

Minutes - Standing Commission on World Mission
June 29th, 2020 Meeting
via Zoom

Present:

Ms. Martha Gardner, Chair	Massachusetts
The Rev. Elizabeth Frank, Vice Chair	Ohio
The Rev. Grey Maggiano, Secretary	Maryland
Mr. Martin McCann	Atlanta
The Rt. Rev Alan Gates	Massachusetts
Ms. Angela Smith	Western Kansas
Ms. Denise Rovin	The Virgin Islands
The Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards	Georgia
Ms. Helena Miele-Mbong	Churches in Europe
Mr. Jack Tull	Florida
The Rev. Judy Quick, Chaplain	Alabama
Mr. Matt Gobush	Dallas
The Rt. Rev. Chip Stokes	New Jersey
The Rt. Rev. Francisco Duque	Colombia
Sra Grecia Christian-Reynoso	Dominican Republic
The Rt. Rev. Rafael Morales	Puerto Rico
The Rev. Irene Tanabe, Chaplain	Hawaii
The Rt. Rev. Jose McLoughlin	Western North Carolina

Absent:

Ms. Emily Badgett, Treasurer	North Carolina
Canon Judith Conley	Arizona
The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, Ex Officio	Ohio
The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Ex Officio	
The Rt. Rev. Dabney Smith, Ex Coun	Florida

Guests:

The Rev. Canon Chuck Robertson
The Rev. David Copley

Welcome - Ms. Martha Gardner, Massachusetts

Opening Prayer - The Rev. Judy Quick

Approval of the Minutes:

Advocacy Subcommittee Report:

Matt Gobush summarizes constable grant award, for Chaplain resource support.
Job description for a project manager has been circulated
Steering Committee - looking for participants

Q: Question From Rev. Canon Chuck Robertson — can you keep his office in the loop?

Helena

Theology SubCommittee Report:

Questionnaire to Episcopal Seminaries is complete and ready to go out.

Guiding Principles almost final for blue book inclusion.

Grace - Titus incorporated 'way of love' in 'Questing'. Developing a study guide based on the guiding principles document.

Q: Do we need to reach out to Forward Movement or ChurchNext about finding more creative ways than a print curriculum? Especially in light of how COVID has impacted our common life.

Q: how do we get to the Seminaries and make sure we don't miss anyone? Iona collaborative.

Q: Bishop Duque — Padre Juan Oliver - a series of articles and commentaries on how we do worship now. They are all available in spanish. Should be kept in mind for Province 9.

Constable Grant Updates:

- 1) Create Virtual pilgrimage of the Holy Land - American Friends of the Diocese Of Jerusalem and Jerusalem Peace Keepers. There were themes in Jesus' work that are focused on. Is delayed until October. Re-visit it in October to see if it is still safe.

Q: It doesn't seem to include any Jewish voices in the program? It will - but it may not be evident in the short summary

Q: will this include Bishop Hosam? Yes.

2) Create a Global Missions digital tool kit - in the spirit of the guiding principles. Will highlight not just how to do mission, but also inter-religious sensitivity and cultural sensitivity in the program. One initial goal was to move GEMN online - but because of COVID that has already happened so we are well on the way. Plans to come online in October. 'Questing' is one aspect of this.

September Meeting:

Technically still scheduled - but we will likely not meet in person. HOWEVER save the dates because we will meet on those days.

Beth Franks

Blue Book Report on Resolutions

Make sure that language is not divisive but supportive so it can unite some efforts

find a few "buckets" were proposed resolutions that can be crafted together, rather than a whole raft of smaller resolutions.

If you want to be involved in resolutions reach out soon to Beth or Matt.

If you want to be involved in the blue book drafting generally reach out to Beth.

Report from David Copley and Chuck Robertson

Last executive council a revised budget was passed — 35% reduction in program costs and 20% reduction overall. Really impacting the work the office of global partnerships can do.

Diocese of Liverpool is hoping to do a video with the bishops involved in the Hospitality effort of Lambeth, but they had furloughed all of their communications staff. So the Episcopal Church detailed some of their communications staff to help make this happen. COVID has made all of us much more flexible and creative.

Engagement is up 200% online.

Continue to do a lot of work with the UNCSW.

Areas effected by COVID - Jerusalem and Middle East. Hospital centers.

Latin America and the Carribean — following up on ABCD programs. Following up from conference in Colombia last year.

Continued work with Mexico to ensure they are sustainable and viable.

Episcopal Church is working with the Anglican Communion office to help supplant some of their staff needs due to Furloughs.

Global Partnerships are hiring a Part-time Africa officer to manage some of those programs.

Chuck Robertson -

We don't know what anything will look like six months from now. The goal is to avoid cuts at General Convention to personnel. There may need to be hard decisions made at some point, but we need to do that as carefully and as care filled as possible.

Together they came up with cuts of 1.1M from a budget of 4.3M

This allowed them to go back an negotiate saving a few small things.

If the economic realities are not as apocalyptic as we currently think, Chuck will push for a full time Africa staff person, a full time domestic affairs person in OGR and a half time person in the global partnerships office as well.

When the time comes Chuck will fight for the budget and staffing they need.

EMM — Church Partnerships. Seeking to expand Church ministry programs to refugees and migrants. The funding is woefully inadequate for these programs. We currently have two staff to get us through until 2021. The goal is to get to general convention and put the Church to task about the engagement necessary to love our neighbors. There is good work going on in the Church, we need to highlight it and support it in advance of General Convention.

2) **Opening Comments** - Ms. Martha Gardner

Goals for this meeting:

1 Hour

Report from Theology Subcommittee

Report from Advocacy Subcommittee

Report from 815 on COVID response

Still scheduled to meet Sept 30-Oct 2 in Phoenix (for now)

Suggested new Q: for Blue Book - “How do we do Global Mission in a pandemic?”

Reminder: This is the last year of the triennium, so our work load will increase. We will aim to meet more often but for not as long.

Theology Sub-Committee — Ms. Helena Miele-Mbong

We are on draft 9 of the ‘Guiding Principles’ -

Main work of Draft 9 - consolidating comments and input, providing one ‘summary sentence’ of the work.

“World Mission is living into God’s mission of reconciling love in a global context, crossing boundaries of differences to walk the way of love with one another in true relationship.”

This has been reviewed by our committee and given to GEMN. The Guiding Principles document will be discussed by GEMN at their may meeting and GEMN may want to use it at their formation program.

Questions:

How does this connect to The Way of Love’?

Next steps: to meld the ‘Guiding principles’ into the way of love.

Important thing: that these guiding principles get support from 815 and actually guide our approach to World Mission.

How can we make this a primary conversation driver for World Mission?

Other Items:

Contacting Seminaries For:

- 1) what they are teaching in the way of World Mission
- 2) How accessible are their courses to non-US Dioceses?

How well is the Episcopal Church responding to needs for theological education outside the US (but within TEC)

815 Report on COVID Response - The Rev. Canon Chuck Robertson

Every Monday Bishops and Canons join in for a 30 minute call with ERD and the PB.

The last several weeks has been on CAREs Act and PPP. Yesterday's focus was on briefing materials from ERD and Global Partnerships.

Summary of Global impact of COVID — highlighting the low impact in Africa now and the concern that it might be on the brink of a huge outbreak.

Summary of Mission relationships in Africa: low connectivity in Western and Northern Africa. Strong everywhere else. We are poised to be of assistance in the rest of Africa. We could be doing more as 'The Whole Church' Is this a way also to re-establish some relationships with our Anglican siblings?

The Rev. David Copley

Other impacts of COVID

increase in Malaria (lack of access to nets, access to meds) because of COVID.

Liberia only has six ventilators in the whole country. A Plague of locusts in East Africa, as well as flooding as well.

Forwarding on requests for aid to Episcopal Relief and Development and working with the Anglican Alliance.

Exponential growth in worship online. Lots of preaching across international borders. More of our partners are open up to the idea of online worship than we realize.

We want to find ways to stay connected. Reminder to reach out to others in your broader network to offer prayers and connections to your friends and relationships overseas.

Comments:

Ms. Helena Mbele-Mbong - In Europe we have been online since Palm Sunday. Connecting around the world could be exciting.

Ms. Emily Badgett - More diverse worship. How can we be more accessible across different mediums (sing language, other languages, etc.)

Ms. Denise Reovan - More young people participating online.

Ms. Angela Smith - Central America - really struggling with connectivity issues. We need to be mindful of access issues and how we can provide more access. We can also do some work on trauma work? How people are experiencing trauma here?

And the PTSD after?

Food Security?

Advocacy Sub-Committee Report — Mr. Matt Gobush

Constable Grant Update — Program for Military Chaplains just war education project.

43K ask to support two items: 1) Convening of committee 2) training for Chaplains in the context of the chaplains training symposium which will take place in Aug/Sept (125 Episcopal Chaplains)

Proposal also envisions some resolutions in 2021 GC to support our chaplains further in this effort.

The Rev. Elizabeth Frank — ‘sustainable development goals’ - .7% set aside that we were encouraged to set aside before. Perhaps we should take a new look at this given the current realities. Many orgs have stopped doing this or have given money to other groups and called it ‘sustainable development goals’. In 2015 it was part of the gender inclusivity and climate change resolution. So it is still in our canons — but definitely not the focus. **Committee suggests a short survey about how we go about this.**

Ms. Helena Mbele-Mbong - how do we link ‘sustainable development goals’ to the Gospel? Because the UN guidelines are not our world mission?

The Rev. Judy Quick — What about a ‘Global mission advocate’ for every diocese?

Report from Dominican Republic — Sra. Grecia Reynosa

They have been doing prayers online every day. And the laity have been doing readings and also services with the clergy.

COVID statistics 7,000 cases, 300 deaths so far.

We are stuck in our home but have kept our church alive by doing things online. Bishop is doing services from the cathedral streaming. Up to 3 services per day.

Martha Gardner - Blue Book Update

Covenant and Bi-lateral relationships — how do we make common language for all of these? Stay tuned.

Grace Burton-Edwards - GEMN and Constable Grant

Grant prepared by David Copley’s office to create a digital toolkit to access mission formation around the world.

Focuses on youth, young adults and seminarians. And to invite people in mission partnerships around the world.

June Ex Council we will know about the decision.

GEMN conference re-scheduled but they were able to do hold some portion online and to do some digital formation which was very exciting. The timing of the Constable Grant and of this extended quarantine is fortuitous because we are well placed to really do some good work.

The Rev. Elizabeth Frank - General Convention 2021

Need to start cataloguing which global mission advocates will be at General Convention. Please let us know via the GCO website if you will attend as a delegate or otherwise.

Beth will get a work group together to plan more concretely for general convention.

Report from Colombia — The Rt. Rev. Bishop Duque - morning worship via zoom with clergy. Streaming via facebook live. In the last few weeks we have been inviting guest clergy from outside our diocese to join us. Last week we recieved a migrant Chilean priest living in Toronto.

Most of his congregation are Latin American refugees in Canada, many Colombia. Two weeks before that the bishop of Uruguay and tomorrow the primate of Brazil.

Meetings with clergy are very fluid. Also doing joint dialogue with other denominations via zoom.

Been using the document from Bishop Provazano from Long Island (try to find this)

Also doing a lot of informational programming for clergy and their congregations around domestic violence and mental health.

Final comments?

Report on constable grant from 2019 - virtual pilgrimage throughout the Middle East with the Diocese of Jerusalem. It is in process but delayed because of the coronavirus crisis.

Closing prayer - The Rev. Judy Quick, Chaplain