

Executive Council

Archives Strategy Committee

Membership

Dr. Joel Cunningham, <i>Chair</i>	Tennessee, IV
Mr. N. Kurt Barnes	New York, II
The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce	Los Angeles, VIII
Mrs. Stephanie T. Cheney	West Tennessee, IV
Mr. Mark J. Duffy, <i>Director of Archives</i>	Texas, VII
Dr. Frederick W. Gerbracht, Jr.	Long Island, II
Ms. Jeannette Huey	Missouri, V
Mr. Frank Niendorff	Texas, VII
Mr. Francisco Quiñones	Puerto Rico, IX
Mr. Newland F. Smith III	Chicago, V

Summary of Work

Building on the work initially authorized by the 75th General Convention in Resolution 2006-A143, requesting that the Executive Council and the Board of Archives work to secure a permanent site for the Church's official archives, the third iteration of the Executive Council Archives Strategy Committee has continued the efforts begun by previous committees. The reconstituted Committee met for the first time in January 2011 to review the project's progress since its inception and to seek ways for moving toward a suitable completion for the Church.

Several factors provided the impetus for the work of the Committee: a city block in downtown Austin, Texas had been purchased by the Church as a prospective site for a new Archives facility, preliminary site plans and building renderings had been drawn, and a fundraising assessment had been completed by consultants identified by Episcopal Church Center management to assist with the project. The results of that fundraising study were reported at the Committee's January 2011 meeting. The consultants indicated strong support in the Church for the Archives and for the goal of providing enhanced facilities. At the same time, some concern was expressed about the project's scope and cost and the readiness of donors to contribute sufficient funds, given the current economic climate.

With this information in hand, the Committee revisited the project's scope with the aim of maximizing the downtown property's value, while constructing an archives building on approximately a quarter of the Austin lot. During an April 2011 teleconference meeting, the Committee reviewed four different construction options to meet the needs of the Church for the next 40–50 years. In May 2011, the Committee met in Austin to get a clearer sense of the building site and the neighborhood around it. The end result was unanimous agreement that the Church should move forward with plans to build the Archives facility at the downtown Austin site as the most advantageous option. The Committee will continue to study the possibility of building a parking garage that could assist in financially sustaining the Archives as a long term investment. At that meeting the Committee also applauded the appointment of new leadership in the Church's Mission Funding Office and expressed its enthusiasm for working with that office in developing and implementing a well managed fund raising strategy for the project. In all of its planning, the Board of Archives and the Archives Strategy Committee will continue to seek the advice and consent of the Executive Council.

Budget Report

The \$525,000 of funding designated in 2009 by the 76th General Convention for the Archives Project in the 2010–2012 triennium was used to support the Mission Funding Office and was not available for much of the work of the Committee or for support of project management. An additional \$2.45 million has been reserved by Executive Council to carry out activities specifically related to a pre-construction phase of work, including site preparation, re-sale or subdivision arrangements, buildable architectural plans, project management, and a comprehensive fund raising campaign. With a renewed understanding of the present Committee's fiduciary responsibility to oversee this project, we request that Executive Council allocate \$730,000 to fund the operational costs of a focused regional campaign for 2013–2015. The regional effort would be conducted in close conjunction with a continued development department that will coordinate the Church-wide campaign for the Archives in the 2013–2015 triennium.