

October 1, 2010

SCMD-Subcommittee on Ordained Ministry Formation

PRESENT: Jack Finlaw (chair and recorder), Gary Hall, Luisa Bonilla,  
Joseph Pae

EXCUSED: Julie Lytle

Our subcommittee met last week and compiled the following list of goals/objectives for our time together in Salt Lake City.

1. Review and respond to the House of Bishops Theological Education Committee report recently presented to the House of Bishops. (Jack to obtain a copy of this report and circulate it to subcommittee members.)
2. Discuss strategies for engaging the deans of the Episcopal seminaries in conversation about theological education and how they and their institutions are adapting to change. Work program here is to finalize and email our subcommittee's theological education questionnaire to all deans of the Episcopal seminaries prior to the annual deans meeting, which is set for January 2011 at General, and to determine merits of sending a few subcommittee members (Gary, Julie and Joseph?) to meet with the deans in New York City in January. (Gary to reach out to Berkeley dean Joe Britton, who is the convenor of the deans meeting, to get additional information about the deans meeting agenda.)
3. Our subcommittee wants to take advantage of our being in Utah to meet with the Rev. Canon Mary June Nestler, who chairs the Utah Ministry Formation Program ("UMFP") of the Diocese of Utah, which trains persons from Utah and other Intermountain West dioceses preparing for ordination to the diaconate and priesthood in The Episcopal Church who do not attend residential seminaries or who wish to continue their work at a residential seminary after UMFP. This program is also open to lay persons who desire to strengthen their skills for lay ministry or to discern a call to ordained ministry. UMFP is also for lay persons seeking to be licensed by a bishop for specialized ministries under Canon III.4. UMFP is well regarded as a leading innovator and it is headquartered in the facility in Salt Lake City where the SCMD will be meeting in November. Gary to contact Mary June Nestler to determine her availability for and interest in such a meeting.) Given the breadth of the UMFP's mission, the entire SCMD may want to meet with the Rev. Canon Nestler.
4. Finalize the list of non-Episcopal seminaries and other educational institutions that are forming and educating persons now being ordained in The Episcopal Church and establish the means and timeline for emailing our theological education questionnaire to these organizations. Also consider if and how we should invite reports from these organizations for the SCMD's Blue Book Report, which traditionally has only included reports from the established Episcopal seminaries.
5. Spend time reviewing the work done and the work to be done by our subcommittee to respond to the General Convention 2009 resolutions assigned to our subcommittee.
6. Begin outline of our subcommittee's portion of the SCMD's Blue Book Report for General Convention 2012.
7. The subcommittee members also hope that the meeting agenda will include some recreation time - perhaps time for a trip to the art museum at the University of Utah or a walk in the nearby city park that has beautiful hiking trails.