

The Committee on the State of the Church

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A. MEMBERSHIP

	Province
Canon Jean Mulligan, <i>Chair</i> , Goffstown, New Hampshire	I
The Reverend Marshall Hunt, <i>Vice Chair</i> , Massachusetts (DC)	I
Mrs. Dixie Hutchinson, <i>Scribe</i> , Dallas, Texas	VII
The Reverend Keith Ackerman, Arlington, Texas	VII
Mr. Richard P.M. Bowden, Atlanta, Georgia	IV
Mrs. Ann Fontaine, Lander, Wyoming	VI
Mrs. Diana Frade, San Pedro Sula, Honduras	IX
Mr. Delbert C. Glover, Wilmington, Delaware	III
Mrs. Bettye Jo Harris, Keneohe, Hawaii	VIII
Mr. Harry Havemeyer, New York, New York	II
Mrs. Sally Head, Ann Arbor, Michigan	V
The Reverend Daniel Hopkins, Aurora, Colorado *	VI
The Very Reverend H. Scott Kirby, Eau Claire, Wisconsin	V
The Reverend Caryl Marsh, Salt Lake City, Utah	VIII
The Reverend Barnum McCarty, Jacksonville, Florida	IV
The Reverend Diana Parada, Panama, Panama	IX
Dr. Warren Ramshaw, Hamilton, New York	II
The Reverend Rosemari Sullivan, Alexandria, Virginia	III
Ex. Officio: Mrs. Pamela Chinnis, President of the House of Deputies	
Mrs. Nicholas T. Cooke III, Treasurer	
The Reverend Canon Donald A. Nickerson, Secretary of the General Convention	

* Unable to attend any meetings

B. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Meetings of the State of the Church Committee were held in Canton, Mississippi (1992), Delray Beach, Florida (1993), and Indianapolis, Indiana (1994). With each gathering we deepened mutual respect for each other, and rejoiced in the diversity of individual contributions as the working relationship and goals were addressed.

In the initial meeting of the Committee, *ISSUES* which we believe are affecting the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church in the parish, diocese, nation, and the world were identified. As we worked in small groups and shared findings with the committee of the whole, it became increasingly apparent that three significant *THEMES* emerged: IDENTITY, STRUCTURAL AUTHORITY, and TRUST. The variety of particular concerns and issues which called forth our human energies at all levels of church life, seemed to be interrelated within the meaning of these words.

After the meetings of the Committee, when we returned to our work at various responsibilities and locations within the Church, we were able to confirm again and again that Identity, Structural Authority, and Trust are three fundamental issues dominating life in the Church and in society.

In order to develop a greater understanding of these three aspects in the life of the Church, we examined several sources:

A. We conducted a survey of the diocesan Standing Committees, to which nearly sixty percent of the dioceses responded. We asked the Standing Committees three questions:

- (1). Please identify issues, concerns, and tasks in your diocese which receive considerable attention and are of paramount importance at the parish level and at the diocesan level;
- (2). Where do you observe strength, health, and vision in your diocese?
- (3). Where do you observe conflict, tension, and fracture in your diocesan life?

B. We reviewed the Parochial Reports from the dioceses, especially examining the accounts of parish outreach activities in the reports.

From these and other sources we observed the persistence of specific issues and concerns of the Church in which the Committee identified the themes of Identity, Structural Authority, and Trust:

- Racism, sexism, ageism, and classism are found on all levels of our life together.
- Parochialism breaks and fragments the sense of the oneness of our Church.
- Reports of sexual misconduct bring pain to our members and our leaders.
- We are unable to recruit, ordain, and deploy a sufficient number of African Americans, Asians, Hispanics, and Native Americans.
- Difficulties in communication, coordination, and implementation emerge as pervasive issues in many of our structures, conventions, councils, synods, commissions, and committees in doing the work of the Church.

- Despite the increased giving to our parishes, our financial stewardship indicates a shift from support of the national and diocesan programs to more localized needs.
- Tension and controversy surround the autonomy process in Province IX.

On the other hand, we have learned with excitement that numerous outreach enterprises challenge and inspire people in parishes large and small, and in rural and urban communities. We also learned of positive experiences of outreach and linkage of congregations, ecumenically and internationally. We are evangelists as we strive to be faithful, Christ-centered, loving, and caring persons.

Living and working in the Body of Christ, with our discontinuity and our visions, we hope to be responsive to Christ's call to respect the dignity of all people. The will to accomplish this, we believe, is under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Committee shares with the Church our focus upon Identity, Structural Authority, and Trust.

IDENTITY

The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America (commonly known as the Episcopal Church) is part of the Anglican Communion. We are united as the Church in congregations, dioceses, provinces, and in the General Convention.

Our multinational richness includes churches in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and Northern South America as well as Taiwan, Micronesia, and the Convocation of American Churches in Europe. We are urged to strengthen and expand our missionary efforts in these countries, even as our financial resources are changing our response.

Ours is a Church with rules and guidelines. We have an historic episcopate. We are sacramentally based. We are creedal. Our ethos is centered in scripture, tradition, and reason. We are nurtured in God's Word. God has given us life and God sustains that life in us individually and corporately.

By means of these common themes which run throughout our Identity we see that we are diverse—multi-racial, multi-national, and multi-cultural. This reality gives us opportunities for rejoicing and working together. Our Baptismal vows require us to work for God's Kingdom within the Church and the World.

The Book of Common Prayer, our liturgy, and our worship unite us. Theological, traditional, and liturgical diversities which exist in our Church—often recognized as sources of tension—offer means to grow and achieve deeper understanding of one another.

STRUCTURAL AUTHORITY

"All baptized people are called to make Christ known as Savior and Lord, and to share in the renewing of his world" (BCP). This calling is a gift of the Holy Spirit, which empowers people for the administration of the Church. The structural manifestation of administration is currently a source of challenge, joy, and struggle.

As Episcopalians we are deeply troubled by the issue of structural authority. The exercise of authority and the foundation upon which it stands underlie many of our difficulties.

The question is whether the present structures of authority will enable and empower the ministry of the faithful gathered in community. Structural authority can be "positive in nature" and "moral and spiritual, resting on the truth of the Gospel, and on a charity that is patient and willing to defer to the common mind."⁷⁴

Structure in the Episcopal Church is currently seen by some as a hindrance to effective ministry. Questions are being raised across the Church about a range of issues related to structure as expressed in the diocesan visitation reports, other surveys, and conferences. There is crisis within the Church when those in authority exercise, or fail to exercise, authority. Because of this, many see authority working against the formation of community. national Church against the diocese, diocese against the congregation, congregation against the individual, and a reverse flow impacting all of these characterizes the way many see authority working within the Church, not for unity but for conflict.

A strong desire is evolving that authority in the Church be seen as a common possession of the whole Church. It is possible in this light to redefine authority in terms of distribution rather than foci of power. It is possible to see authority as collegial and interactive, among the laity, deacons, priests, and bishops. However, this leaves unanswered inquiries about what will enable leadership to speak and act for the whole. We should also not take lightly that keeping a balance among scripture, tradition, and reason is difficult to maintain, impossible to legislate, but essential to the exercise of ministry in the Church.

All our answers to the question of the exercise of structural authority must potentially carry the vision of finding a way forward, in Christ's cause, together.

TRUST

Trust is a sense of safety with the other, a sense of respect for the other, reflecting confidence in the self and the other. Trust is felt. Trust is built on experience. Trust is easily broken, and harder to rebuild once lost. Trust is the ability to disagree in safety and love. Trust can be broken by acts of omission and commission. We expect trust in the Church and when that trust is broken, we are disillusioned and hurt.

We love each other because God first loved us. In the same way, we extend trust to each other because God first trusts us as indicated by the freedom God gives us. God calls us first into being and trusts us with the stewardship of Creation.

In our present lives in the Church the breakdown of this trust is evident in ways such as these:

- Our unwillingness to hear each other in our diversity, creating struggles which may result in winners and losers;

⁷⁴ 1948 Lambeth Conference

- Our inability to reveal what we really think and who we actually are for fear of the judgment of others, which may adversely affect our lives and our work;
- Our failure to trust others who are different from ourselves by reason of race, gender, class, nationality, sexual orientation, and theology;
- Our growing awareness of sexual misconduct, which threatens our trust and calls us to repent our past avoidance of these issues and our disregard of its victims;

Our loss of trust by all these means and others like them calls us to acknowledge the degree to which we have fallen short of trust made available to us by God.

"But we turned against you and betrayed your trust and we turned against one another" (BCP, Eucharistic Prayer C). That God became flesh impels us to engage the created world. Thus, we cannot avoid confronting issues on which faithful Christians may not agree. Clearly, we need to rebuild trust if we are to carry out the mission of the Church. We, like St. Paul, are, therefore, committed to the ministry of reconciliation and through it, guided by the Holy spirit, to that hope which does not disappoint us.

As we prepare for the 71st General Convention, let us consider the presence (evidence) of these issues in our work together in the past, present, and future. As we go about our decision-making, we might measure how our decisions will *enhance* and make positive our Identity, Structural Authority, and Trust. Each of these fundamental issues needs ongoing recognition and continuing attention.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE PAROCHIAL REPORT

A subcommittee of the Committee on the State of the Church has considered the Parochial Report, its form and its directions to those in our parishes and congregations who are charged with completing the yearly report. Building on the work of the Committee on the State of the Church from the previous triennium, and working with the staff persons at the Church Center responsible for the Parochial Report, the present subcommittee reviewed and revised the instructions, especially for the part of the report gathering vital statistics from parishes and congregations. The subcommittee in its work considered the Parochial Report on a line-by-line basis, first to understand the purpose of each question and then to develop an instruction that would assure the best and most reliable answer to the question. Each instruction for the Parochial Report was rewritten in the process and sometimes changed fundamentally.

The subcommittee proposed to the full Committee of the State of the Church, which approved the change, that the stewardship section of the report reflect *persons* making pledges and giving to the Church rather than *households*, the present unit of measure.

The subcommittee made no changes that affect the Canons pertaining to the report, but did agree with an earlier State of the Church Committee to gather information on the Parochial Report on the salaries and benefits provided to clerical and lay employees of parishes and congregations. That collection of data is being made with the 1993 report.

Spanish Language Parochial Report

Responding to 1991 General Convention Resolution A180, to produce a form of the Parochial Report in Spanish for use especially in Province IX, the Committee on the State of the Church has approved the first report form in Spanish, which is being used to gather parish and congregational vital statistics and financial data for the year 1993.

Vital Statistics

The Office of the Treasurer has reported the following information in reviewing and comparing the 1992 vital statistics from the Parochial Report:

- *Membership:* Total baptized membership continues to reflect a modest but steady improvement and has increased again as the result of a *net gain* in increases over decreases, i.e., there are more persons being baptized, received, confirmed, and restored from inactive status than there are losses by death, transfer out, or removed for other reasons. The 1992 increase of approximately 17,300 members brings our baptized membership as of January 1, 1993 to 2,492,197 members.
- *Baptized membership over/under age 16:* Again in 1992 we continue to find discrepancies in total membership when congregations are asked to break baptized members into over and under 16. Since this change was introduced into the Canon in 1985, the total membership at the beginning and end of the year has never matched the total baptized members at the beginning and end of the year.
- *Communicants:* As of December 31, 1992, communicants totaling 1,758,197 represented 71% of baptized membership, and confirmed communicants in good standing totaling 1,615,395 represented 65% of baptized membership.
- *Others:* In 1991, provision was made for the reporting of persons active in the congregation not reflected in baptized membership, communicants, or confirmed communicants in good standing. As of December 31, 1992, 124,619 persons were active in the parishes, an increase of 12% since December, 1991. *How these persons and their participation affect attendance and stewardship statistics should be studied.*
- *Sunday attendance:* Average 52 Sunday attendance was 824,571 persons, or 33% of baptized membership. Easter attendance was 1.9 million, or 75% of baptized members, an increase of 3% over Easter 1991.
- *Christian education:* During 1992, there were 335,318 children (13.5% of baptized membership) participating in Christian education programs led by 72,164 teachers and leaders. These statistics for 1992 children and teachers reflect a decrease of approximately 2% in both categories, which should be studied. In addition, there were 39,327 Sunday adult education programs

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offered during 1992 with an average attendance of 124,545, or 15% of the average 52 Sunday attendance (comparable to 1991).

- *Programs (Outreach):* In 1992, parishes provided support for an average per participating parish of 4.4 self-help programs per week; 140,000 people were served at soup kitchens; 69,000 people were served through food pantries.

Financial Statistics

The Office of the Treasurer has provided the following information based on the financial statistics from the 1992 Parochial report data:

- At year's end, December 31, 1992, parishes and other congregations report assets, liabilities, and fund balances of \$9.3 billion, an increase of 9% over 1991.
- 1991 revenues totalled \$1.243 billion, of which \$959 million or 77% represented operating revenues. Total expenditures were \$1.2 billion, of which \$1 billion or 83% represent expenditures within the congregation, including operating expense, improvements and the purchase of land and buildings; and 17% represents expenditures for work outside the congregation, a total of \$210,755,912.
- The 1992 parochial reports reflect 649,669 pledging units for 1993 (26% of baptized membership as of January 1, 1993), totaling \$652,773,000, and an average per pledging unit per week of \$22.08.

The statistics analyzing the membership and Net Disposable Budget Income (NDBI) for 1992 by provinces and dioceses will be found at the end of this report.

Other detailed information and data on the vital and financial statistics of the Church can be found in *The Episcopal Church Annual* and the *Journal* of the 71st General Convention.

C. FINANCIAL REPORT

	1992	1993	1994
Appropriated by General Convention	\$19,950	\$21,000	\$21,000
Expended		11,915	20,588
Proposed Budget for Triennium	1995	1996	1997
General Convention Appropriation	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000

Resolution for Budget Appropriation

Resolution #A115

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, **That there be appropriated from the appropriate**
2 **budget of the General Convention the sum of \$66,000 for the triennium for the expenses**
3 **of the Committee on the State of the Church.**

Jean E. Mulligan, Chair
Marshall W. Hunt, Vice Chair

D. STATISTICS

(See following pages)

**1992 PAROCHIAL REPORTS
ANALYSES OF MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL DATA**

	(A) BAPTIZED MEMBERS	(B) 52-SUN. AVG. ATT.	(C) (B) % OF (A)	(D) NDBI	(E) PLATE AND PLEDGE	(F) (E) % OF (D)
<i>PROVINCE 1</i>						
Connecticut	80,064	23,920	29.88	30,406,138	20,758,259	68.27
Maine	17,145	5,496	32.06	5,502,865	3,997,087	72.64
Massachusetts	98,875	24,547	24.83	25,570,060	17,279,145	67.58
New Hampshire	17,011	5,229	30.74	4,654,922	3,402,844	73.10
Rhode Island	32,006	8,247	25.77	7,177,814	5,108,322	71.17
Vermont	9,684	3,557	36.73	3,240,720	2,114,976	65.26
Western Massachusetts	23,970	7,969	33.25	7,354,699	4,931,549	67.05
TOTAL:	278,755	78,965	28.33	83,907,218	57,592,182	68.64
<i>PROVINCE 2</i>						
Albany	25,678	8,129	31.66	7,107,437	5,084,712	71.54
Central New York	25,760	8,252	32.03	8,314,553	5,762,923	69.31
Long Island	75,861	20,095	26.49	19,822,669	13,537,503	68.29
New Jersey	64,243	19,364	30.14	17,796,552	13,922,004	78.23
New York	65,747	21,190	32.23	36,195,874	16,795,159	46.40
Newark	44,059	12,374	28.09	15,376,584	11,450,244	74.47
Rochester	16,774	5,566	33.18	5,800,685	4,223,038	72.80
Western New York	23,242	7,180	30.89	6,460,929	4,815,678	74.54
TOTAL:	341,364	102,150	29.92	116,875,283	75,591,261	64.68
<i>PROVINCE 3</i>						
Bethlehem	17,959	5,456	30.38	5,974,683	4,069,443	68.11
Central Pennsylvania	18,866	6,634	35.16	6,087,490	4,925,524	80.91
Delaware	13,552	4,195	30.95	5,944,124	4,279,242	71.99
Easton	10,135	3,440	33.94	3,190,590	2,498,130	78.30
Maryland	47,492	14,993	31.57	16,614,571	12,697,340	76.42
Northwestern Pennsylvania	7,256	2,688	37.05	2,845,704	1,773,944	62.34
Pennsylvania	72,850	20,915	28.71	27,234,612	17,397,944	63.88
Pittsburgh	21,631	8,375	38.72	9,773,543	7,631,093	78.08
Southern Virginia	36,335	13,386	36.84	13,940,947	11,876,342	85.19
Southwestern Virginia	13,737	4,666	33.97	5,692,489	5,041,939	88.57
Virginia	82,064	28,891	35.21	36,497,534	31,320,925	85.82
Washington	42,693	18,132	42.47	25,234,504	16,339,784	64.75
West Virginia	12,853	4,468	34.76	5,358,478	4,365,835	81.48
TOTAL:	397,423	136,239	34.28	164,389,269	124,217,485	75.56

STATE OF THE CHURCH

	(A) BAPTIZED MEMBERS	(B) 52-SUN. AVG. ATT.	(C) (B) % OF (A)	(D) NDBI	(E) PLATE AND PLEDGE	(F) (E) % OF (D)
<i>PROVINCE 4</i>						
Alabama	30,076	10,519	34.97	14,660,027	13,410,409	91.48
Atlanta	49,145	15,730	32.01	21,784,847	19,891,691	91.31
Central Florida	39,028	15,379	39.41	15,798,706	14,080,907	89.13
Central Gulf Coast	20,160	8,076	40.06	8,451,986	7,726,931	91.42
East Carolina	17,419	6,281	36.06	7,184,619	6,379,510	88.79
East Tennessee	16,726	6,085	36.38	8,241,242	7,561,358	91.75
Florida	30,446	11,556	37.96	11,635,533	10,937,318	94.00
Georgia	16,319	6,900	42.28	7,685,834	7,019,821	91.33
Kentucky	10,510	3,891	37.02	4,336,921	3,754,035	86.56
Lexington	9,234	3,644	39.46	4,118,914	3,454,061	83.86
Louisiana	19,668	6,436	32.72	7,473,469	5,969,356	79.87
Mississippi	21,045	7,884	37.46	9,330,617	8,436,370	90.42
North Carolina	44,075	14,036	31.85	17,500,400	16,106,668	92.04
South Carolina	24,594	10,041	40.83	11,395,633	10,410,983	91.36
Southeast Florida	40,930	14,789	36.13	14,278,076	11,428,035	80.04
Southwest Florida	42,079	17,399	41.35	15,614,146	14,026,831	89.83
Tennessee	12,585	4,989	38.80	5,910,421	5,473,683	92.61
Upper South Carolina	25,410	8,589	33.80	10,185,290	9,765,270	95.88
West Tennessee	12,116	4,505	37.18	6,027,691	5,301,105	87.95
Western North Carolina	14,136	5,932	41.96	6,195,186	5,472,137	88.33
TOTAL:	495,974	182,661	36.83	207,809,558	186,606,479	89.80
<i>PROVINCE 5</i>						
Chicago	47,634	16,965	35.62	19,381,270	16,297,851	84.09
Eau Claire	2,667	1,160	43.49	1,003,186	865,466	86.27
Fond Du Lac	9,863	2,963	30.04	2,439,555	1,833,421	75.15
Indianapolis	13,079	5,262	40.23	6,316,768	4,157,712	65.82
Michigan	53,994	15,269	28.28	17,518,051	13,762,809	78.56
Milwaukee	15,364	6,145	40.00	6,470,535	4,936,129	76.29
Missouri	16,702	5,813	34.80	7,258,459	6,051,565	83.37
Northern Indiana	8,288	3,336	40.25	3,152,215	2,841,666	90.15
Northern Michigan	3,230	1,034	32.01	821,166	645,982	78.67
Ohio	40,804	11,943	29.27	14,861,552	11,274,318	75.86
Quincy	3,419	1,368	40.01	1,359,706	984,081	72.37
Southern Ohio	27,682	9,221	33.31	12,074,056	9,198,350	76.18
Springfield	7,462	3,055	40.94	3,215,518	2,216,375	68.93
Western Michigan	15,763	4,986	31.63	5,342,829	4,615,638	86.39
TOTAL:	256,951	88,520	33.28	101,214,864	79,681,363	78.72

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	(A) BAPTIZED MEMBERS	(B) 52-SUN. AVG. ATT.	(C) (B) % OF (A)	(D) NDBI	(E) PLATE AND PLEDGE	(F) (E) % OF (D)
<i>PROVINCE 6</i>						
Colorado	36,676	12,530	34.16	12,325,023	10,574,936	85.80
Iowa	14,472	4,624	31.95	5,029,744	4,167,280	82.85
Minnesota	31,529	10,078	31.96	9,391,292	7,981,291	84.99
Montana	6,880	2,335	33.94	1,990,763	1,669,337	83.85
Nebraska	12,549	4,228	33.69	3,658,102	3,131,987	85.62
North Dakota	3,296	909	27.58	801,958	663,797	82.77
South Dakota	12,506	3,331	26.64	1,809,411	1,465,953	81.02
Wyoming	9,829	2,746	27.94	2,488,986	2,106,654	84.64
TOTAL:	127,737	40,781	31.93	37,495,279	31,761,235	84.71
<i>PROVINCE 7</i>						
Arkansas	14,279	5,421	37.96	6,091,015	5,631,448	92.46
Dallas	36,447	12,281	33.70	13,600,264	12,987,466	95.49
Fort Worth	18,688	7,100	37.99	5,920,667	5,661,801	95.63
Kansas	16,291	5,246	32.20	5,826,894	5,033,241	86.38
Northwest Texas	10,106	3,351	33.16	4,447,574	3,972,178	89.31
Oklahoma	19,311	6,929	35.88	8,083,753	7,350,907	90.93
Rio Grande	14,449	5,568	38.54	5,482,919	5,000,361	91.20
Texas	74,801	24,685	33.00	29,391,065	27,068,297	92.10
West Missouri	13,037	5,177	39.71	6,202,140	4,897,246	78.96
West Texas	29,390	10,264	34.92	12,081,219	11,339,311	93.86
Western Kansas	3,175	1,165	36.69	1,089,805	975,091	89.47
Western Louisiana	14,172	4,903	34.60	6,107,849	5,619,709	92.01
TOTAL:	264,146	92,090	34.86	104,325,164	95,537,056	91.58
<i>PROVINCE 8</i>						
Alaska	7,964	1,783	22.39	1,781,586	1,542,803	86.60
Arizona	26,502	10,307	38.89	8,461,406	7,851,102	92.79
California	30,356	9,900	32.61	13,908,751	11,327,239	81.44
Eastern Oregon	4,193	1,182	28.19	1,059,413	953,517	90.00
El Camino Real	18,076	5,803	32.10	6,230,497	5,521,213	88.62
Hawaii	10,420	4,050	38.87	4,377,436	3,095,275	70.71
Idaho	5,414	1,848	34.13	1,533,239	1,441,544	94.02
Los Angeles	82,665	22,273	26.94	26,277,474	21,960,064	83.57
Navaho Missions	1,580	313	19.81	95,387	14,072	14.75
Nevada	5,818	2,145	36.87	1,756,674	1,573,833	89.59
Northern California	19,709	7,196	36.51	7,708,909	6,520,685	84.59
Olympia	35,575	12,163	34.19	13,125,606	11,731,470	89.38
Oregon	23,437	7,816	33.35	7,127,124	6,506,451	91.29
San Diego	21,545	7,750	35.97	8,204,941	7,044,698	85.86
San Joaquin	10,734	4,576	42.63	4,634,055	4,073,395	87.90
Spokane	11,587	3,330	28.74	3,358,384	2,941,498	87.59
Utah	5,471	1,625	29.70	1,313,970	1,214,103	92.40
TOTAL:	321,046	104,060	32.41	110,954,852	95,312,962	85.90
GRAND TOTAL:	2,492,396	825,466	33.12	926,971,487	746,300,023	80.51