

## HOUSE OF DEPUTIES COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF THE CHURCH

### MINUTES

The House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church convened at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 18, 2009, at the Marriott Chicago O'Hare Hotel.

Members attending were Mrs. Matilda Kistler, Deputy from the Diocese of Western North Carolina; Ms. Pauline Getz, Deputy from the Diocese of San Diego; Mr. Joseph S. Ferrell, Deputy from the Diocese of North Carolina; the Rev. Canon Victoria Garvey, Deputy from the Diocese of Chicago; Dr. Anita George, Deputy from Diocese of Mississippi; the Rev. Canon David Johnson, Deputy from the Diocese of Mississippi; Canon Richard Miller, Deputy from the Diocese of Southeast Florida; and the Rev. Dr. Peter Strimer, Deputy from the Diocese of Olympia.

Also attending was Dr. C. Kirk Hadaway, Director of Research at the Episcopal Church Center.

Deputy Kistler, Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order.

The Chair took notice that the following members were not in attendance: the Rev. John Kitagawa, Deputy from the Diocese of Arizona, and the Rev. Canon Dr. Neal Michell, Deputy from the Diocese of Dallas. On motion of Canon Johnson, duly seconded, the Committee granted an excused absence to Deputy Kitagawa who was unable to attend as he was chairing a meeting of the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism. On motion of Canon Johnson, duly seconded, the Committee granted an excused absence to Deputy Mitchell on the assumption that he was preparing for the upcoming episcopal election in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina in which he is a nominee.

The Chair called for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Committee. Deputy Ferrell nominated Deputy Getz. There being no other nominations, the Chair cast a single ballot for Deputy Getz who was duly elected.

The Chair called for nominations for Secretary of the Committee. Dr. George nominated Deputy Ferrell. There being no other nominations, the Chair cast a single ballot for Deputy Ferrell who was duly elected.

The Chair reported that the Secretary of the General Convention has referred to the committee for consideration three resolutions of the 76<sup>th</sup> General Convention.

The Chair laid before the Committee G.C. Res. 2009-A062 as follows:

Parochial Report: Measuring Attendance and Mission

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 76<sup>th</sup> General Convention request the Committee on the State of the Church to consider means by which data can be gathered so as to account for the regularly scheduled primary weekly worship services of missional, co-located or emergent congregations that occur on days other than Sundays or Saturdays; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church consider adding a quantifiable measure of mission to count the number of people served including, but not limited

to, schools, soup kitchens, food pantries, campus ministries and other ministries through which the congregation lives out its mission.

The Committee postponed deliberation pending receipt of clarifying information from the sponsors of the resolution as to the legislative intent.

The Chair laid before the Committee G.S. Res. 2009-C060 as follows:

Parochial Reports: Statistics for Overseas Congregations

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church be directed to include in their report to the 77th General Convention, and all subsequent General Conventions, all statistics pertaining to the life of the congregations in all oversea Dioceses and the Convocation of American Churches in Europe.

The Committee asked Dr. Hadaway to ascertain specifically what statistical information pertaining to non-domestic dioceses is not being fully reported and to report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

The Chair laid before the G.C. Res. 2009-A163 as follows:

HIV/AIDS: Mandate on NEAC AIDS Tutorial

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church mandate that CCABs, Episcopal Church Center staff, and strongly encourage diocesan staff and leaders and all active clergy to take the web-based, self-directed tutorial on HIV/AIDS prepared by the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition (NEAC) during the last triennium. This was directed by General Convention Resolution 2006 A-134, and is readily available at [www.neac.org](http://www.neac.org); and be it further

*Resolved*, That the number of completed tutorials be electronically monitored and reported in the aggregate by NEAC to the 77th General Convention.

Committee members agreed to take the tutorial.

The Committee began discussion of its work plan for the 2009-2012 triennium.

Canon Bonnie Anderson, President of the House of Deputies, joined the meeting. She pointed out that, unlike the standing commissions, the Committee on the State of the Church is a committee of the House of Deputies only and does not report to the House of Bishops or the Presiding Bishop. She said that in the 2006-09 triennium, the committee had issued an interim report that was very useful. Canon Anderson said that the committee need not wait for publication of the Blue Book to disseminate portions of its work, and need not confine its work to information reported in the parochial and diocesan reports. She emphasized that the committee's function is to "hold up a mirror" to the House of Deputies and the whole Church on the current state of the church. She offered to make available to the committee communications tools of her office to enable the committee to gather information from members of the House of Deputies.

Canon Anderson suggested that the committee begin its work by asking Dr. Hadaway to review church-wide data that has been compiled recently from parochial and diocesan reports. The committee might then issue a press release outlining its evaluation of the data.

Canon Anderson left the meeting.

The committee charged Canon Johnson with drafting a press release along the lines suggested by Canon Anderson.

The committee resumed discussion of its work plan.

Deputy Strimer officiated at Compline

The committee stood in recess.

The committee reconvened on Thursday, November 19, 2009, at 9:00 a.m.

Deputy Kistler officiated at Morning Prayer.

The committee recessed at 10:30 a.m. for Celebration of the Holy Eucharist and Commissioning of members of the CCABs, followed by lunch.

The committee reconvened at 1:00 p.m. and resumed its discussion.

Deputy Kistler reported that Deputy Kitagawa intends to continue as a member of the committee as he does not anticipate future conflicts in meeting dates with the Anti-Racism Committee.

On motion of Deputy Strimer, duly seconded, the committee agreed to the following schedule for future meetings during the triennium:

- Telephonic/electronic meeting in January 2010, date and time to be announced.
- Plenary meeting April 26-27, 2010, location to be announced.
- Telephonic/electronic meeting during the week of October 4, 2010, date and time to be announced.
- Plenary meeting March 14-15, 2011, location in New York City to be announced.
- Telephonic/electronic meeting in September or October 2011, date and time to be announced.

On motion of Deputy Getz, duly seconded, the committee adopted the following work plan for the triennium:

**I. Subcommittee on the Laity.** Deputy Miller and Dr. George

- Basic demographics of the Church
- Means of communication
- Formation of the laity
- Means available to the laity to assure full knowledge of the life of the Church
- Growth of lay leadership

- Continuation of time/talent at all levels of the Church

Sources of data: The Episcopal Church Center; Episcopal Communicators; a survey of members of the House of Deputies; Anecdotal stories; Interviews with laity in the continuing dioceses (i.e., dioceses formerly led by bishops have disassociated themselves from The Episcopal Church)

## **II. Subcommittee on the Clergy.** Deputy Johnson and Deputy Garvey

- Data on the number of clergy not actively serving congregations or other ministries, e.g., retired, recently deceased, inhibited or deposed, and non-parochial
- Data on clergy holding degrees from accredited Episcopal seminaries
- Data on the number of clergy being prepared under alternative methods approved by new Title III
- Data on the number of dioceses engaged in local formation of clergy
- Bell curve data on age, gender, and ethnicity of the clergy
- Gather data on cost of clergy to congregations and dioceses
- Projected clergy retirement rates over the next two decades
- Projected trend lines in clergy demographic data assuming no intervention

Sources of data: Dr. Hadaway; Church Pension Group; survey of dioceses; Board of Examining Chaplains

## **III. Subcommittee on Demographics.** Deputy Johnson and Deputy Strimer

- Data on age, ethnicity, education
- Survey of worship and leadership styles employed by congregations, i.e., traditional, emergent, other
- Survey of the context of worship, i.e., parish, mission, dual membership congregations
- Gather data on outreach ministries (such as persons served)
- Projected trend lines assuming no intervention

Sources of data: Dr. Hadaway; Eli Lily Foundation; Pew Charitable Trust

## **IV. Subcommittee on Financial Resources.** Deputy Johnson and Deputy Ferrell

- Trends in giving and financial resources at all levels
- Restructuring and other responses to decline in financial resources
- Progression of congregations suffering financial stress

Sources of data: Parochial reports; audits; Dr. Hadaway; survey of diocesan administrators; IRS data compiled from 501(c)(3) organizations; Faith Community Survey.

## **V. Subcommittee on the Missional Church.** Deputy Garvey and Dr. George

- Evaluate whether the Church is doing mission and ministry consistently with goals established by the General Convention

- Evaluate how the Church is responding to poverty and injustice
- Investigate how to measure responses to the Millennium Development Goals
- Evaluate data reported since 2000 on the parochial report with respect to Contributions & grants for congregation-based outreach & mission programs (p. 3, line 10) and outreach from the operating budget (p. 3, line 13)
- Gather data on how many congregations are sharing ministry with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sources of data: survey of members of the House of Deputies; Episcopal Relief & Development; direct survey of dioceses

**VI. Subcommittee on Restructuring of the Episcopal Church Center.** Deputy Strimer and Deputy Miller

- Determine the status of the restructuring to take place in 2009/2010
- Determine how the 2009/10 restructuring is different from the previous one
- Detail the evolution of the structure of the Episcopal Church Center over time since its inception
- Evaluate pastoral response to those discharged during the 2009/10 restructuring and assess current morale of the staff
- Ask for information on how ministries are being protected

Sources of data: Archives of the Episcopal Church; Episcopal Church Center staff; analyses conducted by Deputy Strimer; Episcopal News Service; leadership of Program, Budget & Finance; President of the House of Deputies

**VII. Subcommittee on the State of the Continuing Dioceses.** Deputy Getz and Deputy Kistler

- Gather information about the results of realignment in the dioceses of Pittsburg, Forth Worth, San Joaquin, and Quincy
- Identify lessons that are being learned as a result of these realignments
- Gather information about how property is being protected and records recovered
- Address the issue of non-viable dioceses

Sources of data: Dr. Hadaway; surveys and interviews of lay and clergy leadership in the continuing dioceses; diocesan chancellors network

**VIII. Subcommittee on Parochial and Diocesan Reports.** Deputy Getz

- Design a clergy leadership form to be added to the parochial report
- Evaluate how parochial and diocesan reports can be made more informative and relevant
- Develop an appropriate response to G.C. Res. 2009-A062
- Investigate software that would automate preparation of the parochial report

Sources of data: Dr. Hadaway

The committee charged preparation of the following interim communications:

- Deputy Johnson is charged with preparing a press release responding to the Parochial Report 2008 Data Summary recently released by the Episcopal Church Center.
- Deputy Strimer is charged with preparing an interim report on the restructuring of the Episcopal Church Center in response to the triennial budget adopted by the 76<sup>th</sup> General Convention.
- Deputy Getz is charged with preparing an interim report on conditions in the dioceses of Pittsburg, Forth Worth, San Joaquin, and Quincy.

The committee stood in recess.

The committee reconvened at 7:15.

Deputy Johnson reported a draft of a press released responding to the recent data summary. Following discussion and minor edits, the committee approved the draft.

Deputy Getz officiated at Compline.

The committee stood in recess.

The committee convened at 9:15 a.m. on Thursday, November 20, 2009.

Deputy Kistler opened the meeting with prayer.

The committee reviewed and gave formal approval to the work plan developed on November 19.

The committee advised Deputy Kistler on completion of the Triennium Outline Form to be submitted to the General Convention Secretariat.

Having concluded its business, the committee adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph S. Ferrell, Secretary