

The Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development

Introduction

The above named Commission was established at the 66th General Convention in Denver by the unanimous passage of Resolution D-22. We have been funded with a budget of \$35,000 for the triennium. An accounting for our expenditures appears at the end of this report.

The membership of the Commission is as follows:

The Rev. John H. MacNaughton, *Chairman*
The Rt. Rev. Christoph Keller, Jr.
The Rt. Rev. Gerald N. McAllister
The Rev. Robert Parks
Mr. John Meirs
Mr. I. H. Burney
Mrs. Richard Boas
Mr. William Noble
Mr. Henry Ikard
Mr. Harry Havemeyer
Mr. Frank Troutman
Mr. Richard Wheeler

Our charge by resolution includes:

- 1) "To hold up before the Church the responsibility of faithful stewardship. . . ."
- 2) "To recommend a strategy for stewardship education throughout the Church. . . ."
- 3) "To plan and recommend a program of long-range development" (in stewardship).
- 4) "To recommend a joint strategy for the various Church agencies in their fund-raising efforts. . . ."
- 5) "To consider all national fund-raising proposals for its recommendation."

The Commission has included in all our meetings the three executives of our national Stewardship office, the Rev. Tom Carson, the Rev. Henry Free, and Mr. Richard Lamport. The effect of this has been a broad sharing of concerns and ideas, and a strong sense of mutual cooperation, support, and a cross-fertilization. To inform ourselves as broadly as possible, we have also invited the following people to address the Commission:

- Dr. Charles Lawrence, President of the House of Deputies.
- The Rev. James Gundrum, Executive Officer of the House of Deputies.
- The Most Rev. John Allin, Presiding Bishop.
- The Rev. Leo Waynick, Executive Director of the Ecumenical Center for Stewardship Studies.
- Mr. Robert M. Ayres, Chairman of the Executive Council Committee on Stewardship.
- The Rt. Rev. Milton Wood, Executive for Administration of the Executive Council staff.
- The Rev. John Schultz, Director, Management Information Systems.
- Mr. Hal Treash, Chairman of Ward, Dreshman and Reinhardt.
- Dr. Fredrica Thompsett, Executive Director of the Board for Theological Education.

The Commission is both painfully and joyfully aware of two realities. Painfully we are aware that stewardship is an area that has not held a high priority, heretofore, in the thinking and planning of the Church nationally. Joyfully, we are aware that, in spite of this, some excellent work is being done in stewardship by some dioceses and parishes nation-wide. The Commission, under the leadership of the Rev. John MacNaughton, surveyed parishes nationally that, in the opinion of their bishops (all of whom were contacted), were doing an effective job in stewardship at the parish level. The result was the publication of a document, titled *A Grass Roots Survey*, that calls out major areas of similarity in effective stewardship approaches, as well as other significant data for the use of the Church. A copy of the survey is available from the national Stewardship office.

In pursuing our goals, listed before, we have, to date, addressed ourselves to our charge in the following ways:

1. In response to item one in our charge, "to hold up before the church the responsibility of faithful stewardship. . ." the Commission, at our meeting of February 10, 1981, adopted and signed the following personal stewardship commitment:

"We affirm the biblical definition of the tithe as the standard of giving for all Christians. We understand this to mean giving at least 10% of our income to the work of God."

Every member of the Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development is presently tithing or working toward tithing as a goal for giving.

Following our commitment and lengthy discussions of the issues involved, we recommend the following resolution to the 67th General Convention.

Resolution #A—116.

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the tithe be affirmed as the standard of giving for Episcopalians; and be it further

Resolved, That we the Deputies and Bishops do hereby pledge ourselves to tithe, or to work towards tithing, as a standard of our own giving and of our witness in the world; and be it further

Resolved, That we do call all of the Church to join us in accepting the biblical tithe as the standard of Christian giving.

In support of this resolution, the following datum has been developed by the Commission on the State of the Church in November, 1981. It is accurate, by standard opinion poll accuracy measurements, to an error factor of 5% or less.

From "Profile of Episcopalians"
(See State of the Church Committee report)

Question 30: "Do you think that the tithe is a good standard for your giving? (Tithe is defined as a gift of ten percent of your income for the work of God; the definitions of "income" and "work of God" are left to you)."

		Yes	No
Overall		52.5%	47.5%
Region:	North East	45.7%	54.3%
	North Central	54.9%	45.1%
	South Atlantic	52.2%	47.8%
	South Central	61.1%	38.9%
	West	55.1%	44.9%

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Community size:	20,000	51.4%	48.6%
	20,000 — 50,000	47.0%	53.0%
	50,000 — 300,000	53.0%	47.0%
	300,000	60.9%	39.1%
Household income	\$15,000	61.4%	38.6%
	\$20,000 — 50,000	53.2%	46.8%
	\$50,000	41.5%	58.5%
Marital status	Single	43.9%	56.1%
	Married	51.3%	48.7%
	Divorced	63.8%	36.2%
	Widowed	62.2%	37.8%
Sex	Male	49.1%	50.9%
	Female	55.3%	44.7%

The above datum notwithstanding, the major thrust in the resolution above is to respond to the biblical standard of giving in both the Old and New Testaments, which we recognize as the tithe. We derive that from a variety of biblical sources, one of which is Matthew 23:23 where Jesus says, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you tithe the mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law, justice and mercy and faith; these you ought to have done, without neglecting the others."

While Jesus' statement seems, on a superficial reading, to be a criticism of tithing as religious legalism, in fact Jesus' words, "these you ought to have done" (referring to tithing) clearly affirm the tithe as an assumed, non-arguable standard. What Jesus is saying about the tithe is: Do it! Let's not discuss it or be proud of it. Just do it! Now let's get on with the more important matters which are justice and mercy and faith. On the basis of that affirmation, we believe we can offer no less a standard for the Church.

2. In response to item two in our charge, "To recommend a strategy for stewardship education throughout the church. . ."

a) The Commission has reviewed our national publications on stewardship with an eye to upgrading both the content and presentation of future materials. This is an ongoing task, undertaken in cooperation with the Stewardship office.

b) The Commission has encouraged and enthusiastically supported the efforts of both our executives and the Executive Council Stewardship Committee in their efforts to include stewardship education in the regular curriculum of our seminaries. In this connection, two book-length treatments of stewardship, designed both as seminary tests and for the use of the Church generally, are being prepared for publication by the Rev. Charles Price and the Rev. John Westerhoff. The Rev. Tom Carson, with the support of the Commission, has served to put the authors and publishers together in this effort.

In addition, members of the Commission both encouraged and contributed to a booklet edited by the Rev. Henry Free, titled *Ten Who Tithe*. This publication will be sent to all General Convention deputies and will be available to the whole Church through the Stewardship office.

c) Additionally, contacts have been made, again by the Rev. Tom Carson, to encourage the inclusion of questions dealing with stewardship in the General Ordination examinations.

d) Contact continues to be made with the seminaries directly in regard to our interest in including stewardship education in the seminary curricula.

e) Commission members have also begun to cooperate with our national office in serving as resource people for the regional Stewardship conferences held annually, nation-wide.

f) Stemming from these efforts and our clear vision of the need, throughout the whole Church, to address stewardship concerns in an ongoing way and to establish additional channels of communications, we recommend the following to the 67th General Convention:

Resolution #A—117.

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That each Diocese be encouraged to establish a diocesan Stewardship Committee, to educate and encourage local congregations in matters of stewardship, to work with the national Stewardship Office and the Standing Commission on Stewardship for the continued strengthening of our witness to the world of our gratitude for God's bounty in our lives.

3. In response to item three in our charge, "to plan and recommend a program of long-range planning in stewardship. . ."

a) We have been in contact with the Rt. Rev. John M. Allin in regard to the progress and continued influence of Venture in Mission on the Church. Our work has been in two areas (1) to develop a suitable vehicle to celebrate VIM at the 67th General Convention, to recognize the tremendous influence and effectiveness of VIM in leading the Church toward its true mission, and (2) to recognize and encourage those dioceses that are still in the Venture process.

b) We recommend the following resolution to this 67th General Convention.

Resolution #A—118.

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That this 67th General Convention does declare that the spirit of mission growing out of Venture in Mission is to be nurtured on every level of the life of the Episcopal Church as the foundation for the Church's program for the decade of the 80's.

c) We further recommend to this 67th General Convention the following:

Resolution #A—119.

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the Executive Council be charged with responsibility for the continual updating of the "Venture in Mission Case Book" which has served as a valuable tool in identifying the needs of our worldwide mission. The updated Case Book, with its listing of current, high priority mission needs, shall be known as the "Catalogue of Mission Opportunities." It shall be prepared for distribution as soon as possible, and be kept before individuals, congregations, dioceses, and other units of the Anglican Communion, as our ongoing and necessary tool for the one mission of Christ.

Our rationale for this proposal is as follows:

It now appears that, when the fund-raising portion of VIM is completed, less than one-half of the projects listed in the Case Book will have been underwritten. A determination needs to be made regarding which of the unfunded projects should be retained in the new "Catalogue of Mission Opportunities." The Executive Council needs to develop procedures by which new mission opportunities can be brought to the attention of the Church, and, after responsible screening, be incorporated in the Catalogue. The "Catalogue of Mission Opportunities" thus becomes part of the

ongoing legacy of Venture in Mission, whose primary purpose was to recall the Church to her reason for being.

d) The Commission also recognizes the absolute necessity of calling the Church to a stewardship of its spending as well as its giving. Stewardship directs us to seriously consider how we use the material resources we have been given with responsibility and with a clear vision of our call to advance the mission of the Church, especially as that call leads us outside of ourselves and our parochial concerns and needs.

We, therefore, recommend to this 67th General Convention the following:

Resolution #A—120.

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That while stewardship is more often identified with our giving than our spending, we call upon the Church to reaffirm that faithful stewardship clearly requires us to spend responsibly those monies entrusted to our care; and be it further

Resolved, That, since stewardship is inextricably bound up in the whole mission of the Church, every unit of the Church should look beyond its own parochial needs and continue to hold up Mission as the priority of our giving and spending.

e) To pursue another avenue of long-range planning in stewardship, efforts have been successfully made to assist Mr. Richard Lamport of the national Stewardship office in pursuing the presentation of the concept of planned giving as a way to exercise faithful stewardship. This concept, with an accompanying plan for implementation, has been introduced in three (3) dioceses in a pilot project, and will be revised through this pilot experience to be made available to the whole Church.

4. *In response to item four of our charge, "to recommend a joint strategy for the various Church agencies in their fund-raising efforts. . ."*

a) We invited Dr. Fredrica Thompsett, Executive Director of the Board for Theological Education, to meet with us in regard to the funding of our theological seminaries. The Rev. Tom Carson and the Rt. Rev. Christoph Keller have met with the BTE to insure clear communication between us as they have progressed in their work in response to Resolution B-127.

In our March, 1982, meeting we reviewed the proposed plan of the BTE, as presented in their document titled, "A Plan For Theological Education and Mission — Resolution in Response to B-127." In the main, from the stewardship stance of our Commission, we endorse this resolution. We commend its bold language, a boldness required if the Church's attention is to be caught. We also commend the BTE and the seminary deans in commissioning a study of both the short- and long-term financial needs of the seminaries. The use of the Peat, Marwick and Mitchell findings by the seminaries is a strong exercise in the good stewardship of their present resources and builds a responsible foundation on which their present appeal for funding from the Church at large can stand.

Our main point of concern is in regard to the proposed dialogue and partnership that is to be built between the seminaries and the Church at large, a dialogue and partnership to be initiated by the seminaries and the Council of Deans. Whatever the intention of their resolution, the language of it suggests a dialogue in which the needs of the seminaries are communicated to the Church with little apparent provision for the Church at large to speak, or for the seminaries to listen to the Church. We believe that there is a stewardship of listening in which the seminaries and the Church need to enter equally.

b) We have not yet come to grips with the much larger question of a joint strategy

for various Church agencies in their fund-raising. This question is cast in the molasses of agency independence and will be very difficult to address effectively. Dialogue with many of these agencies is now underway, however.

5. *In response to item five in our charge, "to consider all national fund-raising proposals for its recommendations. . ."*

a) We have had no occasion, to date, to deal with this matter.

6. *Long-range goals and objectives for the triennium, 1983-85.*

a. To continue and expand our contacts with the theological seminaries, encouraging inclusion of stewardship teaching in seminary curricula — to the advantage of both the seminaries and the Church.

b. To continue to bring to the Church an awareness and enlarged acceptance of the principle of the tithe as a standard of giving.

c. To initiate conversations with the Commission on the State of the Church on ways to secure more sophisticated and helpful information on the giving patterns of the Church, in order that materials produced and training conferences held can speak as accurately as possible to our real situation.

d. To gather information on the various fund-raising efforts of the agencies of the Church for the purpose of coordination and cross-fertilization—to the mutual advantage of all foundations and agencies.

e. To find ways to hold up to the whole church the concept of accountability in the use of our resources, to become, as a Commission, the stewards of the concept of accountability.

f. To continue to be a viable support group to our national Stewardship office.

g. To hold before the Church the thrust of mission growing out of Venture in Mission.

7. *The budget.* The following budget proposal, in support of the Commission for the next triennium, is recommended for adoption by this 67th General Convention.

Resolution #A—123.

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the sum of \$50,750 be appropriated for the work of the Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development during the next triennium.

8. *Financial report for 1979-81 triennium.*

Budget: \$35,000.00

Expenses	1980	1981	1982
Travel	\$5826.34	\$ 9713.45	\$ 4780.25
Housing and meals	1742.97	2483.41	3180.50
Office exp. and misc.	526.99	308.24	186.25
Estimated additional expenditures through Dec. 31, 1982			4750.00
Totals	<u>\$8096.30</u>	<u>\$12,505.11</u>	<u>\$12.897.00</u>

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. John H. MacNaughton, *Chairman*

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9. *Suggested triennial budget.*

1983

Three meetings	\$14,000
Secretarial assistance (5 days @ \$50 per day)	250
Subcommittee meetings	1,200
Miscellaneous	300
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	\$15,750

1984

Three meetings	\$15,700
Secretarial assistance (8 days @ \$50 per day)	400
Subcommittee meetings	1,400
Miscellaneous	300
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	\$17,750

1985

Two meetings	\$10,500
Secretarial assistance (20 days @ \$50 per day)	1,000
Subcommittee meetings	3,500
Miscellaneous	450
Contingency	1,800
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	\$17,250
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Total, 1983-85	\$50,750