

Provincial Council - Province II of the Episcopal Church

February 4-5, 2005

Minutes

Present: Michael Rehill, Chuck Perfater, John Rollins, Neva Rae Fox, John Goldsack, Doris Crocker, Bonnie Magnuson, Peter Lam, Steve White, Peter Sabune, Kaileen Alston, Kim Byham, Lyn Headley-Deavours, Steve Lane, Richard Visconti, Martha Gardner, Jack McKelvey, Hannah Anderson, Charlie McCarron, Charles Fulton, Fletcher Harper, Sister Elizabeth Mary, Jan Paxton, Peter Hausman

Friday, February 4, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President Jack McKelvey at 12:35 p.m. Those gathered introduced themselves around the table. The president asked for additions to the agenda: the reports of Prison Ministries and Immigrations Ministries were added.

Windsor Report Discussion

Bishop McKelvey reported on the meeting of the Province II bishops. He noted that none of those present had called for meetings throughout their dioceses. The prevailing attitude was that the Windsor Report was serious, but should not be obsessed about. Upon taking this to the Presiding Bishop's Council of Advice, Jack discovered pretty much the same throughout the larger church. The Statement of the House of Bishops was an even-handed attempt to state where the Episcopal Church stands.

Steve Lane and Kim Byham reported on the Executive Council's reception of the Windsor Report, hearing from Mark Dyer and Bishop Tenga. They confirmed the Executive Council's understanding that General Convention will make the official response, but will take up the matter again at its February 2005 meeting to try possibly to prepare a draft resolution for that meeting in 2006.

Michael Rehill reported on a developing plan for a Fall conference on the Windsor Report to be held for the benefit of General Convention deputies. It would be held prior to Synod so that the Windsor Report will not dominate that meeting. Goals: to put together a resource book, a time for the deputies to meet, two locations (upper tier and lower tier); present a panel of speakers to represent different perspectives. Tentative selected were two consecutive weekends: September 24 and October 1. Discussion followed; the general consensus was that this is a valuable effort.

Network Reports

Communications Network - Neva Rae Fox - A formal network does not yet exist, but there is regular communication between communicators in the dioceses. A trend is the decreasing budgets for communications within the dioceses.

Congregational Development - Hannah Anderson - This network is also recently developed, sharing challenges and insights through case studies presented at meetings of the representatives from the metropolitan dioceses. The upstate dioceses do not yet have a similar organization, but it is hoped that this will soon happen. Among the four metropolitan dioceses there is many training opportunities being offered.

Peace and Justice - Martha Gardner - She reported that this is the former Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation grouping, that a number of the new networks contained some of the emphases of that organization, and that a decision must be made as to how the networks within the network can be coordinated.

Christian Education - Bonnie Magnuson - The re-grouping mode is underway and a meeting has been set for a network meeting at the Episcopal Church Center with Tom Chu. There is also a plan for Christian Education and Congregational Development to meet on occasion to explore areas of cooperation. A learning was that new members to a network are tentative, so it is helpful to avoid too much turnover.

Asian Ministries - Peter Lam - Continuing shared services, a youth conference and other regular activities continue. Only two dioceses - New York and Long Island - are active in network, with COCE expressing interest. A special requiem Mass was held for the tsunami victims. On March 7 will be a meeting of the Asian Ministries clergy at the Episcopal Church Center.

HIV/AIDS - Charlie McCarron - This has been a dormant network which he is attempting to re-focus. He suggested that the shift in the population affected, interest in supporting the work of the network declined. He is in the information-gathering stage.

Higher Education Ministries - Steve White - The network has not had recent face-to-face meetings, relying on email. In the Spring will be a meeting in Chicago of Higher Education people from the Episcopal Church and the ELCA, and a retreat at the Holy Cross monastery. Needed are resources: funding, funding and funding. Also, resources in the "hows" of doing ministry on college campuses, nuts-and-bolts assistance from the national church, rather than the national church doing programming, i.e. the Winter college student gatherings.

Youth Ministries - Kai Alston - The Youth representatives from 5 dioceses met in Estes Park, CO, national youth event and will meet again to plan a provincial youth event to be held sometime late June or early July. Also the province network wants to have a large presence at the EYE event in Kentucky in the Spring.

Ecumenism - Richard Visconti - Province II Ecumenical Officers have been very active within the province and at the national EDEO meetings. The dialogues continue despite the differences in opinion regarding sexuality issues. And dialogues continue on a number of levels, including those on an interfaith basis, as well as the Churches Uniting In Christ.

Anti-racism - Lyn Headly-Deavours - She is at the earliest stages of re-forming the network. Lyn believes that where there is no participation is a sign of resistance. She's interested in compiling a listing of all the General Convention resolutions regarding anti-racism.

Haiti - Doris Crocker - Doris reported that the most exciting opportunity is an Institute for Business and Technology originally funded by ERD, soon to be completed. Oge Beauvoir is now the Dean of the seminary in Haiti. There are a number of partnerships between churches in Haiti and the United States, but more could be developed.

Finger Lakes - Sister Elizabeth Mary - Reported on the upcoming June 26-July 1 Finger Lakes Conference, at which John Beverley Butcher will be keynote speaker

Chuck reported that the Ministry Development network is still meeting, next with Bud Holland, on Diversity in the Ordination Process, and will be meeting during the Convocation. The Health Ministries network is also very active in the province, with a representative in every diocese.

Environment - Fletcher Harper - The Ecological Network has several dozen conference calls seeking to determine best practices for establishing a provincial network. The second piece is that not all dioceses have a representative, although there is ongoing activity in every diocese and Fletcher is looking for suggestions. <revfharper@greenfaith.org> He reported awareness of a number of national and international emphases on ecological awareness, including the Anglican Communion.

Immigration Network - Petero Sabune - Petero reported on efforts of the Episcopal Immigration Network of the Diocese of New York to train people to help immigrants with the complexity of the immigration laws and the ever-changing nature of immigration law. Training is planned for visiting immigration detention centers in the region, too.

Prison Network - Petero Sabune - More successful this year, meeting in May in Albany, making an assessment of what populations are being served, and two additional sessions involving the dioceses of Long Island, Albany, New York and Rochester.

Grapevine - Jan Paxton - Jan reported that the Grapevine has been delayed, but is forthcoming next week. She reminded everyone that all submissions are welcome.

Episcopal Church Center - Charles Fulton - Charles gave an overview of what's happening at the Episcopal Church Center, including renovations, staff changes, budget issues, "Groundwork"

May Convocation

"Celebrate, Discover & Connect" - May 13-14

Members of the design team gave an overview of the proposal. Much discussion followed.

The next Provincial Council will be October 21-22, 2005

The meeting was recessed at 5:05 pm with a prayer by Neva Rae Fox.

Saturday, February 5, 2005

The meeting resumed at 8:30 a.m.

The minutes of the October 22-23, 2004, on motion, were approved as circulated.

The Windsor Report Conference

Michael Rehill noted that general agreement had been expressed in the earlier discussion that this event was appropriate and timely. The proposed dates are September 24 for the lower tier dioceses and October 1 for the upper tier dioceses. The design includes compilation of a notebook with the document itself along with related documents from dioceses and other sources. Steve Lane agreed to be the recipient of the materials, to be published in hard copy, posted on the web site and compiled on a DVD. President McKelvey and Steve Lane agreed to draft and send a letter to all General Convention deputies apprizing them of the event. The president appointed Michael Rehill, Steve Lane, Kim Byham and Chuck Perfater as members of the design team.

The event will be held at Episcopal House in Newark on September 24, and either in Central New York or Rochester, to be negotiated by Chuck Perfater

The President's Report

Jack McKelvey reported that Ambrose Gumbs has been elected Bishop of the Virgin Islands. He noted that our goal has been to increase the participation of the Diocese of the Virgin Islands and Haiti, and suggested that Chuck Perfater go to the consecration to represent the province and make contacts with diocesan leaders while there.

He noted that there is growing interest in the work of the province and expressed appreciation to Chuck Perfater for pressing for the development of additional networks and nurturing the existing ones.

On discussion, Petero Sabune suggested that additional persons be sent along with Chuck to represent the province at the consecration.

It was moved, second and passed that a tippet with provincial seal be purchased to be presented to Bishop Gumbs. The president appointed John Rollins and Chuck Perfater to take care of this matter. Michael Rehill offered to provide the provincial seal.

The 2005 Convocation

Discussion resumed, focusing on the inclusion of the contemporary worship experience – the “hip-hop Mass”. Steve reported on one of the design team member’s positive experience of participating in one of the services on February 4. Considerable discussion followed. Consensus was reached that the service be included, that Bishop Roskam be asked to provide an introduction, and that it be clear that this is an example of a celebration of diversity, a risky venture. It was moved, seconded and passed that the proposed worship experience be included in the Convocation.

Further discussion considered the format of the presentation on the bishops’ passions. It

was recommended that the bishops have an opportunity for an opening presentation and then group meetings with bishops. As part of the registration process, it was suggested that the participants' passion be elicited, possibly as a part of the name tag. The determination of how this be accomplished is to be assigned to the design team.

Chuck Perfater presented a preliminary budget for the event. The proposed event would cost the province between \$4,000 to 5,000. If network meetings were included, there would be another \$5000+ added.

It was moved seconded and passed that the Convocation event go forward. The proposed budget for the Convocation was moved, seconded and passed.

It was moved seconded and passed that up to \$5,000 be set aside to be used upon application to the Executive Director for assistance for network meetings.

Treasurer's Report

Peter Hausman presented the Treasurer's Report, summarizing actual 2004 income and expenditures with projections over the triennium. Questions and explanations followed. It was moved, second and passed that the Treasurer's report be approved subject to audit.

Peter presented two forms for networks to use to apply for funding, one for network activity and one for support for network events. On motion, the forms were approved. Discussion followed about the procedure to be used for the funding process. Consensus is that the forms will be submitted to the Executive Coordinator who would review the request, make a recommendation on a case by case basis, and submit that request to the Provincial Council for

Executive Coordinator

Chuck Perfater reported the new network of Communications, with revived networks of HIV/AIDS, Anti-racism and Christian Education. He continues to seek interest in other areas including Health Ministries. Regarding General Convention, there is no opportunity for Province Nights in the proposed agenda, so that matter needs no further attention.

Regarding the site for Synod, Chuck reported that the Desmond is not available. John Goldsack is seeking other venues. He and Chuck will book a site if an appropriate place is found. The October Provincial Council meeting will be the time for setting the agenda.

Provincial Leadership Conference

Michael Rehill and Chuck Perfater reported on the function and recent activity of the PLC. The December meeting is for the allocation of General Convention funding; in addition, the meeting set forth a proposed resolution to General Convention to solidify the existence of the PLC.

Representatives to Council

Chuck raised the prospect of seeking to have elected representatives from each diocese. Michael recommended a change in the Ordinances to allow for the appointment of two at-large members, to be made by the President following the elections. The Chancellor was asked to prepare such a proposal.

Nominations

Chuck raised concern about the nomination process both for Executive Council and Synod Officers. The matter will be taken up at the October meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon