

Oversight Working Group conference call notes, November 24, 2008

Participants: Sue Winn, PJ Hobbs, Caroline Chum, Florence Ayban (by email), Paul Gehrs, Henriette Thompson (chair, notes) and Lydia Laku Regrets: Peter Fenty

Agenda:

- Welcome, opening prayer
- Update on 2009 Partnerships budget
- Scope and role of Oversight Working Group (OWG)
- Discussion and decision re. location and date of next face-to-face meeting in 2009; developing timeline and work plan for conference calls, meetings to June 2010
- Update on PMEJC newsletter; communications matters arising

Welcome, opening prayer

Henriette opened the meeting with prayer.

Ref. docs for our discussion: March 2002 “Mandate for Working Groups, Ecojustice Committee” (see Appendix 1, below); Florence’s email of November 21 with discussion input.

Update on 2009 Partnerships budget highlights

The total 2009 budget of \$1.86 million is down \$140,800 from \$2,001,000 in 2008, and will be finalized by November 30. Cuts were made to travel, reduced frequency of PMEJC meeting to once per year, and emerging priorities and other program lines. We will need to discuss PMEJ priorities while paying close attention to reduced budgets for 2010 and 2011 (deficit budgeting for General Synod to be prohibited by 2012).

Scope and role of Oversight Working Group (OWG)

We agreed that while PMEJC establishes budget priorities and staff make decisions about how the budget is implemented, there are areas of overlap. We recognized the need for staff to actively communicate what is needed to carry out the work and for the OWG to flag work areas needing support, integration, and challenge (not unlike a board function) to the entire Committee.

Program monitoring and review of Partners in Mission and Ecojustice Committee is identified as an important role for the Oversight Committee.

Given that various PMEJC members are represented on other committees (egs. Caroline on Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples and Anglican Covenant Working Group, and PJ on the Youth Initiatives Task Force), we request that all those representing PMEJC on other committees and working groups advise OWG of upcoming meetings and report back on meeting outcomes.

Is Youth Initiatives TF under the auspices of the General Secretary or of Faith, Worship and Ministry? Answer: with Faith, Worship and Ministry (Dec 2).

Another area of responsibility for the Oversight Committee is the coordination of the agenda and preparations for PMEJC meetings. To be discussed in more detail at subsequent meetings.

Sue suggested that OWG could have a face-to-face meeting in Toronto, in the spring of 2009 with those who are in the Toronto area and the rest could join by phone. More on this later.

Florence encouraged us to “include nurturance of our personal relationship to God as we relate to the members of our Committee...(and, that) we are actually improving and growing also as individuals in our relationship with God.”

Action: Henriette to post all PMEJC working group notes to central file.

Discussion and decision re. location and date of next face-to-face meeting in 2009; developing timeline and work plan for conference calls, meetings to June 2010

Since committee meetings have been reduced to one meeting in 2009, the fall meeting will take place in Vancouver as offered by Margaret Cornish at the PMEJC meeting in Brandon. A deposit has been made to the Vancouver School of Theology. Florence encouraged us to think hard about how we can “maximize our time and our presence” there.

Action: Henriette to contact Margaret to discuss OWG role in coordinating the agenda and plans for the fall 2009 meeting.

Update on PMEJC newsletter (Sue); communications matters arising

Sue is working on a PMEJC newsletter and will circulate a link to a file drop so members can access the newsletter.

Sue encouraged us all to monitor ACC web site for notice of upcoming meetings and discussions.

Next conference call scheduled for Wed. Jan. 7th 2009, 2 pm EST.

Appendix 1: Excerpts from draft “Mandate for Working Groups, Ecojustice Committee”, March 2002

The responsibilities of the Working Groups will be to coordinate work in their areas of responsibility between meetings of the EcoJustice Committee as a whole.

- To recommend to the chair of EcoJustice items for decision, for discussion and for information on the agenda of EcoJustice and/or Chairs' Advisory Group meetings; in light of work mandated for the EcoJustice Committee and of emergent priorities.
- To assist in the preparation of materials/presentations to inform EcoJustice Committee members with respect to such agenda items; drawing upon appropriate resources and resource people in collaboration with the chair and EcoJustice Committee staff for this work.
- To become familiar with the policy and priorities and current work of the Anglican Church of Canada in their particular areas of interest.
- To consider, develop, and recommend action and advocacy plans and communication strategies for promoting work in their area of responsibilities in the wider community; including parishes, dioceses, ecumenical partnerships, provincial and national committees and councils, governments and civil society.
- To operate within the policy frameworks of the EcoJustice Committee and the Anglican Church of Canada and to advise the EcoJustice Committee with respect to policies in their areas of interest.
- Each group will identify its own convenor who will report their work monthly to the Chair and staff. He/she will also determine the availability of funds and request for the work and meeting expenses of his/her working group in consultation with the chair and the staff. Will convene (by phone or in person) the working group not less than once between regular meetings of the EcoJustice Committee.
- Members are asked to make themselves available for meetings, in person and conference calls, between meetings of the EcoJustice Committee and to put time aside regularly for the promoting the work of his/her working group. This may include representing the EcoJustice Committee and/or working group at local and/or regional meetings, conferences, and events. And where possible to animate such local and regional activities in collaboration with staff and other members of justice networks.