

Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements
June 9, 2011
Indianapolis, Indiana

Attending: Members – Katharine Jefferts Schori, Bonnie Anderson, Kurt Barnes, Cordelia Burt, Marcia Himes, Lori Ionntiu, Gray Lesesne, Debbie Melnyk, Ken Price, Jim Simons, Gregory Straub, Catherine Waynick, Dean Wolfe.

Staff and other invited guests – Marian Conboy, Fran Fach, Gay Jennings, Chuck Robertson, Anne Rudig

Not present: Scott Kirby

Gregory Straub opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with a prayer. He reviewed the budget and asked if there were any additions. Bishop Katharine asked that a request from the Native American ministries be placed on the agenda. There were no other changes to the agenda.

Treasurers Report

Kurt Barnes reviewed the General Convention budget, pointing out the main areas of interest. At a prior meeting, this committee agreed to increase registration fees to \$420. The expected revenue for General Convention is 1.1 million. The 3 principle expenses are site costs (2 million), GC publications (170,000) and secretariats (232,000), for a net cost of approximately 1.4 million. Not included in these figures are the expenses of various departments and support, which totaled about 600,000. This includes 95,000 for Youth, 50,000 for invited guests, 32,000 for Finance Department (bank) and MIS Anne Rudig added that Communications spent \$300,000 in 2009.

ECW

Marcia Himes and Cordelia Burt distributed the tentative agenda of the ECW triennial. They are coming in on 7/2 to set up and the meeting opens on 7/5. They have not established plenary speakers yet. Nominations are scheduled for Friday, 7/6, with elections the next day. To keep costs down, the ECW and UTO have combined their two dinners and will have a gala. This should cut costs by 25%. The meeting will close on 7/11. On Sunday morning, 7/8, they are hoping to have their 1st annual 5K run/walk. Gray Lesesne said that the Diocese would be happy to publicize the run, and Ken Price said to send the information to Bob Moore for the bishop's spouses.

Report from Host Diocese

Gray Lesesne introduced Fran Fach, his co-chair of the Planning Committee. Gray reported that the worship team has met and drafted a lectionary focusing on Holy Women, Holy Men and partnership with the Moravians. All worship will be at the JW Marriott. The capacity there is 3400 with secondary space if needed.

The Diocese of Indianapolis event is being planned for Sunday afternoon after the UTO Ingathering and Eucharist. The theme is "Step up to the plate for partnerships" and the venue is Victory Field. They want to do a cook-out, showcasing the local food of

Indianapolis. Cate Waynick added that they are hoping to have their partnership representatives present.

The volunteer coordinator is working with Lori and Patrick, and hopes to go on-line in January. The communications person is working with Episcopal Life to do a convention publication. Kurt Barnes asked if the publication will be electronic and Gray replied that he expected that it would be both hard copy and electronic. Representatives of the diocese are working with Bronwyn Skov to plan the children and youth program, and are hoping to have two day trips to a local day camp, White Cross.

Kurt asked if the committee should vote to approve the minutes of the two prior meetings. Gregory asked if there were any additions to the minutes of 11/15/10. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve. The motion was made, seconded and carried. The minutes were approved. Next he asked if there were any additions to the minutes of the conference call of 2/9/11. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve. The motion was made, seconded and carried.

Bonnie Anderson asked how the two houses were progressing on their reviews of the Rules of Order. Ken Price said that a group met, reviewed the Rules of Order for the House of Bishops and found nothing in conflict and no reason to change anything. Bonnie reported that the House of Deputies group will recommend that the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies urge bishops and deputies to submit their resolutions 30 days prior to Convention. This will not change the deadline to file resolutions, which is 5:00 p.m. on the 2nd legislative day.

Orientation

Gay Jennings said that there has been an initial conversation about a video and Gregory reported that RFPs (Request for Proposals) were sent to four people. Two declined, one asked for further conversation and one has not replied. Gay said that they got a lot of good information from the last forum and plan to do a comprehensive orientation as well as an on-site orientation. She read a list of topics to be included. Gay also noted that quite a number of senior deputies have retired. Ken and Dean Wolfe will work with the new bishops, and asked Gay if she would post her list of topics, which she agreed to do.

The cognate chairs meeting is planned for May 9, 2012. Ken said that he received feedback that the on-site officers' orientation was redundant. It was pointed out that the on-site meeting is for officers and legislative aides, not just chairs, and therefore some of the information is repeated for their benefit.

Gregory asked if everyone had a chance to read the report of the Standing Commission on Small Congregations and the committee placed a telephone call to Donna Lee Pettit, Chair. She went through her report, giving some insight on the thinking behind some of the proposals. Gregory thanked Donna Lee for her very thoughtful and comprehensive report and said that the committee would discuss the proposals and be back in touch if they have any questions.

As the Planning and Arrangements committee began discussing the proposals of SCSC, Bishop Katharine questioned whether this was a good use of this committee's time and the committee agreed that the requests could be broken down and addressed as follows:

1. Worship – Gray was asked to consider their requests and respond in one month's time
2. Films – would it be possible to put a link on the GC website so that bishops and deputies can view it on-line? Anne Rudig offered her assistance with this project and noted that the Office of Communications has already produced several videos highlighting the work of congregations that might be appropriate
3. Brown Bag lunches – Lori said that this would have to happen at the hotel. It would be key for the SCSC to name a point person to work with Lori on the logistics of this.

Report of the General Convention Manager

- Volunteers

The Host Diocese recruits volunteers. They are using a software system and will start implementing the schedule of volunteers needed. Be aware that any changes to the schedule will impact on the volunteers.

- Housing

Each diocese has been asked to identify a point person. About two-thirds of the dioceses have done so and the General Convention Office is reaching out to the remaining one-third.

- Exhibits

GCO will send a mailing first to prior exhibitors and then to new exhibitors.

- Worship space

Lori asked a question about the worship space, which for this convention is at the JW Marriott. She explained that in the past, the space was not used for anything but the GC worship. The committee discussed this and made the decision to allow any group that is part of the Episcopal Church structure to request use of that space. A usage cost would be assessed and charged to the group. A procedure will be developed and requests will be received by the General Convention Office and approved by the Office of the Presiding Bishop. Cate Waynick added that there are two parishes very close by where people could have worship.

The General Convention schedule was distributed and discussed. Bonnie asked about the bishops gathering. The bishops feel strongly about this event, as it is the one time they are together with spouses present. The schedule for the gathering has been changed and it should be a shorter event than in the past. Lori asked if more thought was given to the format for the Conversation on the Covenant. There was a discussion about whether there was still a need to devote an evening to this and a motion to amend the schedule to eliminate the conversation on the covenant and replace it with legislative hearings was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Gregory asked if the daily platform lunches were helpful. Jim Simons said they were. Bishop Katharine said that some days they were substantive and other days not, and

asked whether Dispatch could let the Presiding Officers know when their presence would be helpful. Jim said that would be difficult as many things happen last minute. However, it was agreed that the platform lunches were necessary for Chairs of Dispatch, Secretaries of the Houses, and maybe the Vice Presidents and that the Presidents of the Houses would attend only if necessary.

Gregory asked if the Chairs lunch, held mid-convention, was helpful. Most people had trouble recalling this particular event, but once their memories were refreshed, they did remember it as being helpful so it will remain on the schedule.

Next was a discussion of a request for a Native American event and whether this would be on the official calendar and whether that would set precedence for the future. The committee decided that Tuesday evening, 7/10, appeared to be the best time to schedule the event, that it would not be on the official calendar, and that Sarah Eagleheart should be in touch with Lori to work out the details.

Anne Rudig spoke about the plans Communications is developing. They will do a live webcast at the Cognate Chairs meeting as they did in 2009, daily morning announcements and evening briefings, and opening and closing webcasts. They will continue to rotate bishop and deputy representatives for the briefings but want to be a little more fluid to pull someone in if something of major interest is happening. They would like to do a live stream of the worship services and the legal advice they received is that this is permissible as long as it is not for profit.

Gregory asked if anyone had any other 2012 business for the host diocese. The representatives from the host diocese were excused from the rest of the meeting and the group recessed for lunch.

After lunch, the committee reconvened to discuss future conventions.

78th General Convention

Gregory reported that he received consent from all but Province IV for Salt Lake City as the site of the 78th General Convention. He informed the committee that Executive Council raised the issue of how welcoming Salt Lake City would be of our GLBT members and that Gregory had shared this concern with the local diocese who assured him that the city will be tolerant of all visitors. Bonnie asked if the General Convention office could prepare a fact sheet. Lori asked the group to confirm that the 2015 convention would be a 9 day event. The committee was not united on this, with some saying that we should plan for an 8 day event and others saying that we need to budget for a 10 day convention and then reallocate funds if the convention is shorter. The consensus was that we have to experience the 8 day convention in 2012 to know whether it is feasible to have an 8 day convention that includes the election of a new presiding bishop. Lori explained that she must give the city an exact number of days and asked when the decision could be made. The committee agreed to meet by conference call after General Convention to make the decision, and promised Lori that she would have an answer in October, 2012.

79th General Convention

In response to GC2009-D074, which calls on the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements to consider the feasibility of using university campuses as sites for future General Conventions, Lori began researching campuses that fit our needs. She identified 350 colleges that allow gatherings of this nature and from this group, about 20 that might fit our needs. Identifying the appropriate contact person at each university has proven to be a challenge, and although she made numerous attempts to connect with the right people, at this time she only spoke to someone at the University of Florida. Lori explained that universities are unwilling to commit to anything so far in the future, and that they operate very differently than hotels. To pursue this further will be a huge time commitment, and she asked the committee for some direction. The committee discussed this for some time, with some members expressing the opinion that the idea should be dropped and others opining that it bears further exploration. Debby Melnyk is an alumnus of the University of Florida and offered to drive over there to ask some questions. This is an on-going task for the next triennium.

Bishop Katharine asked the ECW how critical it was that the ECW be in the same building as the General Convention, whether there is tension that the ECW delegates can't be deputies, and whether they have explored meeting at the beginning or the end of General Convention. Marcia Himes replied that they have talked about holding the triennial at a different time, and they she would mention the possibility of scheduling their meeting either at the beginning or end of General Convention, but that would be a huge amount of time that someone would be away from home if they tried to attend both General Convention and the ECW triennial.

Gregory asked the committee if the Blue Book report could be posted on the Extranet for comments. Everyone agreed.

The next meeting of the JSCPA will be a conference call on January 23, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern time.

There was no other business. Bishop Katharine gave a blessing and the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marian Conboy