

Provincial Council Meeting

Episcopal House in Newark

October 12, 2007

Present: Kim Byham, Rt. Rev. George Councill, Louie Crew, Martha Gardner, Peter Hausman, Chuck Perfater, Dorothy-Jane Porpeggia, Michael Rehill, Petero Sabune.

Several Network representatives attended in the afternoon.

Absent: Rt. Rev. Michael Garrison, Dawn Gandell, Laurie Wozniak

Friday, October 12, 2007

9:30 am Opening prayer by Bishop Councill

We approved the minutes of the February meeting.

Debra Wagner has moved to Maine and is no longer on the *Episcopal Life* board. We elected to fill her position The Rev. Timothy Schenck, Rector, All Saints, Briarcliff Manor, Diocese of New York, chair of the editorial board of the *Episcopal New Yorker*, and winner of many Polly Bond Boards. He was nominated by Neva Rae Fox. Chuck Perfater will notify Tim and Gene Willard, President, Board of Governors. Martha Gardner stressed that future elections need to reflect the diversity of the Province.

Chuck Perfater reported on the July Stewardship Mentors' Conference. Thirty-one people from seven of our dioceses participated, including five from the Virgin Islands (whose lodging and meals we underwrote). To conclude the training, the group presented a one-day stewardship workshop for the Province. It had to be moved to Cathedral House, in order to accommodate an unexpected turnout of over one hundred persons from several of the surrounding dioceses.. See the handout "Registration: Stewardship Mentors Conference." These people are good resources to call upon .

Louie Crew urged all present to support the work of the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations for General Convention. February 1st, 2008 is the deadline for suggesting nominees or nominating oneself. The official application form and descriptions of all the positions are on the Committee's website at <http://tinyurl.com/2dv9fr>

Chuck Perfater gave us the financial report on the stewardship conference, which netted \$1,112.75.

Report on the September House of Bishops Meeting in New Orleans – Bishop Councill

"The meeting was well attended by the active bishops plus a large number of retired bishops and others that often stay away, including Fort Worth and Quincy. Many retirees left after the part of the meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury.

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The Archbishop brought a couple of questions for us to discuss. I was at the table with Bishop Mouneer Anis of Egypt, whose presentation was very painful. [Read the text of it at <http://www.standfirminfaith.com/index.php/site/article/6132/>.

Bishop Mark Dyer served us well to inform us about the Anglican Communion.

The bishops raised over \$900,000 to support restoration in New Orleans.

I just did not get what the Archbishop of Canterbury was trying to tell us in his reflection. On the next day the Archbishop apologized for failing to be successful in what he said. I did not find his input that helpful. I did not discern practicality or leadership.

We spent time working in New Orleans and in Mississippi. I was privileged to hang sheet work. We were assured that real workers would clean up after us.

Our Presiding Bishop said after our stint as builders, "Is that all? It seemed like a kind of photo-op for me."

Paul Farmer, MD, founder of a Partners in Health (<http://www.pih.org/>) health group in Haiti, spoke powerfully to us.

The chancellor from Ghana, Phillipa Amable, was also very hard on us.

Bishop James Tengatanga, Bishop of Southern Malawi, also spoke. He was kind of mystical.

Phillip Aspinal, Primate of Australia, was very supportive, and sorted out what we were and were not asked to do.

John Patterson and Barry Morgan were present and supportive. We were told privately: Please do this so that we can be strong advocates for you. You have been beat up and beat up and beat up, and you have taken it repeatedly. Now we are asking you to do one more thing.

We finished on Sunday with Gus Newport, former mayor of Berkeley, who spoke powerfully of the needs of New Orleans. For example, he unpacked why some in the neighborhood looked with resentment about our presence.

By Monday, Pittsburgh and others had gone home.

Several were drafting statements. I liked the one by John Chane, Jon Bruno, and Charles Jenkins.

The writing committee drafts statements for a room full of people all used to having the last word. The Presiding Bishop is magnificent in the chair and helps us through the

rough places. There were several drafts, and the members of the Joint Standing Committee of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) were waiting on our final version so they could write their response, but we did not finish before their scheduled departure. The Presiding Bishop showed them the draft. We later added our Part 2, on inclusion of lesbians and gays and asking the Archbishop of Canterbury to invite Gene Robinson to the Lambeth Conference next year.

All except Charles Bennison voted to approve our final document. For many of us it was very difficult to adopt. I understand that we have once again asked one group to bear the full burden -- Tracey Lind, in particular. What carried the day for me is that we held fast to what had been set by General Convention 2006; basically we restated B033.

I was pleased with the responses to us by from the Joint Standing Committee of the ACC.”

Louie Crew urged the House of Bishop to undergo formal training regarding the systems which put LGBTs in jeopardy even when those in charge of the systems feel personally very support of LGBTs.

Bishop Councill liked the idea and suggested that The Rev. Erick Law might be a good person to facilitate the training.

The House of Bishops will discuss in March how it can live in solidarity with Gene Robinson.

Petero Sabune objected to the continued misstatement in the press and by bishops and archbishops that Gene Robinson was “appointed.” Those judging us clearly do not understand or respect our polity. We elect our bishops; we do not appoint them.

Michael Rehill: How many times are we going to bend over? How much is the approval of Canterbury worth the integrity of our church? What about the many gay priests who will never become bishops? We are abandoning principle based on mystical communion with Canterbury.

Bishop Councill noted that there are signs that some hostility is diminishing. At their last meeting, only seven of the primates refused to have communion with our primate; fourteen refused at an earlier meeting. In addition, the Joint Standing Committee of the ACC wrote very positively about their time with us.

There is a strong level of exasperation with the level of bullying we face. Take note of the House of Bishop’s reference regarding same-sex blessings, “until General Convention acts.” We intended that phrasing as a partial answer to the question “How long, how long?”

Kim Byham: The ACC suggests we should compromise to buy time because the right will implode. Look at Central Africa, and Harare's use of scape-goatism.

Louie Crew: The House of Bishops blew the chance to state much better news.

Petero Sabune: The Canadians thought the Archbishop of Canterbury was condescending. When the AB of C visited them, he talked to them for four hours, took no questions, and left. It is good that our House of Bishops forced him to listen.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Kim Byham: In March we met in Portland and put out our response to the Primates' demand. In June in Parsippany, Petero Sabune and I described the province to Executive Council. Many were unaware of what is happening in Europe. Two weeks from today, in Dearborn, we will respond to the draft covenant. General Convention endorsed the concept of a covenant more than I would. I am on the committee to draft Council's response. All will be pleased with it. We have essentially said that the creation of a hierarchy is not acceptable. Executive Council has not yet voted on it.

The SRI committee (Social Responsibility in Investments) will put forward a resolution for The Episcopal Church and the dioceses to become carbon neutral.

Petero Sabune: I am on the International Concerns Committee of Executive Council. Bonnie Anderson is convening Conversations of the Americas at a meeting in Executive Council. We are looking closely at how decisions are made.

There has been a huge reorganization of the Church Center. Some are not happy; some think the reorganization should have been done long ago. There will be new clusters and satellite offices.

Martha Gardner: Why are some of the specific decisions waiting for the next meeting of Executive Council?

Petero Sabune: Budgetary matters require the approval of Executive Council.

Kim Byham: The satellite offices are relatively minor to the programmatic change. The rest of the reorganization is more significant. Council is not sure what our role is unless we put our nose under the tent. Friends at The Church Center have been asking members of Executive Council individually to help them with their confusion.

Martha Gardner: There was an emergency meeting on Friday for the staff to react. The staff does not have a problem with the change, but with how it has been implemented. The process of implementation has been embarrassing.

Petero Sabune: You disorganize to re-organize. We need to give the Presiding Bishop the benefit of trusting her good will.

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Petero Sabune is liaison from Executive Council to the Anglican Church of Canada. He noted that at Canada's recent General Synod same-sex marriages lost by two votes. "We are not at a very good place in our church. You can no longer say where we stand: we have to say what we believe."

Chuck Perfater: There is disquiet among my peers and fear that the reorganization into satellite clusters might dismantle or undermine the provincial structure.

Provincial Leadership Conference (PLC) at Mustang Island off coast of Texas in May.

Chuck Perfater: Michael Rehill, Bishop Councill and I attended. Gregory Straub and Bonnie Anderson were there. The first part of the meeting went very well. Gary Lillibridge, Bishop of West Texas, reported on exciting ministry. Bonnie Anderson had a number of items on which she wanted to focus. Then the meeting became a whine-fest. A glimmer of hope came when we shared 'best practices.'

Historically we report on what each diocese is doing. Bishop Councill stressed that the Conference needs to get out of the room and see what is happening in the diocese where we are meeting.

The President of the host province chairs the PLC meeting. Michael Rehill will chair the next PLC meeting to be held at Episcopal House, Diocese of Newark in December. The Presiding Bishop's Council of Advice will meet for the two days prior to the PLC across the street at the Robert Treat Hotel . On December 6, 2007 the PLC will review what the provinces are doing with the resources. We have a policy that more than 50% of the coordination expense in provincial budgets must come from the dioceses in the province. In Province 2, we consistently achieve that level, which is not true in several other provinces. Last year, the PLC had \$1,500 left over from the national allocation, and set the money aside for future translator fees.

2008 Convocation.

Chuck Perfater: We had convocations in 2005 and 2007. We have done no work on a convocation for 2008 yet. We need someone step up and lead it. No one has responded to the appeal. We might focus on education -- the full range from Sunday School - to higher education - to ministry development. Should we bypass 2008? Synod replaces the convocation in 2009, to prepare deputations for General Convention. 2010 would be the next available date if we do not have a convocation in 2008.

Michael Rehill: We definitely need a convocation in mid-fall 2008. That gives time to plan. We will meet again before then. We don't want to skip until 2010.

Tomorrow we are sponsoring a conference for bishops and chancellors. About twenty have signed up.

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Martha Gardner: Bishops need to make a commitment to getting 5+ people for each of our events.

Peter Hausman: Attendance is not a problem if we have a program that is a big draw.

Chuck Perfater: Fall has major competition from conventions.

Michael Rehill: Do it near the end of September.

Treasurer's Report. Peter Hausman

There is not much difference from where we were at the same point during each of the last three years. We are bringing our procedures along. Last time we arranged for direct deposits and opening a credit card account. PNC no longer does direct deposits, so we are now using computer-generated auto-pay. I have opened a money-market savings account attached to our checking account. We still need to do something about our account with Chase Bank, opened when Gwen was the treasurer. Michael Rehill will close the account, with about \$28,000; that is half of our reserve. It is included in the \$92,012 on the budget sheet

I have been using the electronic transfer for payments over \$500, avoiding the necessity of a second signature.

We have received the full amount from The Episcopal Church Center and also from all dioceses except Albany and Western New York.

We have paid for our inaugural issue of *InProv2*. We have paid for website domain and hosting.

Chuck Perfater: Laurie Wozniak has been beset for about six months for full-time care of her parents. She hoped to have a draft to us by today, but it has not arrived yet. We are discouraged not to have the second edition out. It should be out right away. [It was mailed the next week – LC]

Peter Hausman: I will send a more detailed accounting, without netting, for Michael Rehill to use in his report to the PLC, so that it will show what we have actually spent. In that context the source of the income is not important.

Chuck Perfater: At the PLC we will discuss the processes provinces use to assess the dioceses. Some base their request from the diocese on the share that diocese donates as a fair share to The Church Center. One province bases assessments on the diocesan operating budget, as a percentage of the cumulative budgets for the province. Others, like us, established a fixed assessment amount several years ago and still live with it. In our province, we pledged not to increase the diocesan assessment over a triennium. We can't change our process until the synod meets in 2009. We now have almost \$100,000 in surplus and must factor that amount when we revisit how we assess.

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Michael Rehill: We need to find genuine need and use some of the surplus to fund responses to those needs.

Peter Hausman: First we need to press the networks to spend more money.

Michael Rehill: We will do that when we meet this afternoon with the networks. We have to do so by the end of 2007.

Dorothy-Jane Porpeggia: I would like to see the money used for real need, not just made-up projects.

Peter Hausman: What we need is for the networks to reach out more into the diocese, and that will cost money.

Michael Rehill: I have no idea what our surplus will be for 2007, but we have a big reserve.

Executive Coordinator's Report See the written document.

Martha Gardner: The bishops from Province 2 will meet in Haiti, January 9-15

Chuck Perfater: I would prefer to identify a single project as the object of our gift to Haiti...(water? Seminary education...?)

Michael Rehill: I suggest that we ask people in Haiti and the Virgin Islands to identify their needs.

Martha Gardner proposed: "*Resolved* that we give \$20,000 of the budget, to projects to be determined in Haiti and/or the Virgin Islands in 2007." We passed the resolution.

Chuck Perfater circulated a roster of Network Chairs.

The Finger Lakes Conference is folding with their 2008 gathering.

Chuck Perfater: We have had little participation from Albany and from Europe in Province 2 events..

The Convocation of American Churches in Europe is meeting in two weeks for diocesan convention in Munich. The Convocation has about a dozen parishes and missions all over the continent.

Louie Crew pointed out that he can fly round-trip everywhere that Continental Airlines serves for almost no cost, and offered to help when the province needs representation,

Chuck Perfater will attend the conventions of the Dioceses of Rochester and Central New York in November. Rochester's episcopal election does not happen until February 2, 2008.

We voted unanimously to renew the contract to the Provincial Coordinator.

The Provincial Council will meet again on February 8, 2008.

Afternoon:

We were joined by representatives of many networks, and we identified ourselves.

- Janet Pendergraph, representing Sare Gordy, for Stewardship
- Don Carlson, for Youth Network
- Skip Vilas for the Episcopal Ecological Network, also the Province 2 Environmental Network
- Cy Deavours for justice ministries.
- Susan Kynor for the Church Periodical Club, United Thank Offering and ECW
- Bonnie Magnuson for the Christian Formation Network
- Donna Devlin for Episcopal Council for Christian Education (ECCE)
- Connie White for the Ministry Network
- Lyn Headley-Deavours for Anti-Racism

Convocation Discussion

For 2008, at the end of September or beginning of October.

Chuck Perfater: We had our first convocation in 2005 at Century House in Latham, NY and the synod the following year (a pre-GC gathering for deputies and alternates). In 2007 we held a second convocation, "Greater Mission in Province 2, and Beyond" at Crowne Plaza in Albany (about 100-110 attended). Petero Sabune and Martha Gardner co-chaired both convocations. Both were successful.

It is critical to have leaders who are volunteer coordinators. We're too close to Spring of 2008 to launch a convocation then. Earlier today the Provincial Council talked about focusing on the greater topic of education, as the large bowl from which we might select topics. We might also model the listening process which has been asked of the church leading up to Lambeth, on the subjects of human sexuality.

Don Carlson: September is too early, especially with budgets already set in several dioceses. 2010 would be better for planning.

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Susan Kynor: That's a mistake. I understood that we committed to do a conference each of the springs between the synods. Many have already planned knowing that the conference could take place. Many spend their own money anyway. September is the wrong time because the church program is beginning. I'd like to keep to the promises to have in the late spring. The best was to have the bishops talking about what worked in their own dioceses.

Michael Rehill: A really good conference requires a lot of preparation. The fall would give us a year. We don't want to have a party and have nobody come. In addition to the two mentioned, we had a successful stewardship conference, and tomorrow we will convene the bishops and chancellors. Chuck Perfater provides many resources.

Chuck Perfater: Spring is not out of the question if we could get the facility. Usually you need to have the facility a year in advance. For the past two we reserved a year in advance.

Don Carlson: I was unbelievably impressed by the most recent conference. I spent the whole month to do teacher training for the fall, but there is no way that I could do that in the fall. I can't commit to a spring 2008 conference. The NAECED conference is at the end of April 2008, a weekend attended by many.

Bishop Councill: What about holding a conference of reflections on the Lambeth 2008 Conference.

Michael Rehill: Lambeth reflections would be a big draw for a one-day gathering in the fall of 2008.

Martha Gardner: The Lambeth Conferences focuses on a broad range of issues, and so could we.

Bonnie Magnuson: This is an excellent plan. But let's be intentional about the organizing a Christian Formation Conference for Spring 2010.

Michael Rehill: Let's assume that we can find a facility for the Spring of 2008 - April or May. Who will volunteer to provide aggressive leadership for it? Bonnie Magnuson volunteered.

Louie Crew, Martha Gardner, Petero Sabune, and Bishop Councill volunteered to organize a conference for the fall of 2008 to reflect on the Lambeth conference, which will occur July 16-August 3, 2008.

Dorothy-Jane Porpeggia: Let's invite the Presiding Bishop to the reflection.

Bishops of this province will meet in Haiti and Bishop Councill will promote the Lambeth reflection with them.

Susan Kynor, Donna Devlin, Connie White, Bonnie Magnuson, and someone from youth ministry recruited by Don Carlson will form the planning committee by the end of next week.

Chuck Perfater: You need to think about the people you invite as presenters so that you get on their calendars right away.

Chuck Perfater will notify the planners what they have committed too.

Susan Kynor: We need to plan the next convocation immediately after the one ending.

Chuck Perfater: No one responded when I sent out requests following the last convocation.

Martha Gardner reported on reorganization at the Church Center (See above for our discussion of the same topic in the morning.).

The work of the Center is being collapsed into 4 centers.

We talked at length about the terror and angst at the Church Center in response to the general announcement about reorganization.

2:00 p.m. Network Feedback

We have \$10,000 budgeted for 2007 not yet spent. Now is the time to apply. We need proposals by November 1st. Forms are on the website.

Skip Vilas:

In response to moving ministry away from the Church Center, there seems to be an element of “planned irrelevance.” I would hate to see us give up the prime location two blocks from the United Nations where we can exercise leadership. Today Al Gore won the Nobel Prize for his work to preserve and protect the environment. Gore pointed out that concern for the environment is both a spiritual and a moral issue.

Our environmental network is not now a part of the structure of the province. For 25 years we have been trying to persuade the Episcopal Church that the environment underlies all other issues. We have been to every convention for the past 25 years, and we have written the environmental resolutions of convention. The church gives great attention to sexual issues often inattentive to the fact that the main sexual issue is the Rape of Mother Earth.

The Presiding Bishop gives us hope. She brings a scientist’s appreciation of the importance of protecting the environment.

Greenfaith grew up in New Jersey out of partnerships 15 years ago. We need to identify in every diocese persons for whom the environment is a major passion. The Presiding Bishop has committed to a conference on the Creation Covenant, in Seattle early next April, sponsored by the Episcopal Divinity School and the Diocese of Olympia.

We would like to become a more concrete and structured part of the province.

Chuck Perfater: The environment network is already a formal part of the province, as established by Fletcher.

Skip Vilas: We hope we can raise this issue as a contact for our ministries.

I commend to you Matthew Sleeth's book *Serve God, Save the Planet: A Christian Call to Action* (see <http://www.amazon.com/Serve-God-Save-Planet-Christian/dp/1933392010>)

Lyn Headley-Deavours:

We just completed training trainers in anti-racism outside Albany. We now have ten additional trainers in four dioceses, including the first in Long Island. Joan Oasin will train there, and these two will come as apprentices in our next training. The Diocese of Long Island offers all the training through the Mercer School of Theology, including Continuing Education.

The Diocese of Central New York has spent the last nine months with the University of Syracuse to launch their anti-racism training, and Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows is one of the leaders. The Diocese of Rochester is attempting to revive its anti-racism program, inactive for a few years, and the diocese is revitalizing its anti-racism committee. The Diocese of New Jersey continues to be active in anti-racism and uses the Crossroads materials (expensive but fine). On January 13th at 2:30, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the Dioceses of New York and New Jersey will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade. The Dioceses of Newark and New York are creating a common curriculum for *Traces of the Trade*.

The first approved training for Province 2 was done by the Diocese of Newark in September and by the Diocese of Central New York at the end of September.

Chuck Perfater: The Diocese of Long Island reported two local training sessions outside the program approved by the diocesan canons.

Lyn Headley-Deavours: Our Province's requirement of a minimum of 12 hours for training was increased to 14 hours by Executive Council when it met in Parsippany in February.

Martha Gardner: What are some of your dreams for the off-shore dioceses?

Lyn Headley-Deavours: It's hard enough to coordinate the land-locked. It is absolutely valuable to have multiple perspectives. Those who live in very white dioceses should partner with nearby black congregations, e.g., with AME congregations..

Ci Headley-Deavours: The Episcopal Church requires training that is biblically based, and that rules out lots of the business models for anti-racism training.

Lyn Headley-Deavours: In the reorganization of the Church Center, anti-racism training has been attached to native and African-American programs, with the assumption that persons of color are the problem. That is institutional racism and reveals that those doing the reorganizing do not understand the systems of privilege which the reorganization will perpetuate.

See the details of the hand-out on *Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome* by Dr. Joy DeGruy Leary.

Cy Deavours: At a time between January and June the Ministry Institute of the Diocese of New Jersey will give a presentation on justice ministries and responses to the root of oppression. Click on "Ministry Institute" at <http://www.newjersey.anglican.org/MI/index.html>.

The New Jersey Regional Coalition will hold a public meeting on November 4: see <http://www.njregionalequity.org/event2007/>.

Immigration Network (Petero Sabune)

Five New Jersey counties (Hudson, Monmouth, Bergen, Middlesex, and Sussex) are used to lock up undocumented immigrants. We have held vigils at three of these. Homeland Securities pays for the space. The immigrants are treated as criminals. We have collaborated with Quakers and Lutherans.

When we met with Senator Schumer, he said "You know where I stand," but we said "No, you tell us." Mayor Blumberg in New York City has been more prophetic than the rest of us. "Remove the undocumented immigrants, and the whole of NYC will collapse," he noted. According to the current U.S. Attorney General officers now the authority to question anyone regarding the person's immigration status. The Attorney General claims that it prohibits racial profiling, but questioning people "if they appear to be undocumented" gives an imprimatur to racial profiling.

150 immigrants are currently detained in Monmouth County; 300 are currently detained in Elizabeth. Those are all seeking asylum. None have been charged with a crime, but they are locked up tight like felons. Persons in these facilities steadily need some fairly basic items, which congregations might be encouraged to collect for them:

- 90c international envelopes
- color paper

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- pens
- folders
- telephone calling cards

Send these items to Quakers' "First Friend," 321 S. Broad, Elizabeth 07202
908-965-0455

Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) is deporting many people who arrive undocumented. They go after those who arrived as children (2, 3,....) When children grow to be teenagers who commit any crime, however small, the ICE makes them serve the prison time they are given and then immediately deports them, often to a country where they do not know the language and do not have any family left to whom they may connect.

The next meeting of the Immigration Network will be at Trinity Wall Street, Nov 9th, 9a-3p, 74 Trinity Place, NYC. The New Sanctuary Movement will be on the agenda, asking "What do you do if police show up?"

Note well: There is a new position for immigration advocacy in Washington Office of The Episcopal Church.

Prison Ministry: (Petero Sabune)

The support groups for prisoners don't want your money; they want you to join them visiting. When you visit, you create a tension. The Super-Max are prisons with cells used for 23-hours a day. People now spend up to 36 months in the lousy local jails.

Prisons are the fastest growing industry in the United States. Re-entry is very big. Churches are forming networks of support. We look for more people to join us. At Columbia University a student in law school wanted us to meet there and she joined us.

The prisons are being built on our behalf with our tax money.

Martha Gardner: One of the grant programs I administer is camps for children of those incarcerated. We have \$20,000 per year per diocese to help fund attendance. Please encourage people to apply.

Some Imams are trying to collaborate with us. Muslims face harassment in prison merely for being Muslim. Some prisons are even removing the Koran, and started removing all sorts of other books.. Richard Smith, director of Forward Movement, met with us. Forward Movement has been publishing meditations in Forward Day By Day. At Sing Sing we have the only seminary (NY Theological Seminary) inside a prison

The Stewardship Network. -- Janet Pendergraph, pinch-hitting for Sare Gordy

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On September 26th the new network had a stewardship conference call. Stewardship has nothing to do with money. *The Messenger*, newspaper of the Diocese of Central New York is publishing an article by The Rev. Robin Flocken on the Stewardship Conference led by Terry Parsins last summer. The article also appears in the October 2007 issue of *InProv2*. Over 100 attended the conference.

The Rev. Tim Reger has written an article on Stewardship for *The Messenger*. We will run a workshop on stewardship at our diocesan convention. The Diocese has joined the TENS network.

A routine called "Trinity Rising" involving bread is being devised to support this year's stewardship campaign at Trinity Buffalo.

Mark McGoughan, a liturgical comedian, will present a clever stewardship message at St. Andrew's in New Providence.

The Diocese of New York is looking for materials to be translated into Spanish. Juan Oliver from GTS will assist them.

The Youth Network. Don Carlson

We met last month in Binghamton and welcomed Jan Farnsworth, Diocese of Rochester. We are still struggling for representation from Albany. We devoted a healthful amount of time for check-in and care for one another. We are from very different dioceses. We have become a close body.

We talked about the youth event canceled last summer. It was a struggle to cancel. We weren't ready at this point. Some had no one to sign up, some a few, and some many, but we did not have enough people and money to sustain the project. We plan for the next national youth event in San Antonio next summer, and our network will feed off that in a follow-up after the Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) in the fall to plan our next meeting. This will be kind of an EYE reunion.

We will have a Sabbath retreat for ourselves in March 2008, in NYC.

The New York dioceses are going to try to change state law to move the voting age to 16, controlled by the Religious Corporations Law. The Diocese of Albany is the hold-out in this initiative.

In the reorganization at The Church Center in New York, we are excited that there will be a Christian Formation Office. We share that vision.

We will meet again in March.

Connie White: Ministry Development Network

We met last Thursday. (See the summary circulated on a sheet.)

The handbook on Ministry Development will be out in November.

Personnel in the Office of Ministry Development talked with me about Continuing Education. We had a conference call with all COM chairs, led by Bud Holland.

Last week, Bud Holland and several others met with us to focus on how best to respond to the needs of Commissions on Ministry..

We are sharing our practices on various topics.

We are working on a survey of what each diocese does. About 50% responded to half of the questions. We have decided to give a survey with only one or two questions per month, the gradual survey.... , in hopes of prompting more participation.

Meeting on New Ground: Cultural Diversity in the Ordination Process is now out and two copies will go to each bishop. It comes with a DVD. There is also a Spanish version, and there is a study guide to the video, also available in Spanish.

Last Thursday we had representatives from New Jersey, Newark, Long Island, and New York. Miguelina Espinal will be a major asset to this program.

We will have our next meeting in January at the Episcopal Church Center.

The Christian Formation Network. Bonnie Magnuson

Our program covers from cradle to the grave. A lot of what we do is to keep each other in the loop about what all the dioceses are doing. Everyone has workshop retreats with the bishop. The Diocese of New Jersey (but not the Diocese of Newark) has a Ministry Institute, and publishes for everyone all the offerings of the year. You can find online all program offerings, as in a college catalog. For example, from <http://www.newjersey.anglican.org/MI/index.html>:



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- [Contact the Ministry Institute](#)

Public transportation to Trenton

We plagiarize from each other. Also we have an email bible study group, starting in January with a dinner and a focus on a particular bible book. This is being done in the Diocese of Newark as our dry run.

Out of last year's convocation, we established a pen-pal system with Haiti. We are looking for groups in Haiti to do that. We accomplish this mostly by email. It is easy to email pictures.

Episcopal Council for Christian Education (ECCE) Donna Devlin

Our organization has representatives in every province of The Episcopal Church. We move around to relieve the burden. PEALL (Proclaiming Education for All) was put in place by GC. They asked us to supply online resources used by Christian educators. PEALL will gladly share the information and resources, not just websites, and it will be valuable for many people.

In our April meeting we decided to concentrate on:

1. leadership development
2. resources
3. full inclusion
4. theology of faith formation

If a church does not know about a particular program, in time ECCE will have all the information about most questions we will receive.

The Church Center has a visible anti-racism program. We are less prepared to address the exclusion of kids with autism, physical needs... We are modeling full inclusion in our own membership. We require anti-racism training every 5 years to be a member of ECCE. We seek more diversity on our board, including representatives from Honduras, the Dominican Republic; men, women; clergy, lay... We are working with Province 9. They are hurting for material that is culturally useful in their language. The right words

often don't mean anything: we need culturally sensitive materials. A group of theologians met in the Dominican Republic and hammered out topics that need to be included in curricula. Over three weeks a group will assemble materials for three lessons translated by the end of October, and still more by the end of January or February. People who are involved as users are involved in creating the work. We merely help with the production.

The Charter for Faith Formation in the Church is in preparation by the Standing Commission on Life-Long Christian Education and Formation. An adult group will hammer out the contribution in April. I am the sole representative from this province.

We have two representatives going to a conference about the promises never made and promises broken to natives at Jamestown.

The United Thank Offering (UTO). Susan Kynor and Chuck Perfater

The United Thank Offering (UTO) gave money for two grants in this province. They had far more requests than the usually do. A new UTO grants booklet will soon be available. (See <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/uto/>)

Chuck Perfater: UTO continues to be a vital resource, totally independent from province and parishes. You might see me for terms of establishing UTO groups in the diocese.

Any who need books or videos should go to our website, hosted by the Episcopal Church, A-Z directory for the applications and guidelines.

I am a member of the ECW board for Province 2. ECW in some dioceses is working to strengthen support for total ministry. Women to Women is a program of ECW, mainly overseas, to help women interested to start small businesses. See <http://www.nationalecw.org/>.

Nancy Gorman (NJ) is the current representative on ECW board. Pamela Stewart is the current Province 2 representative to the UTO board.

One of your two UTO requests can be on behalf of your companion diocese.

Respectfully submitted, Louie Crew, Secretary