

The Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development

INTRODUCTION

Your Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development has **looked** long and hard at the state of Stewardship and has been much **instructed** by the Diocese of the Dominican Republic and its growth in giving. We have **shared concern** for the trend nationally from corporate stewardship outreach to more local and congregational work. We **rejoice** in the relatively high level of individual giving in the Episcopal Church. We **worry** about the shrinking base of giving and the number of shrinking congregations. We **fear** that concern only for maintenance at all levels of church life, and the loss of funds for mission, advocacy, making of grants and new work may cloud the focus of Stewardship—the glad and free sharing of God's bounty for the strengthening and extension of the realm of God here on earth. We **believe** that the Church has much work to do in the vital and urgent task of reasserting the intimate connectiveness of the people's offerings of alms, pledges, and gifts of money with the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which is the Eucharist. We **uphold** the individual's need to return God's gifts of time, talent and treasure, and we **recognize** the Church's responsibility to be a faithful steward in the allocation of these gifts. We **pray** for a renewal of a sense of holiness about our corporate and individual giving.

MEMBERSHIP

The Rt. Rev. Richard L. Shimpfky (1997), Prov. VIII, El Camino Real
The Rt. Rev. Charles L. Longest (1994), Prov. III, Maryland
The Rev. Richard H. Cobbs (1997), Prov. IV, Southwest Florida
The Rev. Carole J. McGowan (1997), Prov. VII, The Rio Grande
Mrs. Ruth A. DeMelo (1997), Prov. IX, Dominican Republic
Mr. Frank P. Foster, Sr. (1994), Prov. I, Massachusetts
Mrs. Iris E. Harris (1997), Prov. III, Washington
John L. Harrison, Jr., Esq.* (1997), Prov. III, Pennsylvania
Mrs. Barbara J. Lewis** (1994), Prov. II, Western New York
Mr. Manuel G. Mesa (1994), Prov. IV, Southeast Florida
Ms. Cynthia Schwab (1997), Prov. VII, West Missouri
Mr. Ralph Spence, Jr.*** (1994), Prov. VI, Montana
The Rev. Bill Caradine, Assisting Staff
The Rev. Hugh Magers, Assisting Staff

* Executive Council Liaison

** Fills the term of Dr. Elisabeth Koenigh, resigned

*** Fills the term of John L. Carson III, resigned

THE BLUE BOOK

Commission Representatives at General Convention

In the House of Bishops, the Rt. Rev. Richard L. Shimpfky is authorized to receive non-substantive amendments to this report. In the House of Deputies, the Rev. Richard H. Cobbs IV is authorized to receive such amendments

OUR CHARGE

The 66th General Convention, Denver, 1979, called the Commission into being and charged it:

1. To hold up before the Church the responsibility of faithful stewardship;
2. To recommend a strategy for stewardship education throughout the Church;
3. To plan and recommend a program of long-range development;
4. To recommend a joint strategy for the various Church agencies in their fund-raising efforts; and
5. To consider all national fund-raising proposals for its recommendations.

SUMMARY OF THE COMMISSION'S WORK

The Commission met five times during the past triennium: Feb. 24-26, 1992, Orlando, Florida; Sept. 24-26, 1992, Orlando, Florida; Feb. 25-27, 1993, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Sept. 16-18, 1993, Racine, Wisconsin; Feb. 24-26, 1994, Burlingame, California.

The Commission made the following disposition of the work committed to it for action by the 70th General Convention:

A185a (Theology of Mission). The Commission took no action because of parallel work on the Church's mission by Executive Council.

A186a and A192 (encouraging the making of wills and Christian stewardship). The Commission communicated this to *Episcopal Life* and all diocesan newspapers.

A188 and A191 (encouraging 50-50 giving). The Commission communicated with all the dioceses and received reports from 40.

A197s (stewardship education and policies in seminaries). The Commission communicated with and received responses from all the accredited seminaries of the Episcopal Church.

A200 (extra budgetary giving). The Commission took no action on this resolution because there is no need at this time to coordinate a program of extra budgetary giving.

A202 (restrictions and conditions in endowment gifts). After study, the Commission concluded that this is less and less a concern due to the greater care already being taken by prospective donors and the objects of their beneficence. The Commission applauds the good work being done throughout the Church by planned giving officers at all levels.

Santo Domingo Report

At the invitation of our member from the Diocese of the Dominican Republic, Mrs. Ruth De Melo, the Commission met in Santo Domingo, Feb. 25-27, 1993. The purpose of the

STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

meeting was two-fold: 1) to make our presence known and 2) to find out what is being done in the Diocese in the area of stewardship.

The experience was exciting and uplifting on many levels. We met with Bishop Holguin, clergy and lay members of the Diocese. They shared with us their theology of stewardship. They also outlined their stewardship plans for gaining autonomy.

The Diocesan Stewardship Committee is working to change the direction of giving through education and evangelism. They are also working on changing the infrastructure to realize their goals. All this work is being accomplished with minimal resources. We were all energized by the work that is being done in the Dominican Republic and we will continue to hold them up in our prayers.

Report on 50/50 Giving

The Commission received an impressive number of stories in response to our survey of dioceses regarding 50/50 giving. Over half of the 40% that responded are promoting 50/50 giving, and many have endorsed it through local resolutions. About 25% provided actual percentages for giving to others, and another 25% reported no active stewardship program at all. The response indicated that the Narrative Budget process was used to define ministry in 20% of the dioceses.

The Commission feels that the personal witness provided through this storytelling indicates an increasing awareness of our responsibility to share God's blessings. Additional storytelling should be encouraged with an effort towards publication. We feel there is a need to develop standards which define "giving to others" to assist in measurement and to identify the ministries we wish to uphold. Providing mission support in rural diocese and promoting outreach through ministry among congregations must be included and encouraged. The Narrative Budget was an effective tool where it was applied.

It should be noted that spending by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society honors the standard of 50/50 giving.

Stewardship Conferences

Twelve Regional Stewardship Conferences provided by the Stewardship Office have generated enthusiasm and enriched the theology of stewardship for over 1,500 participants. These workshops are designed for networking ideas and training consultants to assist in developing stewardship programs. In addition, the S.T.A.R. program for local stewardship consultations has been very effective for individual congregations and dioceses. In this program, the Stewardship Office provides consultant training at the local level. The goal is to give each of the approximately 8,000 congregations of the Episcopal Church access to a trained consultant.

The Commission commends those involved in these ministries, which are essential to our stewardship development. All congregations and dioceses are encouraged to participate in these programs by contacting the Stewardship Office and requesting a consultation. We also recommend continued development of materials to assist those attending workshops in taking the message home.

THE BLUE BOOK

RESOLUTIONS OFFERED TO CONVENTION

Resolution #A116

"Stewardship Is Giving Witness"

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, **That the 71st General Convention of the**
2 **Episcopal Church recognizes that individual giving of time, talent and treasure is a living**
3 **witness of our appreciation for the blessings received from Our Lord; and be it further**

1 *Resolved*, **That we embrace the phrase "Stewardship is Giving Witness" ("Mayordomia**
2 **es el vivo testimonio de dar") and agree to promote this theology throughout the Church**

Resolution #A117

Hispanic Stewardship

1 *Resolved*, the House of ____ concurring, **That the 71st General**
2 **Convention of the Episcopal Church provide resources to the Office of Stewardship in**
3 **Mission Planning to develop, in cooperation with the Hispanic Desk, programs of**
4 **stewardship education and implementation for Hispanic Episcopalians (linguistically**
5 **and/or culturally); and be it further**

6 *Resolved*, **That \$150,000 be allocated for the next triennium to develop printed and video**
7 **materials in Spanish and to offer seminars and workshops in Spanish for Hispanic lay**
8 **leadership, clergy, seminarians and youth.**

EXPLANATION

The Episcopal Church faces a pastoral emergency and evangelical opportunity in Hispanic growth. Direct translation of existing stewardship materials is in most cases inappropriate and ineffective due to difference in both culture and experience. This resolution will make it possible for Hispanics to understand and participate in the stewardship process of our Church.

Resolution #A118

Stewardship with Interim Bodies

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, **That the 71st General Convention of the**
2 **Episcopal Church request that the Executive Council explore new ways to achieve the**
3 **tasks delegated to our standing commissions and committees; and be it further**

4 *Resolved*, **That an effort be made to identify methods to improve communication and**
5 **work toward more efficient allocation of resources.**

EXPLANATION

The broader membership of our Church has limited exposure to reports to General Convention and resolutions. The call for fewer resolutions also limits the amount that can be

STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

shared. While the experiences and insight gained by members of interim bodies is substantial, we must find ways to allow more individuals to participate with an eye towards stewardship of resources.

Resolution #A119

Environmental Stewardship Team

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, **That this 71st General Convention of the**
2 **Episcopal Church applauds the work of the Environmental Stewardship Team during**
3 **this triennium, and urges continuance of their good work in the next triennium.**

EXPLANATION

The Commission on Stewardship and Development commends the excellent work and leadership of the Environmental Stewardship Team created by the 70th General Convention in Resolution A195s, which stated, "That the Episcopal Church, acknowledging the sovereignty of God and God's call to us in the servanthood of Christ, continue to engage environmental issues, passionately caring for the earth and striving to live into the promises and mandates which are ours as stewards of creation." Due to the urgency of continuing the environmental work at all levels, the work must go on and even be expanded in light of the crises brought about through our misuse of the resources of our small planet.

Resolution #A120

Stewardship Petition

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, **That this 71st General Convention of The**
2 **Episcopal Church affirms the tithe as the minimum standard of giving for**
3 **Episcopalians; and be it further**
- 4 *Resolved*, **That we the Deputies and Bishops of this Convention do hereby affirm through**
5 **our signatures that we are tithing, or that we have adopted, or will adopt, a plan to tithe**
6 **within the next three years; and be it further**
- 7 *Resolved*, **That we call all members of this Church to join us in accepting the tithe as the**
8 **minimum standard of Christian giving; and be it further**
- 9 *Resolved*, **That the Secretary of the Convention be directed to distribute signatory pages**
10 **for Bishops and Deputies of each Diocese signifying their commitment to the tithe as the**
11 **minimum standard of giving; and be it further**
- 12 *Resolved*, **That the Secretary be directed to collect the signatures with this resolution and**
13 **publish the list of signators in the Journal.**

EXPLANATION

This resolution is consistent with the Presiding Bishop's call to "act in faithful stewardship in response to the biblical teaching of the right use of God's creation" (Mission Imperative VI) and the Executive Council's presentation and affirmation of that call.

We concur that "while the stewardship of what has been given to us involves far more than money, we recognize that the tithe of our money is a critical and necessary way of witnessing to our faith and to sharing with others."

We, the members of the Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development, affirm this call through our signatures, and we present this resolution to the members of this Convention for their approval, signature and action.

Resolution #A121

Liturgical Affirmation of Offerings

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, **That the Standing Liturgical Commission be**
2 **directed to study ways in which the liturgical forms of worship may teach and proclaim**
3 **the offering of both alms and oblations (money, bread and wine, and other gifts) as**
4 **constituting the people's offering at the Eucharist.**

EXPLANATION

Prior to the *Book of Common Prayer 1979*, all preceding Prayer Books explicitly connected the gifts of money (alms) with the bread and wine as the people's offering by reference to them in the Prayer for the Whole State of Christ's Church, which came after the Offertory and was said at the Holy Table. In the 1979 Prayer Book there is only a rubric, often ignored, directing alms to be placed on the Table and no reference in the Prayers of the People to alms as offering.

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS FOR 1995-1997

During the next triennium, the Commission will:

1. Continue to teach that the tithe is the minimum standard of giving for members of this Church.
2. Proclaim that "Stewardship is Giving Witness" ("Mayordomia es el vivo testimonio de dar").
3. Continue the teaching and the telling of stories of the Apostolic Principle of spending as much on others as on ourselves, with the diocesan pledge viewed as the congregation's participation in Apostolic Mission and Ministry.
4. Establish and develop liaison with the theological seminaries of the Church with the aim of strengthening the practice and teaching of stewardship theology and church support in the seminary communities.
5. Develop materials and opportunities for stewardship education that appropriately reflect the wide diversity of this Church, e.g., regional, cultural, ethnic and age.

STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

6. Develop a mechanism for the gathering, interpreting, evaluating and reporting of stewardship and church support data from the nine provinces of the Church.
7. Develop a strategy to address the 43 percent of our members who do not pledge.
8. Continue to work toward establishing the practice of giving at least 1% to the accredited seminaries by all congregations in the Church.
9. Continue to encourage cooperation among the agencies of the Church in their public education, fund-raising programs and long-range development.
10. Make materials available to encourage the development of narrative budgeting among parishes, dioceses and institutions of the Church.
11. Coordinate with the Environmental Task Force on stewardship issues.
12. Study the possibility of forming a National Church Mortgage Insurance Program.

FINANCIAL REPORT 1991-1994

Income	1992	1993	1994
Convention appropriation	\$16,008	\$17,325	\$9,825
			\$9,825 (budget)*
Total expenses	\$16,069	\$19,873	

* actual expenses not available as of 2/26/94

REQUESTED TRIENNIAL BUDGET 1995-1997

	1995 (2 meetings)	1996 (2 meetings)	1997 (1 meeting)
Travel	\$16,380	\$16,900	\$ 8,710
Housing and meals	5,005	4,160	2,080
Subcommittee expenses	810	830	
Consultants	500	500	500
Office expenses & miscellaneous	<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>
Total Budget request	\$22,995	\$22,690	\$11,590

Resolution #A122

- 1 Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That there be appropriated from the
- 2 Assessment Budget of General Convention, the sum of \$57,275 for the triennium for
- 3 the expenses of the Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rt. Rev. Richard L. Shimpfky
The Rev. Carole J. McGowan
Co-chairs