

**DRAFT of MINUTES  
PROVINCE VII COUNCIL MEETING**

**Hyatt Regency Hotel, DFW Airport, TX  
Friday & Saturday, April 1-2, 2011**

Meeting began in the Harvest Room at 1:00 PM with an attempt to bring up Google Chat. Several vowed that we needed to become more technically savvy. At 1:30, Laura Adcock offered the opening prayer.

**Present:** Max Patterson, Sally Russell, Bishop Mike Milliken, Jim Haney, Jan Davey, Vycke McEwen, John Kinslow, Laura Adcock. Included via telephone was Bishop Larry Benfield.

**Absent:** Janet Farmer, Joyce Hardy, Susan Hanson, Bill Cathcart

**Minutes of the September 2010 Council Meeting** - Minutes were approved (Sally, Jim) with five changes/additions: (1) John Kinslow was absent due to a trial schedule (not a travel schedule,) (2) on page 2, item 2 "Randy in Arkansas" is Randall Curtis (3) In the "Report from Executive Council", GAM---- was identified as Governance and Administration for Ministry (4) page 4 Bob Sessum recommended that PLC meet with GAM and A&N (Advocacy and Networking - not A&M) (5) Executive Council Meeting (last page) Vycke and Joyce (not Sally) will be attending October 23-25 (not December.)

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Jim Haney's current report was received. As the end of the month was yesterday, he utilized February's report with updated notations for March credits and debits in the right margins.

**Network chairs – appointments – Christian Formation** - Lou retired as chair, recommending two names as co-chairs, Jane Gober (Rio Grande) and Sabrina Evans (Oklahoma.) Discussion: There is yet to be a response from their respective bishops. Vycke asked if Ruth Ann Collins at the Church Center is part of the protocol, as Christian Formation had been her area. Motion was carried to accept Lou's recommendations with the concurrence of Ruth Ann. (Jim, Laura)

**Network chairs – vacancies – Commission on Ministry (COM)** Discussion: Bishop Vono was the only responder, saying that he was too new to put forth a name. Max spoke with Bishop Doyle (Texas) regarding issues of the province at the 11/29-12/1 Bishops meeting in Corpus Christi, which Bishop Littlebridge (Western Texas) hosted. Doyle asked Max two questions: (1) what is the province doing and (2) what can I do to help? Vycke suggested that in speaking with bishops, we ask "how can the province serve you" vs. giving bishops the impression that they are responsible to the province (as another layer of governance.) Historically, Vycke said that our province's COM would feed from TEC's COM; and Mike added that much has changed in the Church Center. The question was asked, is there now a chair for Church Center for COM, or was it rolled into another area/position? Jim suggested that we notify the Church Center that if something needs to be communicated, we will facilitate!

Shaun Cox (Texas) took over for Mike as network lead of the **Ministry of the Armed Forces**. He expressed a frustration for lack-of-response from bishops for both active service people and previous service people who now have Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSS.)

The last network chair for **Hispanic Ministries** seems to now be residing in Oregon, per the internet, said Sally; and she added that we need to change our ordinances. Max added that we should only fill positions with names if there is a person of passion for the position.

### **Network Reports**

**Older Adults Ministry** (OAM) held a successful conference at Camp Allen the end of February. Seven dioceses were represented. **ERD** chairs are Dave and Alice Williams (Western Missouri.)

In addition, Sally reported she had reports for the following networks:

**Multi-cultural Commission** - Cornelius Perry

**Restorative Justice**

**College Ministry** – report re: Estes Park

**Youth Ministry** -- is meeting now (as we meet)

### **Report from Executive Council**

Vycke reported that their Fort Worth meeting was “wonderful.” Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts-Schori spoke at an open meeting at Temple Beth-el, and many attended who are affiliated with the Southern Cone diocese (as well as TEC-affiliated Episcopalians.)

GAN - Vycke is bringing provinces to an increased visible area, building bridges between silos and working on strategic planning for church center and executive council. GAN and about 4 other groups have been charged by Bishop Katharine with “Think outside the box; how can we harness this energy?”

The standing committee on structure is taking input at a consultation; Bob and Vycke will attend. Max asked Vycke to ask their perceptions on provinces who are “not functioning.” There is an audit at Church Center. Vycke noted there is a search committee; and while she has another triennium, Joyce will be going off Executive Council at Synod.

### **PLC report**

PLC structure was discussed at a meeting with Bob Sessum. There seems to be lack of support from the Church Center.

Max suggested that there needs to be an ordinance. Vycke added that Bishops need to promote in HOB, too. (Last time ordinance passed HOD, but not HOB.) Mike & Vycke agree there is disconnect between HOB and HOD.

Historical Info on Provinces:

Burlington Document – original adversarial time of 815 Desk Ministries and Provincial Networks

Chesapeake Document – 4 or 5 years later

Next was a conference with Coordinators and Presidents from each Province.

PLC Committees:

- 1) 2 documents – operating document (“cleanup”)
- 2) Structure committee

Max said he suspects a lot of history has been lost (good & bad) and meetings are less often because of costs.

The meeting is tied to the Council of Advice when the bishops are in NY anyway, but only 3 attended last time.

Toni Daniels said that by 7/15/11 Provinces must request for funds for PLC for next Triennium Budgets.

After a brief break, we resumed with Jim’s segue which asked “what shall we ask of PLC?”

### **Finances – Budget for next Triennium**

Jim presented a proposal for the budget for the 2012-2014 Triennium. His assessment calculations were based on 2006 operating incomes for each of the dioceses, which were the most recent figures he could find. Jim noted that it appeared the upcoming triennium budget would have at least 45K less income. He mentioned that perhaps reserve funds could be utilized, but even with the reductions he’s proposing we would have 11.8K in expenses over projected income. Several suggestions were made as we discussed the Initial Budget Proposal Worksheet’s figures. Larry indicated he was quite sure that he’d seen more recent diocesan operating incomes, and he would locate the source for these figures and get this info to Jim.

We voted unanimously that at Synod we would initially present for vote the assessments based on the most recent calculations, be those from 2009 or 2006. As a backup, a vote can be taken to keep the assessments as they were before. Jim explained that Fort Worth’s assessment was calculated at 20% of its previous assessment – or \$400, as the vote was 20 to 80 to remain in TEC prior to the reorganization of the diocese.

Larry said that the Church Center support to the province may go lower (from 20% to 10%.) With reduced funding, we determined we would budget specific monies in the areas where we are getting results. We will “block fund” projects and programs as “missions and ministries” and emphasize youth, higher education, and senior ministries.

Max will send in a detailed report to PLC, as province presidents are required to do. It will include Jim’s figures for the first half of the year and Max will include a narrative.

### **Website updates**

Max observed that we need someone to update who has the time as our site has had few updates. He suggested that perhaps our website updates could piggyback on a diocese and welcomes suggestions. (Susan Hanson was not in attendance.)

## **Report from House of Bishops:**

Bishop Benfield presented two topics under discussion concerning the Report on Governance of the Church:

How General Convention operates – suggestions are to reduce the size of the GC or perhaps meet every 4 years (rather than every 3 years.)

How to assess – mandatory assessments (rather than optional) Considerations for which levels should be assessed with suggested income percentages included:

20% diocesan

2% parish

1% congregation

July 2011 changes to Title IV (discipline) go into effect, which includes granting power to the Presiding Bishop along with the bishops. Note that this is an historical change, as previously the PB had no power.

Outside of the official meetings there seems to be a desire to alter or delay the health care initiative, which would extend health insurance to lay employees, including school employees, as well as clergy. It involves the Episcopal Church Medical Trust. Larry said there are now 14 levels of coverage. Two examples are \$16K/family in Arkansas and \$31K/family in Kentucky.

## **Synod**

**Site Visit:** Sally signed contract with St. Anthony Hotel and brought us brochures and information on the facilities. She also made plans with St. Mark's Church. The Eucharist will be at 4:30 (as there is a wedding rehearsal scheduled for 6:30.)

Cab fare was \$27.00 with tip, reported Sally; hotel does not have a free shuttle. She will get information on options for ground transportation, such as an airport express shuttle. The room rate is \$99.00 and folks will have dinner on-their-own on Friday evening.

Subtopics on agenda for Synod: We discussed schedule, committees, elections, names for committees, program, orientation for deputies, and network presentations while updating the preliminary schedule outlined in September. Also, we will keep with that meeting's articulated Synod 2011 theme: Communicating and Networking. Conclusions were to omit GC deputy orientations and certain reports or report discussions as follows:

No orientation for GC deputies at Synod; some dioceses send different folks to Synod than GC, and it would be wasteful to duplicate info for those who attend both.

Also NOT to be included at this Synod are reports for SCLM Same-gender blessings, Diocesan Health Initiative, and Anglican Covenant.

We will need a host/hostess or facilitator for each table for our opening luncheon/discussion. Susan Hanson recommended "Putting Conversations to Work" on World Café.

Biographies for elections will be needed. Committee chairs and members were under discussion when we realized it was time for our pre-scheduled dinner reservations.

**Morning Prayer** began our day on Saturday, April 2. We resumed our discussion of committee chairs, allowing members to the discretion of each chair.

It has been suggested that Synod be moved to the spring of convention years rather than the previous fall. One meeting rather than two would, of course, reduce travel expenditures. We need to ask about this, and perhaps deleting convocation also.

As last triennial Synod's cost per person was \$90.00 (including a barbeque dinner at the Cathedral), we agreed we should contain costs. Because our contract includes meal purchases, our meeting rooms are included. We discussed options for an arrival luncheon and morning breakfast. Best options seemed to be a box lunch (\$25.00/person) and continental breakfast (\$20.00/person.) Committee of Sally, Jim & Max will check to see if a meal could be done for less at St. Mark's.

Same committee of 3 will also check with Jonathan Wickham about flowers for the Eucharist and confirming an organist with appropriate honorarium.

Additionally:

Our council members at large are John, Jan, and Mike.

We need to elect a clergy person to Executive Council.

Room reservations must be 30 days in advance.

"Packets" last time were emails – will do again to save printing costs.

Bios will likely be due in early June.

Committees – Nominating & Ordinances – named and in place – due mid-April.

**Synod Schedule** – See additional page for updated schedule.

**Next Meeting** - Province Council will next meet on at 2:00 PM September 29, 2011  
at the St. Anthony Hotel, San Antonio, TX.

**Adjournment** was 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Adcock  
Secretary, Province VII