

The Standing Commission on World Mission

MEMBERSHIP

The Rt. Rev. Adrian Caceres-Villaricencio, *Chair*, Diocese of Ecuador (1988)
The Rev. Prof. W. Roland Foster, Diocese of New York (1988)
Mr. John R. Harris, Secretary-Treasurer, Diocese of Iowa (1988)
The Rev. Walter W. Hannum, Diocese of Alaska (1988)
Mrs. Rose Y. Lee, Diocese of Hawaii (1991)
The Rt. Rev. Charles Shannon Mallory, Diocese of El Camino Real (1988)
Miss Glenda McQueen, Diocese of Panama (1991)
The Rev. Ricardo Potter, Diocese of Dominican Republic (1991); replaced by the
Rev. Canon Julian M. Clark, Diocese of Virgin Islands, resigned, not replaced
William Rambo, M.D., Diocese of South Carolina (1988)
Mr. V. Alfredo Salguero Magana, Diocese of El Salvador (1991)
Mr. Frederico Sierra-Colado, Diocese of Central and South Mexico (1991)
The Rt. Rev. Furman C. Stough, Diocese of Alabama (1991)

A STATEMENT

The Mission of the Church

We understand the mission of the Church to be the task of showing to the world what God is like, and seeking to realize his will for the world. This mission increasingly needs to be understood and undertaken as a message for the whole person for the whole world. For mission to be whole, however, it must include *service, evangelism, and development*. Moreover, it needs to be the mission of a Servant Church, "which exists to serve those who would never think of going near it" (Archbishop William Temple).

Mission, therefore, is proclaiming and living the Good News, and this necessarily will also include striving for world justice and peace, identifying with the poor and disenfranchised, seeking to overcome poverty by development, and working to secure personal freedom for all people.

Anglican International Thinking on Mission

An International Conference of Mission Agencies, called by the Anglican Consultative Council in Brisbane, Australia, December 1986, was attended by members of the commission. Basic affirmations commended to the Church from this conference include the following:

On Evangelism in Mission: "It is imperative that our Communion recover an emphasis on personal evangelism, recognizing that the call to repentance and faith is addressed to those within the Church as well as to those outside it. We need to acknowledge afresh our responsibility to share the Gospel with people of other faiths and none, always remembering the need for sensitive listening to and dialogue with them."

On Development in Mission: "We agree that human development, as Christians understand it, is an integral part of mission. A holistic understanding of human

development recognizes that the spiritual, social, and physical cannot be separated in the transformation of people and society . . . ”

On Ecumenical Sharing in Mission: “The Lund Principle needs to be reaffirmed and implemented, that we should never do alone what can be done together. Our churches should be encouraged to take the initiative in exploring with other churches the possibility of staging Partners in Mission-style consultations as ecumenical events.”

Together with our Presiding Bishop’s call for more effective and vigorous education about the mission of the Church, we recognize an urgent need for our Church to create more programs in development education, which will assist *local* church members to grasp the underlying issues and systems that enhance or block human development. Such education may help us learn how to live more simply (a prerequisite to global justice), by using more faithfully the human and material resources we have. There is also great need for us in North America to broaden our own faith and world view by tapping the rich veins of Latin American, Asian, and African thought and experience; for the assumption is still prevalent that countries like ours have reached the blessed state of being “developed,” in relation to “under-developed” nations. But to quote one expert from the Brisbane Conference, “Development is not a state which some countries have arrived at; it is a *process* that *all* countries are involved in, and there are aspects of our Western society which can only be called *over-developed*” (Dermot Dorgan). Also, in the call for widespread education for mission the SCWM urges that the writings of Roland Allen be given much more attention in the promotion of new thinking for mission strategy, structure, and development *at all levels* of our Church’s mission.

SUMMARY OF THE COMMISSION’S WORK

Independent Mission Agencies

The 1985 General Convention recognized and affirmed “the unique contributions which independent missionary societies are making in helping to personalize and involve every member in world mission.” The commission, through its Partnership Committee, has continued to meet annually with these agencies and societies in order to foster greater understanding and coordination. The group has adopted the following common statement of purpose: “We consist of representatives of those societies and agencies within ECUSA that exist primarily to recruit, train, and/or send missionaries overseas in the spirit of PIM. These representatives will meet in order to better communicate, coordinate, and work together, developing a sense of community in our common task of spreading the Good News of redemption in Jesus Christ.”

The Brisbane Conference was in fact an international example of these partnership efforts, called by the ACC “to assist a better understanding of current issues, policies, practices and resources“ among Anglican international mission societies, agencies and churches.

The commission understands one of its continuing tasks to be to promote a deeper understanding and commitment to the principle of *mission in partnership*. This must “involve mutual sharing of God’s gifts to his Church, whether they be spiritual, intellectual, wisdom and skill, experience, vitality, institutional and educational amenities, human energy or material wealth . . . all these things belong to the Church as a whole and are held in common” (MISAG Report, 1985).

Companion Dioceses

The 67th General Convention, meeting in New Orleans in 1982, endorsed the Companion Diocese program as a major priority for mission and called for the establishment of more effective ways of servicing existing companion relationships, for the initiation of new relationships, and for the provision of adequate personnel for the implementation of this program priority. In the years since, several steps have been taken to strengthen this program, in carrying out the General Convention resolution:

- A. *The number of relationships and dioceses participating has increased.* By the end of 1987, 55 dioceses were formally linked, while another 13 were actively preparing for such relationships; province to province, diocese to diocese, as well as three-way and other innovative relationships have occurred. The commission urges the Church at all levels to seek a wide variety of new and creative ways for companion relationships in the future.
- B. *A provincial network has been established to provide consulting services for dioceses seeking or engaged in companion relationships.* Representatives from each of the eight domestic provinces have met with national staff semi-annually since 1983, and with a liaison from the commission during the last triennium, to keep abreast of developments and resources, freely offering their experience and expertise to dioceses within their provinces.
- C. *New national staff has been added, enabling companion relationships to become a more integral part of our Episcopal Church response to overseas partners.* In addition to a continuing national staff role in coordinating companion relationships, recent appointments to the Episcopal Church Center staff of partnership officers for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean have meant improved coordination of companion diocese and national church programs in world mission, as well as clearer communication and better access to information and resources.
- D. *Companion relationships have been more closely integrated into the larger Partners in Mission (PIM) process within the Anglican Communion.* The Anglican Consultative Council, meeting in 1987 in Singapore, recognized the important role of companion relationships in the ongoing life of the Communion and called for the establishment of Communion-wide guidelines to ensure the integrity of such relationships as a practical working-out of PIM principles of mutuality, transparency, and accountability.

We wish to record two further points that require great sensitivity and care in the pursuit of companion relationships. *Companion diocese discipline should seek to cultivate, not undermine, provincial unity.* "Watch needs to be kept that this kind of program does not complicate, or even hinder the effective implementation of agreed PIM priorities" (ACC-4). Finally, care needs always to be taken that companion relationships *not* focus on financial aspects, but on building understanding and relationships.

Lay Leadership in World Mission

During the past triennium, the Partnership Committee of the SCWM has sought to identify specific ways in which lay people who travel abroad might be more intentionally related to the world mission of the Church. This vast untapped human resource for

mission was identified by ACC-3, which urged the churches to seek ways by which the ordinary church member might be enabled to experience at first hand the work of the Church in other areas of the world, and which might then lead to a more sensitive understanding of one another's problems at a deeper level.

A Christian study of these human resources available well summarizes the potential and the concern which we commend to the Church:

"The stunning growth of international tourism in recent years has made it the largest single item of world trade, with budgets running into billions of dollars. Each year new records are broken. In 1979, no fewer than 30,778 people set out *every hour* of every day to go overseas as tourists. This huge flow of people is becoming one of the most significant human experiences of our time" (*Tourism in the Third World*, 1982).

The commission, together with Forward Movement Publications, commends to the Church a new publication entitled "Going Abroad? Go to Church!" which it has created as one effort to assist travelers to make an intentional and informed effort to relate to the Church overseas.

Mission Issues and Strategy Advisory Group (MISAG) Report

This 1985 ACC Report, entitled "Giving Mission Its Proper Place," was presented to the last General Convention and made available to every deputy and bishop present. The SCWM was asked to study the report and to present its findings and recommendations to the 69th General Convention.

We wish to commend the following observations and recommendations:

On Anglican modes of ministry:

The 1985 MISAG Report made it clear in its opening statement that the Anglican approach worldwide has generally been that of a "pastoral mode" of ministry; and that the time has come for our Church to become more aggressive and evangelistic in pursuing the mission of the Church. To do this will require a significant shift in attitudes, thinking, planning, and structuring for mission.

On mission and ecumenism:

The time has come for Anglicans to realize that disunity is *structural* as much as it is *doctrinal*, and that as increasing doctrinal unity is discovered through dialogue, so we must seek similar fruits of unity through shared worship and mission;

The time has also come for our churches to undertake *ecumenical planning for mission*, and in particular we need to take on the discipline of the *ecumenical sharing of resources*.

On mission in development:

Development has been presented as a mission issue in almost every part of the Anglican Communion, yet it is not one issue but many, and in great complexity.

We are to persist in this expression of mission, praying and reflecting on our experience and seeking the wisdom that has been promised us. Experts may assist, but the gift will come to the whole community of the faithful.

On mission in partnership:

Churches and mission agencies tend to guard their own turf with a lack of transparency and trust, which leads to concentration on methods rather than goals; when this happens, open consultation about mission is inhibited. (For more on mission in partnership, see next section).

Partners in Mission (PIM)

Process

Partners in Mission is a Communion-wide process that calls upon the local church to discuss its goals and problems, to analyze its own situation, set its own priorities and decide upon their implementation, and to tackle real and sometimes painful issues, drawing upon the spiritual, theological, personal, and material resources of the worldwide Church. However, in the words of the MISAG Report, "The uneven distribution of the world's material resources can seriously distort the dynamic of the process, wherein some partners are still perceived as donors and some as receivers." When this happens, paternalism continues, and there can be no true partnership relation; the process of PIM ultimately fails.

With this concern in mind, the SCWM commends the following essential points of the PIM process. These points have previously been noted in the 1985 MISAG Report, and we believe them to be essential for successful partner relationships:

- A. *Transparency* and *accountability* are required between churches engaged in a PIM process, which means an openness about what each has, gives, and receives, and a discipline of mutual accountability between partners.
- B. The PIM process should ideally be a continuing relationship rather than a single event, and concerned with a *quality of relationship* between the partners (ACC-5).
- C. Partner relations also need to develop between persons and groups at the grassroots level, and not limited only to church leaders and hierarchy.
- D. PIM consultations should be concerned with strategy and, insofar as possible, separated from funding concerns, although it is recognized that the two can never be entirely separated.
- E. Much more attention needs to be given to incorporating ecumenical neighbors into the PIM Consultation, as integral participants, and not merely as passive observers. (Bishop John Howe, one of the original architects of PIM, reminds us that *ecumenical participation* was a part of the original vision of PIM).

Finally, we commend to the Church the need, from time to time, for every diocese to undertake a "Mission Audit." This is an essential preparatory step before a PIM Consultation. Beyond that, however, this is also a rigorous self-evaluation of the total mission of a diocese, which seeks to bring renewed focus, clarity, vision, and challenge for new areas of mission within the diocese. We suggest that Appendixes "B" and "C" (pp. 34-37) in the 1985 MISAG Report present a very helpful outline of issues and areas to be examined in a mission audit.

Funding

The SCWM shares concern that innumerable PIM priority needs around the world remain unfunded and unfulfilled. Creative new ways need to be found to respond to these and other vital needs in the mission of the Church.

We therefore commend this urgent need to the Church, affirming and supporting the Presiding Bishop's vision of developing and expanding the vision and capability of the Presiding Bishop's Fund during the next triennium, in order to provide extra-budgetary funding for world mission.

Autonomy for Overseas Provinces

The commission has been given the task of “monitoring and evaluating” the process towards autonomy in Province IX and the Philippines by successive meetings of General Convention. At the 68th meeting of General Convention in Anaheim, Resolution A164 “affirms commitment to continued partnership with the dioceses of Province IX and of the Philippines . . . and encourages those engaged in the autonomy pursuit to continue in the process.”

We reaffirm the spirit of Resolution A164, but do not feel sufficiently informed or involved to comment on the readiness of autonomy for the Philippine dioceses, nor do we feel able to carry out our assignment of “monitoring and evaluation” the present state of the various autonomy processes. The SCWM recommends that in the next triennium some representation of its membership be included in the autonomy conversation with those directly concerned, if it is faithfully to fulfill its responsibility to General Convention. The following information is available concerning the four autonomy processes currently underway in Province IX: (1) ARENSA, (2) Central America, (3) Mexico, and (4) the Caribbean.

The ARENSA Region (Regional Episcopal Association of Northern South America)

This includes the dioceses of Venezuela, Colombia, Central Ecuador, and Litoral Ecuador. Because the region has had only two bishops until recently, it was decided not to intensify the process until the new diocesan bishops were elected and installed. An extension of the trial period will be requested at the 1988 General Convention.

Central America

The dioceses of Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama are committed to and involved in the process. At their Provincial Synod in December 1987, they expressed their intention to request the 1988 General Convention for an extension of the trial period, possibly to decide in favor of autonomy in 1991.

Mexico (Dioceses of Northern Mexico, Western Mexico and Central and South Mexico)

As part of the initial process toward autonomy, Mexico will be requesting permission from the 1988 General Convention to divide the Diocese of Central and South Mexico into three dioceses. This petition has been unanimously endorsed by all three bishops and has the backing of Province IX. The Mexico region plans to request a trial period at the 1988 General Convention.

Caribbean

The dioceses currently involved, and which may become members of this region, are Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, the Virgin Islands, and Cuba. At present there is still some clarifying to be done since within this region there are several dioceses with different canonical status. Two dioceses are extra-provincial, two belong to Province II, and another to Province IX.

Joint Meetings with Standing Committee

During the past triennium, the SCWM met once with the Standing Committee on World Mission of the Executive Council for sharing of issues and concerns. The meeting was rich and stimulating in terms of human resources and experience, and the commission sees value in the two bodies considering more frequent joint meetings during the next triennium.

Overseas Seminary Internship Experience (OSIE)

The 68th General Convention, through Resolution A170, encouraged the seminaries "to develop programs for both students and faculty which would involve them in significant cross-cultural experiences." Accordingly, the Seminary Consultation on Mission (SCOM) was created in 1985 by the Council of Deans to undertake projects that would engage the accredited seminaries in education for mission. The Overseas Seminary Internship Experience (OSIE) was created to help carry this out. OSIE undertook a pilot project in Hong Kong in 1986, with students from several of our seminaries participating. Evaluation of the results of the pilot effort have been favorable from participants, seminary faculty members, deans, and bishops.

The resolution proposed at the end of this report has the unanimous endorsement of the deans and faculties of the eleven accredited seminaries of the Episcopal Church, as well as the endorsement of others within the Anglican Communion. The anticipated annual cost of \$40,000 will cover room, board, travel, and program staff costs for participants in the overseas theological educational experiences.

Latin American Anglican Congress

This historic event, called by the three primates of the Anglican Church throughout Latin America, took place in Panama, November 11-18, 1987. It was attended by 150 laity and clergy, from every one of the 26 dioceses in Central and South America, with the exception of those from Nicaragua, who were unable to attend due to political reasons.* Additional guests were from the Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church, ECUSA, Anglican Church of Canada, USPG, SPCK, South American Missionary Society, and the ACC.

"Communion with Christ, communion with each other" was the Congress theme, with four sub-themes: Social Context and Missionary Strategy, Anglican Spirituality, Ministry and Pastoralia, and Anglicanism and Ecumenism, with workshops around each of these.

Some of the issues and concerns expressed include the following:

- models and current practice of *authority* by church hierarchy;
- need for ecumenical relationships to involve the local people in day-to-day tasks of living, and not simply ecclesial or doctrinal discussions at the higher levels;
- development and social betterment are not options for Christians, but a Gospel imperative of mission;
- "the Church is not beyond history nor above society and its problems"; therefore, it must participate in the *whole human scene*, in celebration and in suffering, in poverty and prosperity, in giving sacrificially and in receiving. If it fails to do these things, it will die.
- the artificial and unfortunate distinction that is made between urban and rural mission needs to end.

*Northern Argentina, Argentina and Uruguay, Chile, Peru, Paraguay, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paul, Recife, Brasilia, Porto Alegre, Santa Maria, Northern Mexico, Central and South Mexico, Western Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Venezuela, Central Ecuador, Litoral Ecuador.

THE BLUE BOOK

FINANCIAL REPORT

	1986	1987	1988
<i>Income</i>			
Appropriated by Convention	\$25,400	\$27,400	\$12,900
Revised by PB&F challenge	11,208	23,400	12,900
<i>Expenses</i>			
General Meetings	\$11,208	\$16,314	\$10,050
Committee/Administrative costs	0	2,890	2,850
Total	<u>\$11,208</u>	<u>\$19,204</u>	<u>\$12,900</u>

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Our Presiding Bishop has shared his vision of a missionary church which gives a mandate to the entire Church for the next triennium. That vision calls for a "missionary church that will take the very issues of our time into the center of its life and faith." This calls us to radical mission and radical faith as an Easter people.

The vision we embrace calls us to ask new and challenging questions of ourselves, our structures, and our present involvement in mission. We believe a massive effort is called for to move us beyond a "business as usual" attitude towards mission to engaging the whole Church to see "faith as mission," and to move from seeing mission as an option to seeing it as an essential and inescapable activity for every Christian. During the next triennium, we see the following as our concerns and goals:

1. We hope to work together with our Presiding Bishop and Executive Council to find ways to implement our eight "mission imperatives" and to develop new vision and enthusiasm for the mission of the Church.
2. Continuing responsibilities of the commission include the following:
 - (a). *Companion relations.* The SCWM will seek to encourage companion relations in accordance with the PIM objectives and the several resolutions adopted by this General Convention. It is our intention to seek to strengthen liaison between the SCWM and the Companion Diocese Provincial Network.
 - (b). *Review of church structures.* It will be a goal of the SCWM to consider a review of present church structures insofar as they inhibit missionary activity and evangelical growth.
 - (c). *Volunteers for Mission.* We commend the Church Center staff for its support of a variety of volunteer programs, and we continue to urge the Executive Council to develop publicity about existing and new ways for volunteer service; that appointments be increased, and that the Church continue to recruit, train and send out volunteers. We further strongly recommend that adequate staff be appointed to enable these vital programs to continue to develop.
 - (d). *Autonomy processes.* The commission anticipates being more directly involved in its continuing responsibility of monitoring and evaluating these processes (The Philippines and Province IX).
 - (e). *Partners in Mission.* The commission will continue to encourage PIM consultations, especially in ECUSA, during the next triennium.
3. *Mission-sending policy review.* The SCWM sees as a part of its task for the next

triennium the review and evaluation of existing policy statements for the sending of appointed and volunteer mission personnel.

4. *Extra-budgetary funding.* As the 1985 MISAG Report called for the mission of the Church to become one of proclamation and service rather than simply pastoral, the SCWM hopes to monitor and press for extra-budgetary funding that will make available to world mission the means to help create needed infrastructures, church planting and building, training, and other needed evangelistic activities.
5. The SCWM recognizes a responsibility to promote broader understanding and involvement in *interfaith dialogue* as an essential dimension of world mission (MISAG Report, p. 14.3).

Finally, we commend the Presiding Bishop and his staff for the new vision and commitment to the mission of the Church, nationally and internationally, and urge the Church to recognize and accept that it will require an increase of funding and staff to implement such a vision.

BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE NEXT TRIENNium

<i>Proposed Expenditures</i>	<i>1989</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1991</i>
Travel/per diem	\$18,520	\$18,520	\$ 8,110
Office/Administration	1,200	1,200	750
Subcommittees	4,180	4,180	5,440
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Total	\$23,900	\$23,900	\$14,300
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			\$62,100

RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

Resolution #A185

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, **That the 69th General Convention, meeting in Detroit, urge the participation of dioceses and provinces of the Episcopal Church in the Companion Diocese Program as one means of exercising their partnerships with the worldwide Church; and be it further**

Resolved, **That dioceses considering or currently engaged in companion relationships make full use of the Companion Diocese Provincial Network and the World Mission staff of the Episcopal Church Center, especially in initiating and evaluating companion relationships; and be it further**

Resolved, **That emerging Anglican Communion guidelines for companion relationships be honored in all relationships formally endorsed and established by Executive Council action, with special care that such relationships seek to cultivate provincial unity, and that they not complicate or hinder the implementation of previously agreed provincial priorities.**

Resolution #A186

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, **That this Convention, recognizing that the dioceses of the Episcopal Church have much to learn from younger partner churches around the world, urge each province of this Church to plan and engage in a Partners in Mission consultation within the next triennium.**

Resolution #A187

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That this Convention receive with thanks the new Forward Movement Publication "Going Abroad? Go to Church!" and commend it to the Church as one way of enabling lay ministry and witness in world mission, by those who travel and reside abroad.

Resolution #A188

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That this Convention adopt the following proposals of the Seminary Consultation on Mission (SCOM), acting in response to the call of the Presiding Bishop for new initiatives in mission:

1. Develop a "Pan Anglican Program in World Mission Theology" and offer it to Candidates for Holy Orders, nominated by their faculties and coordinated by SCOM;
2. Direct the Joint Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to include in the Program Development Budget for the year 1989 the sum of \$40,000 to cover the cost of this program in its initial year of operation;
3. Direct the Executive Council to include in the Program Development Budget for the years 1990 and 1991 an annual sum, not to exceed \$40,000 per year, to cover the cost of operating this program, the precise annual amounts to be established by Executive Council after receiving the recommendations of SCOM and approved by the Joint Committee on Program, Budget and Finance.

Resolution #A189

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That this Convention request the Presiding Bishop and the Executive Council to develop a national comprehensive world mission program of education, and to consider using St. Andrewstide as an annual "mission awareness" season for special focus on this program.

Resolution #A190

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That there be appropriated from the Assessment Budget of General Convention, the sum of \$62,100 for the triennium of 1989-91 for the expenses of the Standing Commission on World Mission.