

Standing Commission on World Mission (SCWM)

Church Divinity School of the Pacific,

Berkeley, California

April 2-5, 2008

Minutes

April 2, 2008

Members Present:

- Martha Alexander
- JoAnn Roberts Armstead
- Kitty Babson
- Rose Fichera-Eagen
- Leopold Frade
- Joseph Jerome
- Robert Munday
- Heather Payton
- Saulo Salvador
- Gordon Scruton

Members Excused:

1. Michael Curry
2. Julio Holguin
3. Carol Taylor

Other:

- Michael Barlowe, Special Representative for the President of the House of Deputies

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Martha Alexander, on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 at 7:40pm. Saulo Salvador opened the meeting with prayer.

It was announced The Standing Commission on World Mission will pause every hour for prayer which is one of the norms for the Commission.

Review of the Norms

- Martha reminded us to be flexible.
- Joseph asked that we add that we vote by consensus when votes are called.
- No other suggestions were given.

1. Introductions

Two members of the SCWM were present for the first time, so members of the group introduced themselves and updated the group on their lives and ministries.

2. Letters from the members who were absent...

- Carol Taylor has broken her leg in three places and cannot travel. The Brazilian Committee will meet in North Carolina, and she is very excited to have them there.
- Bishop Curry has conflicts and sends his blessings.
- Mark Harris is also unable to come.
- Margaret Larom was coming, but with the changes at the Church Office was unable to do so, now Brian Grieves is coming in her place.

Approval of Minutes

Gordon moved to approve the minutes.

Kitty seconded.

Minutes approved unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Handouts given.

- Interim Reports
- Canon I.1.2(n)
- Notebooks from Margaret

Housekeeping

- Area around seminary explained
- Details for tomorrow reviewed

Meeting in Recess at 9:00 p.m. following closing prayer led by Rose.

April 3, 2008

Members Present:

- Martha Alexander
- JoAnn Roberts Armstead
- Kitty Babson
- Rose Fichera-Eagen
- Leopold Frade
- Julio Holguin
- Joseph Jerome
- Robert Munday
- Heather Payton
- Saulo Salvador
- Gordon Scruton

Members Excused:

4. Michael Curry
5. Carol Taylor

Others:

- Michael Barlowe, Special Representative for the President of the House of Deputies
- Dinorah Padro, Spanish Language Translator
- Brian Grieves, Representative from the National Church Office

Meeting Re-Opened on Thursday, April 3, 2008 at 9:00a Leo Frade led us in prayer.

Housekeeping:

- Members who arrived this morning were welcomed and introduced themselves/updated the group on their lives and ministries.

- Handouts were distributed from the National Church Office as well as a letter from a Missionary in Ecuador.
 - Kitty – requested that the letter from the Missionary be added to the agenda.
 - Martha – said that we will address these issues once Brian gives his report.

President of the House of Deputies Report from Michael Barlowe

Bonnie Anderson, president of the House of Deputies, is busy preparing for General Convention 2009. The theme for General Convention is “Umbuntu” and the design will be different from years past. He also shared information concerning the budgeting process; all of the commissions need to ask for the resources needed to do the work of their commission, because the work of the church should not be hampered, but inspiring the stewardship issues.

Report from Brian Grieves, Director of Advocacy, the Episcopal Church

The office is in the midst of a major reorganization by the Presiding Bishop and it is a crucial week, because all of the offices are moving into their new areas. Brian would like a list of needs from this group so the people in the Episcopal Church Center will know how to assist the commission in our work and ministry. The Presiding Bishop wants people to get into their new roles, so Brian was asked to be with us and hear about our needs.

Concerning the new centers, Brian explained the eight program areas and how they are now rearranged into four centers (advocacy, partnerships, evangelism/congregational life, mission leadership).

Partnerships Center – (Headed by Tony Daniels) The partnership desks for Africa, Asia/Pacific, and Latin America continue in the Partnership Center. The Presiding Bishop is clear that the Episcopal Church is not just the church in the United States, but that we are an international church and how we relate domestically includes Province IX. In the partnership offices James Teets will oversee the grants and trusts. This is a very large part of the budget: Overseas

Covenant Committees, Province IX, and the missionary areas with Native Americans (South Dakota, Alaska, etc.). The Executive Council was reducing the budget by 5% but it was decided at the Executive Council meeting that the 5% would be restored to the Province IX dioceses, excluding Taiwan. Meanwhile, other domestic programs did not get the 5% restored, such as Alaska and Navajoland.

The Mission Leadership Center (David Copley, Director) – the missionary office remains Mary Brennan is now the communications officer for all of the centers, so her role has expanded. Her first project is to redo the mission website.

Discussion followed concerning the restructure.

Brian indicated that the Standing Commission on World Mission will also interface with the center on Evangelism and Congregational Life as it is now set up in the Episcopal Church Center.

Robert was interested in the migration ministries. Brian responded Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) has two parts; one is with the government contract where EMM resettles refugees, and the other is an advocacy program that helps with immigration issues and is based in Washington.

Leo asked how he would request a missionary under the new structure. Brian stated there will have to be some coordination there between the partnership office and the mission leadership center. He went on to discuss traveling to overseas dioceses. The Presiding Bishop wants people to be able to respond to “why are we traveling?” Brian stated relationships are tremendously important and one of the ways to build those relationships is to travel and be together. We need to help people do the work to be self-sustaining. Leo agrees on the importance of travel.

Kitty expressed concern about missionaries and thinks it is important to use the missionaries that are on the ground in a country. The missionaries are more connected to the local churches, culture and leaders. The missionaries can serve as a bridge between the diocese and the Church Center. The church need to fully address the best ways to use missionaries.

Kitty referred to a letter which was sent by a missionary in Ecuador as well as an attached letter from David Copley. The bottom line, in the missionary’s letter, was that to keep doing his ministry according to a change in policy, he will have to raise an additional \$12,000 a year. If one is already overseas, it is difficult for the person to raise the funds in the States. Without the funds, however, he will no longer be able to continue his ministry. She emphasized we need missionaries “on the ground.” The fact that we need them more and more and are supporting them less and less is a big problem. Our job as a commission is to see how to do the mission work better.

Brian said the management team discussed the issues surrounding missionaries. David Copley had written a letter, and a story was run in Episcopal News Service (ENS). There now is a pension in place for lay missionaries. Brian indicated the missionaries are not only a great resource but a connection back home. The missionaries need to come home and educate the people here. The thought is that if people are not raising money back home then they will not have a connection back home. The Presiding Bishop wants this policy reviewed and looked at by management.

Kitty expressed concern that the policy was NOT put into place with the knowledge of the Standing Commission on World Mission (SCWM).

Martha agreed the job of the SCWM is to review existing policy, and make recommendations. She stated part of the concern when this policy was enacted was the lack of input from the SCWM. She suggested the roles of the SCWM should be reexamined.

Gordon stated this is arguably the most significant move in our mission culture of the church in over 100 years. He went on to say his is radical, and it may or may not be a wise thing to do, according to the canons. If the bishops ignored canons like this, they would be up for presentment. There are two issues: the mission sending policy is one and the reorganization is

another. This is an extraordinary measure – this could eliminate at least half, if not more of our overseas missionaries. This has practical implications on all of our missionaries and our dioceses. He wondered about the following: “How can an individual give to a missionary in order that it happens tax-free? Who is going to educate the whole church and put systems in place to do this work?” This is a major shift – maybe this is not the right committee to oversee it but we need to get clear that oversight is needed.

Michael asked how this policy concerning missionaries was made, who made it and what was the rationale. He wondered why SCWM was not notified earlier in the process.

Brian discussed the issue before attending the SCWM Meeting and stated the staff felt they were carrying out an administrative function in accordance with the budget.

Michael again reiterated this is a policy issue, and I do not know why that seems confused. I agree that the commissions need to be reviewed by the church, but the policy making has always been the prevue of the Committees, Commissions, Agencies and Boards (CCAB’s).

Break

Martha reminded the commission that one of the things which was done immediately after the first meeting was to develop a missionary prayer calendar. Gordon and Rose did this work almost two years ago – right after our first meeting in Chicago. On March 31, 2008 we received an email from Mary Brennan saying that she and David Copley are working on a missionary calendar which will have specifics of the missionaries and prayers for them. David will determine who is being prayed for when, and Mary and David will develop the meditations.

Rose expressed concern all of the extra information is not needed. The missionaries need to be added to the Sunday prayer list that churches download. Gordon agreed.

Saulo asked Brian if he would be reporting our concerns to the Presiding Bishop. Brian said he was charged with getting more information from the management team is open to suggestions from the SCWM.

Gordon wanted to know when new missionaries would be under the new policy as well as the timing of the implementation to those who are in the field.

Heather stated two issues: one is caring for the missionaries and the other is how decisions get made. Clarification of the role of SCWM will be helpful.

Kitty expressed concern about how the new policy for missionaries was made.

Leo has had several situations with two missionaries from his diocese. One was dropped from missionary funding. It is important to know who to contact at the Church Center about these situations as they arise.

JoAnn asked about the locations of the new mission centers. Brian said he four center directors are in New York and it is the view that those who hold those jobs will do very little travel. The hope is that this will build in greater accountability. The regional centers around the country are: Los Angeles, Omaha, Atlanta and Seattle. In these regional offices, all four centers will be represented. One of the regional offices continues to be the Washington office, adding only the immigration advocacy officer. Most of the jobs in the regional offices have not yet been filled. Bishop Epting will be going to Omaha, but the other two positions have yet to be hired. Part of the tasks of those people is to be the eyes and ears for the Presiding Bishop to bring back the concerns of the regions. Asia/Pacific will be left in New York.

Gordon wondered if there was a way to get feedback from the missionaries that are serving overseas. For a long time this has been a concern.

Robert wants to know why we are not supporting our missionaries currently.

Heather expressed concern about the Young Adult Service Corp (YASC) members who have suggested a lack of support once they are placed. She stated the need to have a pastoral response to those who are going to do mission work, as well as educational resources.

Brian said he is taking all of this information back to the management team. He is aware of the policy issues and implications and stated that level funding and dwindling funding have been part of the financial statements over the years. There are many needs within the church. The YASC and the Volunteers for Mission are important and there are different solutions for these categories.

Michael mentioned the 5% cuts are incredibly odd considering the incredible amount of time spent at General Convention making mission priorities as well as adapting and budgeting for them.

Robert said there was a historical summary of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS) budget from 25% to less than 15% for Anglican and Global Relations (AGR), at the same time that we represent ourselves as a global church, though historically, as a percentage of the budget has declined substantially.

Gordon said there is something else that is very significant for all of our missionaries which is the drop in the dollar which has affected all of the missionary's salaries. So they have had a significant cut in their salaries, which we have to take into account as we look at a 5% cut.

Julio said the more than one hour it took to get here from the airport, we were talking about how expensive gas prices are, and the price continues to rise. In the Dominican Republic, the price for one gallon of gas is \$5.50. Which means in the Dominican Republic it is more expensive for the missionary to move around than it is for a person in the US. We need to think about the missionaries and the minimal necessities that they need to do their work, and remember that they are offering themselves for the mission of the church. They could have more comfortable and better lives here, but they have decided to give themselves for the church and the mission of the church overseas, which we appreciate so much in the Dominican Republic.

Heather asked “If half of the missionaries were to leave the Dominican Republic, how would that affect the diocese?”

Julio responded it them greatly. We would have to readjust.

Kitty stated the missionaries are a representative of the relationship of the Episcopal Church with people in the Dominican Republic as well all of the work being done in the Dominican Republic.

Julio agreed that the missionaries are a solid bridge to strengthen relationships.

In the discussion about the Blue Book Report Brian said there will be different staff people involved based on the agenda of SCWM...

Michael wants to know the canons were violated and call the Church Center into accountability. Brian said there needs to be some definition between the role of the Executive Council and this commission. It is expressing some of the same concerns.
the cost.

Meeting in recess for lunch with the seminarians of CDSP at Noon.

Meeting reconvenes at 1:30p.

Housekeeping

- The funds for Myanmar that we requested for Kitty have been sent. Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission (EPGM) dues still have not been paid, and Martha is following up on that.
- SCWM is staying within the budget. It would be helpful to have an ongoing update of the financial status of the SCWM.

Missionary Prayer Calendar

Reviewing the email sent from Mary Brennan: the missionary prayer calendar will include: a brief reflection, prayers, specifics about the missionary featured in a weekly format. The content of the prayers as well as who is chosen will be determined by the mission office.

Martha – do we want to let them continue doing their work; do we want to send it back to Gordon and Rose to draft a letter regarding the list?

Rose – I think that our intention was that the missionaries would be prayed for in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer. It’s fine if they want to do their thing, but I want the other too.

Martha – I do not think that this will work to add it to the Anglican Cycle of Prayer because it is not our document. What I am hearing is that you want not only the thing they are doing, but that they also need a list by name and date for the year so that people can access it.

Gordon – We would like a simple list which is accessible to be used by parishes, without the extra prayers and biographies, those can then be accessed on the website.

Leo – It's for Episcopal Church parishes? Then it should be accompanied by a letter from the Presiding Bishop.

Martha – What is it we want – a list and a letter from the church center emailed to all of the parishes?

Michael – We could also distribute it through ENS.

Martha – I would suggest that Rose and Gordon get together and do a quick letter to ask for the yearly list in addition to the work that they are doing.

Gordon – it would also be good to send it to Daughters of the King.

Everyone, Everywhere Conference Update (Kitty & Heather)

Heather reported the conference would be a good way to make connections and find out that is doing mission work and where it is being done. There will be a focus on short term missions. There is a great financial restraint for the conference. Julio mentioned he has to lead a workshop, but they cannot pay for it. Rose suggested and it was decided SCWM would pay for Julio to attend Martha announced Kitty and Heather going, but they are in a working capacity. She asked if two others were interested in attending. Kitty reminded the commission that The Global Episcopal Mission (GEM) Network and the EPGM annual meetings are being held in conjunction with this conference. We need to have a representative from this group at the EPGM meeting since we are members. Joseph and Robert were interested in attending as well as Julio.

Gordon questioned why this conference was not for this not being a joint event with the Lutherans. Kitty said AGR decided to do this conference on their own.

Housekeeping

- Martha passed out the travel reimbursement form.
- Rose – checked in to see if the scooter she rented is reimbursable.
- Travel to airport for return flights was discussed.

Covenant Committees

Executive Council is putting together a committee to oversee the block grants. Viki Garvey has asked the commission to give them any feedback about how they should go about putting a process in place to ensure accountability and to watch the outcome of grants. Kitty, having worked with ERD in Myanmar, and seeing how they do that, as well as United Thank Offering (UTO) and how they asked for feedback, might be two places to review. Trinity Wall Street was another suggestion. Joseph stated one of the problems in Central America is that one diocese can receive grants from several places, so one diocese can have more funding than others.

Leo suggested an internal audit as well as an external auditor for each of the dioceses is important for reporting purposes. According to Brian he thinks that they are looking for something more relational which would include goals and objectives.

Heather said she had written the Liberia Covenant Committee report, but was not sure where to send it. Kitty said that with the restructuring it should probably be sent to James Teets.

Heather asked about the accountability for these reports. They are used as a way of holding both sides accountable. In Liberia, she stated, they used the paper they were given as a

checklist, and it seemed like they felt like they had to check things off of the list in order to remain in relationship. A report was made that reflected the relationship between the two groups, but no one knows how to ensure that both sides are responsible to one another outside of the meeting. Gordon said there was not a clear vision of what the work was of a covenant committee, nor is there clarity about what the committee does or what comes out of AGR.

Joseph said there was not a clear understanding of the covenant committees but afterwards there were documents and things to show how we go forward.

Martha responded the SCWM needs to know what the staff activity is in relationship the roles of the covenant committees as well as the roles and responsibility of the members,.

Heather read resolution A118 from the 75 General Convention (p. 304-305 of the Blue Book) for clarity.

JoAnn said one wonders what their role is because there is one person who has done everything for the last 30 years.

Leo claims that's what makes a lack of interest, because they seem like professionals.

Other points in the discussion were mentioned by Heather. There is a tipping point to how long you can be on the committee, because you can get to a point where you can't see how they have moved and changed, but you also need the historical perspective. It would also be helpful to know who is on the committee and their terms.

Kitty said it would be great to make sure that missionaries are invited to these meetings to help give local information.

JoAnn found it was even difficult to tell who was in charge of the meeting of the covenant.

Julio has been on the Covenant Committee for the Caribbean, which never came to fruition for a number of reasons. It seems that the focus of the meeting was on money and not really focused on the best interest of the churches. Trying to move churches to autonomy is not really in the best interest of the church, because it neglects the relationship and the reality of the country. Looking at the history of Mexico and IARCA he thinks that what is in order is to start being more introspective. This is a process that has some failures, so we should try to establish a different type of covenant that will be more fruitful. We need to establish a development plan for each of the covenant groups. We will then have a greater financial accountability and it should include in each province a financing of reestablishment for infrastructure and mission. We could have a process that would help people find resources that could be channeled through that corporation in the United States which would supplement the decrease in block grants. This way, at the end of a period of time there would be enough resources so that those added to the local resources from the province which could make the diocese sustainable as well as the missionary work within the diocese and the province.

Kitty asked if Julio would consider that you take this idea into the recommending body for the restructuring of these committees, because he has a working model that is successful and if it could be replicated in regards to the other covenant relationships, then we will have the structure to help give an advantage to these places. Then we're not searching for something that already exists. Of course, these other covenants have to be tailored to suit their context, but you have given us a model that works.

Gordon said it was recommended to Liberia to follow the Dominican Republic model. And he said since we've been talking about our passion and concern about missionaries and we are all aware of the limits of the decline money from the church, this would be a way of lowering the amount of money spent from the budget on covenants, which would raise the money available for missionaries.

Joseph said he hopes we can adopt these ideas from Julio and present a resolution at General Convention.

Heather – perhaps if the Covenant Committees are sub-committees of SCWM then the SCWM person should be the chair of that group, or the co-chair so that there is a direct line of accountability back to the SCWM as well as to General Convention.

Accountability Issues:

- a clear mission statement for each of the Covenant Committees
- need to know who is on the committees and for how long, and how they were appointed
- need reports submitted to the Standing Commission on World Mission according to Resolution A118 from the 75th General Convention.
- staff-related roles need to be clearly defined
- need to have the roles of the committee members clearly defined
- term limits of 6 years should have the option to renew for an additional 3 years as deemed appropriate by the covenant committee
- redo the covenants
- finances, infrastructure and capital reviewed
- need to develop training for members of the covenant committee
 - one day orientation
 - resource list for members
 - clear transition of records to new members from old members
- chair needs to be the SCWM person
- audit reports from the new committee need to come to the Standing Commission on World Mission

Report on the Covenant Committee Meeting in Liberia

Heather shared the report with the group, and read the advice from the Episcopal Church of Liberia to the Episcopal Church. Gordon said was wonderful to have a conversation with the people there. It was also great to have Kurt Barnes with them who was able to answer the financial questions asked. We also had people from the Church Pension fund to help us sort out the issues facing the Pension Plan. We also were thankful for the guidance of Emmanuel Sserwadda who guided us and helped us hear the quiet concerns of the people of Liberia.

Final Blue Book Resolutions due by December 12, 2008.

Brian said he was edified by hearing about the areas of interest of this commission, but one observation, is that the issue of triangulation with Executive Council, SCWM and Church Center is great. It seems like there is a great deal of overlap of jurisdiction and we will need to clarify the roles and the canons because it gives dual oversight.

Review of Priorities set out at last meeting:

Priorities for our report to General Convention 2009

1. Missionaries
 - YASC
 - Maintaining adequate support for missionaries
2. Covenants
 - MRI
 - MDGs
 - Executive Council – ask the diocese that are not giving to the Episcopal Church to give to the MDGs
3. Education
 - Mission Education Partners (EFM)
 - Seminaries
 - Diaconate
 - Training and Development of missionaries
4. Funding Provincial Offices and structure outside of the Episcopal Church
5. Funding missionaries outside of the Episcopal Church
6. Volunteers for Mission – pay the on the ground cost which is covered under most programs

Proposed Mission Priorities for the SCOWM for the 2010-2012 Budget

1. Fund Missionaries – maintaining adequate support
 - internal and external missionaries
 - Volunteers for Mission
2. Fund Covenant Committees – resolution coming from Executive Council to ask Diocese to fund the assessment this way
3. Honoring the Covenants that we made – but perhaps that we need to review the Covenants and renegotiation has to happen so it cannot be cut
 - Sacred Cow issue – we cannot arbitrarily cut the funds we need to renegotiate the funding within the Covenant Committees because cutting the funds without speaking with the Covenant Committees breaks relationships and causes difficulty with our brothers and sisters around the world.
4. Mutual Responsibility and Interdependence – mission education – EFM, diaconate education, packaged Episcopal Program
 - Training and development – the grant process

5. Young Adult Service Corps
6. MDGs
7. Funding of Provincial Offices
8. Companion Diocese honoring relationships and examine funding

Trip to the Dominican Republic

Julio shared some of the plans for our trip to the Dominican Republic.

The Members of the Standing Commission on World Mission joined the CDSP Community for Eucharist at 5:45p.m.

The Standing Commission then enjoyed dinner with seminarians. The seminarians shared their mission work with the commission. A report was given by Kitty concerning Myanmar. Heather and Gordon shared a video from Liberia. Saulo shared news from the Mexico Covenant Committee and JoAnn shared her report from the Philippines.

Meeting in recess at 9p.m.

April 4, 2008 Meeting Reopened at 9a.m., Julio led us in Morning Prayer

Members Present:

- Martha Alexander
- JoAnn Roberts Armstead
- Kitty Babson
- Rose Fichera-Eagen
- Leopold Frade
- Julio Holguin
- Joseph Jerome
- Robert Munday
- Heather Payton
- Saulo Salvador
- Gordon Scruton

Members Excused:

6. Michael Curry
7. Carol Taylor

Other:

- Michael Barlowe, Special Representative for the President of the House of Deputies
- Dinorah Padro, Spanish Language Translator
- Brian Grieves, Representative from the National Church Office

Julio gave an update on the work of the Church in Cuba. Julio has served as the interim bishop for one year.

Leo was in Cuba twice, and has met with the Bishop of Cuba three times. He spoke with the bishop about the autonomy of Cuba. The church is alive and growing. They have two bishops, one is a woman. One lives in Havana and one lives in Santiago. They have divided the island,

and are beginning to consider dividing the diocese. The bishop there said u there is a financial issue in dividing the diocese. The church is free to act but they cannot do ministry in the street without permission, but the work of the church is developing. The Presiding Bishop is doing good work with Cuba

Martha suggested Leo could be our contact to Cuba.

JoAnn questioned the monitoring of Europe? Martha responded that the reason Europe was listed as a priority was Helena Mbele-Mbong was on this Commission and was from Europe.

Julio suggested that as we are considering the budget for the next triennium; we need to take into consideration the rising cost of gasoline as well as lodging.

Break

Martha stated there are a few issues in front of us currently. We have the questions from Gregory Straub and the Blue Book Report, Gordon suggests working in four groups.

The four areas are.

1. Mission funding policy
2. Executive Council
 - o 5% cut from missionaries
 - o radical recommendation re Covenant Funding – Dominican Republic Model
3. Process and Overlap of policy oversight regarding overseas mission policy SCWM/Executive Council/Church Staff
 - o canonical issues
 - o restructure of AGR
4. Letter to Missionaries

Groups in subcommittee work.

Meeting reconvenes at 1:30p.

Presentation on the Mission Funding Policy Work Group:

Process and overlap of policy and oversight re overseas mission policy (Standing Commission on World Mission/Executive Council/Staff) – especially in light of the restructuring of the Anglican and Global Relations

1. Resolution for 2009 General Convention on implementing the vision (updated as necessary) in *Companions in Transformation* as the policy for overseas mission of The Episcopal Church.
2. Resolution calling for a structural review of the various relationships among the Standing Commission, Executive Council and staff to ensure mutual responsibility for implementing and overseeing General Convention policies. (A possibility of calling for a “summit” at the beginning of the triennium to divide work/oversight etc during the triennium).

Discussion:

The group requests that *Companions in Transformation* be translated into French.

Julio said that in trying to answer the first question given to us by Gregory Straub, perhaps it would be beneficial to say that we need things translated into French. Also, we need to address the funding allocated to cover the Spanish translation because only covered 1,000 copies, and they requested 5,000. Leo agreed we are doing a tremendous disservice to the church because we do not have the materials to give to people so that they can learn and work together.

Michael suggested we need to meet with other appropriate groups in order to determine roles... If we cannot meet with all of those groups then we need to coordinate our meeting with Executive Council in order to deal with policy and oversight issues. We need to create a binding policy to attend to mission work by Episcopalians all over the world.

Joann said we need to ensure that we pay attention to the policies of the church

Kitty reiterated relationships are key during times of tension and need to be maintained.

Michael suggests the Blue Book Report would be a good place for a discussion about structure. The General Convention needs to be involved in this issue.

The SCWM worked on editing and creating a letter. This letter addresses the area of concern: *Mission Funding Policy*.

The group reviewed and drafted a resolution concerning funding missionaries.

The SCWM drafted a letter to send to the missionaries, who included: a cover letter, the letter written by SCWM, a resolution, and a letter to the missionaries as well as David Copley's letter and the letter from the missionary.

Report from the Prayer List Subcommittee:

Gordon read the report to the Commission

All approved of the letter.

Martha reminded the commission about the idea to Gordon read a book together. Gordon's suggestion was that we all read together *Companions in Transformation* and it will be on our agenda for the next meeting.

Kitty proposed SCWM should donate money to Celtic Cross in honor of the seminarians and their help and work this week with our meeting.

Martha assigned people to mission priority committees.

Meeting in recess for dinner.

April 5, 2008 Meeting Reopened at 9 a.m., Robert led us in Morning Prayer

Members Present:

- Martha Alexander
- JoAnn Roberts Armstead
- Kitty Babson
- Julio Holguin
- Robert Munday
- Heather Payton

Members Excused:

- Michael Curry
- Rose Fichera-Eagen
- Leopold Frade
- Joseph Jerome
- Saulo Salvador
- Gordon Scruton
- Carol Taylor
- Michael Barlowe, Special Representative for the President of the House of Deputies

Other:

- Dinorah Padro, Spanish Language Translator
- Brian Grieves, Representative from the National Church Office

The meeting began with final revisions and approval for the resolution concerning the missionary review and funding.

Note: The following documents will be sent to each commission member in the following ways:
1st Set – cover letter, letter to missionary, resolution, funding document, letter from the missionary

2nd Set – prayer letter, full notes, minute, letter to Gregory and priorities list

Letter to Missionary discussed and written.

This letter is to let the missionaries know the SCWM members are interested in them and share their concerns as well as how the SCWM is addressing the policy issue.

Housekeeping –

Margaret was going to get copies of the Philippines Prayer Book and Hymnals for us; we do not have them yet.

Covenant Committees

Martha mentioned the possibility of ensuring that there was a representative from one of the overseas dioceses at each meeting, but it costs money. She suggested we revisit that issue and decide if that is something the SCWM wants to do. If so it should be a conscious effort and included in our budget. It was important to the covenant committees when they met with the SCWM in October.

The chair of each Covenant Committee needs to be notified by Martha so that we can receive the Covenant Committee reports.

It was suggested that the Chair of Covenant Committees automatically be the SCWM member. This is a possible resolution for General Convention.

Suggestions for next time for the next commission meeting:

1. become more informed regarding the structure issues between International Concerns and SCWM
2. Covenant Committees
3. Skills needed for new members for next triennium
4. Blue Book
5. Dominican Republic visitations, presentation regarding missionary work in the Dominican Republic

The Meeting Adjourned at Noon.

Heather Payton
Secretary