

Budgetary Funding Task Force
Fogelman Conference Center, Memphis, Tennessee
Minutes
June 7-8, 2010

Participants: Jim Waggoner (chair), Anne Brown, George Councell, Del Glover (representing the Executive Council), John Goldsack, Matilda Kistler, Ernesto Medina, David Quittmeyer, Stacy Sauls, Sandra Swann

The Task Force began its meeting at noon on June 7, continued meeting that evening, and concluded at noon June 8. The meeting began with prayers, introductions of Task Force members, and a Bible study led by Jim Waggoner, the chair, on Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29.

Minutes of the April 22 Conference Call were accepted.

Jim Waggoner reviewed the origins of the BFTF and explained the difference in names with this group and the Mission Funding group.

The language of the founding resolution (B004-2003) set the tone for this group: “That this study include, but not be limited to the following issues: the level of the church at which mission support is most efficient; the best use of resources and the possible need for redirection of resources; the effectiveness in supporting our stated priorities; possible unexplored efficiencies; the review of existing commitments with quantification of the discretionary funding amount remaining after funding those commitments; the most efficient and equitable method of funding the budget; the encouragement of mutual responsibility, equity, and accountability to and among the dioceses of the church.” It opens up possible unexplored efficiencies as well as issues of mutual responsibility, equity and accountability.

The 2009 Blue Book report discussed adaptive and technical fixes and key elements of identity, vision, accountability and leadership.

What has set the spirit for this group is to think creatively – not just to do what we have done harder. We see much greater potential and possibility than tinkering with the funding formula.

Stacy Sauls offered a PowerPoint presentation proposing a way forward. He noted that the Resolution B004 grew out of a conversation about 10-10-10 and the lack of mutual responsibility it represents. The charge was intended to be broad and to have a focus on mission. He said, “We are at a critical moment that may be a gift, an adaptive moment.”

His proposal outlined what he called “practical realities undermining a shared vision,” and expressed the concern that The Episcopal Church (TEC) has an unwieldy governance structure “designed for a church that no longer exists” and a budget largely devoted to governance functions.

Sauls offered three “strategic principles for adaptive change:” Funding follows mission; the primary work of mission happens at the most local level; and less local structures exist to encourage and facilitate the more local.

He outlined six primary church-wide functions—domestic mission; world mission; promoting justice and peace; Anglican, ecumenical and interfaith relations; administration and finance for mission; governance (including General Convention, Executive Council and the Board of Directors of the DFMS)—and proposed harmonizing church structures at all levels to conform to those functions and to be more participatory and relational. Form, he noted, follows function, and funding follows mission.

Sauls suggested changes aimed at focusing General Convention on mission, strengthening and empowering Executive Council to act on mission between General Conventions and to vest administrative and financial functions in DFMS Board of Directors more able to give careful consideration to fiduciary duty and fiscal responsibility in a way ultimately accountable to General Convention.

He proposed a process for formulating a church-wide budget, including suggestions for a new way of calculating diocesan assessments.

The Task Force spent the remainder of the afternoon discussing Sauls's presentation.

On Monday evening, Del Glover spoke on the **Mission Funding Initiative**, which was formally launched by a GC resolution in 2003. The effort evolved into the drafting of five mission imperatives, all things that are not in the budget. Each fund will have a board independent of any church structure to determine how to use the funds, and board will include donors.

Executive Council has a task force to consider whether this is the right direction and right thing to be doing. After further describing the current status of the Mission Funding Initiative and the recommendations made by staff, he asked for reactions from the Task Force. Discussion ranged from the advisability of having and funding a development office, the need for a strategic plan, the importance of coordination among the groups who raise funds for various Episcopal Church activities, the need for accountability, concern about donors managing the use of funds, and how programs would relate to diocesan activities.

On Tuesday morning, the Task Force discussed ways to proceed with consideration of the plan presented by Stacy Sauls. Recognizing that other groups who are doing similar work, the group decided on inviting representatives of those groups (Standing Committee on Structure, State of the Church, and the polity group), plus members of the councils of advice of the presiding officers, to a meeting in which the plan would be presented as seeds for a way forward. The goal is to provide feedback and collaboration.

Four action groups were given tasks to address: 1) the proposed meeting and a case statement for calling the particular individuals together; 2) development of data and history related to the question, "What is the crisis?"; 3) questions related to the Constitution and Canons; and 4) refining the presentation.

Timeline for future work, :

- Constituency collaboration
 - begin late summer 2010
 - back to BFTF – meet in October
- HoB Agenda March 2011
 - preliminary interest group September 2010
- Influence GC Agenda: July 2011
- Blueprint defined by October 2011
- Blue Book report December 2011
- Provincial resolutions
- Diocesan resolutions

Next Meeting: October 21-22, noon to noon

