

**STANDING COMMISSION ON STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT**

**MEMBERSHIP**

Mrs. Angela M. Daniel, <i>Chair</i>	Upper South Carolina, IV, 2009
The Rev. John Fritschner, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Alabama, IV, 2009
Ms. Sandra Swan, <i>Secretary</i>	Connecticut, I, 2012
Ms. Patricia Abrams	Chicago, V, 2009
The Rt. Rev. Harry B. Bainbridge III	Idaho, VIII, 2012
The Rt. Rev. Mark M. Beckwith	Newark, II, 2012
Ms. Charlene DeWitt	Kansas, VII, 2012
The Rt. Rev. Robert Ronald Gepert	Western Michigan, V, 2012
Mr. Thomas R. Gossen	Kansas, VII
Ms. Kelsey A. Kemp	Northwest Texas, VII, 2009
The Rev. Franco Kwan	California, VIII, 2012
Ms. Terry Parsons, <i>Missioner, Stewardship</i>	Lexington, IV
The Rev. Benjamin E. K. Speare-Hardy II	Southern Ohio, V, 2012
Mrs. Pamela S. Wesley Gomez	Connecticut, I, 2012
Mr. William E. Wrenn	North Carolina, IV, 2012

**CHARGE**

The Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development's (SCSD) mandate is "to hold up before the Church the responsibility of faithful stewardship of time, talent and treasure in grateful thanksgiving for God's gifts. It shall recommend strategies for stewardship education throughout the Church with special sensitivity to the cultural and linguistic diversity of our Church. It shall recommend programs for long-range planning and development, ensuring that other Church bodies, including the Executive Council, are part of the process. It shall assure that there is an official, periodic gathering, interpretation, evaluation and reporting of stewardship from through the Church. It shall help coordinate all Church-wide fund-raising activities." [Title I, Canon 1.2(n)(9)]

The Commission reviewed the Charge to the SCSD and recommends a revision that would read: [Title 1, Canon 1.2(n)(9)] calls for: A Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development, consisting of 12 members (two bishops two priests and/or deacons, and eight lay persons). The duty of the Commission shall be to hold up before the Church a broad definition of Christian stewardship to include our individual and corporate responsibility for living out our baptismal covenant in joyful thanksgiving for God's gifts. It shall recommend programs for development in support of long-range planning by Executive Council and other bodies of the Church. It shall serve as an advisor to the Office of Mission Funding and the Office of Stewardship.

**MEETINGS**

The Commission met four times during the triennium: November 18, 2006 (Chicago, IL); June 3-6, 2007 (Richmond, VA); September 6, 2007 (by conference call); and May 25-28, 2008 (Richmond, VA).

**RESPONSE TO 2006 GENERAL CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS**

Two General Convention 2006 Resolutions were referred to the Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development:

1. A100: CHRISTIAN FORMATION. The Commission devoted a major portion of its time and work to the crisis in stewardship education as part of Christian formation, as described more fully in the Work Summary, and recommends that the Commission continue this work in the next triennium.
2. C018: ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP. This Resolution was referred to this Commission, but upon learning that it had passed and was referred to all dioceses, concluded no further action is required.

**SUMMARY OF WORK**

The Commission reaffirmed the 1988 General Convention Resolution on Stewardship, particularly the portions excerpted below:

“...Said simply, stewardship is the main work of the Church.

Thus, stewardship is more than Church support; it is the use of "the gifts given us to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world.”

Stewardship is an adventure, an expedition into the kingdom where we find our lives through losing them for the sake of the Gospel. It is an invitation to offer our gifts for the purpose for which we were created—the only purpose that will fulfill us. It is a challenge to refocus our lives by designing our budgets around tithing. It offers us a way to begin breaking the bonds of consumption that involve us, often unwittingly, in perpetuating injustice and oppression.

All of God’s people, within and outside of the church, can learn that to be held accountable for their lives as stewards of God’s gifts is to discover their own true great worth before God. We believe that discovery, too, is a gift—a gift that brings unspeakable joy. The main work of the church is to bring its people, and through them all people, to this joyful knowledge, which will ... “restore all people to the unity with God and each other in Christ.”

Consequently, the Commission based its work on the desire to find new and more effective ways to educate clergy and laity about the true meaning of stewardship.

#### **MISSION FUNDING INITIATIVE**

During the past two General Conventions, The Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development has strongly supported the establishment a national church development initiative to obtain major-donor funding for specific national church mission projects. Consequently, the Commission applauded the founding of the Office of Mission Initiative Funding and the Presiding Bishop’s strong support of it.

The Commission invited the Very Rev. James Lemler, Director of Mission, who managed this new venture, to report on progress. He shared with us the current status of the mission funding office for the church. He described the fundraising program, which will focus on foundations and persons of significant means for support of national or international programs beyond the purview of the parish or diocese. He was most helpful, and we pledged to him our encouragement and support.

However, The Commission raised the following concerns about the program: (1) the lack of appropriate long-range planning; (2) the lack of sufficient staffing and budget for a successful campaign; and (3) the lack of preparation of the principal bodies of the church, which would be essential for a massive funds drive. The Commission raised these concerns in a letter to the Executive Council

At a subsequent meeting, the Commission invited the Rev. Susan McCone, director of the Mission Funding Initiative, to update the Commission on progress of the Initiative and to answer remaining questions about the operations of the Initiative. She described the evolution of the Mission Funding Initiative over the past two years. The goals of the MFI are to create a professional development office within The Episcopal Church; to raise major gifts in support of five identified missions of The Episcopal Church; and to coordinate major fundraising programs by Episcopal Church entities. Each of the five funds will have an advisory board, comprised of prominent Episcopalians with foundation or fundraising experience, and appointed by the Presiding Bishop.

The Commission recognizes the valuable work that has already been done and the enthusiasm of those who are prepared to participate. However, The Commission hoped to raise awareness of the realities of such fundraising campaigns. In particular, the Commission believes that the current level of funding is inadequate for a successful campaign. As a result, the Commission will present the following Resolution to the 76<sup>th</sup> General Convention.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION A114 FUNDING MISSION FUNDING OFFICE**

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 76<sup>th</sup> General Convention fully fund Mission Funding Initiative  
2 to raise \$250,000,000 over the next six years; and be it further  
3  
4 *Resolved*, That in order to ensure that the office of Mission Funding is adequately funded for success, the Standing  
5 Commission on Stewardship and Development calls upon each diocese to increase its payment to the General  
6 Convention budget by 1% of its annual assessment for each year in the 2010-2012 triennium, as a supplement  
7 designated for support of the Office of Mission Funding.

**COST**

\$5,000,000

**EXPLANATION**

In 2003, this Commission made the following statement: “The Episcopal Church is rich in undeveloped economic resources. At both local and national levels the church needs advice on how we might creatively use our assets to underwrite and enable our vision. A new development arm must be established to seek major gifts to leverage the massive inter-generational transfer of capital funds that is now occurring in the United States.”

In 2005, an Executive Council Task Force recommended the formation of the Office of Mission Funding, and the Executive Council established the Mission Funding Initiative, which was subsequently ratified at the 2006 General Convention.

Since then planning for these funds has proceeded, and the Mission Funding Office has developed case statements for several capital funds. Mission Funding needs expanded staff capacity to develop relationships and cultivate donors. It needs a budget adequate to meet both the need and opportunity.

Our vision for mission has too often been too small. We think in terms of small efforts for church planting and are disappointed when our small vision reaps even smaller rewards. The Good News is life-giving and life-changing. The church should invite those who have been transformed to make gifts that will change the very nature of the church and fuel our church planting and mission development for fifty years.

- Churches are often hesitant to create sophisticated mechanisms of fund development. Our hesitation results in missed opportunities. With modest, and relatively passive, means of fund development, the church has received much. With diligence, intention and action, the church can build capacities to do what God is calling us to do: build up the church and proclaim the Gospel.
- The Mission Funding Initiative will allow us to create a major fund development center for The Episcopal Church that could serve all parts of the church.

The assessment is for the 2010-2012 Triennium only, as it includes the expectation that future operating expenses (except salaries) will be funded from funds raised. The success of a major gifts effort requires the initial investment of major funds. If the church agrees that the proposed mission programs are vital, then it must also agree to support the Mission Funding Initiative with sufficient funds.

**ONLINE GIVING**

Because online giving has become commonplace, the Commission strongly urged The Episcopal Church to develop an online giving program for the web site. The Commission recognizes that online giving programs demand prompt and accurate accounting, receipting, acknowledgement and donor relations activities, and urged church administration to ensure that these were in place before launching such a program. Nevertheless, the Commission is disappointed that online giving is not yet a reality, and suggests Executive Council make this funding opportunity a priority.

**STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION**

STEWARDSHIP IS MORE THAN MONEY. The Commission believes that most Episcopalians understand the word “Stewardship” to refer only to the appropriate use of money. Therefore, the Commission urges the church as a whole—parishes, dioceses and the national church—to expand the understanding of Stewardship to include the appropriate care of all of God’s gifts to us, our lives and our world.

As a corollary, the Commission urges all parishes to adopt the term “Annual Giving Campaign,” rather than “Stewardship Campaign,” because the latter improperly limits the meaning of “stewardship” to refer to money and budgets only.

**BUDGET APPROPRIATION**

The Commission spent \$10,692 in 2007 and \$7,347 in 2008 on meetings and other expenses. The balance remaining this triennium is \$19,961 (as of 12/08). The Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development will hold six meetings in the next triennium for a cost of \$48,000.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEXT TRIENNIUM**

During the next triennium The Commission will:

- Continue to emphasize the concept that Stewardship is more than money, encouraging the development of teaching materials on the subject;
- Continue to provide oversight and guidance to proposed programs to raise money for mission funding; and
- Continue to advocate for implementation of online giving programs at the national and local church level.

**CONCLUSION**

“Stewardship” is more than money. God calls us to be good stewards of all gifts we have received, material and relational. The Commission calls upon the church to recognize this obligation and the opportunity to expand our understanding.

New and expanded funds for mission are a priority for The Episcopal Church. However, successful fundraising campaigns require considerable professional expertise and adequate budgets. New methods of giving, such as online giving, must be properly constituted and managed. The Commission calls upon the church to provide the necessary resources for these operations, so that its programs of mission and ministry can be expanded.