

Forward Movement Publications

MEMBERSHIP

Forward Movement Publications is an agency of the General Convention, under the direction of the Presiding Bishop. Its mandate has been renewed by each Convention since 1934. An outgrowth of what was originally a Joint Commission on the Forward Movement of the Church, it has been governed since 1940 by an Executive Committee appointed by the Presiding Bishop.

The present membership of the Committee is:

Chairman: The Rt. Rev. John M. Krumm, Tustin, California
Vice-Chairman: The Rt. Rev. Edward W. Jones, Indianapolis, Indiana
Treasurer: Mr. N. Beverley Tucker, Cincinnati, Ohio
Secretary: The Rev. Charles Henry Long, Cincinnati, Ohio
Mr. Glenn A. Biggs, Cincinnati, Ohio
Mr. Paul D. Myers, Cincinnati, Ohio
Mr. Charles Powers, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dr. Long is also editor and director of Forward Movement Publications, with general oversight of both the editorial and business offices. Mrs. Jean Scott is business manager and assistant treasurer.

The editor is assisted in the selection of manuscripts and in the development of editorial policy by an Advisory Board of men and women from different parts of the country, with skills in communications and a wide acquaintance with the needs of the Church.

On February 9, 1983 occurred the death of the Rt. Rev. Henry Wise Hobson, retired Bishop of Southern Ohio, Chairman of the first Forward Movement Commission and Chairman of the Executive Committee for 42 years, until he was succeeded by Bishop Krumm in 1976.

THE PAST TRIENNIUM

The devotional guide, *Forward Day by Day*, issued quarterly, with an estimated 500,000 readers, accounts for nearly half of our total sales. Circulation continues to grow steadily, despite an inevitable price increase. Subscriptions to the large print edition have increased by more than 30%. The cost of the braille edition, free to any blind person requesting it, is supported by income from the Forward Movement Braille Fund, built up by contributions from readers of *Day by Day* over many years.

We maintain an inventory of over 200 other titles for the literature rack, confirmation classes, adult study groups, and parish libraries. During the last triennium, we added 83 new books and booklets, revised and reprinted others, and 'retired' a large number for which there was decreasing demand. New titles covered a wide range of subjects, from adult baptism to funeral plans. Notable additions include a collection of prayers by Stephen Bayne, *Now Is the Accepted Time*; a popular report of the World Council of Churches Assembly, *Vancouver Voices*; and a series of tracts for teenagers and parents, *Turning Points for Youth*.

We also offered, as a service to our readers, a selected list of books and pamphlets published in England, by the Bible Reading Fellowship and the Catholic Truth Society,

THE BLUE BOOK

to supplement what we publish ourselves. Another experiment has been to provide offprints of articles appearing in the *Anglican Theological Review*, the *Historical Magazine* and *St. Luke's Journal of Theology*, articles which, in the opinion of the editors, would be of interest to a wider audience than the regular readers of those journals. Several, indeed, proved so popular that we were encouraged to print our own editions of them.

A major effort has been annual publication of the *Anglican Cycle of Prayer* for use throughout the Anglican Communion. This has proved to be not only a helpful guide to intercessions but a unique source of information about new dioceses and a constantly changing episcopate.

In 1983, responsibility for the publication of *The Review of Books and Religion*, which had proved to be a heavy drain on our limited capital, was transferred to the Divinity School of Duke University.

FINANCES

The Forward Movement has not in the past received any subsidy from the General Convention or Program Budget and does not request one now. The support of the Church is in the form of the purchase and use of the resources we have been directed to prepare. That support has enabled the Forward Movement to achieve new records during the triennium in both dollar value and volume of sales. A loss sustained in the inflation year of 1982 was more than made up by the results of subsequent years, so that for the triennium as a whole there was a net gain in assets in excess of \$50,000. Audited annual reports are submitted to the Presiding Bishop and Treasurer of the Executive Council.

GOALS

The Executive Committee has met every three or four months and the Advisory Board twice. The 50th Anniversary year, 1984-85, has provided the occasion for an extensive review and evaluation of our past work and for the development of a policy statement for the future. A 'time-line' poster summarizing the history we have shared with the rest of the Episcopal Church has been prepared for distribution to all bishops and deputies at this Convention.

The mandate of the Forward Movement has not changed in fifty years! The General Convention of 1934 assigned the new Commission a grand task, "to reinvigorate the life of the Church and rehabilitate its work." It is a tribute to the vision and persistence of Bishop Hobson and his co-workers that specific ways were found—varying in different periods of the last five decades—to make a contribution to that end, deepening the devotion and setting free the ministries of countless Episcopalians.

"The Forward Movement, insofar as it has been real," Bishop Hobson once wrote, "has been interwoven with the very fabric of the Church's life. The Forward Movement is not an organization, it is not a new program, it is not something *added* to the Church. It is (an expression of) the eternal onward march of God's Spirit" within the Church.

In that spirit, and seeking to respond to the Spirit, the present leadership have adopted the following guidelines for future policy:

1. The central thrust of the work of the Forward Movement should continue to be the production of brief, readable and reasonably priced literature to support laity and clergy in their ongoing ministries as individuals and in the corporate life of the Church.

2. We should continue to publish materials with an informational or educational purpose for both new and experienced members of the Church. On the one hand, this would mean giving priority to the interpretation and support of the missionary and other programs of the General Convention and other national Church agencies. On the other hand, we should seek to serve the many voluntary societies and movements that in different ways also seek the renewal of Christ's church. Both the advocates and the critics of these movements ought to have access to our publications, provided that the material submitted is clear, coherent, reasonable, and reflects the Episcopal Church's theological style which emphasizes scriptural authority, guided by reason and tradition.

3. We ought to consider material which analyzes and evaluates contemporary secular attitudes and styles of thought which need to be taken into account in attempts to reach modern men and women. The impact of science, technology, mass media and the arts on the Christian movement has not diminished in the last fifty years but has become sharper and more pervasive. The technical theological term 'Apologetics' (interpreting Christian faith to secular thought in a persuasive manner) might describe this phase of our responsibility.

4. The Forward Movement has also provided an important service to the Anglican Communion and the ecumenical movement, as publisher of the *Anglican Cycle of Prayer*, the official reports of ecumenical dialogues, popular interpretations of WCC Assemblies and other study documents intended for use at the local level. This attempt to increase awareness of the worldwide Christian family to which we belong by virtue of our baptism and to deepen understanding of those who hold views different from our own, has been part of the task of the Forward Movement from its beginning and is not inconsistent with our fundamental purpose.

As Forward Movement enters its second half century we are engaged in reshaping our strategy for the years ahead. We do not reject the original mandate but seek new ways to express it.

The Episcopal Church and the society in which its ministry is exercised has changed dramatically over the past 50 years. To call today's Christian men and women to a renewed sense of mission and evangelism requires us to discover fresh ways to proclaim the Gospel message so that it will be heard.

Resolution #A—71

***Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the Presiding Bishop be authorized to continue Forward Movement Publications under his supervision, and to appoint such staff members and committees as may be required to maintain its work.**

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Charles Henry Long,
Director and Editor