

them in developing countries around the world. Allowing the development of generic versions would make those medications available to thousands who desperately need them.

Resolution A021 Broadening HIV Prevention Methods

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the Episcopal Church, through its General Convention, call
 2 upon its African-American members and its congregations with larger populations of African-Americans
 3 to take the lead in insuring that *all* methods used to prevent the spread of HIV are taught in school
 4 curricula, Church School curricula and in other educational settings. Educational efforts shall be
 5 intentionally directed toward the prevention of HIV among men who have sex with other men.

EXPLANATION

HIV infection continues to rise at alarming rates in the African-American community. The most prevalent route of transmission of HIV in women is from men who have sex with men to their female sexual partners. There is great reluctance in the African-American community to discuss this phenomenon. It is referred to by such code names as “on the down low” or “on the DL” reflecting the unwillingness to discuss the subject openly and honestly. The stigma associated with AIDS and the reluctance to discuss matters of human sexuality greatly hinder prevention education efforts.

COMMITTEE ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Membership

| | |
|--|----------------|
| The Rev. Virginia N. Herring, <i>Chair</i> | North Carolina |
| Mr. Les Alvis | Mississippi |
| The Rev. Dr. Lee Alison Crawford | Vermont |
| The Rt. Rev. Duncan Montgomery Gray III | Mississippi |
| The Rev. Dena A. Harrison | Texas |
| Mr. William A.G. Hogg | Long Island |
| The Rt. Rev. George E. Packard | New York |
| The Rev. Dr. Virginia M. Sheay | New Jersey |
| The Rev. Debra L. Trakel | Milwaukee |

WORK SUMMARY

Created by the 70th General Convention, the Committee on Sexual Exploitation (COSE) has been renewed each triennium as the work has expanded beyond the original intent. COSE worked diligently to open dialogue with victims, with other churches and institutions, with bishops, and with clergy. Sample policies and procedures and educational materials have been produced. Training events have been held to support diocesan response. The work has been difficult because historically sexual misconduct by clergy or church employees has been kept quiet, and suppressed. Confidentiality has been in tension with the need to provide adequate information for congregations and clergy groups to heal. Denial has existed at all levels.

COSE’s work in this triennium has centered on the recommendations from a survey of all dioceses from the last triennium. Media attention to sexual misconduct in religious bodies, particularly through child abuse has brought new urgency to our work, as well as new cases. Procedures vary widely across the church, and education is still needed.

1999 Survey of Diocesan Policies Regarding Sexual Misconduct Response

The survey itself was an educational tool for many. Our follow-up has included:

National Conference on Pastoral Standards

In June 2001, the first national Pastoral Standards Conference was held. One hundred twenty-five people represented 70 dioceses; an extraordinary gathering of bishops, chancellors, and clergy and laity. Honored at the opening worship service were: The Rt. Rev. Robert Anderson, Mrs. Marge Burke, The Rt. Rev. Harold Hopkins, Mrs. Nancy Hopkins, The Rt. Rev. Chilton Knudsen, The Rev. Margo Maris, and Mrs. Mary

Meader for their pioneering efforts in this work. Education and networking was the focus of the conference with an overwhelming request for more conferences.

Develop a National Network

Those working with sexual misconduct need to be in regular communication with others in the field. Much is gained by shared stories and information, and connection in a wider community helps ease the burden of pain. After studying, NNECA, CODE, and BEST,¹² COSE brought together a representative group from the June conference in September 2002. The “Nathan Network” was formed.

Strengthen collaboration between COSE, the Office of Pastoral Ministry Development, the Standing Commissions on Constitution and Canon,s and Ministry Development

Resolution A028 of the 73rd General Convention created a Task Force to study and evaluate the disciplinary canons (Title IV). Its membership includes persons from these groups.

Assist the Office of Pastoral Development as it implements prevention programs while articulating professional standards

The Bishop from the Office of Pastoral Development and COSE worked jointly on training sessions at the national conference and at two events for bishops. An evaluative, comprehensive report of the policies, procedure manuals and training materials from 70 dioceses was shared with the AO28 Task Force and CPG. New professional standard models by CPG will be available in the next triennium.

Conclusion

COSE’s work helped the Episcopal Church face squarely the problem of sexual misconduct in church settings. COSE has completed its charge, but the work is not finished. Our commitment to repentance, healing and reconciliation implicit in the baptismal covenant requires that we continue to struggle. We must provide a mindful presence to the risks inherent in human relationship and thereby encourage health in our institution. We must work with greater wisdom for prevention and institutional accountability as we move from crisis mode to the deeper work of response and responsibility.

A resolution for a full-time staff position in the Office of Pastoral Development at a cost of \$309,000 per triennium was created by the Province VIII bishops’ gathering in January, 2002, and subsequently approved by the Province IV bishops. Such a person would provide the on-going necessary oversight, consultation, education, and management of the work.

COSE believes this is the most expeditious and efficacious way to continue the work. However, if funding constraints prevent the establishment of the office, then we propose the establishment of a Task Force on Institutional Wellness and the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct. This group will work with the Church Pension Group and others to establish standards of ethical behavior and codes of conduct, especially for those working with children. It would meet six times in the next triennium and require \$50,000 in funding.

The primary locus of authority in these matters is the diocesan bishop’s office. COSE urges the House of Bishops to appoint a Task Force to help bishops share information and work across diocesan lines. A more holistic response across the Church can only strengthen our identity as the Body of Christ.

Finally, we are mindful of the budget priorities guiding the Church in stewardship of its resources. We have learned that education and prevention costs less than “handling cases.” We see these connections between our work and the Administration and Finance Committee’s “Ordered Priorities for Program and Budget Development” as presented to the Executive Council:

- Reaching out to youth means their protection and safety is a primary concern.
- Proclaiming the Gospel means we are a place of safety, healing, reconciliation, and love.

¹² National Network of Episcopal Clergy Associations, Conference of Diocesan Executives and Bishop’s Executive Secretaries Together

- Congregations wounded by sexual misconduct and not given the opportunity for healing become dysfunctional and continue the wounding to future generations. Learning better ways to offer healing will enable congregations to be “revitalized and transformed.”
- Hearing the “voiceless needy,” the long-silenced victims of clergy sexual abuse, began the COSE goal to “promote justice and peace for all of God’s creation” and all persons.

Resolution A022 Nathan Network Funding

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the sum of \$49,000 be appropriated for the next triennium
 2 to provide start-up funding for a national network of diocesan personnel working with sexual misconduct
 3 in the Church.

Resolution A023 Establish Institutional Wellness and the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct Task Force

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That General Convention establish, pursuant to Joint Rule 23, a
 2 Task Force of not less than ten nor more than fifteen persons. These persons should be laity, bishops,
 3 priests, and deacons with experience and expertise in dealing with sexual misconduct in church settings.
 4 Membership should include, but not be limited to representatives from the Standing Commission on
 5 Ministry Development, the Council of Seminary Deans, the Nathan Network, the Committee on Sexual
 6 Exploitation, the National Network of Episcopal Clergy Associations, the A028 Task Force, and the
 7 National Network of Lay Professionals; and be it further
 8 *Resolved*, That the Task Force shall study and gather information concerning matters of institutional
 9 wellness for the prevention of sexual misconduct. Its study shall include such concerns as screening,
 10 selection and training of clergy, lay employees and volunteers; monitoring and supervision; behavior
 11 management; incident investigation; and the articulation of pastoral standards and codes of ethical
 12 behavior; and be it further
 13 *Resolved*, That each body named shall recommend Task Force members from its own membership, and
 14 the appointments shall be overseen by the Bishop of the Office of Pastoral Development. Additional
 15 members shall then be appointed by the Bishop of the Office of Pastoral Development, and the entire Task
 16 Force shall include at least two bishops, two clergy, and two laity. The Task Force shall have the services
 17 of the Office of Pastoral Development and a Church Pension staff person; and be it further
 18 *Resolved*, That \$50,000 be appropriated for the work of this Task Force for the next triennium.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

www.episcopalchurch.org/women

Membership

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sally Bucklee, <i>Chair</i> | Washington |
| Cynthia Bartol | Virginia |
| Jon Bruno | Los Angeles |
| Marjorie Burke | New Hampshire |
| Jennifer Baskerville | Newark, <i>resigned 2001</i> |
| Debra Cavanaugh | San Joaquin |
| Robert Cowperthwaite | Tennessee |
| Guadalupe Guillen | Los Angeles |
| Sheila Nelson-McJilton | Easton |
| Virginia Paul | Western Louisiana |
| Barbara Schlachter | Southern Ohio |
| Marge Christie | <i>Consultant</i> |
| Sally Sedgwick | <i>Staff</i> |

WORK SUMMARY

Despite limited resources, the Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) addressed its mission to investigate and advocate for women’s full participation in the Episcopal Church and to advise the church on theological,