

**State of the Church
Web/Teleconference
April 10, 2017, 9pm EDT
Minutes**

In attendance:

Winnie Varghese, Chair
Ernesto Medina, Vice-Chair
Sarah Lawton, Secretary
Gary Commins
Kim Fonder
Evan Garner
Jane Gould
Eric Metoyer
Gary Moore
Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale
Laura Russell
Patrick Strohl
Bonnie Weaver

Winnie called the meeting to order at 9:05 pm EST.

Reports on work accomplished so far, and next steps:

- Parochial Report:

Winnie Varghese reported that a person has been hired as the TEC researcher/statistician. Winnie and new person will be meeting on Wednesday, April 12, and Winnie will report back to us on that meeting via the Extranet. A topic Winnie is bringing to the conversation is the deadline for implementing 2015 GC resolutions that pertain to the parochial report. Katie Mears of ERD, who is shepherding the asset map, will also be in that meeting.

- Social Justice / Advocacy:

Laura Russell reported that the draft of the survey has been posted on the Extranet for comment. The sub-group has two logistical questions: who creates the actual survey mechanism, and who sends it out? Winnie said she will follow up with the GCO on those questions. Jane Gould asked if the survey would make it past the diocesan office to reach the congregations? Also pointed out the need to be very specific in the questions about what is a diocesan question and what is a congregational question. The group as a whole discussed sending it to 1) diocesan offices; 2) asset map coordinators in each; 3) to deputies via the HoD

mailing list; and to the email contacts listed on the asset map – all as a means of getting the survey out as widely as possible. The group decided that the final deadline for feedback on the survey to this subgroup will be **May 1, 2017**.

- Pension Group:

- Evan Garner reported that we have not yet received the written responses from Mary Kate Wold of CPG. We would like to schedule a second meeting with CPG, but it makes sense to wait until we received those responses and have a chance to digest them.
- Evan reported that a draft of the survey has been posted on the Extranet, along with commentary responding to questions posted by the group over the Extranet. He raised two questions:
 - Should we, and are we allowed to, collect information about ethnicity/race in this survey? Per the group discussion: yes, it is important information to have for understanding discrepancies and to build the 21st century church. Winnie will follow up on the legal question.
 - Province IX: How do we address the very different circumstances there in terms of the survey? Per the group discussion: Province IX includes several different countries / legal systems. It may be most useful to have qualitative conversations with deputies from each of these dioceses rather than try to send the survey to them. We should not hold up the survey for Provinces I-VIII while we set up these conversations. POHD Gay Jennings may be helpful in suggesting deputies to approach.

Deadline for feedback on this survey will also be **May 1, 2017**.

- Multicultural Ministries/Ethnic Groups:

Ernesto Medina reported on subgroup discussion following his and Jane's meeting with the "ethnic desk" officers and Eric Metoyer's and Gary Moore's meeting with UBE President Annette Buchanan. Reflecting on those meetings: those who are doing "ethnic ministry" are actually, in every case, doing multicultural ministry, since the Latino, Black, Native, and Asian categories themselves are very, very diverse. These ministries are at the growing edge of doing multicultural ministries—exactly what the church needs for the 21st century; but they are silo'd, and the church does not get the benefit of what they have to offer. The structure of this work goes back to the church's "Doctrine of

Discovery” or colonial mentality, in which providing small pots of funding freed the dominant group in the church from having to be responsible for or responsive to ministry beyond the dominant culture.

An outline for our report might include:

- DNA / history of this work, and compartmentalization
- What is the present reality?
- What does the church need?
- Resolutions

Group discussion: Yes, general agreement, and we also need to be careful in our language, to remember the history that people fought for spaces where specific ministries could be nurtured – we don’t want to take those away, nor to reduce resources. We do want to break down walls that hinder our ability to do this work much more broadly, that keep this work hidden under a bushel. An important task for the resolutions will be reaching out and finding partnerships in bringing these resolutions—both to test them and make sure they are going in the right direction, and also to build support.

The subgroup will be posting notes and outlines for our further discussion.

Committee Logistics: Winnie will find out the location of our in-person meeting in September and will post that information for us. The next meeting will be held by web/teleconference on Monday, May 8, 2017 at 9pm EST.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51pm.

Minutes taken by Sarah Lawton, Secretary.