

MINUTES

White & Dykman Subcommittee Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons Video Conference

September 22, 2015

PRESENT: Diane Sammons (Chair), Joan Geiszler-Ludlum (Secretary), Bill Cathcart, Dorsey Henderson, Larry Hitt, Steve Hutchinson, Tom Little.

EXCUSED: Sally Johnson and Mark Duffy (Archivist).

Diane Sammons called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

Minutes: The minutes of the meetings of July 21, 2015 and August 18, 2015 were approved unanimously on motion by Larry Hitt, seconded by Steve Hutchinson.

Commentary '94 and '97: Sally is on vacation but reported to Diane that she will have additional drafts and assignments for all at the New Orleans meeting.

Commentary '09: Steve expressed his appreciation to Tom Little for edits and Bill Cathcart for additional amendments. Bill is updating the comparison chart which he envisions as an appendix. His focus since the last discussion is to create a better narrative incorporating more from the theological reflections by Les Alvis and Pamela Cooper-White which are foundational in interpreting Title IV 2009. He is also incorporating more information from the surveys done leading into the 2009 rewrite (2000-2003) and the other denominational models that the Title IV Task Force reviewed. He is developing a narrative description of the flow or road map through Title IV as an appendix that may also be a training tool. He hopes to post updated drafts a couple of weeks before the New Orleans meeting.

Case Law: Diane culled 8 or 9 opinions from the Helminski archives and divided them between Bill and Larry to draft case summaries using the template for review in New Orleans. Bill and Diane reported on their conversation with Mark Duffy, Church Archivist. Mark reported good progress in scanning with 8 trial files completed. Scanning requires 2 to 3 people for 2 to 3 weeks to create a searchable digital file. Mark will upload these files on the Archives site and provide passwords for this group. He has identified the next 4 cases and work will begin after commitments to General Convention work are completed. Mark will assist in locating missing pages from the Berlinbach trial opinion. He requested our assistance in locating materials for 7 cases he has identified: Don Armstrong, Colorado; Trimble, East Carolina; Frazier, East Tennessee; Hiles, Massachusetts; Paul Christensen, North Carolina; Hartmond, Oregon; Simon Howsen, Western New York. Bill will follow up on these cases. Tom offered to assist with case summaries in preparation for the upcoming meeting.

Diane noted that 33 trials have been identified and a realistic goal for the Subcommittee is to complete 15 to 20 summaries by the end of this year. Bill has posted the Cy Jones case which has several opinions. Exhibits on file with Archives may fill in some gaps.

Face to face meeting in New Orleans: Diane reviewed the agenda for the in person meeting in New Orleans October 25-28. After discussion, consensus is not to schedule full committee meetings in the evenings, but subgroups may choose to meet as needed. The group will plan dinners out except Sunday evening as the meeting convenes. No conference calls are scheduled before the New Orleans meeting but members are to communicate if the need arises.

Video conference adjourned at 4:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan C. Geiszler-Ludlum
Secretary