

**Standing Commission on Ministry Development  
Spring 2007 Meeting Minutes  
March 21-24, 2007  
Mustang Island Conference Center  
Port Aransas, Texas**

**In attendance for the Spring 2007 Meeting:**

Ms. Luisa Bonillas  
The Rev. Barbara Bender Breck  
Mrs. Stephanie T. Cheney  
Dr. Rosemary Gooden  
The Rev. Lynne A. Grifo, Associate Coordinator, Ministry Development  
The Rev. Melford "Bud" E. Holland, Coordinator, Ministry Development  
The Rev. Stephen T. Lane, Special Representative  
Dr. Donn F. Morgan  
Mr. Bruce T. Swan  
Mr. Martin Tsien, Ministry Development  
Mr. Sandy Webb, General Convention Office  
The Rev. Deacon Sherry Young

**Absent:**

Mr. Aldin Barnes  
Ms. Jane R. Cosby  
The Rt. Rev. C. Wallis Ohl  
The Rev. Joseph Pae  
The Rt. Rev. Charles von Rosenberg (newly appointed)  
The Rt. Rev. Catherine S. Roskam

**Wednesday, March 21, 2007 – Evening Session**

Ms. Stephanie Cheney, Secretary of SCMD, served as Acting Chair after the resignation due to illness of the Chair, the Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore, and Vice-Chair Jane Cosby's absence from the meeting.

Report from General Convention Office (GCO) – Mr. Sandy Webb  
Mr. Webb reviewed the restructure of SCMD in this new triennium as well as the Commission's current funding. He explained that the reallocation of funds for each year of the triennium should not be a problem, however the Treasurer's Office needs to receive a request to that effect. This reallocation would allow SCMD to spend \$40,000 each in 2007 and 2008 and \$20,000 in 2009. The next meeting has been booked by the GCO for August 2007 at Fogelman Executive Center in Memphis, Tennessee. The exact dates are still to be confirmed. Mr. Webb offered some cautionary notes regarding the amount of work the Commission could realistically undertake and suggested consideration of 1-3

major objectives to deal with in the remaining two years of the triennium. He reminded the Commission that the Blue Book Report for General Convention will be due in January 2009. A question was raised regarding Province IX representation on the Commission in order to facilitate Title III canonical interpretation to that particular constituency. This would need to be discussed further in the broader discussion of other invited participants to future meetings. Rationale for inviting guests will need to be provided.

Mr. Webb noted that funding has been approved by Executive Council for a Title IV Task Force. SCMD representatives to the Task Force are: The Rev. Barbara Bender Breck, The Rt. Rev. C. Wallis Ohl, and Mr. Luis González.

#### Nomination of SCMD Chair

Without a quorum, the vote for a new chair of SCMD was delayed, however Mrs. Cheney noted that the Rt. Rev. C. Wallis Ohl has agreed to have his name put forth.

#### Previous Meeting Re-cap

The three subgroups that were put in place at the CCAB meeting in Chicago are Theological Education, Title III, and Leadership Development. The Commission reaffirmed that it would continue with these subgroups.

Four resolutions were referred to SCMD from the 2006 General Convention:

- C030, Title III – referred to Title III subgroup
- D009, Continuing Education – referred to Title III subgroup
- B006, Seminarian Debt – referred to Theological Education subgroup. It was noted that Proclamation of Education for ALL (PEALL) will meet in Chicago in April and may propose changes to this resolution.
- C036, General Ordination Exams – referred to Theological Education subgroup

Mr. Webb reminded the Commission of the priorities it set at the Chicago meeting which were submitted to the GCO. (refer to minutes from CCAB meeting)

Mr. Webb noted that a new expense claims form is available for the members use following each meeting.

### **Thursday, March 22, 2007 - Morning Session**

With a quorum now present, the November meeting minutes were approved.

The subgroup work assignments were reviewed:

- Title III: A discussion about Title III implementation provided some clarity regarding interpretation of the canonical changes and helped to show the importance of provincial representative feedback to the SCMD. It was agreed that the new Commission on Ministry (COM) Handbook needs to be reviewed by SCMD, COM Provincial Representatives and the national association of deacons. Bud Holland, convener for the COM Handbook Group, noted that the group is being proactive and will review canonical interpretations already being developed in dioceses. He also noted that a translator from the Diocese of El Camino Real who is familiar with the Episcopal nomenclature will translate the Handbook into Spanish. The translation should be completed by May, and both handbooks will be posted online. The Rev. Ms. Bender Breck asked that the Title III subgroup be sent copies. Any possible Title III changes will be considered in 2008 in order to provide enough time for dioceses to use the new canons and still allow time for the Commission to write resolutions, if necessary, for the Blue Book.

The Rev. Mr. Lane noted that he had worked with the Title III subgroup in Chicago but was not listed as a part of the group in the minutes from that meeting. He requested that he be included in the ongoing work of the group.

- Leadership Development: Sherry Young and Lynne Grifo are the only members of this subgroup present for this meeting. The priorities set in Chicago had been Indigenous Ministry Formation and ethnic ministries. They will reconsider their focus in light of their limited membership. Ms. Bonillas asked to be moved to the Leadership Development subgroup.
- Theological Education: Dr. Gooden requested to join this subgroup. She shared some news about the Episcopal seminary deans meeting with Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori, noting that Dr. Morgan would share additional information upon his arrival. It was also reported that Executive Council had recently passed the resolution in support of congregational giving at the 1% level to support the seminaries. This initiative is supported by the Presiding Bishop through a letter on the National Church website.

Deacon Young reported that the North American Diaconate Group had questions about the lack of diocesan support for continuing education for deacons and laity. The COMs are only required to keep track of continuing education for the ordained but should be providing these opportunities for all.

Standing Commission on Lifelong Learning and Christian Formation: It was mentioned that SCMD needs to decide how to address the status and

complexities of the Standing Commission on Lifelong Learning and Christian Formation, which is somewhat related to the work of the SCMD.

#### Election of Chair

With the presence of a quorum, the election of a new chair was taken up. In addition to the nomination of the Rt. Rev. Ohl, Mrs. Cheney was also nominated, but she declined. Bishop Ohl was elected as the new chair with one abstention.

#### State of Bishops on SCMD

- The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore had resigned for medical reasons but has since expressed an interest in coming back as a member of the Commission.
- The Rt. Rev. Katherine Roskam has not attended either meeting and has expressed her intention to resign from this Commission.
- The Rt. Rev. Charles Van Rosenberg was appointed after Bishop Whitmore's resignation but was not able to attend this meeting due to a previous commitment.
- The Rt. Rev. C. Wallis Ohl was not able to attend this meeting due to its change of venue.

Dr. Gooden requested that her absence from the November meeting be excused.

#### **Thursday, March 22, 2007 – Afternoon Session**

Report from Council of Seminary Deans – Dr. Donn Morgan

Dr. Morgan attended a Living Stones meeting (Living Stones consists of a group of approximately twenty dioceses utilizing local ministry initiatives) as a member of the Council of Seminary Deans. In the past, Living Stones has had some tension with seminaries, but they have approached the Council of Deans to talk about working in a more cooperative way.

The Council of Deans met in January, and they began to discuss the idea of the Episcopal seminaries working together. Currently, there exists too much replication of efforts in each seminary, and working together would improve the seminaries as a whole. Dr. Morgan surmised that in the end, the seminaries will look a bit different. He noted that the Deans are listening to the Church and considering a more compelling vision of what seminaries might become for the Church in the future. In order to move forward toward a new structure, the Deans will meet with Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori in March and June as a means of being more in touch with the House of Bishops. The Rev. Mr. Holland noted that the Boards of Trustees from each of the seminaries need to be involved in this process. Dr. Morgan also mentioned that PEALL is asking the Boards of Trustees to come together in order to discuss the state of theological

education in the Church. He noted that this is an exciting vision that should bring about program driven changes that will open the seminaries to more students, some of whom will probably be from outside of our denomination.

#### Reports from subgroups

- Theological Education: The group sees a great need to invite participants from other organizations to the next meeting who can add to the conversation. Dean Bill Stafford from Sewanee has expressed interest in being a participant as the representative of the Council of Deans.
- Leadership Development: This subgroup is focusing its efforts on multicultural leadership development. They would like to meet with the Ethnic Congregational Development Office in order to ascertain how they might be of service/help. They would also like to see the Appendix of the new COM Handbook in order to review what Ethnic Ministry programs are listed. They proposed that the Commission view the new DVD "Meeting on New Ground 2006." The subgroup is considering promoting this resource and its accompanying handbook in order to promote diversity in each diocese of the Episcopal Church.
- Title III: After the new COM handbook is distributed, the subgroup will begin to gather data and ask for feedback. In 2008, they plan to address any canonical changes that might be needed for General Convention consideration in 2009. They discussed Resolution C030, which proposes to amend the equal access clause (C312). The subgroup feels that gender identity (to include transsexual and transgender) needs to be added, but that the Church may not be ready to include gender identity expression and will need to study this issue prior to any canonical change to add it. They also discussed Resolution D009, which looks at the requirements of continuing education. The subgroup decided that it is still too early to gather data on the effectiveness of this new resolution. They plan to ask the Episcopal Church's Research Office to assist in gathering information in 2008. Resolution D034, which asks for Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors to be removed from the list of licensed ministers was discussed and tabled.

A question was raised regarding the definition of gender identification. It was explained that sexual assignment is physical, while gender identification, though it often match's one's assignment, sometimes does not. This leads to the term transgender. Gender expression is a visual expression (i.e. cross dressing). Concerning a question raised about including a minority report in the Blue Book when someone does not agree with the majority report, it was stated that the Commission can vote to allow a minority report. It was acknowledged that this issue would not

go away as it is one that cities, colleges, and mainstream society are currently beginning to deal with.

#### Invited Guests

A list was composed of what organizations should be represented at future SCMD meetings. The list included:

- Province IX Representative (Emily Morales)
- Provincial Representatives (back for 2008)
- The Rev. Canon Pat Coller, Church Pension Group (health benefits, statistics, demographics)
- Representatives involved in local ministry development (It was suggested that Bishop Ohl should have input.)
- Council of Deans Representative
- Church Deployment Office plus Board Representative
- Board of Trustees Representative from Seminaries (PEALL will be getting Trustees together)
- Ethnic Congregational Development Representative
- CREDO (Fresh Start)
- Episcopal Church Foundation Representative (because of its new relationship with Ethnic Congregational Development and its development of a new Vestry Resource Guide)
- National Episcopal Clergy Association Representative
- National Association of Deacons Representative
- National Network of Lay Professionals Representative
- Bishops involved in Ministry Development (resources)
- Standing Commission in Lifelong Christian Education and Formation
- Representative Canon to the Ordinary

It was noted that the Commission needs to look at its priorities in order to decide which organizations should be invited to participate in future meetings. The focus areas will determine who needs to be at the table.

#### **Friday, March 23, 2007 – Morning Session**

The DVD, "Meeting on New Ground 2006," was viewed. A discussion followed about how to get a broad representation of the Church to watch this video and utilize its accompanying handbook. Diversity needs to become a priority in order to stimulate more conversation.

#### Report from Office for Ministry Development (OMD)

The Rev. Mr. Holland reported that a new associate for research will be hired who will focus on education and will work for OMD and PEALL. He also stated that Resolution A039, which deals with reconciliation in the Church, did not

receive any funding. He is currently the convener of the Employment Policies and Practices Task Force. This group is taking a census of the sixty to eighty thousand lay employees in the Church to ascertain the level of benefits provided to them. The Task Force realizes that a good deal of work needs to occur before the Episcopal Church can become "A Best Place to Work" for lay employees.

The Rev. Ms. Grifo shared information about her work as chair of the Ministry Development Council, an umbrella organization that consists of ten career and counseling centers that provide vocational testing for clergy and laity and psychological tests required as part of the ordination process. She also reported that OMD was one of the sponsors of the first national conference for women clergy held last October at Kanuga, with 190 women in attendance. She noted that the House of Bishops currently employs a peer coaching program.

Mr. Tsien reported on attending a Christian Ministry in the National Parks annual meeting. The National Parks provide non-denominational services and have a summer internship program that brings young people in to help out.

### **Friday, March 23, 2007 – Afternoon Session**

#### Next Meeting

The dates for the Commission's next meeting (to be held at Fogelman Executive Center in Memphis, Tennessee) will be August 18-21 or August 19-22 (open at 5 p.m., close at 12 noon).

#### Subgroup Meeting Reports

- Theological Education: Conant Grant funds available this year totaled \$353,000. Sixteen applications were received in all. Thirteen applications were recommended for approval totaling \$166,000. A motion was made and was seconded to approve the applications. The motion was approved. The grants approved are on file in the Office for Ministry Development.

SCMD gave permission to offer to SCOM funding from the Conant Fund for faculty grant proposals. If SCOM is interested in this, they need to let SCMD know before its August meeting in order to rewrite the procedures for the next funding cycle.

Local Ministry Development and Education and Seminaries: The subgroup will wait for Bishop Ohl's input in order to begin working on establishing more accessible and official support for seminaries in the Episcopal Church and stronger relationships between seminaries and dioceses to strengthen the work of both.

Resolution B006 – Seminarian Debt: Congregations need to be made aware of the problem. This will be done by providing bulletin inserts for Sunday services to be made available online in the fall. Three topics have been chosen for the inserts: Aging Clergy, Seminaries, and Seminarians. The inserts will be presented to the subgroup first, SCMD in August, and the House of Bishops in September.

- Leadership Development: A strategy has been developed, however a conference call will be held in April with Joseph Pae and Jane Cosby before proceeding. The subgroup plans to promote the "Meeting on New Ground" DVD and handbook. They also plan to reach out to Ethnic Congregational Development desk to ascertain if and how the two groups can work together.
- Title III: The subgroup will wait to move forward in order to give the Church time to implement the new canons and respond to the changes. They will offer to become a resource to dioceses and begin to ask for feedback from Provincial Meetings.

Mr. Webb reported that the Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Education and Formation has had one conference call and will have a second in the spring. Their first meeting will be in June in Washington D.C., and they will meet with PEALL in October. Mrs. Bonillas will contact their chair to determine if they are still interested in SCMD representation at their meeting in June.

Mr. Webb then shared with the Commission that he will enter seminary in the fall in order to pursue his call to the priesthood. He plans to continue to work at the Church Center through part of the summer. Tony Jewiss will be the new staff person assigned to the SCMD from the GCO.

He noted that the Commission needs to pick 2008 meeting dates during this meeting because the GCO needs an eight-month advance notice.

### **Saturday, March 24, 2007 – Morning Session**

#### Theological Education Subgroup Report

The subgroup will be in contact with PEALL before the August meeting. The subgroup is looking forward to dialogue and inter-relationships with seminaries and local formation programs.

Further discussion was held on possible organizations to invite to a 2008 meeting:

- A second seminary dean (ordained): The first choice would be Dean Bill Stafford, Sewanee. Dr. Morgan will work on a second choice.
- Province IX representative: Bishop Ohl would need to address this as Chair. A concern was expressed about asking Emily Morales, a priest in the Diocese of Puerto Rico, because she is called upon so often. Miguelina Espinal, a priest in the Diocese of the Dominican Republic and currently serving on Executive Council, was put forward as a possible person to invite. Perhaps Juan Marquez should be consulted at the Episcopal Church Center. Ms. Bonillas reported that she planned to attend a Latino Ministry (Nuevo Amanecer) conference in the summer and she would check on Province IX attendance in order to try to get some feedback from anyone from there. She will report her findings to the Office for Ministry Development.
- The Title III subgroup would like to see all Provincial Representatives invited in order to get feedback on the implementation of Title III. From Province IX, Wilfredo Ramos from Ecuador, who translated the COM handbook, was named as a possible person to invite.
- The Leadership Development subgroup would like to meet with the Ethnic Congregational Development desk outside of our regularly scheduled meetings, and SCMD agreed to finance such a meeting.
- Standing Commission on Lifelong Learning and Christian Formation: If we decided to meet together, SCMD would have to finance its participation. It was pointed out that perhaps it would be more feasible to get together with representatives from this commission.
- Church Pension Group: The Rev. Canon Pat Coller should be invited to the August 2007 meeting in Memphis. Her participation would be helpful to all three subgroups.
- Living Stones: Bishop Ohl should make the recommendation regarding this invitation.
- Episcopal Church Foundation: Ms. Toni Daniels, Director of Learning and Leadership

#### 2008 Meeting Dates

The preferred meeting dates would be February 28 to March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 (Wednesday to Friday or Thursday to Saturday, depending on site requirements) in the southwestern United States.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Luisa Bonillas  
Acting Secretary