

**Standing Commission on Ministry Development  
Minutes of the Meeting  
November 5-7, 2008  
Desmond Tutu Center, General Theological Seminary  
New York, New York**

**In Attendance:**

The Rev. Barbara Bender-Breck  
The Rt. Rev. Larry R. Benfield  
Canon Stephanie T. Cheney, Secretary  
Mrs. Jane R. Cosby, Vice-chair  
Mr. Jack Finlaw  
The Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane  
The Rt. Rev. C. Wallis Ohl, Chair  
The Rev. Joseph Pae  
Mr. Bruce T. Swan  
The Rev. Deacon Sherry Young

**Absent:**

Dr. Luisa Bonillas  
Dr. Donn F. Morgan  
Dr. Rosemary Gooden

**Staff:**

The Rev. Dr. Melford E. "Bud" Holland, Program Officer for Discipleship and Leadership, Ordained Ministry  
The Rev. Dr. Gregory S. Straub, Secretary of the General Convention  
Ms. Demi Prentiss, Program Officer for Lay Leadership

**Invited Guests in Attendance:**

The Rev. John R. Mitman, Society for the Increase in Ministry  
Mr. R.C. Laird, Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Education and Formation

**Wednesday, November 5, 2008**

Bishop Ohl opened the meeting with a prayer. The Commission spent some time reconnecting since its last meeting.

This evening meeting was spent in discussion of theological education. Comments made during that time were:

- The General Board of Examining Chaplains took up at its last meeting SCMD's report on General Ordination Exams. Of particular note were evaluations with regard to consistency in results.
- There were complaints at the Black Ministries Conference about lack of seminary training in the area of congregational administration.

- There seems to be a disconnect in that seminaries do not appear to be accountable to the Church. They're not funded well, and the environment in which they exist is changing. It is impossible for seminaries to train in all areas.
- Barely 50% of Episcopal clergy go to Episcopal seminaries.
- The GBEC board is concerned with how to do evaluations of those not going to Episcopal seminaries.
- There is a great need during the next triennium to create a new meeting ground for formation issues.

With regard to SCMD's budget allocation, there was \$51,600 remaining prior to this meeting. It was noted that after every meeting, a budget update should be requested.

### **Thursday, November 6, 2008**

The Very Rev. Ward Ewing, Dean and President of General Theological Seminary, welcomed the Commission to the Tutu Center. He talked about its development and all the new construction underway on the GTS campus.

Dean Ewing also talked about the status of theological education, referring to the Alban Institute publication on the Lily internship program for graduating seminarians. He stated that Lily has abandoned the project, and as a consequence, GTS is working with Virginia Theological Seminary and the dioceses of Virginia, Washington, New York, and Long Island in developing a joint program for graduating seniors. GTS is also working with the Diocese of Newark on a program focusing on college recruitment for those interested in the priesthood in metropolitan areas. He stated that the idea that a single seminary can provide all kinds of services is misplaced, but by working collaboratively, things can get done. Seminaries need to find ways to stimulate collaborative efforts, but at this point, all efforts are in the planning stages. When there are successful programs developed, there will be a need to publicize and promote them. He concluded by stating that the seminaries are working together, but the connection to the Church is totally independent.

A motion was then made to approve the minutes of the June 2008 minutes. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Discussion then centered on the SCMD Mandate.

- Q: Does the mandate fit within the canonical understanding of the Commission's purpose? A: Broadly yes, and with great integrity. This mandate was the impetus for the formation of the Commission's three subcommittees at the CCAB meeting at the beginning of the triennium. It was noted that GBAC feels that this is the first time the SCMD has said anything to them in terms of making recommendations. It was also noted that the SCMD took over the work of two standing commissions and was given a mandate to revise the Title III canons. The SCMD has also been involved in Title IV revisions. The members agreed that they saw no need to re-craft the mandate.

- Q: How well does the work referred to or undertaken by SCMD fit within the mandate and canonical understanding of the purpose of standing commissions?  
A: SCMD formed work groups based on its mandate, and it has actively worked with other standing commissions. Further, SCMD issued the report for PEALL, and two of the commission's meetings have been held at seminaries, which has been an enlightening experience for the members. It was noted that SCMD has worked, and will continue to work, collaboratively with the Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Education and Formation. SCMD is beginning to work collaboratively with the General Board of Examining Chaplains as well.
- Q: Does our mandate fit more appropriately under another CCAB? If so, which one? A: It does not.
- Further, regarding the call to dismantle racism, SCMD took the training offered at the CCAB meeting. SCMD also included in the Title III Canons the mandate for anti-racism training. The work done by the Commission on multi-cultural ministry and needs fits within this call. SCMD has promoted "Meeting on New Ground." The SCMD should consider other available resources and share them with the Provincial COM Representatives when SCMD meets with them. This is a good place to engage with dioceses as well as network with other commissions.
- The SCMD commends the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies for ensuring diversity on commissions. However, the Commission feels that if this structure is codified, it may become difficult to fill slots on commissions. The SCMD notes that diversity is extremely important to its work, particularly if SCMD is charged with ministry development for a multicultural church. The SCMD is confident that the leadership within the Church will continue to emphasize the importance of diversity, and it recognizes the need for ongoing diversity in its membership.

### **The PEALL Report (Proclaiming Education for All)**

The report will be on the Theological Education for All website along with other PEALL materials. It was noted that this is the first comprehensive report since the Pusey Report in the late 60s. It is also more comprehensive since the Pusey Report dealt with seminaries only. A final report was given to the Executive Council, at which time the following recommendations were made:

1. Regarding communications, there is capability to do so more effectively. The Church is moving toward new forms of communications through IT. The TEforAll website is a good starting point. There is a request in the report to make educational communication a priority in determining the allocation of IT funds.
2. In the next triennium, a church-wide conference should be held on Christian formation.
3. The Executive Council should be encouraged to lift up the importance of diocesan structures and personnel in addressing and highlighting Christian formation, and it should help find resources for dialogue between dioceses and the larger church regarding Christian formation.
4. The Executive Council should be asked to consider co-sponsoring with SCLCEF and SCMD the Charter for Life Long Learning.

5. The report supports the ongoing work of the Translation Task Force.
6. The expertise of the PEALL committee should be utilized in an ongoing way.

The Rev. Mr. Holland noted that the Constable Fund was set up 50 years ago to fund educational efforts not funded by The Episcopal Church. This fund could be a significant resource for a broader group of educational efforts in the Church in partnership with other organizations. The Constable Fund is a restricted fund under the control of the Executive Council. The fund now generates \$150,000-200,000 annually. It is what funded PEALL, which is now ending its work and about completed its funding.

The Rev. Mr. Holland continued that PEALL has encouraged conversations across the Church with various organizations related to education. The committee has had broad representation. Its report is an historical document, which has been received by the Executive Council. PEALL goes out of existence now, but it is passing on its work on to the Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Education and Formation. It sees itself as being a catalyst for future conversations in the Church.

He suggested that it would be helpful if SCMD commended this report and PEALL since it grew in part out of a resolution from SCMD. It was agreed that PEALL should be commended in the SCMD's Blue Book Report.

The Commission then reviewed the final draft of the Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation that will be included in the Blue Book Report. A motion was made that SCMD endorse this charter in its Blue Book Report. The motion was seconded and adopted.

### **Fresh Start**

The Rev. Mr. Holland reported for the Fresh Start Program, noting that it started as a broad collaborative in 1998 at a national deployment officers meeting, and it continues to be a collaborative effort. There are 59 dioceses currently involved with Fresh Start, and new modules have been developed to enhance the program. It has a budget allocation for this triennium in the amount of \$75,000, and there will be a budget request for the next triennium. In order for Fresh Start to continue, it needs broad collaboration. Therefore, Fresh Start is requesting support from the SCMD in the form of a resolution of support in SCMD's Blue Book Report. In discussion, the Commission agreed that it did not need to address Fresh Start's budgetary request since that will go through the Church Deployment Office. A motion was made to include the Fresh Start resolution in SCMD's Blue Book Report. The motion was seconded and adopted.

### **Families of Clergy United in Support (FOCUS)**

The Rev. Mr. Holland provided background information, noting that FOCUS began at the 2000 General Convention primarily through the work of Bonnie Studdiford of Maine. He noted that it had been suggested earlier by this Commission that FOCUS's work be folded into the work of CREDO, but retain its name. That suggestion didn't work out, and the group currently has no funding, nor was he sure whether they want to continue their work. The Rev. Mr. Holland suggested that it was timely that SCMD acknowledge

FOCUS's past work in raising up an important issue in the Church. He presented a resolution which he wrote as a way of commending them. In discussion, Bishop Lane pointed out that an assumption on the part of FOCUS has been that spouses want advocacy, but there has not been support for that advocacy. It was agreed that in light of the SCMD mandate, this program does not really fall under SCMD's purview. Bishop Ohl thanked the Rev. Mr. Holland for drafting the resolution and expressed hope that it would come to Convention as a resolution from another source.

The Rev. Mr. Holland reported on his work. He noted that he will be retiring April 1<sup>st</sup>, therefore this will be his last meeting.

### **Society for the Increase of the Ministry**

The Rev. John Mitman provided the following updates:

- Regarding enrollments in seminaries, it is increasingly difficult to get the numbers, but it appears that enrollment has slipped overall by about 5%. This should be a concern to everyone.
- It is getting harder to interpret the numbers. For example, at Nashotah House, nine out of thirteen M.Div. graduates were from dioceses leaving the Church. They all were from Fort Worth or Quincy. There is the same kind of issue with Trinity.
- Trinity appears to be playing both sides. Only two scholarships from SIM are going to students there because they are not coming from Episcopal bishops.
- The numbers are going down in part because of these kinds of factors.
- SIM has submitted a proposal to the Church Pension Group that would establish a partnership, which would enable SIM to assist with their feeder system and CPG would take over and underwrite medical insurance for all postulants and candidates and their families. It is called Project Cradle, and it would piggy back on A147. He noted that CPG is reluctant at this point. This proposal has been on the boards for a long time and is not close to approval.
- There are roughly 600 students in M.Div. programs in Episcopal seminaries.
- He commended the Rev. Jim Lemler on the piece he wrote on recruitment and leadership in 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Regarding the average age of seminarians, Sewanee has the absolute highest age; CDSP is at the low end; and GTS is in the middle.
- Last year, 42% of enrolled students were female.
- Age gets skewed because there are people on the much older end of the spectrum and on the much younger end, with not many in the middle.
- The average grant from SIM is \$3,450.
- The number of minority students is not increasing, however SIM only has anecdotal information. Anecdotally, SIM is also hearing that current clergy are not recommending this as a vocation.
- On the up side, there are some really bright, capable people in Episcopal seminaries. That is the strength.

**Friday, November 7, 2008**

The SCMD welcomed R. C. Laird of the Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Education and Formation. Mr. Laird reported that SCLCEF met with Clay Morris, who requested that their Commission consider a resolution on a Consultation on Baptism. This resolution has also been submitted to Constitution and Canons. SCLCEF was not sure whether the resolution fell within their mandate, which is why they are bringing it to SCMD. The resolution deals with directing Constitution and Canons to address the inconsistencies between current canons and the Baptismal Theology in the Prayer Book and to report back to the 77<sup>th</sup> General Convention. SCLCEF would like for SCMD to consider presenting it. In discussion, it was agreed that the resolution could fall within the SCMD mandate. However, it is not simply a question of baptism; it is a question of theology. The problem SCMD faces in including it in the Blue Book Report is that the Commission hasn't had a chance to fully review it and take it under consideration. SCMD also doesn't have the background information needed in order to make a decision. Mr. Laird noted that this was also the sentiment of SCLCEF. It was suggested that the resolution could be brought as a D resolution.

The Commission also talked with Mr. Laird about the possibility of a joint meeting attached to the CCAB meeting, and he indicated they would be interested in doing so. SCMD will discuss this possibility with the Rev. Dr. Gregory Straub.

### **House of Bishops Report**

Bishop Ohl and Bishop Benfield talked about the serious and painful conversations centering on the Rt. Rev. Robert Duncan, as well as reflections in the House on the Lambeth Conference. It was their sense that Bishops came back from Lambeth feeling better about the relationship with the Archbishop of Canterbury, but feeling that other bishops around the Communion were not particularly helpful. A lot of time at the HOB meeting was spent talking about theological education and the environment.

### **Conversation with the Rev. Dr. Gregory Straub**

The Rev. Dr. Straub informed the SCMD that a CCAB meeting will depend on whether PB & F will fund it. If it is funded, it will be held in Chicago the first week in January. (between the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup>). The Rev. Dr. Straub indicated that a joint meeting between SCMD and SCLCEF could be arranged on either end of the CCAB meeting.

He further noted that the SCMD does not need to send budget resolutions to P, B & F. The General Convention office will do that. As resolutions are submitted, they will be posted on line in the hope that it will cut down on the number of D resolutions submitted and will also encourage others to get resolutions in earlier.

He reported that the General Convention office uses a cost of \$1,400 per person, per meeting as a projection. The staff is aware that the SCMD is planning an extra meeting during the triennium, however, they have not included Provincial reps in meeting expense for the next triennium. He suggested that SCMD include them in its budget request, as well as two ex-officio members, which would be a new request.

### **Title IV Task Force II**

Diane Sammons, Chancellor of Diocese of Newark and a member of the Title IV Task Force II, was introduced. Chancellor Sammons gave an introduction to the work of the task force by reading a statement from the Rt. Rev. Dorsey Henderson regarding this second effort in nine years to revise Title IV. She noted that the theological underpinning is Christ's mission and ministry as that relates to how the Church deals with wrongdoing in a pastoral way.

She extended greetings from rest of the task force and from the Bishop of Newark. She made the following remarks concerning their work:

- They tried to balance aspirational components with practical ways of how to get there.
- The current Title IV is based on the code of military justice. It was in response to sexual misconduct, which was strong, but appropriate at the time.
- There were concerns and complaints that it was a punitive system and not an open structure. The result was a recommendation to consider new models with a theological underpinning.
- The key theologian working on the revisions was Pamela Cooper White.
- Safety with the church as sanctuary was important, as well as reconciliation and restoration of community. This was the theme of the 1<sup>st</sup> task force.
- There were still concerns after the 75<sup>th</sup> GC.
- The 2006 version included discipline of the laity, but this has been taken out of the newer version.
- Second piece for consideration was impairment, which will be referred to SCMD through a General Convention resolution for the next triennium.
- The current draft continues to move away from such a rigid model.
- It is broken into three main bodies: a reference panel (bishop, canon, president of the disciplinary board); a conference panel (diocesan review committee); and a hearing panel (Ecclesiastical Trial Court).
- It is based on the theory of reconciliation.
- It has a positive approach rather than a negative one.
- The burden of proof has remained the same, as has the statute of limitations with the exception of a statute of limitations on sexual abuse.

Chancellor Sammons noted that this information is on the national church website, and the task force is available for synod meetings or diocesan conventions.

### **Blue Book Report**

After discussion, a motion was made to approve the report as edited. The motion was seconded and adopted. The report will be submitted to Alison Lee at the Church Center, who is compiling the entire report.

### **General Convention**

A discussion of General Convention then followed. Bishop Benfield agreed to accept substantive resolutions, and Mr. Finlaw and the Rev. Ms. Bender Breck will accept them in the House of Deputies.

The Rev. Dr. Straub stated that legislative committees are being put together and will be announced in mid-December. He expressed the Church's gratitude for the work the SCMD has done and for being faithful servants of the Church.

Bishop Ohl stated that the dates for the next meeting are April 19-22. He suggested the following agenda items:

- Develop strategies for the General Convention.
- Consider data from the GBEC.
- Review the Title IV revisions.
- Begin planning for the next triennium in assisting with total ministry development, and include Angela Ifill in that conversation.
- Discuss key people who could assist in the work that needs to be done by the Commission in terms of what kinds of skills are needed.
- At the PB's request, study the shape of Episcopal ministry, e.g., models, elections, continuing education. He noted that Bishop Clay Matthews should be consulted on this.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Cheney, Secretary