

STANDING COMMISSION ON STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

Minutes of Meeting

September , 2007

Conference Call

Attending: Angela Daniel, Chair; John Fritschner, Co-Chair, Sandra Swan, Secretary; Patricia Abrams, Mark Beckwith; Charlene DeWitt; Tom Gossen; Franco Kwan; Ben Speare-Hardy; Bill Wrenn.

Excused: Harry Bainbridge; Bob Gepert; Pam Wesley Gomez

Absent: Kelsey Kemp

Guest: Terry Parsons

1. Ben Speare-Hardy led us in worship.
2. Tom Gossen reported the results of our letter to Executive Council, setting forth our concerns about oversight of the proposed national church fundraising program. Executive Council formed a Task Force to oversee the development of this program. Two of the six appointees come from our commission: Bob Gepert and Sandra Swan, who will report to this Commission the activities and progress of the Task Force.
3. Ben Speare-Hardy raised the question of the relationship between the Executive Council and the Standing Commission for Stewardship and Development with regard to authority over national fundraising programs. Tom Gossen clarified that the Commission does not have responsibility for execution of fundraising programs. The charter of the Commission states that it is to “approve” all fundraising. The question was raised whether the language of our charter needs to be changed to reflect the actual authority of the Commission, since the original language was developed in prior years at the time of Venture in Mission.
4. Discussion proceeded about the involvement of dioceses and parishes in this national fundraising effort.
5. Angela Daniel proposed the Commission consider further work on the need to clarify the meaning of “stewardship” and the difference between “stewardship” and “annual giving.”
6. Char DeWitt asked Terry Parsons whether her office was involved in
 - on-line giving, automatic deduction, and other forms of electronic payment of pledges
 - seminary instruction on stewardship (follow-up to potential survey about such); General Theological Seminary has such a class (taught by Parson), but that is not the norm
7. The 2006 GOE had 3 questions about stewardship. The Commission hopes that questions on future GOE will encourage the seminaries to teach about stewardship.
8. The subgroup on Stewardship Formation needs input from the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music before it creates or enhances stewardship prayers, etc., in the Prayer Book. Could there at least be a helpful guide that builds upon what is already in the Book of Common Prayer on this subject? Could the dioceses create special liturgies for stewardship; are there times when the topic of stewardship can be introduced into special events, such as baptism, confirmation, marriage?
9. Ben Speare-Hardy asked whether the Commission members were comfortable with the current definition of “stewardship.” *The theology of Christian stewardship concerns the management and offering of our whole lives in response to the grace and call of God in Jesus Christ. It is lived theology, a central way in which we live out our faith as disciples of Jesus Christ.*

10. Char DeWitt offered to send Commission members further information from their subgroup regarding their work.

11. Angela Daniel asked commission members to complete their assignments from the last meeting and to report to the entire group.

12. The next in person meeting is planned for May 25 – 28 at Roslyn Conference Center.