Task Force on AI and IP - Meeting Minutes

11/18/24, Maritime Center, MD

In attendance: Andy Doyle, John Talbert, Kent Anker, Arlie Coles, Nicholas Knisely, Megan Carlson, Mark Eddington, Mireya Valdes-Medina, Michael Glass, Andy Thompson, Mercedes Clements, Marty Stebbins, Scott MacDougall, Lorenzo Lebrija, Tobias Hamberger (Zoom)

Minutes by Andy Thompson

Meeting convened at 4:00

Lorenzo presented main points of the AI subcommittee..

Megan asked if the guidelines will include thinking about the evils inherent in a lot of the source documents. Lorenzo described how they've done this in Cathy, noted that this is something we need to attend to.

Megan pointed out this issue relates to IP question, because the theme of their discussion was toward openness, not protection; Mark raised biblical question of authority. Lorenzo said one of the themes we discussed was transparency, being clear when AI was used.

Andy D. focused on the question of academia/seminaries, the integrity of preaching, thoughts on human creativity and embodiment. It's also important to recognize that we won't be able to control it – the freedom of human beings is part of what has to be embraced in this. Kent said that one aspect of DFMS policy thinking on this is the disclosure. People also need to be aware that the content they create is training AI. Andy D. pointed out that this may not be all bad – should we cede this ground to others? Michael asked what Episcopal church is being represented by an AI like Cathy – who we have been, or who we hope to be?

Andy D. suggested that this is a moment for reflecting on what the possibilities are, beyond just questions of boundaries or anxieties. We need guidelines that are flexible, nimble, establish a base policy that allows for adaptation and lays out future bodies. Andy D. and Michael confirmed that this task force could go through Executive Council to establish a policy for DFMS; we could also work w/bishops, College for Bishops, etc. to educate church. Michael said the task force could also call for churches to establish their policies.

Mark presented the main points of IP subcommittee. (Shared in separate document.)

Scott pointed out that both subcommittees saw the need for fundamental theological axioms, principles for negotiating these conflicts. Arlie affirmed the emphasis on accessibility for the evangelical mission of the church. Nick pointed out the different forms of Open Source; Andy said we could think about the theology or purposes behind Open Source.

Mark pointed out the tension between Copyright's goal of incentivizing creativity, while creative commons is trying to increase the impact of creations. If the church's goal is evangelism, we should err on the side of giving it away. But there should also be a default of honoring the rights of creators.

Scott reiterated the usefulness of the 5 Marks of Mission as benchmarks for creating guidelines.

Andy D. pointed to the need for a theology of work behind this. John noted the need in both groups to find a line between what's authentic and what's artificial; what's authentic can be inspired or spirit-driven.

Andy D. set the next steps: generating priorities w/in each subcommittee's work and creating the schedule for the next couple of years, with benchmarks. Blue Book reports will need to be submitted December 2026. Group agreed to convene again this evening.

Meeting adjourned at 5:16.

Task Force on AI and Intellectual Property Meeting Minutes

11/19/24

Maritime Center, MD

In attendance: Andy Doyle, John Talbert, Arlie Coles, Nick Knisely, Megan Carlson, Mark Eddington, Mireya Valdes-Medina, Andy Thompson, Mercedes Clements, Marty Stebbins, Scott MacDougall, Lorenzo Lebrija, Tobias Hamberger (Zoom)

Minutes by Andy Thompson

Meeting convened at 10:10.

Andy Doyle began by inviting check-ins from everyone, to share thoughts from last night/this morning. Robust discussion followed.

Andy D. flagged the importance of thinking about data privacy and security in the context of AI.

Break commenced at 11:05.

Resumed at 11:23. Andy D. recapped that yesterday we established the scope and priorities of the work. The task for today is to return to that work and get into the details, create large targets – what are the end deliverables? - then to establish two-year and one-year timelines. Rather than begin where we are, begin with where we want to be and work back from there. From that, we want to think about meeting frequency and goals – given everyone's existing workloads, Andy D. recommended no more than 2 goals quarterly. These need to be:

- **S**pecific
- **M**easurable
- **A**chievable
- **R**elevant
- **T**imebound
- able to be **E**valuated and then
- **R**eadjust ("SMARTER Goal Setting").

Andy D. will be available as a resource for both groups.

Subcommittees will convene at 1. Meeting adjourned at 11:34.

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Minutes by Andy Thompson.

Meeting convened at 3:31.

Andy D. would like to plan when to convene full-group meetings based on the subcommittee's pacing and schedules.

Lorenzo reported on the AI subcommittee meeting. He offered to the IP subcommittee the chance to include questions or topics on the initial surveys. Megan raised a concern about the amount of work to be done and asked whether there is room in the timeline for things to move more slowly. Mercedes pointed out that the work is divided up, and Lorenzo pointed out that this is his work at TryTank, so he can move quickly. Also there is considerable space later in 2025.

Mark asked who will construct the research instruments; TryTank's research director will craft surveys and focus groups. John reiterated the importance of including groups that are often left out, and said that the IP group would like to draw on those contacts for their work as well.

Andy D. said that once the research instruments and timeline are set, the whole group should meet to review it and offer suggestions.

Scott encouraged the group to reach out specifically to young people about their perceptions and feelings about AI; John suggested the GC under 40 caucus, in which he and Megan are both involved. Andy T. mentioned the Center for Teaching at Sewanee as an informal conversation partner. John suggested reaching out to the SUMMA program at Sewanee as well to constitute a focus group of High Schoolers.

Tobias Hamberger, Julia Ayala-Harris, and Merrie Beard joined the meeting, and Lorenzo recapped the work of the AI subcommittee.

Julia noted that she plans to restart her podcast, "Extra-Ordinary Time," in April of 2025, and she sees this as a good opportunity to engage folks and communicate about prospective resolutions.

Megan reported on the work of the IP subcommittee.

Julia mentioned that SCLM (Cathleen Moore) is considering expanding commonprayer.org and could be a good resource for the subcommittee's idea of building a collection of open resources (images, music, etc.) for churches.

John reiterated that the goal of all the work is advancing the mission of the church. This means both increasing accessibility, but also making sure that creators' rights are protected. Julia emphasized the rights of creators in marginalized communities.

Andy D. reflected that both groups are dealing with ways that existing structures need to change, and both are starting from theological foundations, moving toward creativity and adaptation, and being mindful about inclusion and diversity. He shared the group's core values. Julia congratulated the group on the work they had done and thanked them for saying yes. She said that she would try to add members in the next round, with a focus on more diversity, as well as deacons (called for by Resolution D045).

Andy D. said the IP group can decide whether to meet tomorrow; AI is done and doesn't need to meet tomorrow. Andy T. and Scott invited anyone who wants to join a preliminary discussion of theological foundations tomorrow at 9:30.

Meeting adjourned at 4:44.