# House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church 

## Membership

The Rev. Reynolds S. Cheney II, Chair<br>The Rev. Cecily P. Broderick y Guerra, Vice-Chair<br>The Rev. Canon Augusta R. Anderson<br>Mr. Wesley Baldwin<br>Ms. Anne C. Brown<br>Mr. Richard Carroll, Jr.<br>The Rev. Kelly M. Demo<br>The Rev. Canon Mark Dunnam<br>The Rev. Susan Hansell<br>The Rev. Canon Paul E. Lambert<br>Mr. John McCann<br>The Rev. Canon Antonio Munoz<br>Mr. Alfred D. Price<br>Ms. Terry Roberts<br>Mrs. Tabitha M.L. Secretario<br>West Tennessee<br>Long Island<br>North Carolina, Appointed 2002<br>Washington<br>Vermont<br>Albany, Resigned<br>Kansas, Resigned<br>Central Gulf Coast<br>Central Florida<br>Dallas<br>Lexington<br>El Camino Real<br>Executive Council liaison, appointed 2002<br>Minnesota<br>Hawaii, Resigned<br>Missouri<br>The Rev. Susan Skinner<br>Mr. Lee Clark, Office of the General Convention, Manager of Parochial Report Systems<br>Ms. Verlyn Hinds, Episcopal Church Center Staff liaison<br>Mr. Ray Duncan, Episcopal Church Center Staff liaison, deceased

## Summary of Work: Knowing Who We Are

The Committee on the State of the Church is a committee of the House of Deputies charged with preparing and presenting to the House of Deputies "a report on the State of the Church" (I.6.5(b)). The committee is also responsible for the form of the Parochial Report.
The committee met five times during the triennium and offers the following "snapshot" of the Episcopal Church in the opening years of the new millennium. A primary resource is the annual Parochial Report. We also met with representatives of the Church Pension Group, the Office of Congregational Development, the Episcopal Church Foundation and the General Convention Office. We used studies produced by some of those groups as additional resources.

## A New Millennium, a New Context

The ministry of reconciliation is the primary mission of the Episcopal Church. As part of the Body of Christ, the church responds to its calling in many and diverse ways. At the close of the twentieth century and the opening of the third millennium, we find ourselves at an important crossroads.
The modern era as we have known it is giving way to a post-modern era characterized by greater diversity, pluralism and globalism. The church's life within this global community (now a "village"), our relationship with the environment and integrity of creation, our response to third world debt and first world consumerism, issues of business, medical/bio-ethics, science and religion, deep conversation between the religions of the world, war, peace and justice, sexuality and racism - all these and more create the arena within which we do ministry. The implications are immense, the opportunities challenging. What occurs in our country affects others around the world, and vice versa. Now more than ever, the state of the church is intimately entwined with the state of the world.
In looking toward the future, we often find ourselves caught in a tension between the ways we have always done things and the call to find new ways of being the church in order to do ministry and mission. How much do we allow the culture of our time and place to influence the direction of the church, and how much do we stand against that culture? The Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church have a heritage of dealing with such tensions, a heritage of living with diversity and ambiguity that we can offer as a gift to a diverse
and uncertain world. That heritage challenges us to hold on to the good that has been passed down to us and to step out in hope and in faith, offering a ministry of reconciliation to a world torn by violence and fear of difference.
Our Anglican heritage also challenges us within the church to seek a kind of unity-or reconciled communion with one another-that at the same time celebrates and affirms our diversity. The Committee on the State of the Church quickly discovered that we faced that challenge as a group, for we reflect at least some of the diversity of the Episcopal Church. We come from California to Vermont, from Minnesota to Florida, and places in between. We are black, brown and white; conservative, moderate and progressive; male and female; clergy and lay; straight and gay. And we have built relationships that bridge the distance of our differences to become a community of reconciliation.

## Response to September 11

We held our second meeting at the Church Center in New York City barely two weeks after the attacks of September 11, 2001. We believe the response of the Episcopal Church, at all levels, made manifest what it means to make the hope of the gospel concrete, what it means to be a reconciling presence in the midst of chaos and fear. We commend the ministry of the institutions and individuals who responded to the tragic events of that day with love, generosity and both practical and pastoral assistance.
We note particularly the work of St. Paul's Chapel of Trinity Church, Wall Street; the Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey; the General Theological Seminary; the Episcopal Church Center; the Office of the Bishop Suffragan for the Armed Services, Healthcare and Prison Ministries; and the many individuals who offered themselves as volunteers.
Congregations all across the country opened their doors to a population suddenly finding itself in need of connection to a praying community. They ministered to those who lost friends and family members; they sent volunteers and messages of encouragement; they contributed clothing and other material items needed by rescue and recovery workers and by those who lost their homes; they raised funds for the work of Episcopal Relief and Development; and many embraced the challenge to reach out to people of other faiths, particularly those who were experiencing discrimination.

## History of the Parochial Report

The General Convention from its earliest days has sought information to measure the church's relative well being, even then referred to as "the State of the Church." As we continue to face the challenges of a mission of reconciliation in a complex context, having a sense of who we are is vital. Data obtained from the annual parochial reports and other carefully constructed studies allows us to move beyond assumptions and perceptions to a more accurate picture of many aspects of the life and health of the church.
Staff at the Archives of the Episcopal Church informed us that during the General Convention held in 1792, the House of Deputies went into a "Committee of the Whole on the State of the Church" to review the constitution that had been completed by the previous General Convention. By canon adopted in 1804, the House of Deputies was directed to prepare a triennial report on the "State of the Church" that would be based on diocesan reports and other papers such as, "Episcopal charges, addresses, and pastoral letters as may tend to throw light on the State of the Church in each diocese." The General Convention was concerned about the dramatic decline in the number of clergy and communicants following the Revolutionary War, when perhaps only 10,000 Episcopalians inhabited the new republic, and only some 3,000 would have been able to attend worship services. By 1820, the church had gone from being the third largest denomination in the colonies before the Revolutionary War to being the smallest relative to the mainline churches. By 1830, the Episcopal Church had grown to about 30,000 members.
Two centuries ago, the House of Deputies understood the value of systematically gathering intelligence, a process that creates its own interconnections, in order to evaluate and restore the church's vitality. Concerned about decline, they began gathering data in order to plan for growth.
In more recent years, the Committee on the State of the Church has focused on the characteristics, attitudes and needs of various segments of the church community. It conducted a census in 1950, and has initiated studies of the needs of minorities (1985 - A141), the demographics of working class and membership (1988 -

A159), and the demographic characteristics of students and staff of Episcopal Day Schools (1991 - A182). In 1991 (A178), the committee promoted the use of parochial and diocesan reports as planning and development tools for the Presiding Bishop and his staff, a continuing reflection of the 1804 canon. In 1994, the committee was directed to analyze church growth trends (D044). In 2000, the General Convention, on the recommendation of the committee, called for a census by 2005 (A101).
In the present triennium, the General Convention Office has addressed the need to improve the accuracy of the data it receives and has made an effort both to subject the data to more in-depth statistical analysis and to provide reports that are better suited for the planning needs of the church. The previous Committee on the State of the Church recommended revisions to the parochial report form that were approved by Executive Council in February, 1999. The review process continues, with the assistance of Church Center staff.

## Current Data and Trends

As the Episcopal Church embraces "20/20: A Clear Vision," a commitment to double the church's baptized membership between the years 2000 and 2020, the analysis of key parochial report data can provide a periodic progress report. Current data tell us about:
Attendance and Membership: The number of "active baptized members" in the Episcopal Church has decreased over the last decade, but the number of "communicants in good standing" has increased. Many consider "average Sunday attendance" to be the best indicator of vitality in the church, and that figure has increased in the last decade, especially in 2000 and 2001.


A chart at the end of this report shows membership, communicants, and average attendance for years 2001 and 1997 by diocese and province. The number of active baptized members decreased in six domestic provinces and increased in two, Province IV ( $2.5 \%$ ) and Province VII ( $3 \%$ ). The population of the United States grew in the decade of the 90 s in all provinces, with the greatest percentage growth occurring in Provinces IV (15\%), VII and VIII ( $16 \%$ each).
Stewardship: The number of pledging units has decreased, but the average pledge showed a steady increase until 2001. The downturn in the national economy is reflected in a drop of nearly $\$ 460$ in the average pledge between 2000 and 2001, and a significant drop in the value of invested assets over the same period. The proportional percentage (average pledge divided by household income) is $3.8 \%$, a long way, we note, from the tithe.

|  | Year | 1 year <br> change | 3 year <br> change | 9 year <br> change |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: |
| Pledge Units | 2001 | 567,569 | $-4.01 \%$ | $-3.94 \%$ |

A chart at the end of this report, "Congregations' Revenues and Expenses used for Operations from 19972001," shows trends in the total operating income and expenses for the domestic Episcopal Church. A final chart compares "Normal Operating Income and Expenses for Episcopal Parishes 1997-2001," by diocese and province (Provinces I-VII).
Sunday Attendance by Church Size: Seventy-two percent of Episcopal congregations account for twentyseven percent of Episcopalians who attend church on a given Sunday. These are the family or pastoral size congregations with an average Sunday attendance of 140 or fewer persons. The remaining seventy-three percent of Episcopalians attend the twenty-eight percent of congregations with an average Sunday attendance above 140, and these are the growing churches. The rate of growth is greatest in the largest congregations. The categories below are those used by the Diocese of Texas.

|  | Family | Pastoral | Transitional | Program | Resource |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $<\mathbf{7 5}$ | $\mathbf{7 5}->\mathbf{1 4 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 4 1 - > 2 2 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 2 6}->\mathbf{4 0 0}$ | $>\mathbf{4 0 0}$ |
| $\mathbf{1 9 9 9}$ | 128,258 | 195,630 | 194,375 | 179,120 | 137,893 |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 1}$ | 127,827 | 191,180 | 199,799 | 186,798 | 152,906 |
| \% Change | $-0.34 \%-2.27 \%$ | $2.79 \%$ | $4.28 \%$ | $10.88 \%$ |  |




Distribution of Churches by Province and Size of Attendance - 2001


Church School Enrollment: Enrollment (288,819 in 2001) has declined by $14.08 \%$ over the past nine years. We do not have figures for actual church school participation, so it is not possible to tell if the relationship between church school enrollment and attendance bears any similarity to the relationship between baptized members and average Sunday attendance. That is, is attendance increasing while the number of those who merely enroll declines, or are both declining? The apparent decline does lend support to the claim that the Episcopal Church has an aging membership.

## Parochial Report Issues and Limitations

Awareness of the importance of effective data gathering and dissemination is growing. Compliance with the canonical requirement to file the parochial report is $96 \%$, an all time high. Unfortunately, too many churches file long after the required date for submission, thus delaying timely use and analysis of the data.

Reports are now being made available to all levels of church governance. For example, the 2002 Parochial Report package mailed to each congregation included a chart showing their average Sunday attendance pattern since 1991. The Office of Congregational Development sponsored the preparation and inclusion of the attendance charts.
The parochial report data goes back only to 1990 in electronic form, and we do not have reliable parochial report data from the non-domestic dioceses. Recent efforts to improve the quality of the database from the early part of the decade, and that of the new data collected annually, have made it more useful. We believe that as reports are made available to parish clergy and vestries, they will be motivated to produce parochial report data on their individual churches that is accurate. Personnel in the General Convention Office are working to improve the rate of compliance with submission requirements from its current level of $96 \%$ to as close to $100 \%$ as possible. In addition, parochial report workshops are being given around the country to improve the accuracy of data submitted.
The committee is acutely aware that the parochial reports only begin to give a picture of the "state of the church" as we enter a new millennium. It cannot tell us, for example, about:

- What we believe and why we believe.
- Who our members, visitors, and program participants are in terms of age, race, nationality, ethnicity, income, education, work, etc.
- The character and effectiveness of ministry in and by congregations.
- How many people, lay and clergy, actively perform the ministries of our congregations, dioceses, and church institutions.
- Our many outreach ministries and how they express our mission of reconciliation.

In other words, we cannot draw adequate conclusions about the viability of our mission, the quality of our congregations, and the productivity of our lay and ordained ministers solely from data about size, income, attendance, membership, and expenses. Such conclusions, to be accurate, require other forms of data, some of which are available to us.

## Other Resources

The Zacchaeus Project: Discerning Episcopal Identity at the Dawn of the New Millennium (June 1999): The committee met with the Rev. Dr. William L. Sachs, co-director of the national research project conducted by the Episcopal Church Foundation, in which interviewers spoke with some 2000 Episcopalians in nine dioceses selected to reflect the diversity of the whole church. Their goal was to investigate "how Episcopalians at the grassroots level currently view themselves and their Church," and their focus was qualitative rather than quantitative. Key findings of the survey are:
A. Episcopalians are committed to worship and an Anglican tradition that binds them in Christian community and forms a spiritual framework for personal growth and ministry.
B. Creative ferment and vitality characterizes Episcopal life in local congregations.
C. Profound tensions are impacting the life and relationship among congregations and judicatories.
D. Episcopalians are successfully embracing diversity and changes in the life of their congregations (p. 15).

Dr. Sachs told the committee that no congregation had escaped conflict - the largest source of which is diversity-but that nearly all had found ways to heal. He also pointed to a shift in attitude from a sense of belonging to a religious institution to one of being on a shared spiritual journey, and to a sense of disconnection with wider church structures. However, he also said that the sense of purpose among the laity is "very solid and strong."
A Report on Episcopal Churches in the United States (April 2002): C. Kirk Hadaway prepared this report for the Office of Congregational Development, using Episcopal Church data collected for a large study of religious life in America (Faith Communities Today or FACT) conducted in the spring of 2000. Data are from 726 churches responding to a stratified random sample questionnaire.

According to the report, "The survey ... provides a profile of Episcopal congregations and also speaks to sources of vitality and growth" (p. 1). Findings include:

- Episcopal churches tend to be located in towns and cities, but those in newer suburbs tend to be stronger (pp. 10-11).
- Larger churches tend to be stronger, and those with a "presence" in their communities are more likely to be strong congregations (pp. 13-14).
- The Episcopal Church is a "destination denomination" for non-Episcopalians who join as adults, attracted by the liturgy, identity and status (p. 18).
- Churches that are open to change tend to be strong (p. 31).
- Churches that are spiritually alive and justice oriented tend to be the strongest congregations (p. 49), and those that are clear about their mission and purpose are more likely to be growing congregations (p. 66).

The report concludes, "The Episcopal Church is unique among Protestant denominations in that is has a clear identity which is celebrated by almost all its churches and a large number of healthy, growing congregations" (p. 83). It notes that, "...certain problems or 'serious realities' are also apparent....Specifically, the Episcopal Church has many small, weak congregations that are attended and supported by an aging (and largely female) membership...The aging of the Episcopal Church and the weakening of smaller congregations in small towns and older urban neighborhoods can only be expected to worsen, given the demographics of the population, the minimal evangelism efforts of most Episcopal congregations, and the small numbers of new churches being started in expanding suburban areas" (p. 83).

The conclusions also state, "The Episcopal Church has an advantage in that it could respond to its serious realities by expanding on its strong points, rather than trying to somehow turn weaknesses into strengths" ( p . 83). And finally, "The challenge facing the churches is to find balance between doing things in new ways and retaining the distinctive gifts of the Anglican Communion" (p. 83)

Will There be a Clergy Shortage? Analysis and Predictions for Uncertain Times (September 2001): The Committee met with Matthew J. Price, Director of Analytical Research, Service Strategies and Development, the Church Pension Group, who shared his report analyzing concerns about a clergy shortage. The report (available at www.cpg.org/home/research/index.html) states:
"Most Episcopalians are used to more than just a purely liturgical celebrant, whose sole point of contact with the congregation is a sacramental functionary. Despite the increasing importance of lay ministry, the clergy have not reduced the number of roles they play within the life of the parish. Rather, the succession of models of ministry that have evolved since World War II have overlain, rather than displaced each other.... Rightly or wrongly, the priest still stands at the center of parish life. The separation between the sacramental and communal leadership would be, to say the least, a difficult change. It is precisely this shortage of parish priests, rather than priests per se, that is the looming cloud on the clergy supply horizon" (pp. 2-3).

Price's report looks at trends that could lead to "an absolute shortage of clergy," and it acknowledges a "relative" clergy shortage arising from a set of "'mismatches,' both in terms of geography and in the expectations of churches and candidates" (pg. 4). The report recommends establishing an internship program for college students and the formation of a blue ribbon commission on young people and the ministry.
The 2001 Clergy Compensation Report Addendum: Additional Salary Statistics and Analysis: This report for the Church Pension Group makes clear the modest level of clergy compensation. Clergy rely upon the income of spouses or significant others for their 'daily bread.' The findings of this report left us wondering how single and widowed or divorced clergy (especially those with children or elderly dependents) are managing. It is urgent that deployment officers and others responsible for determining clergy compensation 'read mark and inwardly digest' this report.

## The State of the Clergy

The Committee sees reason in the above studies for continued concern about a "clergy shortage" occurring in the near future. Will There be a Clergy Shortage? presents some troubling statistics:

1. The average age of active congregational priests is 52 (p. 6).
2. Fewer young persons, both male and female, are offering themselves for the ordination process (pp. 711).
3. The number of congregations in which regularly employed clergy will retire within the next 10 years nears $40 \%$, or 2,500 existing congregations with vacancies. Thus we can expect a shortage of clergy available to take their place (pp. 13-16).
The problems of low morale and burn-out reported to exist among one-quarter to one-third of active clergy indicate the need to attend to the crucial issue of clergy wellness. These problems appear to result from mismatched priests and congregations, low levels of compensation, and unrealistic demands and expectations on the part of both clergy and congregations.

The compensation issue is particularly acute in the many small congregations, most of which are carrying on important ministries in rural, small town and urban settings, and many of which can afford only to employ part-time clergy.

The need to be pro-active in raising up and supporting clergy in the numerous places around the country where multicultural congregations are emerging will present an economic challenge as well as a challenge to the present ordination process.
Programs like CREDO, sponsored by the Church Pension Fund, the Clergy Leadership Project, sponsored by the Episcopal Church Foundation through Cornerstone, and Fresh Start, sponsored by the Office of Congregational Development, are positive ways the church is attending to clergy wellness. In addition, both clergy and congregations need to be intentional about scheduling sabbatical leaves and opportunities for clergy retreats and about clarifying roles and expectations.

## Tensions in the Church

Controversy within the church is not new. Perhaps that is why St. Paul emphasized that the work of the church is reconciliation. To comment on the state of the church without acknowledging that controversies continue to swirl around us is to live in denial. Controversies in the past fifty years over General Convention Special Programs, Prayer Book revision, ordination of women, and human sexuality have, from time to time, played a role in shaping who we are as we attempt to discern God's will for our beloved church. At present there may be no definitive resolution to any one of these tensions, yet we are still called to move forward as a community of faith reconciling one to another and to God in the name of Jesus Christ.

One of the chief tensions at this time in the life of our church is related to issues of authority. While few dispute the traditional Anglican understanding that authority is vested in scripture, tradition, and reason, some give much greater weight to Holy Scripture and prefer less latitude in its interpretation, while others believe more balanced weight should be given to scripture, tradition, and reason. Thus, some in the church urge that scripture, tradition, and reason support the blessing of same sex unions, while other Episcopalians understand the same authorities to rule out such blessing.

Another focus of energy and attention is on how our canons define authority, and how and through whom such authority may be exercised. For example, we live with creative tensions between, on the one hand, the authority of the canons and the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer and, on the other hand, the practices of our churches. Departure from recognized ways of making decisions adds to tensions in our common life.

Yet another manifestation of the issue of authority is the question of how much variation in the exercise of autonomy our concept of episcopal authority is willing to tolerate. To what extent are bishops accountable to an expression of "the mind of the church"? How this tension is resolved is related to the concept of order within our denomination and within the Anglican Communion. This aspect of the authority issue is also reflected at the diocesan level, where practices in local parishes sometimes challenge the local bishop and
where the bishop sometimes challenges practices in the parishes. Continued use of the 1928 Prayer Book is an example of a lingering, unresolved issue of authority that contributes to the tensions with which we live.

The speed of change presents an additional challenge. The way the institutional church is constituted is intended to protect the sacred mystery that is the church. Yet the pace of contemporary social change, technological advance, and the speed at which old forms of ministry are challenged and new ways of being the church emerge can sometimes seem unrelated, indeed out of touch with one another. Many Episcopalians are frustrated by what they see as an unresponsive church structure, while others are unsettled by what they perceive as a threat to the order and discipline of an institution to which they have devoted their lives.

These issues of authority, and the controversies through which they are manifest, challenge our diverse community to be faithful simultaneously to the movement of the Holy Spirit doing new things and to the traditional faith and order of the church. In the midst of the whirlwind, we rejoice that God is present among us, that we continue to live in communion with one another, and that, in response to God's call to us, exciting new ministries continue to emerge.

## Multiculturalism

Dioceses that have taken seriously the anti-racism training recommended by the $73^{\text {rd }}$ General Convention report that they are making great progress in inter-cultural understanding. We urge dioceses and congregations that have not yet undertaken such programs of education and training to commence doing so at the earliest possible time.
We note that we are already a multi-cultural church (although more so in some places than others). For example, in some dioceses numerical growth in membership in the last ten years has been largely comprised of Hispanic persons. One diocese now reports its overall membership to be nearly fifty percent Hispanic. Two dioceses report regularly celebrating the Sunday Eucharist in numerous languages or dialects. The spiritual strength of our denomination is vastly increased by this cultural richness, even in geographic areas where numerical growth is absent.
Our church's efforts should be re-doubled in order to insure that greater numbers of bi-lingual and multilingual clergy are available to serve and support our ministries; that more sensitive and respectful incorporation of differing traditions of liturgical expression are made possible; and that greater efforts are made to raise up lay leadership for training opportunities.

## Other Issues

The committee observes other areas of church life that deserve attention and study, namely the current state of communication at all levels of the church's institutions, the activity of mission and outreach, and the "aging" demographics of church membership.
Communication among national interim committees and organizations is inconsistent and haphazard. We encourage committee leaders at the national level to be intentional about sharing their work to foster better communication. Likewise, we encourage leaders at the local level to be more informed on church ministry by taking advantage of existing resources and information.
The committee recognizes that the church desires to know about the state of its mission and outreach ministries at the diocesan and congregational levels. The parochial report does not currently provide such information.
Statistics reveal the character of national church membership to be "aging," and the church should address ways to respond proactively to the needs of these members.
Finally, the committee did not have time to address a question concerning our polity raised by the fact that voting practices in many diocesan conventions give congregations of a variety of sizes equal voting power. Because of our many small churches, it may be that a majority of the members is represented by a minority of delegates. Does this comport with concepts of fairness as understood by our members? Should a high-level commission be charged with the responsibility of considering this matter?

## Conclusions and Recommendations for the Next Triennium

1. The Episcopal Church cannot make reasonable decisions about future mission and ministry without sound data and information about the past and present. In the fall of 2001, RoperASW conducted a survey, commissioned by Executive Council, that asked congregation members, clergy, bishops, national leadership and General Convention deputies about what mission priorities should drive budget considerations for the Episcopal Church. The council used the results to inform their selection of six "areas of energy in the life of the church which need to be expanded" and which should "inform our mission and budget over the next triennium" (see the Executive Council report). Virtually all of these "areas of energy," but most particularly the commitment to inclusion of youth, the commitment to diversity, and the commitment to outreach, require information and data collection, both to aid in planning and to evaluate effectiveness.
2. The $73^{\text {rd }}$ General Convention approved a resolution (A101) calling for a "comprehensive demographic census" of the church by 2005. We urge the Executive Council to ensure that funding and a procedure are in place to accomplish this goal. The church has, on numerous occasions, affirmed and encouraged diversity-including race, ethnicity, class and age-in its membership. Without such a census, we have no way of knowing how diverse we actually are or what geographical areas of the church exhibit the greatest diversity.
3. Information and data are collected and analyzed by a variety of groups, as we have noted above. The committee encourages cooperation and regular interaction among those responsible for data gathering and analysis.
4. Changes in the nature of the data collected by the Parochial Report (addition or deletion of data categories) affect the ability to do long-term comparisons. We believe any future changes should be made with care and in consultation with experts in social science and statistics as well as in Episcopal Church congregational development and clergy deployment. Also involved in the decision process should be representatives of the various racial, ethnic and age constituencies in the church.
5. We believe the congregations providing data through the Parochial Report will be more invested in submitting timely and accurate information if they are provided feedback. With the 2002 Parochial Report forms, they did receive a chart showing trends in average Sunday attendance. We believe this should be continued and expanded. In addition, congregations and dioceses need to be educated about the utilization of the data collected from the parochial reports.
6. The Committee on the State of the Church should not operate in isolation, and it should have some continuity in membership. We believe that a member of Executive Council should be appointed to serve on the committee, and we encourage the next committee to assign members to be in regular communication with other standing committees and organizations.
7. Finally, the Committee on the State of the Church offers a positive assessment of the "state of the church." We have our tensions and our conflicts, but some degree of tension and conflict will always characterize an institution that is alive, that is attempting to meet the many challenges of a complex world. This is not to minimize the tensions, but it is to say, in the words of one of our members, that we are busy doing ministry "in the cutting middle." Most important are the story we have to tell and the gifts we have to offer. At the level where ministry is being done-in our congregations-we are bringing hope to a struggling world, we are proclaiming the joy of the Gospel. Can we do better? Of course, for we have seen a church with the vitality, the talents and the commitment to do the ministry of Jesus Christ.

## Expenditures

The House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church will meet five times during the next triennium. This will require a total of $\$ 71,000$.
NOTE: The data used in this report is based on a different record of open and closed churches than that used for The Episcopal Church Annual. For this reason, totals in membership, communicants, and attendance will vary somewhat.


| Diocese | Active Members Reported in 1997 | Communicants in Good Standing as \% of Members | Average Sunday Attendance as \% of Members | Active Members Reported in 2001 | Communicants in Good Standing as \% of Members | Average Sunday Attendance as \% of Members |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Connecticut | 75,121 | 68\% | 31\% | 71,413 | 65\% | 33\% |
| Maine | 16,176 | 69\% | 34\% | 14,931 | 78\% | 37\% |
| Massachusetts | 83,372 | 70\% | 28\% | 77,487 | 69\% | 31\% |
| New Hampshire | 17,281 | 73\% | 29\% | 16,628 | 79\% | 32\% |
| Rhode Island | 29,551 | 62\% | 28\% | 26,659 | 71\% | 29\% |
| Vermont | 9,416 | 71\% | 35\% | 8,859 | 81\% | 38\% |
| Western |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Massachusetts | 22,585 | 62\% | 33\% | 20,058 | 69\% | 35\% |
| Province 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Subtotals | 253,502 | 68\% | 30\% | 236,035 | 70\% | 32\% |
| Albany | 23,342 | 65\% | 35\% | 21,055 | 67\% | 38\% |
| Central New York | 24,030 | 67\% | 32\% | 22,994 | 69\% | 31\% |
| Long Island | 62,699 | 69\% | 32\% | 59,366 | 77\% | 32\% |
| New Jersey | 54,442 | 70\% | 34\% | 54,427 | 70\% | 34\% |
| New York | 62,521 | 70\% | 36\% | 64,966 | 72\% | 36\% |
| Newark | 37,065 | 73\% | 32\% | 36,092 | 74\% | 30\% |
| Rochester | 15,706 | 65\% | 32\% | 13,762 | 78\% | 34\% |
| Western New |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| York | 19,969 | 70\% | 33\% | 17,618 | 72\% | 36\% |
| Province 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Subtotals | 299,774 | 69\% | 34\% | 290,280 | 73\% | 34\% |
| Bethlehem | 16,775 | 71\% | 31\% | 17,206 | 75\% | 32\% |
| Central |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pennsylvania | 17,546 | 75\% | 37\% | 16,870 | 78\% | 37\% |
| Delaware | 13,046 | 74\% | 34\% | 12,962 | 78\% | 34\% |
| Easton | 10,497 | 72\% | 33\% | 9,892 | 75\% | 37\% |


| Diocese | Active Members Reported in 1997 | Communicants in Good <br> Standing as \% of Members | Average Sunday Attendance as \% of Members | Active Members Reported in 2001 | Communicants in Good <br> Standing as \% of Members | Average Sunday Attendance as \% of Members |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Maryland | 45,515 | 71\% | 33\% | 47,390 | 78\% | 32\% |
| Northwestern |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pennsylvania | 5,977 | 78\% | 42\% | 5,745 | 72\% | 40\% |
| Pennsylvania | 61,751 | 70\% | 31\% | 57,815 | 73\% | 34\% |
| Pittsburgh | 20,888 | 79\% | 39\% | 20,584 | 81\% | 42\% |
| Southern Virginia | 33,192 | 76\% | 39\% | 33,573 | 81\% | 41\% |
| Southwestern |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Virginia | 13,821 | 77\% | 38\% | 12,558 | 88\% | 38\% |
| Virginia | 81,045 | 70\% | 37\% | 83,652 | 74\% | 36\% |
| Washington | 40,803 | 76\% | 41\% | 41,175 | 81\% | 44\% |
| West Virginia | 11,186 | 76\% | 39\% | 10,323 | 80\% | 41\% |
| Province 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Subtotals | 372,042 | 73\% | 36\% | 369,745 | 77\% | 37\% |
| Alabama | 32,234 | 83\% | 36\% | 34,602 | 49\% | 35\% |
| Atlanta | 53,968 | 73\% | 33\% | 54,694 | 81\% | 35\% |
| Central Florida | 38,270 | 81\% | 44\% | 38,147 | 86\% | 43\% |
| Central Gulf |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Coast | 20,784 | 81\% | 40\% | 20,745 | 81\% | 39\% |
| East Carolina | 18,535 | 84\% | 40\% | 18,348 | 80\% | 39\% |
| East Tennessee | 17,191 | 85\% | 37\% | 16,713 | 85\% | 39\% |
| Florida | 32,041 | 83\% | 37\% | 32,566 | 89\% | 40\% |
| Georgia | 17,303 | 83\% | 42\% | 18,464 | 83\% | 41\% |
| Kentucky | 10,500 | 83\% | 38\% | 10,157 | 85\% | 41\% |
| Lexington | 8,949 | 87\% | 44\% | 8,884 | 85\% | 42\% |
| Louisiana | 19,351 | 71\% | 33\% | 20,233 | 76\% | 32\% |
| Mississippi | 21,305 | 84\% | 38\% | 20,482 | 85\% | 39\% |
| North Carolina | 44,752 | 79\% | 35\% | 47,208 | 87\% | 36\% |
| South Carolina | 25,869 | 76\% | 46\% | 27,370 | 81\% | 48\% |
| Southeast Florida | 36,476 | 78\% | 42\% | 38,722 | 76\% | 39\% |
| Southwest |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Florida | 37,609 | 79\% | 47\% | 37,970 | 86\% | 46\% |
| Tennessee | 13,752 | 74\% | 37\% | 15,005 | 81\% | 41\% |
| Upper South |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Carolina | 25,569 | 85\% | 36\% | 26,666 | 84\% | 34\% |
| West Tennessee | 12,618 | 85\% | 37\% | 12,146 | 67\% | 37\% |
| Western North |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Carolina | 15,334 | 84\% | 45\% | 15,861 | 84\% | 47\% |
| Province 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Subtotals | 502,410 | 80\% | 39\% | 514,983 | 80\% | 39\% |
| Chicago | 43,538 | 76\% | 37\% | 43,966 | 83\% | 37\% |
| Eastern Michigan | 10,963 | 69\% | 36\% | 9,998 | 84\% | 40\% |
| Eau Claire | 2,389 | 87\% | 47\% | 2,388 | 90\% | 46\% |
| Fond Du Lac | 8,012 | 65\% | 33\% | 6,485 | 78\% | 42\% |
| Indianapolis | 12,619 | 76\% | 41\% | 12,280 | 82\% | 41\% |
| Michigan | 33,510 | 74\% | 31\% | 37,384 | 83\% | 41\% |
| Milwaukee | 13,577 | 84\% | 42\% | 13,991 | 86\% | 42\% |
| Missouri | 14,597 | 81\% | 35\% | 14,710 | 79\% | 34\% |
| Northern Indiana | 7,610 | 77\% | 42\% | 7,180 | 85\% | 43\% |
| Northern |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Michigan | 2,768 | 66\% | 34\% | 2,182 | 66\% | 42\% |
| Ohio | 35,360 | 70\% | 33\% | 32,975 | 76\% | 34\% |
| Quincy | 3,062 | 84\% | 45\% | 3,020 | 82\% | 42\% |


| Diocese | Active Members Reported in 1997 | Communicants in Good Standing as \% of Members | Average Sunday Attendance as \% of Members | Active Members Reported in 2001 | Communicants in Good Standing as \% of Members | Average Sunday Attendance as \% of Members |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Southern Ohio | 26,210 | 74\% | 37\% | 25,617 | 79\% | 39\% |
| Springfield | 6,833 | 77\% | 43\% | 6,494 | 86\% | 45\% |
| Western |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Michigan | 14,243 | 83\% | 38\% | 13,759 | 76\% | 40\% |
| Province 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Subtotals | 235,291 | 75\% | 36\% | 232,429 | 81\% | 39\% |
| Colorado | 36,870 | 71\% | 38\% | 33,097 | 82\% | 41\% |
| lowa | 12,600 | 76\% | 34\% | 11,966 | 74\% | 34\% |
| Minnesota | 30,139 | 73\% | 31\% | 28,495 | 86\% | 34\% |
| Montana | 6,411 | 77\% | 35\% | 6,756 | 82\% | 35\% |
| Nebraska | 9,945 | 88\% | 39\% | 10,206 | 78\% | 41\% |
| North Dakota | 3,235 | 54\% | 23\% | 2,903 | 64\% | 28\% |
| South Dakota | 12,616 | 52\% | 22\% | 11,784 | 53\% | 24\% |
| Wyoming | 8,443 | 71\% | 33\% | 8,803 | 78\% | 30\% |
| Province 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Subtotals | 120,259 | 71\% | 34\% | 114,010 | 78\% | 35\% |
| Arkansas | 13,804 | 81\% | 39\% | 14,668 | 83\% | 38\% |
| Dallas | 36,453 | 82\% | 36\% | 39,365 | 90\% | 38\% |
| Fort Worth | 17,546 | 81\% | 41\% | 18,120 | 70\% | 41\% |
| Kansas | 14,360 | 81\% | 40\% | 14,127 | 87\% | 43\% |
| Northwest Texas | 8,779 | 80\% | 37\% | 8,550 | 88\% | 35\% |
| Oklahoma | 19,611 | 81\% | 38\% | 18,240 | 84\% | 41\% |
| Rio Grande | 14,240 | 87\% | 39\% | 14,983 | 83\% | 41\% |
| Texas | 79,510 | 78\% | 37\% | 84,942 | 82\% | 36\% |
| West Missouri | 12,355 | 81\% | 42\% | 12,663 | 86\% | 40\% |
| West Texas | 28,787 | 79\% | 38\% | 27,837 | 83\% | 40\% |
| Western Kansas | 2,617 | 78\% | 40\% | 2,507 | 89\% | 39\% |
| Western |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Louisiana | 13,808 | 78\% | 35\% | 13,746 | 80\% | 35\% |
| Province 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Subtotals | 261,870 | 80\% | 38\% | 269,748 | 83\% | 38\% |
| Alaska | 6,283 | 72\% | 29\% | 6,958 | 41\% | 28\% |
| Arizona | 29,653 | 78\% | 37\% | 29,224 | 80\% | 39\% |
| California | 29,433 | 79\% | 37\% | 29,687 | 80\% | 40\% |
| Eastern Oregon | 3,555 | 68\% | 30\% | 3,687 | 74\% | 36\% |
| El Camino Real | 15,891 | 81\% | 40\% | 16,193 | 79\% | 38\% |
| Hawaii | 11,721 | 73\% | 33\% | 10,753 | 70\% | 34\% |
| Idaho | 5,952 | 70\% | 38\% | 6,401 | 83\% | 34\% |
| Los Angeles | 73,381 | 71\% | 32\% | 71,387 | 71\% | 33\% |
| Navaho Missions | 1,462 | 52\% | 20\% | 924 | 41\% | 23\% |
| Nevada | 5,781 | 75\% | 40\% | 5,687 | 81\% | 45\% |
| Northern |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| California | 19,337 | 79\% | 40\% | 19,150 | 81\% | 40\% |
| Olympia | 33,682 | 80\% | 38\% | 34,188 | 76\% | 39\% |
| Oregon | 21,545 | 78\% | 36\% | 21,023 | 82\% | 37\% |
| San Diego | 19,501 | 84\% | 41\% | 21,672 | 82\% | 40\% |
| San Joaquin | 10,180 | 78\% | 43\% | 10,658 | 74\% | 43\% |
| Spokane | 9,330 | 79\% | 34\% | 8,585 | 77\% | 35\% |
| Utah | 6,570 | 89\% | 30\% | 6,876 | 80\% | 29\% |
| Province 8 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Subtotals | 303,257 | 77\% | 36\% | 303,053 | 76\% | 37\% |
| National Totals: | 2,348,405 | 75\% | 36\% | 2,330,283 | 78\% | 37\% |

## Congregations' Revenues and Expenses used for Operations

 from 1997-2001| Domestic Totals | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Operating Expenses | $\$ 1,157,467,093$ | $\$ 1,227,613,323$ | $\$ 1,299,018,058$ | $\$ 1,403,811,814$ | $\$ 1,453,323,540$ |
| Operating Income* | $\$ 1,174,623,594$ | $\$ 1,239,895,942$ | $\$ 1,300,387,623$ | $\$ 1,401,791,241$ | $\$ 1,414,557,218$ |
| Plate \& Pledge | $\$ 907,544,094$ | $\$ 958,757,981$ | $\$ 1,018,218,550$ | $\$ 1,102,849,843$ | $\$ 1,118,923,904$ |

* Includes Investment Income available for operations. Does not include unrestricted bequests or Assistance from the dioceses.

**\% Increase between 1997-2001
Operating Expenses
26\%
Operating Income* $\quad 20 \%$
Plate \& Pledge
** Dollars reported are not adjusted for inflation. Inflation for the same period was 10.1\%, based on CPI changes posted by the bureau of Labor and Statistics.



| 識 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| O． |  |  |  |  |
| 블 |  |  |  |  |
| O |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 움 } \\ & \frac{\text { 흘 }}{} \end{aligned}$ |  |  <br> 内 |  |  |


| Diocese |
| :--- |
| Connecticut |
| Maine |
| Massachusetts |
| New Hampshire |
| Rhode Island |
| Vermont |
| Western Massachusetts |
| Province 1 Subtotals |
| Albany |
| Central New York |
| Long Island |
| New Jersey |
| New York |
| Newark |
| Rochester |
| Western New York |
| Province 2 Subtotals |
|  |
| Bethlehem |
| Central Pennsylvania |
| Delaware |
| Easton |
| Maryland |
| Northwestern |
| Pennsylvania |
| Pennsylvania |
| Pittsburgh |
| Southern Virginia |
| Southwestern Virginia |
| Virginia |
| Washington |
| West Virginia |
|  |


















$6,521,284$
$122,408,224$

$16,816,426$
$5,902,650$
$11,916,365$
$2,199,954$
$4,842,325$
$1,164,780$
$1,881,520$
$2,844,024$

$8,204,237$
$18,280,023$
$8,099,218$ $\begin{array}{ll}\infty \\ \text { त } \\ \text { on } \\ \infty & \\ \infty\end{array}$ 6，813，247 $5,077,607$
$10,242,192$










 $3,309,952$
$1,874,404$


 | 8 |
| :---: |
| $\stackrel{8}{2}$ |
| $\underset{\sim}{2}$ |

完

$\infty \infty$
 の


REPORTS TO THE $74{ }^{\text {TH }}$ GENERAL CONVENTION

|  |  |
| :---: | :---: |
|  |  |


|  |
| :---: |
|  |  |



$\qquad$



 Olympia
Oregon
San Diego
San Joaquin
Spokane
Utah
Province 8 S

National Totals:

