

Standing Commission on World Mission
September 24-27, 2008
Don Juan Beach Resort
Boca Chica, Dominican Republic
Minutes

Members Present:

- Martha Alexander
- Jo Ann Roberts Armstead
- Kitty Babson
- Leopold Frade (Joined the group on Thursday.)
- Julio Holguin
- Joseph Jerome
- Heather Payton
- Margaret Rose, Director of Mission Leadership Center (Joined the group on Friday.)
- Saulo Salvador
- Carol Taylor

Members Excused:

- Rose Fichera-Eagen
- Michael Curry
- Leopold Frade
- Robert Munday
- Gordon Scruton

Other:

- Mark Harris, Executive Council Liaison
- Bill Skilton, Assistant Bishop of the Dominican Republic, translating
- David Copley, Mission Personnel Director

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Martha opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. with a prayer. She reminded the members of the norm which states the members will stop for prayer every hour and will have one minute of silence followed by singing or a prayer.

1. Introductions Members of the SCWM introduced themselves by name and diocese. Members also updated each other on what is happening in their lives.

2. Housekeeping

Members reviewed the Group Norms established at the last meeting.

Commission Members reviewed the agenda for the meeting and approved it, including a priority of flexibility.

The SCWM will meet with the Commission of Theological Education in Latin America who are also meeting at the Don Juan Beach Resort in Boca Chica.

3. Approval of the Agenda for the SCWM meeting

The agenda approved by consensus.

4. Approval of M19minutes for the SCWM meeting in Berkeley, California

Julio moved that the minutes be approved.

Kitty seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

Finances

Budget:

Asked for \$70,000

2007 = \$25,319

2008 = \$12,295.92

Remaining = \$32,385.41

This will be used to pay for the current meeting as well as for a subcommittee to meet to write the Blue Book Report.

Need to follow up on the money for the Society of the Celtic Cross at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific as noted in the minutes from the meeting in Berkeley, California

Kitty – asked to make sure that the funds for the EPGM are paid and up-to-date.

Handouts – expenditures and David Copley’s report.

Update on Covenant Committees

All of the Covenant Committee Reports are attached to the minutes of this report separately, for the purpose of the General Convention Records.

Brazil - Carol

IARCA – Joseph

Liberia – Heather

Mexico – Saulo

Philippines – JoAnn

“Everyone, Everywhere” Conference Update

Kitty – Episcopal Partners for Global Mission (EPGM) steering committee affirmed the excellence of the conference, recognizing that it was a first conference with only 10 months of preparation. Particularly, we want to affirm the excellent workshops, good meetings (within the context of the conference), excellent plenary speakers who addressed timely issues. Perhaps the best part of the conference was the willingness of the participating groups who had left EPGM. EPGM was thankful to donors, such as Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). who made the conference possible.

Julio presented a workshop at the conference which he said was a very good opportunity for the Dominican Republic. He was also a panelist at the Hispanic Ministries workshop.

Heather – attended the conference and stated it was great that everyone was given the ability to share their opinions and to look for ways to move forward together as a church.

Bill –said he felt very welcomed the conference.

The meeting was in recess at 9p.

September 25, 2008

Morning Prayers were led by Mark.

Housekeeping:

Leo joined the group and was welcomed, as well as the group was updated on his work.

Update the agenda.

Update on the Hurricane Damage – Leo

There have been many hurricanes in the Gulf recently, and Leo was asked to give an update on how the churches in the region were/are affected. In the eastern part of Cuba, at least 90 Episcopalians are totally homeless (out of the thousands of those who are homeless in the area). Haiti is struggling after the hurricanes because bridges and roads are out so the only way to get food to people is by boat. One of the churches in the Bahamas lost its steeple and the rectory was destroyed. He stated there are a lot of people of our faith who are suffering at this time and he is not sure what we can do in Cuba; I know that ERD is

responding in Haiti. He acknowledged it is frustrating knowing that so many people are homeless and hungry and there is not much we can do.

Update on the Executive Council – Mark

With the reconfiguration at the Church Center, there is great concern about who to contact regarding world mission. The larger issue for the International Concerns Committee is whether the dispersing of World Mission staff throughout the Church Center means we are losing focus on our mandate as the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS). So the challenge back to the Mission Center Directors is to report to the Executive Council telling the Council how this is working and how this change deals with the issues of world mission.

Mark shared information regarding the historic relationship between the Executive Council and the role of the DFMS. The Executive Council has worked more as program oversight and less about mission. It used to be that once a year the Executive Council operated as the DFMS, but that has come to an end due to a resolution of General Convention. Everything is now based on the priorities of the General Convention.

He stated the International Concerns Committee, is struggling with the idea of Executive Council running counter to the focus of the DFMS. This is a concern with foreign and domestic mission. It shows up in areas like the appointment of missionary bishops.

Discussion followed concerning missionary bishops. David said they do not appoint them anymore. Mark indicated missionary bishops could be helpful within our covenants. Provincial block grants are now being made according to David. And it is up to the province how the funds are utilized.

Where the focus lies for the church, whether it is with the DFMS or the programmatic engine of General Convention is a concern of the International Concerns Committee. All of the movement of the last 90 years has been around becoming a corporate entity focused around the Executive Council and not around the DFMS. This has created big challenges around mission.

Julio added if paternalism is negative then not take any action to help a diocese is also negative. The focus would be on helping to grow, trying to overcome dependency, not paternalism.

Mark – the other two issues we are dealing with are mission personnel and the relationship between United Thank Offering (UTO) and the Executive Council Staff. There is a UTO staff person who is paid for by the Church Center budget, but they have their own board who decides where those funds go. The institutional question is, should they be their own non-profit (like ERD) or should they be absorbed into the center, with the funds going into the budget and with a board that is made up of people appointed by the Presiding Bishop. According to David UTO has an ambiguous legal status. Mark acknowledged parties involved with UTO and the Episcopal Church have been in conversation.

Mark – there are corporate legal issues that need to be addressed in order to protect and help all of the parties that are involved with UTO and the Episcopal Church. The big problem is that the group doesn't want to be co-opted but know that they need some governance.

Update on Myanmar – Kitty

Kitty shared that she finds that her work in Myanmar is really a mission partnership because all that she does is with the people of Myanmar. She said we need to begin to think about mission theologically not just institutionally. The foundation of her work is around and for relationships with the church in Myanmar. Kitty will be working with HOPE International to incorporate grief and recovery skills into a conference to help people deal with the after effects of the cyclone in Myanmar. Kitty has applied for a permit to import goods from Myanmar which will help the church to develop cottage industries and will give them the promise of some profit to develop ministries.

Update on Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission (EPGM) – Kitty

Kitty gave an overview of the history of EPGM. EPGM is creating an interactive website which will provide links to member agency websites. It will have an editorial page which will direct people to the other ministries, book reviews, mission reports, and other documents with the objective of enlightening the mission conversation within the church. They have the funds as well as the people who can get the website up and running by May. In May, EPGM will meet with Global Episcopal Mission (GEM) for a conference in Burlingame, California. It will be like the "Everyone, Everywhere" Conference. There will be plenary speakers, workshops, and panels. The hope is that these conversations will be theological in their direction and will help to shape the conversations at the conference.

Update on Missionaries – David

At the moment we have 70-80 missionaries: 40 appointed missionaries, 12 Young Adult Service Corps (YASC), and 18 volunteers for mission. Due to the rising cost of mission and the decreased amount in the budget we need to look closely at the mission funding processes. Discussion followed with an emphasis on the theology of mission today. Missionaries build new relationships which are important to the mission of the church. Another change is taking place. More dioceses are sending people for slightly longer than short-term missions, like three or four months. We are working to find out more about this and how to work this diocese.

Kitty brought up the issues of educating for mission. Julio reported that the Diocese of the Dominican Republic has been very favored throughout its' history by the presence of missionaries. In this time when finances are diminishing and missionaries need to raise more funds, the Executive Council members took the initiative to have one Sunday dedicated to world mission in all of the dioceses to collect funds for mission and that offering would be brought to General Convention in June. If each member of the church offers \$1 it would generate \$2 million for mission. He still has not seen resolution yet from Executive Council. In the Dominican Republic they are planning to do it symbolically, by trying to get one peso or dollar from each member. Julio said people have to learn how to be thankful, and they are very thankful in the Dominican Republic for the support that they have received over the years.

Another topic raised by Leo was asking if a diocese could be a sending organization and David responded those are the details that need to be hashed out in terms of the financial support. How the general move concerning finances going to happen and the implementation of general guidelines were two issues raised by David.

Mark suggested there is a need to craft a resolution calling the General Convention to take seriously the focus on mission, in terms of making it possible for people to serve the church in the world, and to ask for a massive increase in funding. If the focus of the DFMS is mission then it needs to be funded appropriately.

Mark – we are writing an "A resolution", but it would be good to have the support of several dioceses. On some levels it is spinning the wheels if it is a plea for money if you know that you aren't going to get it. From a policy standpoint, if SCWM and the International Concerns committee say clearly that the focus of the DFMS is mission and the engagement of others around the globe is the primary way of doing this, then we need to fund the work appropriately.

The group discussed the details around the cost of insurance and pension for missionaries, and the possibility of a resolution, as well as the details concerning mission funding.

The SCWM broke out into small groups to address the issues concerning the Blue Book Report. Small groups worked over an extended lunch period. The small groups looked at the Covenant Committee relationships and the funding of missionaries.

Discussion Concerning Covenant Committee Oversight:

Julio suggested we look for increased funding. Perhaps the amount that the block grants are decreased by each year could go into a fund that is invested so that when the covenant grant process ends, then that

fund becomes an endowment. The capital could be touched but the interest could be used to support mission in the province. This could be one answer for additional funding.

Mark reminded the members that there have been two resolutions at General Convention that the money which is not spent be held for use in world mission. The problem is that the budgeting has changed, so tracking the money becomes more difficult. Also, it is impossible to hold the church to a promise for more than three years, because of General Convention.

Martha raised the issue of not having a list of the chairs and members of the Covenant Committees. Heather agreed this is an issue because we have a difficult time getting the reports because no one is in charge and SCWM is responsible for reporting to General Convention regarding the Covenants.

Missionary Funding Subcommittee

- I. Increase the budget by \$1 million.
 - a. Money for bishops to meet with other bishops and for speakers on mission at new bishops' conference.
 - b. Larger amount of money to support education in dioceses and raise the awareness of missionaries in the church.
 - i. Support the continued financial efforts of EPGM at the current amount of dollars.
 - ii. \$50,000 for the engagement of diocese in mission sending. This involves getting people from GEM or EPGM to go and engage and challenge diocesan bishops and standing committees, and speak at annual conventions to work to engender more support of missionaries.
1. There is a real need for dioceses and bishops to have greater awareness of the mission activity of the church that spans not just the financial but the general support of the missionaries and their relationships and ministry. There needs to be a major emphasis to support the missionaries in new ways and at all levels of the life of the church.
 - a. Encourage Episcopal Church Women Groups to participate in sending gift packages to missionaries.
 - b. Prayer request in parishes.
 - c. Other ideas to raise awareness of the work of the missionaries need to be considered.

Discussion

The reality is that the amount that will be put into the budget is the amount that is on the yellow sheet. In addition to whatever number is agreed on, there needs to be an additional amount of money available for work with bishops around their personal engagement with other bishops from around the communion.

Covenant Committee Resolutions

1. Revision of A118.
 - a. A rotation system needs to be implemented.
 - b. There is a need to ensure that there are four people on each side of the covenant committees (SCWM feel strongly that term limits should be followed, and the rotation must be followed as well.)
 - c. Leadership and reporting requirements.
 - i. SCWM must report to the General Convention
 - ii. The covenant committees need a person who is appointed from the covenant committee be responsible for turning in the reports.
 - iii. Information regarding past covenants and the information about the countries need to be given to new covenant committee members.
2. Covenants need to be revisited and funding needs to be reviewed in the next triennium.
3. Brazil resolution resubmitted A119 (Martha & Francisco)
 - a. Funding for Brazil (Martha, Carol, Francisco)

4. Host an event for Covenant Committees. Bruce Woodcock, the Treasurer, and other resource people need to help the Covenant Committees work on redrafting their covenants and financial plans. (The first consultation on autonomy was hosted by SCWM.)
 - a. The event should be held in 2010.
 - b. The event will allow people the resources they need to work towards autonomy and will help break down some of the patriarchal ties.
 - c. Require that covenant committees schedule their US meeting for this conference, so the only additional costs are the speakers and resource people. SCWM will also have their meeting at the same time. This will aid the budget.
 - d. Choose a location that is neutral – like Panama because it is easy to fly into and could include the Liberian Covenant Committee members who are excluded from meeting in the United States.
 - e. ERD, ECW and UTO should be a part to ensure they understand the lines of communication with the covenant committees.
 - f. The mission personnel officers need to be involved and need to be clear about reporting.

Other Resolutions

Rose suggested to Martha that we have a resolution regarding Human Traffic but apparently The Status of Women Commission is working on this issue.

Julio asked David if they have a program for marketing, for sharing the excitement of the missionaries with the greater church, perhaps a DVD. David replied there is one available but something new is being prepared for General Convention.

Guidelines for Missionaries – David

The last policy and procedure manual for missionaries was in 1990. The document was really long and included all kinds of things. The new document is following the “less is more” model and really trying to look at the salient points of mission work and to address the key issues of relationship.

The SCWM resolves the following concerning the guidelines:

Resolved, that the Standing Commission on World Mission having carefully studied the Missionary Guidelines for Young Adult Service Corps and Volunteers For Mission and Appointed Missionaries forward them to Executive Council with our strong support to be approved at the earliest possible occasion so they may be implemented.

Housekeeping: Discussion concerning using Consensus Model

Joseph moved that we use the consensus model for decision making at our meetings as needed. The motion passed with dissent. (This will be added to our norms.)

The commission was in recess for the afternoon.

After dinner, the Standing Commission on World Mission met with the Anglican Theological Education in Latin America

Members of the two commissions introduced themselves.

The Very Rev. Ashton J. Brooks, Director of the International Anglican Center for Theological Studies - Commission de Educacion Teologica para America Latina y el Caribe (CETALC) (Commission on Theological Education for Latin America and the Caribbean) shared information concerning their meeting, which was coming to a close

Then Martha shared with the commission the work of the Standing Commission on World Mission.

Questions and Answers with Director Brooks and with The Rt. Rev. Armando Guerra, President of CETALC and Bishop of Guatemala.

The meeting was is in recess at 9:45p

Friday, September 25, 2008

The SCWM left the hotel at 8:00 a.m. to spend the morning learning about local mission, beginning with a tour of Santiago de Apostol Church and Preschool in Angelina. SCWM met with the Rev. Felix Encarnacion and learned about the work that the church is doing with towns that were originally funded by the sugar cane industry. The mill has left the area but the people still grow sugar cane.

Our second stop was at Buen Pastor which is located in Barrio Las Flores in San Pedro. We took a tour of the current school and church and then visited the new school building with the Sisters of the Transfiguration, Priscilla and Gabriela.

The next visit was to Clinica Esperanza where we met with missionary doctors, Michael and Anita Dohn and Cathy Donahue. We also toured the church and saw the many renovations going on at the clinic in order to help more people.

We went to the Bishop Kellogg Retreat Center where we heard presentations from some of the missionaries.

Michael Dohn, SAMS Missionary, shared that many things have come out of their ministry that they never expected, including the empowerment and education of women. Health and literacy are “intrinsic” and economic opportunity is “decisive”. They have found that the increase in microcredit and health education is helping to change the shape of the Dominican Republic. They do a great deal of cooperation and collaboration to make the clinic run, from specific congregations, diocese but also from Rotary International, ERD, UTO, and the Clinton Foundation.

David Johnson, a TEC Missionary, and retired pediatrician works in Barahona, on the SW coast, very close to Haiti. He works with a population that is two or three generation Haitians who were brought to the Dominican Republic to work in the sugar fields. He has worked to increase better health through improved maternal-child health. Again, he has been supported through many organizations. He has also worked to provide safe drinking water. From his research he has found that the first cause of problems for a family is access to clean water, and second is a lack of a latrine in the house. He also learned that people were not preparing their food in a clean way, and the distance between the kitchen and the latrine (if there was one) was only a few feet.

Karen Carroll is a TEC Missionary in Boca Chica. Karen works with the Episcopal Complex. They have a school with 300 children, an active congregation, and a nursing home, where she works. They are starting to build a convention and retreat center for 100 people. This culture does not believe in nursing homes in this country, they try to take care of their aged. They have six people currently there. They did have a man, 76 years old, and he had his first birthday party ever in the home.

Michael and April are TEC Missionaries at the Seminary. He was a former teachers at ETSS and after he resigned they were wondering what they should do. One of their long-term goals is to help build the faculty and to help build a stronger institution. Michael also serves at the Church of the Epiphany where they have services in English and in Spanish. It is the last parish to have an English service. There are a few challenges for the seminary: first they need to learn ways of learning that meet in the middle from the north and the south, and the new center is the second because they need to prepare for the changes that it will bring.

The SCWM shared lunch with all of the missionaries before returning back to the hotel.

The SCWM was joined by Margaret Rose. She began by explaining how the church has been reorganized.

One of the first items of discussion was who the prime contact was for SCWM. One of the reasons for Margaret attending the meeting is the fact she wants to know and understand the areas under her prevue and to support David in his role with SCWM. Different people, as appropriate, will attend the SCWM Meetings.

Mark updated Margaret on the discussion about the covenant committees and asked Margaret who the appropriate person would be at the Church Center to contact. This has not been determined according to Margaret.

All of the groups who are involved in mission need to find a way to work together.

Review of Mandate – Barbara Mann, Standing Commission on Structure

The SCWM worked to produce a response to Barbara Mann’s email.

Notes from the discussion:

Our commission’s work is integral to dismantling racism and works to create cross-cultural relationships. SCWM also recognizes that often anti-racism within the educational course is focused on the differences between skin colors within the United States, but we feel that there is a deep need to address the issues of discrimination, which can be based on socio-economics, language barriers, education level, and other discriminating issues.

It is our hope that in financing mission personnel at a higher level will include those who might not have the financial ability to participate in mission.

We commend the church for their inclusion and financial support for translators, in recognizing that we do not all speak English as our first language. We have tried to work hard to break down the separation between diocese that are in the United States and that are outside of the United States.

We have not seriously addressed what The Episcopal Church does outside of the United States is perceived as racist and imperialist. We need to address how we relate to the churches that disagree with overseas to build relationships.

We do not think that these are canonical changes, we need to have a change of will, and be willing to go and speak to our brothers and sisters who disagree with us, so we can find that we agree on mission, and we need to be able to challenge one another on those areas that we disagree. One of the ways that we hope to address these issues is to demand that the church fund and send more missionaries to serve as bridges to achieve understanding.

The Standing Commission on World Mission is in recess for the Eucharist and Dinner.

Saturday, September 27, 2008

The meeting begins with prayer led by Kitty and Julio.

Housekeeping: Departures for the airport/rides to church

Committee on Structure

We finished writing our report, as well as a resolution regarding updating our mandate.

Missionary Partners – David

David suggests that we need to change the language around the word, “Missionary” and begin to call them and the work that they do, “missionary partners” and “mission partnerships” which is an indication that we want to work alongside others. The SCWM members discussed the comment that “we are invited to do mission, we do not do mission to or at others.”

There was a lively discussion by the SCWM regarding the work of changing the name from Missionary to Mission Partner and all that this would entail.

The SCWM approved the writing of a resolution to change the canons and the name of missionaries to mission partners.

Mission Partner Prayer List – David

The website is currently being updated, but it is taking some time with the changes in the Church Center. David said they want have a map of the world, so people can click on areas and see the mission partners. It will be on the website as soon as the new update takes place. It will also be a part of the materials gearing up to the General Convention. It was reiterated by Martha a prayer list was still needed.

SCWM's Portion of the Millennium Development Goals

Kitty moved that the money for the MDG'S goes to the mission of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic. Heather seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SCWM

There are two people who are on the 2009 list, who are filling a place on the SCWM. There was consensus to advocate for them to continue on the SCWM. There are some members on this Commission who are going off. this triennium. Martha thanked all of the members who are leaving.

Resolutions

The SCWM brainstormed ideas for the writing of resolutions for the 2009 Blue Book Report. The group charged Martha, Robert and Heather to complete the work of writing and then the group would check the work of the subcommittee.

The SCWM adjourned at noon.

Submitted: The Rev. Heather L. Payton, Secretary