

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Sandra McPhee, Chair; Petero Sabune, Vice-Chair; Lee Alison Crawford, Secretary; Rosalie Ballentine; Ian Douglas; George Frazer Stain; Mark Harris; Julio Cesar Holguín; Timothy Kimbrough

COMMITTEE GOAL

The International Concerns Committee (INC) helps Council highlight issues beyond the USA (including Provinces II and IX) that call for the church's discipleship and mission. Special concerns include inter-Anglican relations; sending and receiving missionaries; the Millennium Development Goals; the church's overseas dioceses; and crises of violence human rights, famine and other disasters.

SUMMARY OF WORK

As a result of INC work, the Executive Council:

- Established a working group to investigate the possibilities of an Anglican Regional Convocation of the Americas (TEC, Anglican Church of Canada, Concilio Anglicano Latino Americano, including Mexico, IARCA, Brazil, the Province of the West Indies and the Anglican Church of the Southern Cone) to equip our churches for mutuality and interdependence in God's mission (INC 005).
- Clarified the terms of covenant committee members for those churches and provinces in covenant with TEC (INC 010).
- Appointed a Response Drafting Group to the Draft Anglican Covenant that would remain throughout the triennium as a primary resource to INC and ACC to follow the development processes of an Anglican Covenant (INC 021); published "A Response from TEC to the Draft Anglican Covenant" (INC 028) and a Study Resource for the St. Andrew's Draft.
- Recognized new and extended diocesan companion relationships, new mission partners, and returning missionaries.
- Commended the Everyone, Everywhere 2008 World Mission Conference.

IN ITS DELIBERATIONS, INC ALSO:

- Discussed at length the Israeli-Palestinian peace process; the Cuban embargo; religious rights for the Greek Orthodox Church in Turkey; addressed the plight of Iraqi refugees.
- Heard presentations from the Primate and Secretaries of the Anglican Church of Brazil, the Anglican Church of the Region of Central America, the Independent Church of the Philippines, Liberia.
- Supported the partnership of the Executive Council with Episcopal Relief and Development and Jubilee Ministries in the Inspiration Fund for the Millennium Development Goals (AF 010, EC 008).
- Received regular reports from the Office of Anglican and Global Relations (AGR), EMM, EPPN, and now the Partnerships and Leadership clusters, ERD, UTO; was updated regularly on the planning for Lambeth 2008.
- Considered staff reorganization at The Episcopal Church Center with respect to fostering ongoing partnership with Churches of the Anglican Communion and dioceses of TEC outside of the United States and expressed concern that the reorganization has diffused a focus and central coordinated approach to inter-Anglican and world mission affairs, and will continue to monitor the reorganization plan, working with senior staff to address the concern.