convention on the General Convention website <http://gc2006.org/legislation/>.

Provincial Leadership Council (PLC) Meeting in the Dominican Republic

Chuck Perfater and Michael Rehill attended the PLC meeting at Boca Chica in the Dominican Republic. Only the bishops from the ninth province attended. They were truly insulted. They could not imagine the absence of bishops had the meeting been held in any other province. They had gone to great trouble to prepare for bishops. They had excellent tours. They had reports on amazing mission activities all over Province 9. They give a high priority to mission and to the physical needs of people. The presidents and the vice-presidents of all provinces were expected to attend, including eight bishops. One of the compounding problems was that the House of Bishops met in Kanuga the week before.

Province 2 will host the PLC meeting May 29-June 1, 2008 and expect to do so in the Virgin Islands. Chuck Perfater surveyed airfare from most cities of the leadership, and in most cases round-trip tickets were under \$500. Chuck Perfater represented the province at the consecration of Bishop Gumbs. He reported that local leadership in the Virgin Islands feel they can work out a very economical package for accommodations for the PLC gathering. Approximately 35 people attend (3 leaders from each province, plus 815 staff and guests).

The PLC meets twice a year. One meeting is always held near the Church Center (typically in Weehawken) and hosted at that site by a different province each time. The summer meeting is the one that rotates physically through the provinces.

The 2007 Provincial Convocation

Petero Sabune and Martha Gardner reported that the proposed theme of our 2007 convocation will be “Come and Grow: Greater Mission in Province 2 and Beyond,” to be held April 19-21 in Albany. Bonnie Anderson, President of the House of Deputies, will be there. Margaret Larom has accepted. We expect 150 people to attend. The costs are already approved in the budget. Net costs to us after registration fees will be between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

Charles Fulton suggests that we reconsider “Come and Grow,” which sounds like an old agenda. Research shows that those who talk about “growth” are the ones that are not growing. When many hear the word growth, they think we are emphasizing pledges. The term does not encourage people to come.

Grapevine

Jan Paxton has asked to be replaced as editor of the Grapevine. Chuck Perfater has been negotiating with Laurie Wozniak, Diocese of WNY, as her possible replacement.

Coordinator's Report

At our request, Chuck Perfater is trying to be more involved in various diocesan venues. He was available at the consecrations in Albany and in the Virgin Islands. He anticipates attending the consecration in Newark. He is also attending several diocesan conventions.

Bishops Herzog and Bena were gracious to him as a representative of the province.

Newark Election

Mark Beckwith will be consecrated as the 10th Bishop of Newark on January 27th at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.

Haiti Visit: "Celebrate Haiti"

Chuck Perfater noted that at Synod Bishop Duracin was somewhat critical of the work of Province 2. He was also grateful. He noted that other provinces and dioceses are more involved with Haiti than is his own province, Province 2. Chuck Perfater has recommended that the Province schedule a visit by a small delegation. He has identified two persons to work with our design team for the visit: Doris Crocker and Petero Sabune. Bishop Councill has frequently stressed that Province 2 needs to collaborate more with Haiti. Chuck Perfater will establish a planning committee of 4-5 people to visit next spring (or to attend their Convention in January) to decide how we might become more mutually involved. Louie noted that Helena Mbele-Mbong's daughter Lisa works as a volunteer in Haiti. Helena mbelembong@wanadoo.fr is a deputy from the Convocation of American Churches in Europe.

Renewal of appointment of Chuck Perfater

We expressed great appreciation for Chuck Perfater and appointed him as Executive Coordinator for Province 2 for another year.

Other

Debra Wagner urged that we insist that province-wide events provide funds to assure scholarships funds are available and that organizers see it as their responsibility to take the initiative to bring representatives from our off-shore dioceses.

Lunch break

Next meeting: February 9-10 Friday afternoon with the networks and Saturday for our own meeting.

Council Meeting with Network Chairs

Our guests introduced themselves:

Patricia Warren, Diocese of NJ, Christ Church, New Brunswick. Serves as the representative of the Church Periodical Club.

Connie White, Diocese of NJ, Trinity, Princeton. Chair of the Ministry Development Network, and has served for five years on the Commission on Ministry in NJ.

Don Carlson, Diocese of Central New York, Christ Cathedral in Syracuse, Diocesan Youth Coordinator.

Susan Legnani, Diocese of New Jersey. Christian Education Network.. St. Stephen's in Beverly. Co-Chair of Christian Formation in the diocese.

Doris Crocker, Diocese of New Jersey. Represents Haiti Ministry.

Bob Dennis, Province 2 representative of Brotherhood of St. Andrew's, St. Philips in Dyker Heights, Brookyn and a member of will install a new chapter in St. James in Eatontown.

Nancy Frank, Provincial Representative for ERD.

Cy Deavours, Diocese of New Jersey, deacon at St. John's in Elizabeth, and represents justice ministry.

Convocation 2007

The Convocation will take place April 19-21, 2007, with the proposed theme "Come and Grow with Province 2: Great Mission and Beyond," at the Crowne Plaza in Albany. Please invite others to come. We will emphasize mission, not ideological battles. We need to hear about ministry that excites people. We hope that Bob Edgar, head of the National Council of Churches, will be one of our speakers. We want to be

sure that doing mission involves doing mission in our own communities. Bonnie Anderson, President of the House of Deputies, and Margaret Larom, head of the Office of Anglican and Global Relations, have accepted invitations to speak.

Each diocese will have persons on the planning committee, to assure that we get 10-15 people to attend from each diocese. We very much want to engage our off-shore dioceses in the Province.

Please send to Martha Gardner mgardner25@att.net, Petero Sabune psabune@yahoo.com, or Chuck Perfater chperfater@comcast.net the names of people who might be willing to speak at this convocation. It is important that your own organizations promote this gathering.

Based on the success of the 2005 convocation, where our bishops related their passions about ministry, this year we will ask the bishops to talk about their passion for mission.

The Episcopal Church Center Report by Charles Fulton

The renovation is nearly completed. Contractors hope to remove the asbestos from the penthouse during November and December. The Griswolds will leave on October 31st and the Jefferts-Schoris will arrive on January 1st.

A coffeehouse is anticipated in the space formerly used by the bookstore on the first floor.

It is a time of mass transition in the departure of many senior staff.

Episcopal News Service and Episcopal Life are being merged, and the new configuration is not yet discernible. Charles Fulton says the question is largely a technical issue, more of an enhancement, not a shift in editorial policy. Much of the change is budget driven.

Network Feedback

Youth Networks. Don Carlson

The youth coordinators of the dioceses in the province meet three times a year. We will have our first province-wide youth event in the summer of 2007, on August 2-6, 2007 (See Attachment 2: Tribe.pdf)

Participants will arrive on Thursday afternoon, get together in the evening, and then have three full days of program together. One day will be for fun and games, one day for worship. Participants will leave at 9 a.m. on Monday. Planners have hired a professional musician. We want this to be as great as the national Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) at our provincial level.

Debra Wagner urged Don Carlson to be proactive in getting participation from offshore dioceses. The Provincial Council will make scholarship moneys available.

See the proposed budget for the Youth Event (Attachment 3: tribebudget.xls)

Church Periodical Club (CPC). Patricia Warren

CPC has not switched over to the internet. “We go back to the history of Wells Fargo, when we shipped printed materials to those in the west when materials were in short supply.” CPC’s national book fund gives small grants abroad to help clergy and students build up their libraries.

(See <http://www.jladefoged.com/cpctest/index.htm> for a copy of the CPC mission statement.)

Networks of Ministry Development. Connie White

Connie White has been trying to connect leadership of Commissions on Ministry in dioceses in the province, and will host a meeting at the Church Center on Tuesday, December 5th.

Chuck Perfater stressed that Ministry Development should be one of our most important networks, and our work in this area in the past has been one of our weak points.

Charles Fulton noted resources on the website of his office that are available online, especially to identify church planters, but we also now can determine with statistical reliability the gifts an individual has for church revitalization. The cost is \$85 to process the results of an individual’s response to an electronic survey.

Chuck Perfater noted that we need to get a young adult network up and running. We already have youth, higher education, and Christian Education.

Christian Education. Susan Legnani

We focus on the formation for youth and young adults

We will meet at St. Marguerite's Convent in Mendham from November 1-3. We want to put together resources for dioceses and congregations.

See Susan Legnani's written report (Attachment 4: ChristianFormationNetwork.doc)

Charles Fulton pointed out that we can order free copies of a dynamic DVD Voices of Young Adults by calling his office in New York City, 800-334-7626, x6125. In this DVD young people tell what they want from the Church.

Haiti Network. Doris Crocker

Doris Crocker reported on the very successful concert by Les Petit Chanteurs and the String Quintet of the Haiti Philharmonic Orchestra, at Brookdale Community College on September 16. The concert was a sell-out and overflowed the facility.

Michael Rehill reported on our decisions in the morning to send a team to investigate how to enlarge shared ministry with Haitians within the province (see above)

Brotherhood of St. Andrew. Robert Dennis

Robert Dennis noted:

“I have been trying to encourage the growth of the Brotherhood in the province. Five of our dioceses have chapters. The Brotherhood is aging. They are contemplating creating youth chapters. We need ways to attract people. Women are associates, and the Daughters of the King (with 25,800 members) is five times as large as we are (with only 5,200 members). We expect to have 50 chapters by the end of the year. Only three members are required to form a chapter. The Diocese of Long Island has 28 chapters. The Diocese of New Jersey and the Diocese of Albany have the best growth.”

Robert Dennis noted that the brotherhood has no political agenda and very carefully neutral on issues. Louie Crew and Kim Byham pointed out that many do not have that perception of the Brotherhood.

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). Nancy Frank

Robert Radtke has been president for about a year and a quarter. Joyce Hogg, long-term coordinator in the province, died this last year. ERD has had some major staff turnovers

Provincial representatives have had frequent conference calls. Robert Radtke recently returned from India and was impressed with the relationship that the Church of Northern India and the Church of Southern India now have increased interest in working together with ERD.

The national ERD meeting will take place in New Orleans next year, with good feedback being planned for the dioceses.

On Monday week Nancy Frank will leave for her fifth trip to the Sudan. She suggested that we all see the DVD Invisible Children -- based on Conflict in Northern Uganda, sponsored by Physicians for Human Rights

Anti-Racism. Cy Deavours

On March 1-4, 2007, Jayne Oasin will provide the training in Syracuse. The training will be attached to that diocese's "Year of Race and Reconciliation." A page on the Province 2 website will give the details soon.

See Lyn Headley-Deavours' written report, "The Anti-Racism Network" (Attachment 5: antiracismnetwork.doc)

Social Justice Ministries Network. Cy Deavours

See the handout for a model 2-hour awareness session which the Network now makes available throughout the province. (Attachment 6: ministriesnetwork.doc)

Immigration Network & Prison Ministry Network. Petero Sabune

Petero Sabune reported on a rally in Washington, DC, to promote reform of U. S. immigration laws.

The Network has held workshops to train people on immigration issues.

October 8th a network of prison ministries held a vigil at the Elizabeth Detention Center. The prison is run by the CCA (Correctional Corporation of America) and extends no human rights to those detained there, although most have been charged with no crimes.

The Network has designated Pentecost Sunday as Immigration Sunday, so that we all might begin to understand one another across our many differences of language and culture.

The Network is trying to develop a spiritual discipline, called “Society of St. Simon Cyrene Friend” (SSCF). See the handout in the Appendices.

Respectfully submitted,
Louie Crew, Secretary

A list of the attachments

1. PII Budget Report 9-30-06.xls (Hausman’s document)
2. Tribe.pdf (Carlson’s flier)
3. tribebudget.xls (Carlson’s budget)
4. ChristianFormationNetwork.doc (Susan Legnani’s report)
5. antiracismnetwork.doc (Lyn Headley-Deavours’ report)
6. ministriesnetwork.doc (Cy Deavours’ model for the awareness session)