

**Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music  
C056 Task Group Chairs  
Videoconference Meeting Minutes  
May 12, 2011**

Participants: Ruth Meyers (convener), Keri Aubert, Thad Bennett, Jay Johnson, Tom Little, Pat Malloy, Susan Russell

**Welcome and Prayer**

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the March 30, 2011 videoconference of Task Group chairs were approved as drafted.

**Criteria for Consultant Reviewers**

Project timeline:

- June 15: Complete drafts of all materials due
- June 21: Complete proposed list of consultant reviewers
- June 22: SCLM videoconference for reviewing the materials, as well as list of consultant reviewers
- June 30: Send materials to consultant reviewers (Ruth is exploring electronic means for sharing the materials)
- July 31: Feedback due from consultant reviewers
- August 15-18: Final Task Group meeting

As we seek persons to serve as consultant reviewers: What kind of people are we seeking? What criteria do we set?

During our last videoconference, participants suggested that our reviewers include:

- People outside the Church
- Educators in the Church
- Writers or poets
- Seminary faculty and other scholars
- EfM mentors

Participants now added the following:

- Persons from the broader Anglican Communion
- Ecumenical representatives, including scholars from other denominations
- Persons with experience developing and using such materials (for example, persons from dioceses that have developed resources, possibly even persons from diocesan task forces on same-gender relationship, who might be consulted as a group)
- Potential end users of the materials, including parish priests and others in congregations; this should include persons from congregations who have used such materials in the past, as well as persons from parishes that have not yet done blessings or even considered doing them (the Task Group and SCLM members might be queried to identify persons from their Atlanta small groups)
- Consider demographics:
  - Consider parts of the country and constituents underrepresented in our process thus far (Province VII and Province IX are underrepresented in terms of Task Group membership; perhaps Task Group member Ivette Linares of Puerto Rico can recommend potential English-speaking reviewers from Province IX)
  - Consider working with the UBE and other Church groups to obtain broad demographic representation
- It might be helpful to “test drive” the liturgical materials, possibly as follows:
  - Assemble a focus group to experience the liturgy and report on how it feels
  - Try this with the Task Groups near the end of the Baltimore meeting time
  - Include this in the consultant reviewer instructions

Ruth and Keri will polish this list of criteria and ready it for use in soliciting ideas for people who might be invited.

## **Planning for the May 31 to June 3 Task Group Meeting**

### **Meeting Schedule**

The Task Groups want to maximize separate working time, but there is a need for consultations between Task Groups, for example:

- The Liturgical Resources Task Group needs to consult with the Theological Resources Task Group about the theological assumptions they will use to develop the exhortation at the beginning of the rite and the blessing at the end that will spin off from it.
- The Theological Resources Task Group needs help from the Liturgical Resources Task Group for deciding how to articulate the baptismal and Eucharistic parts of their work.
- The Pastoral and Teaching Resources Task Group needs to confirm that their materials will be congruent with the stated theology.

All believe that the Task Groups are working from the same foundations; these cross-Group consultations are about ensuring the use of consistent phrases that resonate throughout the materials. At the last Task Group meeting, the Task Group presentations in plenary were effective at flagging areas where the groups needed to pair off. Suggestion: schedule separate

Task Group meetings, and then a plenary session, and then separate Task Group meetings. Therefore, the meeting will progress as follows:

- Begin with a short plenary session after dinner Tuesday night, to discuss the loose agenda and goal for the whole meeting (the goal being to complete a full set of resources that are coherent and resonate with one another and are ready for review during the summer). Then to break into separate Task Group meetings, with each group asked to prepare a short (10-minute) report for first thing Wednesday morning.
- After Wednesday Morning Prayer, return to plenary for Task Groups to report their status and what they need from the other Task Groups.
- The rest of Wednesday will be a mix of separate meetings and cross-Group consultation meetings. The Task Groups will be responsible for setting time schedules, with cross-Group consultation time to be negotiated at the end of the plenary time and as the day goes by.
- After Thursday Morning Prayer, return to plenary with another round of 10-minute Task Groups reports of status and needs. Thursday will look much the same as Wednesday.
- After Friday Morning Prayer, return to plenary for a final Task Group reports.

### **Additional Planning**

Pat will work with Dent Davidson on worship for the meeting.

Pat will discuss with his group when we get there how we might “stage” the rites being developed.

At the same time as the Task Group meeting, Tom Little and Bishop Jeff Lee will both be attending a meeting of the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church at the conference center. Bishop Lee will primarily attend the other meeting, but Ruth will inform him of our fluid agenda and ask him to check in when possible. Ruth will touch base with Becky Snow about this as well.

Keri will follow up to develop an agenda and post it on BaseCamp. She’ll also check the following up with the General Convention Office to confirm the following conference center details:

- Breakout rooms available on Tuesday night
- A piano in the “chapel”
- Printing and wi-fi capability
- One projector (in the plenary room)
- Enough power outlets for every person to connect a laptop

### **Task Group Check-In**

**Canonical and Legal Considerations:** Responding to a question about the work of the Canonical and Legal Considerations Task Group, Ruth reminded the participants that the SCLM

is looking toward the publication of something like a liturgical studies volume. It might be useful to think of the canonical and legal material as being in the hands of bishops, parish clergy, and some lay leaders, to enable them to know what they need to do to implement the rites and assure them that canonical and legal issues have been considered. A legal glossary has been suggested, and that is one expected piece, but there could be more. Ruth will write the overall SCLM Blue Book report for review by the full SCLM. The Blue Book report might include a couple of paragraphs saying what the SCLM and Task Groups did to look at canonical and legal issues. It might recall that C056 doesn't specifically call for this, but that the SCLM felt the need for it, and the bishops asked for it at the September 2010 House of Bishops meeting. For the materials to be of most use, they should be in the published resources included as appendices to the SCLM report.

**Theological Resources:** The Task Group members are writing several essay pieces. Another possible area of cross-Group consultation, particularly with the Pastoral and Teaching Task Group, is regarding how much apologetic must be written around the biblical “clobber passages.” They plan for the essay pieces to be constructive rather than apologetic. However, Gale Yee is preparing an annotated bibliography showing the work that has been done on this for years. The Pastoral and Teaching Task Group agrees that the apologetic work has been done, and they instead want the materials to include a lot of bible stories. Ruth believes that the SCLM is not expecting up-front apologetics, and that the bibliography will be fine. For the pastoral and teaching resources, apologetics might be more important in those locations that have only begun to talk about blessing same-gender unions, but it's stronger to say that this work has been done for a long time, and to include references so that they can find it. There might be a small apologetic teaching piece that will help congregations engaging the material for the first time.

**Pastoral and Teaching Resources:** The two subgroups are working on materials. The pastoral group is likely to show up with an almost-finished product. The teaching materials are in progress; it is likely to be too long and need to be edited down.

**Liturgical Resources:** The Task Group members have had several teleconferences. They reviewed the feedback from Atlanta and as a result made minor changes to liturgical principles but decided not to restructure the rite. They divided the liturgical units among sub-groups, which are examining the pieces, writing, and returning. They have another teleconference next week and will consider again the same texts but with another round of editing. They expect to have something clean to start with in Baltimore.

## **Other Updates**

There have been three responses to the **Anglican Communion survey**. There has been another reminder sent on the House of Bishops listserve, asking them to share the survey with Anglican Communion partners.

The **digital archives** is live and being populated. Ruth is working with Neva Rae Fox to issue a press release about it.

**Next Meeting**

Group will next meet in Baltimore and will then set a subsequent videoconference time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Keri Aubert, Project Manager