

Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns

MEMBERSHIP

Mrs. Jackie B. Batjer (Northwest Texas) 2003

Dr. Louie Crew (Newark) 2003, *secretary*

The Rt. Rev. Theodore Daniels (Virgin Islands) 2003

The Rev. Canon Dalton D. Downs (Washington) 2003

The Rt. Rev. Jean Zaché Duracin (Haiti) 2000

The Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris (Massachusetts) 2000

The Rev. Donor Macneice (Hawaii) 2000

The Rev. S. Suzanne Peterson (Iowa) 2000, resigned, replaced by the Rev. Jane Garrett (Vermont)

The Very Rev. Petero A.N. Sabune (Newark) 2003, resigned, not replaced

Mr. Brian Sellers-Petersen (Olympia) 2003

The Rt. Rev. Richard L. Shimpfky (El Camino Real) 2003, *associate chair*

Ms. Madeleine G. Trichel (Southern Ohio) 2000, *chair*

Ms. Mary Ann Weiss (Lexington) 2000

Mr. Gregg Westigard (Eau Claire) 2000

The Rev. Robert L. Sessum (Lexington), *Executive Council liaison*, 2000

The Rev. Brian Grieves, *Episcopal Church Center staff liaison*

Mr. Thomas Hart, *The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations liaison*

Commission Representatives At General Convention

Bishop Richard Shimpfky and Deputy Louie Crew are authorized to receive non-substantive amendments to this report.

SUMMARY OF THE COMMISSION'S WORK

The Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns was created by the restructuring action of General Convention in 1997, Resolution A163a, to replace the Standing Commission on Peace with Justice. Its duty is to develop recommendations and strategies regarding common ministry opportunities and concerns with other provinces of the Anglican Communion as to the work of this church and the Anglican Communion on issues of international peace with justice and to make recommendations pertaining thereto to the Presiding Bishop, the Executive Council, and the General Convention.

The commission affirmed the guidelines established by the predecessor commission to determine areas of involvement:

- a significant Anglican presence to justify our involvement;
- systemic injustice as evidenced by racism; use of violence as a matter of policy, domination or control; or human suffering;

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- availability of adequate and verifiable information with resources for decision-making, including the possibility for consultation with affected parties;
- significant U.S. involvement, political, economic, or military;
- potential for large-scale impact;
- an invitation from the concerned parties.

Using these guidelines, the Commission focused on Haiti, Southern Africa, China/Tibet, and Israel/Palestine. The commission looked at world debt, globalization, migration, religious persecution, racism, and xenophobia. The 1997 General Convention referred two resolutions to the Commission: B032, Kuala Lumpur, and D016, Solidarity with Persecuted Churches. The full commission met four times, carrying out its work between meetings by site visits, extensive use of e-mail, internet research, and one sub-committee meeting. The commission met with and heard reports from the following people and organizations: The Rev. Canon Patrick Mauney, Global and International Relations; the Episcopal Peace and Justice Network for Global Concerns; Standing Commission on World Mission; Mary Miller, Episcopal Peace Fellowship; The Rev. Dr. David Beckman, Bread for the World; Thomas Hart and Jere Skipper, The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations in Washington; Alexandra Arriaga, U.S. State Department, Bureau of Democracy and Labor; Robert E. White, Center for International Policy; The Rev. Dr. Leon Spencer, Washington Office on Africa; Diane Knippers, Institute for Religion and Democracy; Dr. Joseph Stark, Human Rights Watch; Robert Jenkins, Africa Bureau of USAID. The commission received lengthy written reports from the Anglican Peace and Justice Network meeting in Seoul, Korea, and the Lambeth Conference.

Sub-committees visited Haiti and the Dominican Republic (Batjer, Duracin, Macneice) and South Africa and Mozambique (Shimpfky, Duracin, Crew). Individuals attended The World Council of Churches, Harare, Zimbabwe (Crew, Duracin); “Hear the Cry!” an Episcopal Council for Global Mission conference on persecuted churches (Westgard); the Washington Office on Africa Conference “Trade, Aid, and Debt: Toward Economic Justice in Africa” (Weiss); Province One Convocation on the content and meaning of Lambeth (Garrett); and ECUSA Anti-Racism training (Batjer). One member (Sellers-Petersen) was able to meet with Anglican church leaders and ecumenical partners in conjunction with work related travel to Palestine, Rwanda, Uganda, and South Africa. In addition, one member traveled to Okinawa (Trichel); one attended a Jubilee 2000 Scottish Coalition conference (Weiss); two joined an Episcopal Church delegation to the China Christian Council in Nanjing (Macneice, Trichel); one joined a delegation of the Episcopal Peace and Justice Network for Global Concerns for the Sabeel Peace and Justice Conference in Israel/ Palestine (Trichel).

The commission sent two resolutions to Executive Council. The first resolution called for cleanup of chemical weapons, explosives, and munitions from all sites in Panama. The Episcopal Peace and Justice Network for Global Concerns and the Episcopal Peace Fellowship co-sponsored this resolution. The second resolution called for payment of U.S. debt to the United Nations. Both resolutions passed.

While not able to address all the needs of which we became aware, we bring the following urgent matters to the attention of the General Convention.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC JUSTICE

During the last triennium the economic plight of the poorest nations has been a major concern of this commission and our church. Many individual Episcopalians, parishes and organizations along with the Peace and Justice Office at the Episcopal Church Center, have joined with the Jubilee 2000 movement calling for cancellation of debt owed by the world's poorest countries to the world's wealthiest countries and international financial institutions. Cancellation of this debt is consistent with the Jubilee 2000 resolutions passed by the 1994 and 1997 conventions. The Peace and Justice Ministries staff, especially the staff of the Office of Government Relations, have succeeded in collaborating with persons of other denominations in getting the U.S. Congress to pass legislation that begins the process of debt-reduction. Current information will be provided at appropriate legislative hearings in Denver. Underlying all of these efforts is the question, "How can we be in right relationship with one another and with God?"

We commend the 1998 Lambeth report on "International Debt and Economic Justice" and call upon General Convention to affirm the Lambeth resolve to help those living in the poorest countries of the world to emerge from economic oppression.

We agree with the Bishops at Lambeth: "As members of the world-wide Anglican Communion drawn from rich and poor nations...we feel compelled to speak out against suffering. Through our baptism into Christ we are one body in him and are called to be in relationship with one another. When one member of the body suffers, all suffer. If my bowl is full and yours is empty, I must share what I have."

Resolution A001 Diocesan International Education, Advocacy, and Development Programs

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That all dioceses accept
2 the challenge affirmed in the 1998 Lambeth Resolution I.1.15(j) "to cooperate
3 with other people of faith in programs of education and advocacy so that we may
4 help raise public awareness of vital economic issues that impact deeply on the
5 daily lives of the poor," and be it further

6 *Resolved*, That all dioceses accept the challenge affirmed in the 1998 Lam-
7 beth Resolution I.1.15(k) "to fund international development programs, recog-
8 nized by Provinces [Anglican], at a level of at least 0.7% of annual total diocesan
9 income."

Globalization

Globalization of the nations of the world is the process by which free-market capitalism integrates markets, nation-states, cultures, and technologies. While technological advances in the wealthier countries can improve living conditions, enhance medical services, increase communication, and provide greater educational opportunities in poorer countries, globalization often has an adverse impact on poor countries.

The power of new technologies, the seemingly unlimited financial resources of international corporations, the ability of the wealthy to absorb risk and loss—all of these factors encourage corporations to venture into underdeveloped countries and overwhelm local businesses. The people in these countries have little or no control over who or how others

of public health, agricultural productivity, environmental degradation and demographic stress” (*The Economist*, August 14, 1999: 17-20).

“South Africa is like Germany after World War II. We need another London Accord of 1953, a new ‘Marshall Plan’ with a massive injection of capital for development of jobs and education, with money from Britain, Germany, and the USA (as countries who did business with the old South Africa), and we need to assure transparency so that the money goes solely for development” (Archbishop Ndungane).

The Episcopal Church’s \$500,000 loan to Shared Interest in 1999 for support of micro-enterprise projects in South Africa is an example of what can be done to be helpful.

The United States was one of the last countries to enforce sanctions against the apartheid government. “Should we not apologize?” we asked Archbishop Ndungane. “Yes, but only if you also acknowledge the important contributions that the Episcopal Church [U.S.A.] gave to our struggle. When Bishop Tutu spoke, the apartheid government knew that the Episcopal Church was also speaking through him, as indeed was the whole Communion.”

Resolution A003 Economic Hope and Stability for South Africa

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That this 73rd General Con-
- 2 vention of the Episcopal Church urges the government of the United States
- 3 to increase aid and private investment in South Africa specifically targeted to
- 4 improve the education system and other programs to lift the poor out of their
- 5 poverty.

Resolution A004 Commendation of South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That this 73rd General Con-
- 2 vention commends the new government for the Truth and Reconciliation Com-
- 3 mission. The commission and its chair, the Most Rev. Desmond Tutu, have set
- 4 a splendid example of Christian principle at its best in forgoing revenge and
- 5 forgiving the perpetrators of injustice under apartheid who have been willing to
- 6 confess their deeds.

Resolution A005 Apology for U.S. Complicity with South Africa’s Apartheid Government

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That this 73rd General
- 2 Convention calls on the government of the United States to apologize to the
- 3 people of South Africa for our long complicity in supporting the apartheid gov-
- 4 ernment and our long delay in instituting economic sanctions to support the
- 5 democratic movement.

EXPORTING OF U.S.-MADE HANDGUNS

The crime rate has risen dramatically in much of the developing world. For example, in South Africa there were 33.6 murders per day in 1998 and 109.4 armed robberies per day. Recently violence with guns has overtaken other violent means of attack. South Africa issued 183,000 gun licenses in 1998 alone. Urban crime is more sophisticated, employing the young unemployed. Similar conditions exist throughout the world and were especially

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noted on our visits to Haiti and the Dominican Republic. People urged us, “Please seek to curb the export of U.S.-made handguns.”

Resolution A006 Prohibit the Export of U.S.-Made Handguns

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That this 73rd General
2 Convention urges the U.S. government to prohibit the export of handguns.

AN EPISCOPAL YOUTH CORPS

Within the United States and throughout the Anglican Communion, there is a great need for servant ministry. In much of the Episcopal Church we treat our young people as clients instead of disciples with their own ministries, their own experience of Jesus to share. ECUSA now loses a large number of our young people aged 17-30, many of whom never return. Yet many of these have enormous gifts, great compassion, and a strong willingness to serve.

A strong Episcopal Youth Corps could bring much skill to places most in need throughout the Anglican Communion. The resources exist. We need the vision and the will to enable the ministry. Imagine the blessing to those served as a generation of young Episcopalians moves quietly through the Communion teaching, training others to use computers, organizing community centers, helping to build housing *et al.* Imagine the sacred legacy years later as these Episcopalians move into positions of leadership in our national and church life, having been shaped and informed by an experience of moving one to two years in the world as a servant.

Resolution A007 Episcopal Youth Corps

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That this 73rd General
2 Convention calls on the Executive Council to establish an Episcopal Youth Corps
3 to engage in servant ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, and be it
4 further
5 *Resolved*, That the Executive Council provide \$300,000 as seed money for
6 a pilot project over the next triennium, with this amount directed solely to estab-
7 lish and maintain the networks and train the volunteers, who, with the help of
8 Episcopal Ministries with Young People, will be expected to raise money to fund
9 most of their ministry.

AIDS AND THE AVAILABILITY OF MEDICATIONS

AIDS virus infections continue to rise worldwide. The number of people infected had risen to 33.6 million by December 1999. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the area hardest hit by the AIDS pandemic, one in eight South Africans, one in seven Kenyans, and one in four Zimbabweans has HIV/AIDS. In South Africa, where there are 1500 new HIV infections daily (65% of these are among people between the ages of 15 and 25), a month’s supply of AZT costs R400 (US\$80) a month and the more effective combination of drugs R2000 (US\$334) a month. Yet 60% of South Africans live on a monthly income ranging only from R460 to R2680. Similar situations exist throughout the world, as for example in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Southeast Asia.

Health workers cannot provide adequate treatment under these circumstances, and governments around the world are becoming increasingly desperate in their search for ways to provide affordable drugs—sometimes feeling compelled to find ways of skirting international trade agreements. Finding a compassionate, just, and equitable solution to this problem, without jeopardizing research and development work, is of paramount importance.

Resolution A008 AIDS Drugs Availability at Affordable Prices

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That this 73rd General Con-
2 vention supports compassionate initiatives to make AIDS-related medications
3 available at affordable prices to infected persons throughout the world, especially
4 in the poorest and neediest nations; and be it further

5 *Resolved*, That this 73rd General Convention urges the United States gov-
6 ernment to work with other governments to find ways both to make affordable
7 drugs available and to provide for continued research and development of AIDS-
8 related medications.

REFERRAL OF KUALA LUMPUR STATEMENT ON SEXUALITY

The 72nd General Convention referred to the Commission Resolution B032 regarding the sexuality portion of what has become known as The Kuala Lumpur Statement. The commission studied the full document, which includes proposals on international debt, several articles exploring the background and development of the statement, and the related Lambeth resolution that adopted some of the Kuala Lumpur language. For us, what stands out regarding Kuala Lumpur, Lambeth, and subsequent statements and happenings is the paucity of intra-provincial understanding and communication within the Anglican Communion on matters of cultural differences and differing theological/scriptural approaches. As the “Virginia Report” [a pre-Lambeth document] points out, “An important function of life in communion is always to remain attentive to one another...attentiveness to the particularity of peoples, times, and places.” To this end, moves by the leadership of the Communion to improve understanding and communication are of utmost importance.

We commend especially the efforts of our Presiding Bishop, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Anglican Consultative Council, and the Anglican Peace and Justice Network to find opportunities to follow through on the commitment “to listen to the experience of homosexual people” (I.1.10). Members of this commission honored that commitment themselves by listening at the World Council of Churches 8th Assembly in Harare, Zimbabwe (Dec. 1998) and during the visit of three commissioners to Mozambique and South Africa (Aug. 1999) to the experiences of gay and lesbian persons in Africa. It is clear to us that the commitment can only truly be honored here and abroad if we create “safe spaces” for lesbian and gay stories to be told.

Resolution A009 Identification of “Safe Spaces”

1 *Resolved*, That the House of _____ concurring, That the Executive Coun-
2 cil establish a formal process for parishes to identify themselves as “safe spaces”
3 for lesbians and gays to tell their stories and be heard with love and care, and be
4 it further

- 6 for schools, instructors to assist farmers to regain their land for agricultural purposes, and medical personnel for hospitals.
- 7

OTHER CONCERNS:***Okinawa***

One Commissioner (Trichel) attended the last in a series of pilgrimages from the main islands of Japan to Okinawa on the occasion of Okinawa Memorial Day. The 1998 event brought together people representing every diocese in Nippon Sei Ko Kai and several in Korea.

Participants were grateful for General Convention resolutions on their behalf, such as resolutions calling for the U.S. to consider the effect of American military presence on local populations everywhere.

The Peace Committee of Nippon Sei Ko Kai requested assistance in learning strategies for peace education and for advocacy and action. Participants also requested that ECUSA continue to speak with our government on the problems between U.S. military personnel and Okinawan civilians, as provided in a 1997 General Convention resolution.

China Christian Council

Four members of the Episcopal Church in the United States visited Nanjing, China, June 29 to July 1, 1998, to follow up on General Convention resolutions calling for dialogue with the church in China around issues of human rights, especially Tibet, and policies of U.S. companies doing business in China. The delegation included two members of this commission (Macneice and Trichel). Focusing on human rights implications of Tibet, economic investment, and religious freedom, the delegation met with the president of the China Christian Council, Dr. Han Wenzao, and the secretary general of the CCC, the Rev. Bao Jia-Yuan. Dr. Han expressed unqualified appreciation for the final text of the resolution on Tibet and its gracious tone and language. He invited the church to direct other such concerns, written in similar language, directly to the Chinese government with copies to the CCC.

The delegation met separately with an internationally revered bishop from the Anglican tradition, K.H. Ting. Both the bishop and Dr. Han cited problems of greed and corruption as the spiritual challenges facing the church in China.

The delegation recommended continued contact with the China Christian Council and the church in China, especially through mutual exchanges of laity and clergy.

Israel/ Palestine

One commissioner (Trichel) joined a delegation from the Episcopal Peace and Justice Network for Global Concerns to the University of Bethlehem, Palestine National Authority, to attend a peace and justice conference entitled "Jubilee 2000: What Does the Lord Require?" The conference, sponsored by Sabeel, an ecumenical Palestinian organization, focused on the history of the Palestinian experience, particularly since 1948, the need for land reform, and Jerusalem as an international capital. A second commissioner (Weiss) traveled independently to Jerusalem and met with the Rev. Naim Ateek, founder of Sabeel. The Commission sees the Episcopal Peace and Justice Network as the appropriate body to continue work on the existing resolutions on Israel/ Palestine and Jerusalem.

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Religious Persecution

As requested in Resolution D016s, the entire commission heard testimony on religious persecution in several parts of the world and sent one member to the Global Mission conference on suffering churches (Westigard).

Persons of all faiths are persecuted because of their beliefs. The suffering is widespread. The church recognizes the freedom to believe and worship according to one's conscience as a basic human right. We commend the United States Congress for passing the "International Religious Freedom Act" in October 1998. The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations was a major force in the enactment of this legislation. The church must continue to "Hear the Cry" and aid, support, and offer refuge to victims of persecution. We must promote understanding and tolerance among faiths and respect for religious liberty. Finally, persecution must not be countered with our own intolerance.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMING TRIENNium

We recommend that this commission continue to work on policy recommendations, including strategies for common ministry opportunities within the Anglican Communion. Because the world is changing so rapidly, we are reluctant, in December 1999, to suggest priorities for the next triennium. We urge that the Commission continue to use the Guidelines established in 1995, as stated in the summary of our work in this report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	1998	1999	2000	Total
Income				
Block Grant				\$50,000
Supplemental Grant				\$12,000
Total				\$62,000
Expenses				
Administrative	\$348	\$70		\$418
Full Commission				
Meetings	\$13,606	\$19,580		\$33,186
Sub-Committee Meetings				
(Site Visits)	\$496	\$13,580		\$14,076
Total	\$14,450	\$33,230		\$47,680
Balance				\$14,320

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE COMING TRIENNium

	2001	2002	2003	Total
Non-Staff/Consultant	\$200	\$400	\$200	
Administrative	\$275	\$400	\$150	
Full Commission				
Meetings	\$17,525	\$16,000		
Sub-Committee Meetings				
(Site Visits)		\$23,200	\$4,650	
Total	\$18,000	\$40,000	\$5,000	\$63,000

RESOLUTION

Resolution A013 Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns Budget Appropriation

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the sum of \$63,000 be
- 2 appropriated for the triennium 2001 - 2003 from the General Convention Budget
- 3 for the expenses of the Standing Commission on Anglican and International
- 4 Peace with Justice Concerns.