

Anglican Church in America Executive Council

04/22/15 Church of the Epiphany Phoenix, Arizona

Attendees:

Bp. Brian Marsh (DNE & President – ACA HOB), Bp. Stephen Strawn (DMV & Vice-president – ACA HOB), Bp. Juan Garcia (DPR), Bp. Owen Williams (Episcopal Visitor – DOW), Judy Creel (Secretary – ACA), Gil Miller (Treasurer – ACA), Fred Joseph (President – ACA House of Laity), Canon Alexander Webb (DNE), Canon Fred Rivers (DOW), Canon Forrest Burgett (DMV), Mrs. Janie Burgett (DMV), Mrs. Rosa Halbert (DEUS), Mr. Brice Richardson (DEUS), Mr. Jim Audiffred (DNE), Mrs. Nancy de la Fuentes (DPR), Mr. John Creel (DOW), Mr. Erv Lischke (IAF)

Guests:

Dcn. Antonia de la Fuente (DPR),

Greetings from Bp. Brian Marsh

Mrs. Judy Creel officially received the Walter Killian Award.

The minutes from the October 16th Executive Council meeting in Belleville, IL were approved.

Report of the Treasurer

The final Financial Report for 2014 was presented. Pie charts illustrating sources of income and expenditures by percentage were distributed. Expenses are in line with income and the budget in spite of only four of the five dioceses contributing to income.

Notes from the HOB meeting

Canon Rivers joined the general meeting of the House of Bishops as a representative for the DOW. Bp. Vaughan is not healthy enough to travel. The Bishops are involved in ACA, TAC and Assembly of Anglicans Teleconferences in an attempt to keep communication clear between all bodies. Discussion was held on how to keep youth in the parish as they mature and marry. Diocesan reports are listed below.

Traditional Anglican Communion (TAC) Update

Eleven bishops participated in the TAC teleconference last week; but recent calls have been poorly attended.

Bp. Reuben Rodriguez in Central America has needed additional help in the form of bishops since the 1980s. In 2007, the Traditional Anglican Communion Latin America Province (TACLAP) was created at the advice of then Archbishop John Hepworth. Bishop-elects Santos Garcia-Tista and Juan Sion Logos will soon be consecrated to assist Bp. Rodriguez.

Mr. Erv Lischke reported that the organization of the Church in India and its use of funds is vague at best. They list nine diocese but no parishes. No real knowledge of where the money is used is apparent. As 95% of all IAF donations come from the ACA, he asked that someone in the ACA visit personally to determine the actual organization and membership in the Indian Church. He is looking for a way to encourage more transparency from the church in India.

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International Anglican Fellowship (IAF) Update

The IAF now has 38 sustaining members. The financial picture for the IAF improves in direct correlation to the number of sustaining members. The new By-laws were approved. Three new IAF Board members were welcomed: Abp. Shane Janzen, ACCC, Metropolitan Archbishop and Ordinary of the Diocese of Canada, West; Canon Jonathan Filkins, DEUS, Rector, St. Barnabas' Anglican Church, Picayune, MS.; Deacon Bob Jones, DMV, St. Patrick's Anglican Church, Hurst, TX.

The silent auction held to reprint "Ritual Notes" was quite successful and 1,000 copies were printed. They are available from the IAF and from the APA DEUS Publications website – www.deusbooks.org

It is possible, we may need to reprint Spanish Prayer Books and Hymnals for TAACLAP and the new missions in the Dominican Republic who are now receiving monthly help from the IAF.

Diocesan Reports

DEUS

No Report. Bp. John Vaughan is not healthy enough to travel.

DMV

St. Dunstan's called a priest. Fr. Stephen Hilgendorf graduated from Nashotah House and was ordained in the Episcopal Missionary Church. He has been licensed to officiate in the DMV and his incardination is scheduled for June.

A retreat, held in March, was led by Bp. Chad Jones (APA). The Synod will be held at St. Francis in Estes Park, CO.

Canon Charles Slagle is moving to California. Holy Apostles is in need of a new priest. Fr. Michael Ducette will serve as interim priest in charge. Fr. Francis Apple Jr. wants to restart the Sun Star mission at the reservation in Kyle, SD. Fr. Venson Valenciano from the Philippines will take over at St. George in Leavenworth, KS as soon as a green card can be obtained.

DNE

Bp. George Langberg is retiring from St. Elizabeth in October. Canon Webb is consulting on the transition process and has produced a manual on the challenges. Construction continues on St. Paul's new facility in Brockton, MA. It is the first Anglican or Episcopal church built in the Boston area in the last 60 years and will seat 500 when completed.

A couple of new missions will offer Bp. Brian Marsh a chance to celebrate a mass in Spanish. They continue to hold three clericus meetings each year. The last one was particularly well attended as it concerned money and sex. The latter was really education on preventing sexual abuse. The former dealt with how Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from IRA's can be routed to the church as a donation without incurring taxes on the first \$4,500.

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DOW

Canon Fred Rivers reported the diocese is settling down. Some residual of the Ordinariate is still keeping some congregations split. The end of the St. Mary's debacle is hopefully in sight with a trial in August. Nearly \$1,000,000 in legal fees have been accumulated. Some was necessary to get Church Mutual to represent the church in court. Bp. Owen Williams (Episcopal visitor) is at St. Mary's and working through their particular situation. A process remains to get a bishop elected and installed as Ordinary of the Diocese.

DPR

The economy in Puerto Rico is even worse than Bp. Garcia's last report. They are considering a tax of 16% above and beyond the current taxes. Young professionals are leaving for the U.S. Church relations between countries in the Caribbean are very tense. The good news comes from the missions being started in the Dominican Republic.

The church in the San Juan area is still waiting for approval to start building. They hope to start breaking ground by the end of the year. Prayers are needed for Fr. Jorge and the building of the church.

Ecumenical Reports

The intercommunion with the APA is still in effect. A lot of cooperation exists between the two jurisdictions in spite of the failure to complete the corporate merger last October. Fr. William Martin of the APA was appointed Dean of Logos House. The ACA HOB recommends adoption of the ecumenical proposed constitution and canons presented at the General Synod in October.

Cooperation between the ACC and the ACA in the U.S. is apparently not reflected in other countries around the world. Progress here is being slowed by that situation. An official intercommunion agreement is not currently acceptable. Un-official cooperation is likely in the U.S. However, current comments from the ACC leadership indicate enough ambiguity to cloud any efforts at this point.

Bp. Strawn expressed great concern for Traditional Anglicanism in the U.S. The tendency of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) to "agree to disagree" dilutes conservative Anglicanism to a total lack of distinction. At this point, ecumenical groups like FIFNA and FACA each feel they are the only true home of Traditional Anglicanism. They have lost the distinction between Conservative and Liberal; while missing the point that Traditional is something else altogether.

Bp. Strawn says the ACA must learn to stand as a Missionary church and carry the banner of Traditional Anglicanism. We must learn to grow more than each parish. We must grow each diocese and make the province stronger. We must start by praying. Bp. Marsh says, "God grows the church. We must preach the Word of God". It was agreed, praying is the best way to start.

A committee was created to develop a plan for financial foundation for missionary support. Mr. John Creel will chair the committee which includes Mr. Gill Miller (Treasurer of the ACA) and Mr. Fred Joseph (President of the House of Laity). They will develop and publish ways in which we can elicit financial support for this important effort.

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Education Committee

Bp. Brian Marsh announced the appointment of Fr. William Martin (APA) as Dean of Logos House. Canon Forrest Burgett asked if any plan had been produced for the expenditure of the Theological Education budget. While a formal plan delineating expectations would be very helpful, currently funds are being distributed only to the educational organizations as opposed to the students.

Canon Burgett asked how a postulant could apply for financial aid to assist their studies. It was suggested that an application for distribution of Domestic Missions funds be submitted to Mr. Gill Miller (Treasurer) through the diocesan bishop. It was suggested that such aid be accompanied with an agreement to a required term of service as repayment. Legal questions about the enforceability of such an agreement were raised and the issue was not pursued. Canon Burgett and Bp. Strawn will submit a request and start a process to document how aid can be received.

Old Business

Mr. Gill Miller requested a vote to transfer \$1,500 from the contingency fund to the DPR Youth Camp Fund. It was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Judy Creel (Secretary) reminded the bishops of the need for diocesan parochial reports so she can complete the provincial report. She also reminded them to elect new executive council members.

Next Meeting of the Executive Council

The next meeting will be in Mystic, CN on September 1-3, 2015. Lunches will be served at the Hotel and corporate dinners will be planned for the evenings.

Next General Synod

Section 7, Articles 1 of the Constitutions and Canons requires the Executive Council to select the location and date of the next General Synod at their first meeting after the last General Synod. As a giant concurrent synod with other members of FACA is being discussed, the council voted to delay the decision for the potentially unifying effect of concurrent synods.

Submitted by Canon Forrest Burgett