

STANDING COMMISSION ON WORLD MISSION

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Membership

The Very Rev. Dr. Titus Presler, <i>Chair</i>	Texas (<i>previously Massachusetts</i>), 2003
The Rev. Canon Kathleen J. Cullinane, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Indianapolis, 2003
Ms. Nancy W. Broadwell, <i>Secretary and Treasurer</i>	East Carolina, 2003,
Mr. Dennis G. Case	Southwestern Virginia, 2003
Dr. Diana Dillenberger-Frade	Southeast Florida, 2006
The Rt. Rev. James E. Folts	West Texas, 2006
Ms. Joan Hermon,	Virgin Islands, 2003
Mr. Willis Jenkins	Oklahoma, 2006
The Rev. Dr. Harold Lewis	Pittsburgh, 2006, resigned December 2002
Ms. Helena Mbele-Mbong	Churches in Europe, 2006
The Rt. Rev. Wilfrido Ramos-Orench	Connecticut, 2006
The Rt. Rev. William J. Skilton	South Carolina, 2003
Ms. Carole Jan Lee	<i>Executive Council liaison</i>
The Rev. Canon Patrick Mauney	<i>Episcopal Church Center staff liaison</i>

WORK SUMMARY

Mandate: “It shall be the duty of the Commission, as to all mission outside the United States, to review and evaluate existing policies, priorities and strategies, and to promote partnership for global mission among the various groups within the church, to plan and propose policy on overseas mission, and to make recommendations pertaining to the Executive Council and the General Convention.” (Canon I.1.2(n)(9))

Introduction

During this triennium the work of the Standing Commission on World Mission (SCWM) has been guided by the following priorities:

- Develop a vision statement for the church’s world mission
- Convene a consultation on roles of race, money, and power in mission
- Assist in processes related to autonomy of international dioceses
- Assist in processes related to incorporation of international dioceses
- Monitor and collaborate with Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission
- Support development of the Convocation of American Churches in Europe

The Commission met at St. Christopher’s Conference Center, South Carolina, in January 2001; at St. Margaret’s Convent, Boston in October 2001; at St. Christopher’s Conference Center, South Carolina, in April 2002; in Havana, Cuba, in October 2002; and in Miami in January 2003. The meeting at St. Christopher’s in April 2002 was held jointly to coincide with the annual general meeting of the Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission (EPGM). The Boston meeting included the Consultation on Race, Money and Power. The meeting in Havana included the Consultation on Incorporation with the Dioceses of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela. Members visited the Convocation of American Churches in Europe three times.

The commission’s work in helping develop the Standards for Sending Long-Term Missionaries was presented at the Jacksonville meeting of Executive Council. The Vision Subcommittee met with the staff of Anglican and Global Relations in New York in September 2001, with the Seminary Consultation on Mission in Berkeley in October 2001, and in Austin in June 2002 to work on the Vision Statement.

The chair represented the Commission and presented at the Conference of Anglican Mission Organizations in Cyprus in February 2003. A member presented the Vision Statement at the New Wineskins for Global Mission Conference in Ridgecrest, NC, in April 2003. Members of the Autonomy Subcommittee met with representatives of dioceses in the Caribbean region at the Episcopal Church Center in New York, at Camp

Washington in Connecticut, and in Boca Chica, Dominican Republic. One member visited the Diocese of Venezuela in preparation for the 2003 General Convention.

Vision Statement

Companions in Transformation: The Episcopal Church's World Mission in a New Century

The Standing Commission on World Mission offers to the people of the Episcopal Church, through the General Convention of 2003, a vision for the church's world mission in the future. Turmoil and change in the church and on the planet make it imperative that world mission, one of the church's most extensive engagements with the wider world, be guided by reflection on the past, discernment in the present, and vision for the future. The future we realistically anticipate is the next six triennia, to the year 2020.

The vision statement is entitled "Companions in Transformation: The Episcopal Church's World Mission in a New Century." It includes a theological basis for world mission, an ethos of world mission, reflection on world crises that form the environment for world mission, proposed modes of mission, and a specific plan for gathering resources and carrying out world mission. The entire statement, is available on our web-site and will be provided to bishops and deputies at the Convention, as required for legislative action.

Consultation with many individuals and groups occurred throughout the triennium to produce a document with as wide a scope of input at possible. Those consulted included the Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission (EPGM) and its member organizations in the areas of sending, receiving, education, funding and networking; the Seminary Consultation on Mission; international mission companions in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Oceania; mission agencies in other Anglican provinces; ecumenical companions; and missionaries of the church serving through various agencies.

Resolution A150 World Mission Vision

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 2003 General Convention call the church to study,
 2 during the 2004–2006 triennium, the vision for world mission contained in the document, "Companions in
 3 Transformation: The Episcopal Church's World Mission in a New Century," prepared by the Standing
 4 Commission on World Mission; and be it further
 5 *Resolved*, That this Convention call on parishes, dioceses, voluntary mission agencies, seminaries, mission
 6 networks, and Episcopal Church Center agencies to consider the statement's proposals and reflect on the
 7 feasibility of initiating their implementation during the 2007–2009 triennium; and be it further
 8 *Resolved*, That this Convention request the Standing Commission on World Mission to gather and
 9 interpret responses from around the church and make specific programmatic and budgetary proposals to
 10 the 2006 General Convention.

EXPLANATION

The Commission initially envisioned implementation of "Companions in Transformation: The Episcopal Church's World Mission in a New Century" as commencing during the 2004–2006 triennium. The scope of the proposals, however, requires a triennium of study so that church members can explore and appropriate the mission understandings that the statement sets forth. The church also needs time to consider the statement's deployment and financial proposals, develop consensus, and plan for the implementation of these or other proposals during the 2007–2009 triennium. The economic slow-down and its effect of restricting the church's income are supporting reasons to call for a triennium of study and planning.

Resolution A151 World Mission Funds

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 2003 General Convention adopt the principle that
 2 world mission funds historically committed to the church's global engagement through financial covenants
 3 to former international jurisdictions of the church be re-deployed in other areas of the church's global
 4 engagement, and especially to world mission, as such funds become available through incrementally
 5 diminishing levels of support to the autonomous jurisdictions; and be it further
 6 *Resolved*, That a detailed financial plan for the re-deployment of such funds be presented by the Standing
 7 Commission on World Mission to the 2006 General Convention.

EXPLANATION

The vision statement prepared by the Standing Commission on World Mission, “Companions in Transformation: The Episcopal Church’s World Mission in a New Century,” proposes that the vision be implemented through substantial increases in the church’s global mission engagement. In particular, the commission proposes energetic development of mission education; an increase in the number of missionaries sent and received, including a larger Young Adult Service Corps (YASC) and more minority missionaries; an increase in seminarian internships; better-prepared short-term mission pilgrimages; and expanded mission networking.

Greater allocations within the program budget of General Convention are necessary to implement this plan. The Commission proposes that such allocations be funded from the resources that are being released, beginning in the 1990s, as the Episcopal Church’s financial obligations decrease incrementally to former Episcopal jurisdictions that are now autonomous Anglican provinces, such as the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, La Iglésia Anglicana de México, and La Iglésia Anglicana de la Région Centrale de America.

The Commission recommends that these funds continue to be used in the church’s global engagement. Using them to support specific world mission initiatives will continue the Episcopal Church’s historic commitment to the wider world. The proposed re-allocation is more in keeping with companionship and mutuality in mission than generalized subsidies have proved to be. Simply re-absorbing the funds into the general and undifferentiated revenues of the church — as has been the practice from the inauguration of the covenants — impairs our church’s global vision of God and diminishes our church’s global discipleship. Further details are set forth in the vision statement itself.

Consultation on the Intersection of Race, Money and Power in the World Mission of the Episcopal Church

The Commission met at St. Margaret’s Convent, Boston, October 3–5, 2001 for a consultation on the role of race, money and power in the world mission of the Episcopal Church, one of the Commission’s priorities. The consultation examined the intersection of these complex realities with world mission both historically and in the present. Presenters were: speaking on race, the Rev. Canon Burgess Carr, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta; speaking on money, the Rev. Dr. Jonathan J. Bonk, Overseas Ministries Study Center, New Haven, Connecticut; and, speaking on power, the Rev. Canon Edmundo Desueza, Church of the Good Shepherd, Newberg, New York. Present also were eight representatives of various mission agencies working within the Episcopal Church.

A colloquy followed each presentation. The substance of the consultation is to be published by Cowley Publications and made available to the wider church. Minutes of the Consultation are available at www.episcopalchurch.org. We commend continued examination and discussion of these realities, too complex to be summarized within this report, as a means of mitigating their negative effects on the mission of the church. The discussions of the Consultation have been integral to the development of the vision statement, “Companions in Transformation: The Episcopal Church’s World Mission in a New Century.”

Autonomy Matters**Relationships with Autonomy Processes and Autonomous Churches**

Matters related to the process by which international jurisdictions of the Episcopal Church become autonomous provinces of the Anglican Communion are overseen by this Commission, because historically autonomy has been one major outcome of the church’s world mission.

SCWM maintains concern for the nurture of international dioceses that continue to be part of the Episcopal Church, which include Colombia, the Convocation of American Churches in Europe, Dominican Republic, Ecuador Central, Ecuador Litoral, Haiti, Honduras, Taiwan, and Virgin Islands. *GC Resolution 2000-129a* called on the Executive Council to tend to relationships with those dioceses in a variety of ways. It also called on Executive Council to tend to the church’s relationships with jurisdictions that formerly were members of the Episcopal Church and that now are part of autonomous Anglican provinces, namely, La Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil, the Episcopal Diocese of Liberia (now part of the Province of West Africa), the

Episcopal Church in the Philippines, La Iglesia Anglicana de México, and La Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Centrale de America.

Each Covenant Committee has met at least once during the 2002–2003 triennium, and reports have been received. The financial difficulties experienced in La Iglesia Anglicana de México (IAM) as a result of the misappropriations of church funds by the Bishop of the Diocese of Western Mexico and the Bishop of the Diocese of Northern Mexico, together with the inability of the Diocese of Ecuador Central to answer auditing questions, point to the need for a relationship that assists and requires accountability for funds received from the Episcopal Church. The statement issued by the ECUSA/IAM Covenant Committee in November 2002 was an important first step toward such accountability.

Proposals for Incorporation into the Episcopal Church

Arising out of its oversight of autonomy processes, the Commission was closely involved during the 2001–2003 triennium with proposals from the Diocese of Cuba, the Diocese of Puerto Rico, and the Diocese of Venezuela to be incorporated into the Episcopal Church. It is unprecedented for a fully developed and autonomous diocese to seek membership in the Episcopal Church. Historically, the movement has been a progression from missionary district to missionary diocese to Episcopal diocese to autonomy in the Anglican Communion. These proposals represent a reverse movement and have required extensive consultation and careful reflection.

ECUSA's overall mission strategy after mid-century was for Province IX, which included Episcopal dioceses in Latin America and the Caribbean, to become one autonomous province. In 1984, the autonomy movement was differentiated regionally. Mexico proceeded to autonomy in 1995 and Central America in 1998.

During the 2001–2003 triennium the Commission participated actively in the conversations held by the Caribbean Province in Formation, which included four dioceses. Two of the four, Dominican Republic and Haiti, are dioceses of the Episcopal Church. Two of the four, Cuba and Puerto Rico, are extra-provincial, which means that they are members of no Anglican province. The Diocese of Cuba, previously an Episcopal missionary diocese under the jurisdiction of the House of Bishops, was designated extra-provincial in 1967. Metropolitan authority for it was transferred to the Metropolitan Council of Cuba, which consists of the Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Primate of the Province of the West Indies, and the President of Province IX of ECUSA. The Diocese of Puerto Rico, also previously an Episcopal missionary diocese, became extra-provincial in 1979, with the Synod of Province IX designated as its metropolitan authority. In both cases, extra-provincial status was anticipated to be brief and transitional, with a Caribbean province to be formed imminently. In fact, Cuba's status has persisted for 36 years, and Puerto Rico's for 24 years.

With forward movement toward Caribbean autonomy difficult to achieve, Cuba and Puerto Rico initiated discussions in 2001 concerning incorporation into the Episcopal Church. In 2002, the Caribbean Covenant Committee decided to go into "recess," pending the outcome of these initiatives by Cuba and Puerto Rico. Meanwhile, the Diocese of Venezuela, also an extra-provincial diocese, initiated discussion concerning incorporation into ECUSA. Previously part of the Province of the West Indies, Venezuela became extra-provincial in 1982 and anticipated joining a projected province of the Andes that never materialized.

Theological and Missiological Basis for Incorporation

Unity and universality are fundamental to the catholic nature of the church. Catholicity involves parts of the church being in vital relationship with one another as the church is extended over time and geographical space. The Anglican Communion is a global fellowship of church families. Each church family consists of dioceses that join together to constitute one provincial church.

In this Anglican understanding of what it means to be the church, fulfilling the church's unity and universality is incompatible with the three dioceses' present situation as extra-provincial dioceses. While they are members of the Anglican Communion, they are organic members of no particular province of the communion. Thus they have no fully developed legislative, judicial or executive links with other dioceses with which they share membership in a province. The links they do have, as with the Metropolitan Council

established for Cuba or with the Synod of Province IX of ECUSA, are unusual, attenuated, and anomalous. Indeed, extra-provincial status is no longer an organizational practice in the Anglican Communion. The present situation poses practical problems of governance and suffuses the identity of these dioceses with ambiguity. In Anglican polity, a diocese alone cannot function fully as a diocese.

Equally important is the rooting of the church's mission in particular contexts. In this dynamic of enculturation and indigenization the gospel takes flesh in the lifeways of peoples. Such movement in the life of a healthy church highlights the local and the particular, in contrast to the shared and the universal.

Complementing the unity of the Body of Christ, its model is the particularity of God's incarnation in Jesus.

From this standpoint, the three dioceses have excelled in carrying out God's mission faithfully and vitally in their respective contexts of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela. Separation from particular Anglican provinces has encouraged them to develop forms of gospel life that are authentic to their contexts and are not imported from the shared life of a large and powerful province such as ECUSA, or from a smaller trans-national province. The experience of true enculturation and ownership in their church life has been inspiring for them. The Commission heard of and witnessed work that confirmed that these dioceses are vigorous and strong. At the same time, their isolation from wider church conversations has been discouraging and has hampered their mission.

Supporting mission is an essential criterion for incorporating international dioceses into the Episcopal Church. At the Commission's consultation held in Cuba in October 2002, leaders of the three dioceses stated that the need for catholicity must take priority over autonomy at this historical moment. They stated that seeking an organic relationship with a viable Anglican province is essential to enabling them to carry out the fullness of God's mission among them. To the question whether incorporation would be a regressive mission strategy, the dioceses responded that incorporation will advance, not retard, their mission. To the question whether incorporation would invite neo-colonial domination, the dioceses responded that they originated these initiatives and that their experience of colonialism enables them to avoid repeating the patterns of the past. To the question whether incorporation is anachronistic in a "national church," the Commission responds that the Episcopal Church has long been international. To the question whether incorporation of mainly Hispanic dioceses is anomalous for an "Anglo church," the Commission responds that Hispanics are now the largest USA minority and that the Episcopal Church is increasingly multi-cultural. Indeed, the Commission suggests that a larger international Hispanic presence will help the Episcopal Church in its growing Hispanic mission in the USA. Additional dioceses will also strengthen Province IX.

"As a Commission, we are clear that an ECUSA diocese outside the U.S. is welcome in our church and under no obligation to become autonomous or join another Anglican province," the Commission stated in its 2000 Blue Book report. "At the same time, our church remains committed to assisting with the autonomy process of non-U.S. dioceses that do wish to become autonomous" (p. 491). While the incorporation proposals we support are not framed as interim or temporary, dioceses incorporated will be free to pursue autonomy in the future under the terms of Resolution 235a of the 1991 General Convention.

Pension Concerns

A concern of the three dioceses has been to provide a pension system that assures the well-being and security of their clergy and lay employees. The complexity of the issue requires that the Church Pension Fund be sensitive and fair to the particular needs and dynamics of each diocese. The Commission understands that clergy will be eligible to join these plans from their diocese's time of entry as long as pension premiums are being paid. The Commission hopes that the unfunded liability, i.e., coverage for the period during which dioceses previously part of ECUSA dioceses were not contributing, will be resolved by the time of General Convention.

Political Environments

Having considered the political environments of the three dioceses, the Commission believes that fulfilling God's mission is the primary consideration that should occupy General Convention's attention. The long-standing independence movement in Puerto Rico, the ongoing enmity between the United States of America and Cuba, and the current turmoil in Venezuela are important ongoing conditions in the countries concerned.

Companionship in mission, however, and the unity of the body of Christ must be our guiding principles as a church. Political challenges should not determine whether to proceed with incorporation. Practically, the mutual support that membership in Province IX will offer may mitigate the effects of adverse political conditions.

Structural Matters

Congregational and diocesan structures in dioceses being incorporated should be based on local models, not necessarily on models in the USA. On the basis of their regional location, dioceses being incorporated would be a part of Province IX, which would also help to strengthen Province IX, a concern of the 2000 General Convention. Dioceses being incorporated would be full and regular dioceses of ECUSA, not missionary dioceses (of which there are none in ECUSA at this time). The Commission consulted with the Standing Commission on Structure during the 2001-2003 triennium concerning the advisability of incorporation and the form it would take in the church's structure.

Resolutions

Clear and well supported resolutions for incorporation have been received from the Diocese of Puerto Rico and the Diocese of Venezuela. In concert with the Standing Commission on Structure, the Commission offers resolutions supporting the incorporation of these two dioceses. The Commission supports the Diocese of Cuba in its discussions regarding incorporation into ECUSA. As of the date of this report a formal petition from the Diocese of Cuba had not been received, but the Commission was prepared to offer a supplementary resolution should a well supported petition be forthcoming.

Resolution A141 Admit Diocese of Puerto Rico

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 2003 General Convention admit the Diocese of Puerto
 2 Rico to the Episcopal Church USA and recognize it as a diocese in union with General Convention; and be
 3 it further
 4 Resolved, That the General Convention designate the Diocese of Puerto Rico as a member diocese of
 5 Province IX of the Episcopal Church; and be it further
 6 *Resolved*, That the Diocese of Puerto Rico be entitled to all rights pertaining to membership in the
 7 Episcopal Church as provided in the Constitution and Canons, including, but not limited to, voice and vote
 8 in the House of Bishops and House of Deputies, in accordance with the rules of those houses; and be it
 9 further
 10 *Resolved*, That the Diocese of Puerto Rico be obligated to undertake all responsibilities pertaining to
 11 diocesan membership in the Episcopal Church as provided in the Constitution and Canons, including, but
 12 not limited to, conforming its constitution and canons to the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of
 13 the Episcopal Church; submitting annual diocesan and parochial reports to the General Convention Office;
 14 contributing annually to the apportionment budget of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society; and
 15 reporting fully on any financial assistance it receives from the General Convention budget; and be it
 16 further
 17 *Resolved*, That this convention affirm that the clergy and lay employees of the Diocese of Puerto Rico will
 18 be eligible to participate in companion pension plans administered by the Church Pension Fund, with
 19 benefits adapted to the particular needs of the Diocese and consistent with applicable law; and be it further
 20 *Resolved*, That this convention urge the Church Pension Fund to work with the Diocese of Puerto Rico to
 21 develop a plan to cover the unfunded period of time for those of its clergy who previously participated in
 22 the Church Pension Fund when the Diocese was a member of the Episcopal Church; and be it further
 23 *Resolved*, That the portion of this resolution accepting the Diocese of Puerto Rico into union with the
 24 General Convention become effective by written directive by the Presiding Bishop to the Bishop of the
 25 Diocese on such date after January 1, 2004 on which the Secretary of the General Convention certifies to
 26 the Presiding Bishop that the Secretary has received from the Diocese written evidence that the Diocese
 27 has successfully undertaken all the foregoing responsibilities pertaining to membership in the Episcopal
 28 Church as provided in the Constitution and Canons; and be it further
 29 *Resolved*, That this convention re-affirm the principle that dioceses of this church that are not located

30 within the United States may seek autonomy according to the procedures set forth in Resolution 235a of
31 the 1991 General Convention or may join other provinces of the Anglican Communion.

EXPLANATION

On January 14, 2003, the Rt. Rev. David Andres Alvares, Bishop of Puerto Rico wrote to the Commission: “This is to inform you that in a special Convention of the Diocese of Puerto Rico, held on the 11th of January at the Diocesan Center in Saint Just, a Resolution was approved to ask for Incorporation into the Episcopal Church in the United States. The Convention dealt with the ecclesiological, canonical, financial and administrative aspects. After receiving reports on them, the Resolution was presented as follows: ‘Resolved by this Special Convention to ask the Standing Commission on Structure and the Standing Commission on World Mission of the Episcopal Church in the United States to present to the General Convention to meet in the city of Minneapolis in July of 2003, our request for Incorporation and Canonical Conformity in that Province of the Anglican Communion with all the responsibilities, rights and privileges it conveys.’ In a secret vote by orders, the results for the clergy were 54 in favor to 11 against. For the laity the results were 63 in favor to 22 against, for a total of 117 in favor and 33 against.”

The Standing Commission on World Mission regards this as a clear and well supported resolution from the Diocese of Puerto Rico and supports incorporation for reasons set forth in its Blue Book Report.

Resolution A142 Admit Diocese of Venezuela

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 74th General Convention admit the Diocese of
2 Venezuela to the Episcopal Church USA and recognizes it as a diocese in union with General Convention;
3 and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the General Convention designate the Diocese of Venezuela as a member diocese of
5 Province IX of the Episcopal Church; and be it further
6 *Resolved*, That the Diocese of Venezuela be entitled to all rights pertaining to membership in the
7 Episcopal Church as provided in the Constitution and Canons, including, but not limited to, voice and vote
8 in the House of Bishops and House of Deputies, in accordance with the rules of those houses; and be it
9 further
10 *Resolved*, That the Diocese of Venezuela be obligated to undertake all responsibilities pertaining to
11 diocesan membership in the Episcopal Church as provided in the Constitution and Canons, including, but
12 not limited to, conforming its constitution and canons to the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of
13 the Episcopal Church; submitting annual diocesan and parochial reports to the General Convention Office;
14 contributing annually to the apportionment budget of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society; and
15 reporting fully on any financial assistance it receives from the General Convention budget; and be it
16 further
17 *Resolved*, That this convention affirm that the clergy and lay employees of the Diocese of Venezuela will
18 be eligible to participate in companion pension plans administered by the Church Pension Fund, with
19 benefits adapted to the particular needs of the Diocese and consistent with applicable law; and be it further
20 *Resolved*, That the portion of this resolution accepting the Diocese of Venezuela into union with the
21 General Convention become effective by written directive by the Presiding Bishop to the Bishop of the
22 Diocese on such date after January 1, 2004 on which the Secretary of the General Convention certifies to
23 the Presiding Bishop that the Secretary has received from the Diocese written evidence that the Diocese
24 has successfully undertaken all the foregoing responsibilities pertaining to membership in the Episcopal
25 Church as provided in the Constitution and Canons; and be it further
26 *Resolved*, That this convention re-affirm the principle that dioceses of this church that are not located
27 within the United States may seek autonomy according to the procedures set forth in Resolution 235a of
28 the 1991 General Convention or may join other provinces of the Anglican Communion.

EXPLANATION

At a meeting that the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church convened with representatives of Province IX in Boca Chica, Dominican Republic, on April 18, 2002, the Rt. Rev. Orlando Guerrero, Bishop of Venezuela, presented documentation of the actions of the convention of the Diocese of Venezuela in Caracas on April 9, 2002, when it resolved: “ I. To request that the Episcopal Church of the

United States incorporate us as full members, joining in this process with the dioceses of Puerto Rico and Cuba. II. To seek the support of Province IX as our metropolitan authority to initiate the process to enter our petition as an agenda item in the General Convention of 2003. III. To present this communication to the Restructuring Committee of Province IX meeting in Boca Chica, Dominican Republic on the 18th of April of this year [2002]. IV. To send a copy of this communication to the Executive Council of Province IX and to the dioceses of Puerto Rico and Cuba so that they will be informed of our actions.” The vote was reported to be unanimous, and signatures were presented indicating the affirmative votes of 11 clergypersons and 18 laypersons.

The Diocese of Venezuela is small. The unprecedented nature of requests from dioceses to enter the Episcopal Church means that precise requirements for such incorporation are not set forth in the Constitution and Canons. However, for comparison, the Commission notes that the Diocese of Venezuela exceeds the minimum size required for the formation of a new diocese (which the Diocese of Venezuela is not), as defined in Article V, Section 5, of the Constitution of the Episcopal Church, which specifies at least six parishes and at least six presbyters.

The Standing Commission on World Mission regards the Diocese of Venezuela’s resolution as clear and well supported. The Commission supports incorporation for reasons set forth in its Blue Book Report.

Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission

EPGM is a partnership of mission organizations of the Episcopal Church, including the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, that was formally recognized by Resolution A128 of the 2000 General Convention. Agencies sending missionaries, receiving missionaries, funding mission, educating for mission or advancing mission strategies may belong to EPGM. Members of EPGM commit to covenants that set forth guidelines for the conduct of world mission.

During the 2001–2003 triennium, EPGM worked with Executive Council to develop the Standards for Sending Long-Term Missionaries. In accord with the EPGM Plan approved by the 2000 General Convention, these comprehensive standards, unique in the Anglican Communion, enable Executive Council to recognize missionaries sent by any member organization of EPGM as missionaries of the Episcopal Church. Thus, such recognition is extended beyond the missionaries sent by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. Executive Council offered its first such recognitions at its meeting held in the Dominican Republic, January 27-30, 2003.

Resolution A152 Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 74th General Convention commend the Executive
2 Council of the Episcopal Church for its collaboration with the Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission
3 (EPGM) and for its recognition of missionaries from EPGM agencies at its January 2003 meeting in the
4 Dominican Republic.

Emerging Anglicanism in Europe

A continuing priority of the SCWM over the past triennium was to continue its supportive consultation with the Convocation of American Churches in Europe. The Convocation is a collection of churches, mission congregations and specialized ministries spread geographically over five countries in continental Europe. A network of mission congregations has grown from the existing eight parishes, providing ministry to indigenous communities in Europe. Members of the Commission have been present in the conventions held during 2000–2002 and have participated in key events.

On Sunday, November 18, 2001, the Convention and guests gathered at St. Paul’s Within-the-Walls, Rome, to consecrate the Rt. Rev. Pierre Welté Whalon as Bishop to serve in the Convocation of American Churches in Europe. Electing their own Bishop-in-Charge with the Presiding Bishop’s approval was an important step and one fully supported and endorsed by the SCWM. On Saturday, November 17, members of the Convention, together with Bishop-elect Whalon and the Presiding Bishop, were granted an audience with Pope John Paul II. Joining the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity, a warm welcome was extended and personal greetings were exchanged during this historic occasion.

The 2002 Annual Convention, held at Emmanuel Church in Geneva, Switzerland, offered a time of regional discussions regarding the goals and achievements of the Convocation's vision of mission in Europe. This was part of the European Anglican Partners in Mission (PIM) process begun in 2001, which will culminate in a continent-wide consultation in May 2003. Two presenters in this discussion were members of the Commission: Helena Mbele-Mbong and Bp. William Skilton.

Specialized ministries continue to flourish, including a Taiwanese Ministry in Paris, a French congregation in Bordeaux, a refugee Center in Rome, and a Spanish congregation in Rome. The developing convocation-wide emphasis on youth and the full-time employment of a youth minister for this work affirm the Convocation's continuing spirit of mission. A European Institute for Christian Studies was established in 2002, and a full-time director was appointed.

During this triennium, a second and expanded Italian/English Book of Common Prayer has been published, and a German/English version was presented at the 2001 Convention. A Spanish/English and a French/English Book of Common Prayer are also in preparation.

The Convocation of American Churches in Europe provides a model of ministry in changing cultures for sharing the gospel and responding to the needs within these communities. A new Anglican identity is being born from an international English-speaking population. This new identity is in the process of becoming a new voice in Europe.

SCWM PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT TRIENNIUM

World Mission

- Serve as a focal point for the study of and planning for the implementation of the vision statement, "Companions in Transformation: The Episcopal Church's World Mission in a New Century," presented to the 2003 General Convention, and make specific programmatic and budgetary proposals to the 2006 General Convention.
- Continue collaboration with the Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission, particularly in the formulation of guidelines for short-term missions, and in developing the above proposals; and hold one Commission meeting jointly with EPGM during the triennium.
- Discern greater opportunities for world mission cooperation with our Anglican and ecumenical companions.

International Dioceses

- Monitor developments in the Dioceses of Cuba, Puerto Rico and Venezuela; monitor the effectiveness of those incorporated as members of the Episcopal Church; and assure at least one visit of Commission members to each of the three dioceses during the triennium.
- Continue the Commission's involvement in the Convocation of American Churches in Europe and monitor cooperative developments with the Anglican jurisdictions in continental Europe.
- Monitor and encourage the participation of ECUSA's international dioceses in the full life of the church, while encouraging the dynamic enculturation of Christ's mission in the particular context of each.

Autonomy Process

- Continue to review the autonomy process, particularly in light of previous covenants and of the incorporation resolutions of this General Convention.
- Continue to receive and review covenant committee reports that have been directed to Executive Council.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE 2004–2006 TRIENNIUM

The Standing Commission on World Mission will meet at least five times during the triennium, with three to four meetings to be held in the USA and at least two meetings outside the continental USA. SCWM's engagement with Anglican partners and the global church makes it imperative to meet from time to time outside the continental USA. Funding for consultations or sub-groups with our companions is also needed, including the Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission and the international dioceses, especially those that may be incorporated into ECUSA. This will require \$38,000 in 2004; \$49,000 in 2005 and \$39,000 in 2006 for a total of \$126,000 for the triennium.