

STANDING COMMISSION ON STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

Membership

Mr. Jamie McMahon, *Chair*, 2015
Ms. Holly Bellows, *Vice Chair*, 2018
The Rev. Grant Wiseman, *Secretary*, 2015
The Rev. Canon Carol Cole Flanagan, 2018
The Rev. Canon Dr. Lynn Collins, 2018
The Rt. Rev. Edwin Gulick (2013-2014)
Mr. James Huber, 2018
Ms. Janette Huey, 2015
Ms. Diane Mance, 2018
Mrs. Elizabeth Moosbrugger, 2015
The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano, 2015
The Rt. Rev. Gregory Rickel, 2015
The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, *Ex Officio*
The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, *Ex Officio*
Mr. Paul Van Brunt, *Representative of the President of the House of Deputies*
The Rev. Dr. James Simons, *Executive Council Liaison*
Ms. Elizabeth Lowell, *Staff*

Changes in Membership

The Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibridge (2014-2018)

Representation at General Convention

Bishop Gregory Rickel and Mr. Jamie McMahon, Chair, are authorized to receive non-substantive amendments to this report at General Convention.

Summary of Work

Mandate: To recommend policies that foster within The Episcopal Church a broad understanding of Christian stewardship, both individual and corporate. The Commission shall recommend strategies to General Convention for stewardship, including education, development, and planned giving, with special sensitivity to the cultural and linguistic diversity of the Church.

Meetings:

- November 12-15, 2012 (St. Louis, MO)
- March 14, 2013 (Teleconference)
- July 18, 2013 (Teleconference)
- January 30, 2014 (Teleconference)
- March 20, 2014 (Teleconference)
- July 24, 2014 (Teleconference)
- September 11-13, 2014 (Bloomington, MN)

During the course of this triennium, the Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development focused on three priorities: actionable items whereby the Commission could see results outside of the legislative process of General Convention, support and advocacy for the Development Office of the Episcopal Church and for other fundraising organizations such as The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS), and contextualizing the Church's views on good theology and practice of stewardship at all levels.

The Commission particularly wishes to note that its highest priority for this triennium is advocacy for the Development Office of The Episcopal Church. We feel that our Church is at a critical tipping point in its history with regard to fundraising at the broadest level, within and across its whole membership. If appropriate funding is not provided as part of the operating budget for the long term, this effort is unlikely to be successful, and the Church will lose out on the opportunity to tap into its most significant resources to raise funds for programs and endowment that will support our work well into the future. The Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development's support of the Development Office of The Episcopal Church cannot be overstated.

At our first face-to-face meeting, there was significant discussion regarding past resolutions proposed by previous incarnations of this Standing Commission and legislated by the General Convention, and it was noted that often they seem to have no long-term effect on the life of the Church. Without a mandate or canonical requirement for change, many resolutions seem simply to die as soon as Convention ends. Therefore, although recognizing that there will be certain resolutions that the Commission may wish to propose to the General Convention in 2015, members agreed to think about other activities that might allow for important outcomes during the triennium itself.

The first of these activities was a letter sent in December 2012 from the chair, on behalf of the whole Commission, to the presiding bishop, requesting that the chief development officer of The Episcopal Church be invited to share the current work of the Development Office annually at the spring meeting of the House of Bishops. The rationale for this was two-fold: first, given the \$4 million investment in the Development Office following General Convention in 2012, the Commission felt it was essential that bishops have a chance to learn about the work being done; and second, given the somewhat troubled history of the Development Office, that the chief development officer have the opportunity to meet with bishops individually and in small groups in order to build positive relationships.

The chair had conversations with several members of the House of Bishops Planning Committee regarding this request, and received a response from the presiding bishop in January 2013 indicating that she would do what she could to ensure regular communication with the House of Bishops about the work of the Development Office. The outcome was that Elizabeth Lowell was invited to present to the House of Bishops at their spring 2013 meeting, and representatives from the Development Office have continued to attend House of Bishops meetings since then.

The Commission's next action was a letter sent in December 2012 to the co-chairs of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop requesting that candidates for presiding bishop share their last three tax returns with the Joint Nominating Committee as a part of the candidate's statement of stewardship and transparency. The Commission was very pleased to see significant language about stewardship and development in the final call for discernment and profile for candidates, which was issued in August 2014.

The final letter in this first phase of work was sent to the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements (JSCPA) of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church in January 2013. It was a request that (consistent with resolution D065, discharged from the 2012 General Convention), the customary provide that an offering be taken at all Eucharistic services at General Convention with the beneficiary designated by Executive Council, and be articulated prior to General Convention. The Commission received a response to this letter from The Rev. Canon Michal Barlowe in February 2013 indicating that the Executive Committee of the JSCPA would consider the proposal and how it might inform the planning of worship and other activities at General Convention.

Following on from these activities, the Commission held a series of five teleconference meetings in 2013 and 2014 to work through other topics of interest. Significant discussion points to come out of the first face-to-

face meeting in 2012 included the possibility of adding a requirement about stewardship to the competencies for ordination, a discussion of past stewardship resolutions to have come out of the Standing Commission over the past several decades, and the need to have the same ethical standards for fundraising in the Church that are already codified in the secular nonprofit world. During these teleconference meetings, much progress was made by the Commission in understanding the background and current state of these areas of focus.

By the time of our second face-to-face meeting in September 2014, the Commission was well-prepared to work together on producing resolutions and other outcomes for the General Convention. At this meeting, we also invited The Rev. J.R. Lander, president of the Board of Directors of TENS, to join us both for his insight about the current state of stewardship in The Episcopal Church and to hear about the Board's plans for the organizational future of TENS.

In addition to the resolutions proposed below, the Standing Commission will publish an open letter or white paper to the Church regarding our support for the Development Office of The Episcopal Church. This letter, to be released in advance of General Convention, will spell out several challenges noted by the Commission during its work over the course of the triennium. The Commission does not believe that direct legislative action proposed by this body to the General Convention will be able to fix these challenges, since most are structural and may be impacted (or aided) by the ongoing work of the Task Force for Reimagining the Episcopal Church.

We note particularly that a lack of consistency with decision-making in defining priorities for fundraising has hampered development efforts over a number of years. A particular issue has been limiting the staff's work to just a few projects with which many potential donors are unable to identify as part of their experience in The Episcopal Church. In addition, it is important to note that the Development Office was set up and built with the goal of securing major gifts to support significant programs, not to raise annual fund dollars in direct support of the operating budget. The Episcopal Church already has an annual fund in the form of the diocesan asking.

In conclusion, the Commission believes that its time working together during the course of this triennium has been productive and, given the importance of stewardship and development to the ongoing life and mission of The Episcopal Church, we believe that this body should continue into the next triennium.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

AO88: SET RATES FOR DIOCESAN ASKING FOR THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 78th General Convention direct the Executive Council to prepare, and the Program, Budget and Finance Committee of General Convention to present, a budget to the 79th General Convention in which diocesan commitments for funding the budget are set at a rate no higher than 15 percent for each year of the triennium (2016-2018); and be it further

Resolved, That the member dioceses of this Church commit to pay the full asking percentage as established by the budget approved by the 78th General Convention for the coming triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the member dioceses of this Church commit to paying the full asking in the 2016-2018 triennium so long as that asking is no higher than 15 percent for each year of the triennium, with the expectation that the minimum commitment from every diocese of this Church shall be at the asked level no later than 2016; and be it further

Resolved, That those dioceses unable to make the minimum commitment by 2016 submit a hardship waiver request to Executive Council for review; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council has authority to grant such a hardship waiver when accompanied by an action plan that will lead to full participation in the covenanted asking commitment by a set date.

EXPLANATION

The amount asked from dioceses for the General Convention budget has been at 21 percent beginning in 1997, dropping to 20 percent in 2011 and to 19 percent in 2012.

Since 1979, the General Convention has put forth resolutions regarding stewardship at a level significantly different from what is put forth in this resolution.

- In 1979 the Episcopal Church launched Venture in Mission, and awakened to our need to improve our stewardship.
- In 1982 we affirmed the tithe as the minimum standard of giving for individuals (A116), asked dioceses to establish stewardship committees (A117), and reaffirmed a concept of stewardship in responsible spending as well as giving (A120).
- In 1985 the Convention encouraged dioceses to assist congregations in planned giving (A149), and to accept the practice of giving to others as much as we spend on ourselves, known as 50/50 giving (D140).
- In 1988 dioceses and congregations were urged to continue work toward 50/50 giving, with at least 25 percent of the net disposable income (NDBI) of each Congregation to be given through the diocese for mission and ministry (D144s), which became the basis for the 21 percent asking to dioceses.
- In 1991 the Convention agreed to develop theological resources for 50/50 giving in the Decade of Evangelism.
- In 1997 the Convention's budget resolution (A209), based on the 50/50 goal, set 21 percent as the asking from each diocese in section 2.1.
- This was reaffirmed by the Convention in 2000 (A136), 2003 (D086), and 2006 (D079).
- In 2009, the asking continued at 21 percent, but the reference to 50/50 giving disappears from the text of the resolution.

Over the years, several dioceses have met and exceeded the asking of 21 percent. However, only 46.8 percent (52 out of 111) dioceses made a commitment of 18.5 percent or higher for the 2013-2015 triennium.

A strong mutual commitment to fund our common budget is essential for any plan to work. Encouraging full participation and holding one another accountable for our shared participation in the budget covenant we make at General Convention is a key component of this resolution. If the financial commitment by all dioceses of our Church had been at the 15 percent level in 2012, there would be \$1.5 million more than is currently pledged. That difference could be used to offset revenue not received due to approved hardship waivers.

By planning for a reduction to 15 percent during the triennium following the 78th General Convention (2016-2018), and by encouraging those who are able to give above the 15 percent level to do so, the General Convention will send a positive signal of support to dioceses as they seek to faithfully engage God's mission.

We pray that this change will allow those dioceses that have not been able to meet the previous asking to contribute their fair share to the mission and ministry entrusted to us, and that in the years ahead we will find a way together to increase our recognition of God's abundance and our giving for the spread of the kingdom.

A089: APPROVE DONOR BILL OF RIGHTS

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 78th General Convention approve the attached Donor Bill of Rights.

Donor Bill of Rights

Stewardship merits the respect and trust of the faithful, and so that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the Church and in causes they are asked to support, we declare that all donors to The Episcopal Church have these rights:

- I. To be informed of the Church's mission of the way the Church intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.
- II. To be informed of the identity of those serving on the Church's governing body, and to expect the body to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities.
- III. To have access to the Church's most recent financial statements.
- IV. To be assured that their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.
- V. To receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition.
- VI. To be assured that information about their donation is handled with respect and confidentiality to the extent provided by civil and canon law, specifically canon III.9.5(a)(2).
- VII. To expect that all relationships with individuals representing church ministries of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.
- VIII. To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the Church, or hired solicitors.
- IX. To have the opportunity for their names to be deleted from lists that a Church may intend to share.
- X. To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful, and forthright answers.

EXPLANATION

Stewardship is committing all that we have and all that we are to the greater glory of God once we say, "we believe." Becoming a people truly in touch with this reality makes us stewards of all of our resources: human, financial, material, and spiritual. At creation, God gave us responsibility for the care of the earth.

More than ever before, we are aware that what we do affects those in the next generations. We are created as stewards of God’s creation.

In order to protect the interests of both the Church and the donor, and to set standards of expectation for the donations made to the Church, the Commission recommends this Donor Bill of Rights, which is adapted from the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Donor Bill of Rights for nonprofit organizations. This document is accepted worldwide as the standard for professionals, volunteers, and all donors. The Commission has adapted this Bill of Rights to be in accord with the Canons of The Episcopal Church.

Stewardship Statement of the Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development

Luke 6:38: “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Matthew 6:21: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

God is our creator and has given us all that we are and all that we have. Stewardship is committing all that we have and all that we are to the greater glory of God once we say, “we believe.”

We are committed to the tithe of 10 percent as the minimum standard of giving for individuals. Some of us exceed 10 percent in giving, some of us tithe, and some of us are committed to reach the tithe. We are also committed to responsible stewardship of all we accumulate during our lives; most of us have made wills that reflect our commitment to the Church, and the rest plan to do so.

We invite our brothers and sisters in Christ to join us.

Ms. Holly Bellows
 Mr. Paul Van Brunt
 The Rev. Canon Carol Cole Flanagan
 The Rev. Canon Dr. Lynn Collins
 Mr. James Huber
 Ms. Janette Huey
 The Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibridge
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 The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano
 The Rt. Rev. Gregory Rickel
 The Rev. Dr. James Simons
 The Rev. Grant Wiseman

Budget

Budget for 2013-2015: \$16,000

Expenditures:

- Adobe Connect Licensing Fee (2013): \$425.00
- Adobe Connect Licensing Fee (2014): \$425.00
- Face-to-Face Meeting (September 2014): \$9,631.14

Total Expenditures: \$10,481.14

Unspent Balance: \$5,518.86

The Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development plans to meet once or twice during the next triennium. This will require a total budget of \$15,000 for the triennium.