

Executive Council  
Minutes  
Mundelein, Illinois  
April 13, 2005

The special meeting of Executive Council was held to formulate a response to the Primate's request that The Episcopal Church voluntarily withdraw from the Anglican Consultative Council until the next meeting of the Lambeth Conference. The meeting was called to order by the Presiding Bishop at 9:00 a.m. He took the roll call (present unless marked absent):

The Most Reverend Frank T. Griswold III, Presiding Bishop  
The Very Reverend George L. W. Werner, Vice Chair

Bonnie Anderson  
Cynthia Black  
R.P.M. Bowden  
Carmen Brooks - absent  
Kim Byham  
Ann Coburn - absent  
Louie Crew  
Theodore Daniels – absent  
Sharon Denton  
Dorothy Fuller  
Del Glover - absent  
Edward Godden  
Thomas Gossen  
Anthony Guillen  
Sarah Harte – absent  
Josephine Hicks  
Julio Holguin  
Ken Kesselus - absent

Timothy Kimbrough  
Stephen Lane  
Sandra McPhee  
Ted Mollegen  
Frank Oberly - absent  
Russell Palmore  
Diane Pollard  
Titus Presler – absent  
Brian Prior  
Wilfredo Ramos-Orench  
Terry Roberts  
Edward Rodman  
Catherine Roskam  
Stacy Sauls  
Becky Snow  
Kwasi Thornell  
John Vanderstar  
Tim E. Vann

Lillian Yeager  
Ted Yumoto

DMFS Officers

Pat Mordecai, Vice President  
N. Kurt Barnes, Treasurer

Staff Members

Barbara Braver  
Marian Conboy  
Carl Gerdau  
Margaret Larom  
Jim Lemler  
Robert Williams

A motion was put forth and seconded that the first portion of the meeting would be spent in private conversation.

Mid morning, it was proposed that the group come out of private conversation. This was seconded and carried.

Ted Yumoto proposed the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Executive Council meeting at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois on April 13, 2005 request that the Episcopal Church USA withdraw “for the period leading up to the next Lambeth Conference” (Paragraph 14 , Communiqué) its representatives to the meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) as an “outward and visible sign” to the Anglican Communion; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Episcopal Church USA, through its proper channels, identify and select a panel of members to “set out the thinking behind recent actions ...” (Paragraph 16, Communiqué) in accordance with paragraph 141 of The Windsor Report.

This resolution was seconded, and there was some discussion. A question was raised whether it would be more useful to poll the group at this time to see where people stood. It was moved to table the resolution at this time.

A vote was taken, with the following results:

Attend as full members: .....10  
Attend with restrictions to be decided: .....11  
Voluntarily withdraw .....8

With the group so divided, a suggestion was made that we break and pray. Following the prayer, three boards were set up at the front of the room and Council members called out reasons for each of the three choices. These reasons were written on the boards. A request was made to poll the group again, this time by bishop, clergy, and lay representatives. The vote was still split, and discussion of what attending with limitations (the middle choice) would look like was requested.

It was decided that a letter to Bishop Paterson (Chair, ACC) would be written, explaining exactly what our intentions are. Council felt that it was important to emphasize that the members would be going for the purpose of listening; that they be present and available.

There was a short break while lunch was distributed. Discussion continued, focusing on what the letter to Bishop Paterson should include. Points made were that we would continue to honor our financial commitment (later decided to omit any reference to finances and simply say “honor our commitment”), that worship is an important part of our life, that women’s issues are as important as homosexuality issues, that we struggled with the decision and that in attending, our emphasis is on listening and availability. The writing committee was asked to take these suggestions and draft an open letter to John Paterson with a copy to Rowan Williams.

When the decision was made to attend with limitations, Ted Yumoto was asked if he would withdraw his resolution. Ted responded that he would not withdraw the resolution, rather that the record should show that the resolution was submitted, seconded, and tabled, but not withdrawn.

There was a motion to create a resolution about the Millennium Development Goals, but since the writing committee is including this in their statement, the motion was withdrawn.

Dean Werner asked if we want to support the House of Bishops act of graciousness, and this was so moved. Bonnie Anderson suggested that we may want to do that at our June meeting.

Bishop Griswold was asked how we will report to Canada, and he replied that he would place a phone call to Andrew (Archbishop Andrew Hutchinson, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada).

John Vanderstar proposed the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That Executive Council anticipate receiving but not “accepting or endorsing” the report of the Theology Committee that is addressing Sexuality issues and be it further

*Resolved*, That the report be understood as an important part of the ongoing conversation on the subjects and not the “definitive position” of ECUSA; and be it further

*Resolved* That the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies are authorized to appoint a team of persons to appear at the forthcoming ACC meeting to offer thoughts as part of such an ongoing conversation.

Bishop Griswold felt that we should focus only on the last part of that proposed resolution. John said he would work on re-wording it.

It was decided that the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies appoint a group involving some Executive Council members and some others to engage in conversation at the ACC meeting. This group should be comprised of individuals who represent our polity, women, racial diversity, gay/lesbian presence, dioceses outside of the United States, and a biblical scholar. Anthony Guillen suggested Winnie Varghese as someone who met several of these criteria, and Dean Werner suggested Bonnie Anderson. The re-worked resolution was proposed:

*Resolved*, That the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies are authorized to appoint a team of persons to appear at the forthcoming meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council to offer thoughts as part of an ongoing conversation on human sexuality issues.

This resolution was moved, seconded, and adopted.

As the writing committee worked on the letter to Bishop Paterson, Bishop Griswold took the opportunity to thank the Council members for adjusting their schedules and making the effort to attend this meeting. Louie Crew responded that he would like to register his personal thanks to Bishop Griswold for doing his job with such grace.

Bonnie Anderson proposed the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Executive Council directs its standing committee on International Concerns to establish a sub-committee to facilitate the listening process between ourselves and the other provinces of the Anglican Communion with respect to the common mission we share and the differences among us.

This resolution was adopted.

Catherine Roskam read the letter drafted by the writing committee. Several changes were suggested, and the final version was approved.

April 13, 2005

*A letter to the Rt. Rev. John C. Paterson, Chair of the Anglican Consultative Council, from the Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold and the Very Rev. George L. W. Werner on behalf of the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church.*

The Executive Council met in special session at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois, to consider the request of the Primates to “voluntarily withdraw” our members for a time from participation in the Anglican Consultative Council. This is a weighty matter for the Episcopal Church since the ACC is the primary instrument of communion in which the fullness of the Body of Christ is represented. Representative consultation is an essential component of our life as a church. We struggled to discern how best to respond to the request.

We are acutely aware that we meet in a time of great distress and need in the wider world. War, famine and disease stalk the earth. We express our passionate commitment to the mission of the church and especially to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals endorsed by our General Convention.

We are unanimous in our desire to do all that we can to preserve and further the bonds of affection in the “new humanity” created by Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:15). This in our view constitutes the very essence of our life together as Anglican Christians. We firmly believe that the only way to address the things that divide us is for “Christians of good will... to engage honestly and frankly with each other” (Windsor Report, paragraph 146). We are therefore heartened by the decision of the Chair of the ACC, responding to the Primates’ communiqué to include in the program for the upcoming meeting in Nottingham an opportunity for a consultation at which major contributions will come from the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada.

We are mindful that Christ has made us members of one body, and that no part can say to any other “I have no need of you.” At the same time we wish to express our openness to the concerns and beliefs of others. In the spirit of the Covenant Statement recently adopted by our House of Bishops, we voluntarily withdraw our members from official participation in the ACC as it meets in Nottingham. As an expression of our desire “to bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2), we are asking our members to be present at the meeting to listen to reports on the life and ministry we share across the Communion and to be available for conversation and consultation.

Please be assured of our prayers and continuing support for the mission we share in the Risen Christ.

Once the letter was accepted as amended, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.