

House of Bishops Committee on Pastoral Development (1997-2000)

MEMBERSHIP

The Rt. Rev. Vincent W. Warner (Olympia), *chair*
 The Rt. Rev. Robert M. Anderson (Los Angeles), *retired from Committee 1998*
 The Rt. Rev. Clarence Coleridge (Connecticut)
 Mrs. Betty Creighton (Central Pennsylvania)
 The Rt. Rev. Ted Daniels (Virgin Islands)
 The Rt. Rev. Robert H. Johnson (Western North Carolina)
 The Rt. Rev. Edward Jones (Indianapolis), *retired from Committee 1998*
 Mrs. Gretchen Kimsey (Eastern Oregon)
 The Rt. Rev. Jack McKelvey (Rochester)
 The Rt. Rev. Mary Adelia McLeod (Vermont)
 Mrs. Anne Vest (Virginia)
 Mrs. Roberta Walmsley (New Hampshire), *retired from Committee 1998*
 The Rt. Rev. Don A. Wimberly (Texas)
 The Rt. Rev. Clayton Matthew, Bishop for the Office of Pastoral development

SUMMARY OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

The Committee met twice a year during the triennium in November and April respectively. The primary function of the Committee was to serve as a council of advice to the office of pastoral development, as well as to oversee pastoral program for the House of Bishops. The Committee began its work in November 1997 by reflecting with Bishop Harold Hopkins on his years as Executive Director, Office of Pastoral Development. It was determined that the extensive travel of someone in that position is unlikely to change and that there is a definite benefit of having the Office of Pastoral Development located away from New York. The Committee also discussed the impracticality of expectation that someone in that position can also serve as chaplain, either to the Presiding Bishop or peers in the House. The implications of the above reflections helped determine the job description and selection process of Bishop Hopkins' successor. Working with the Presiding Bishop the Committee created the job description and candidate screening that resulted in the Rt. Rev. Clay Matthews accepting the position as Bishop for the Office of Pastoral Development. The Committee was also an active participant in the Presiding Bishop's transition team in late 1997.

During the previous triennium the Committee focused its work on wellness both of bishops and their spouses. While that focus continues to be of importance, the majority of the Committee's work during this triennium centered on standards of behavior for members of the House of Bishops. Working with Timothy Sedgwick, professor at Virginia Theological Seminary, and following extensive conversation in the House of Bishops, the following list of norms were accepted:

- We are hearing a call to a renewed commitment to our community as evidenced by a growing desire to be together and be fully present with each other.

- We value discernment as a way of engaging questions rather than decision-making alone.
- We are seeking to develop an increased awareness of each other with all of our differences with a basic covenant of praying for one another as we bear one another's burdens.
- We seek to engage in mutual encouragement, and we want to communicate hope to the church.
- We choose to be a community of deliberate and focused learning, a community of collective wisdom, drawing on the experience of our elders and recognizing the value of our history as integral parts of the church's immediate and future life. We especially want to revisit portions of the Ordinal at our meetings as a way of recovering that which we hold in common.
- We are aware that we are entering into a different model of being in community as bishops and express our growing desire in assisting the larger church in a similar discernment process in responding to our shared ministry in the world.
- We invite the other committees of this House to join appropriately with us in exploring these different rhythms and priorities of our life together so that our common life might reflect this commitment. Therefore we invite your consideration of the following behavior:
- We bear one another's burdens, to be fully present to each other. We ask that the Office of the Presiding Bishop provide each of us with a prayer calendar so that we might be intentional in our prayers for one another.
- Before distributing information or reacting to information received, verify accuracy and then consider the implications of our chosen actions, for our actions need not tear down, but should build up!

After considerable discussion, the Committee presents to this General Convention the following resolution concerning the election of Bishops Coadjutor and the retirement date of the Diocesan.

Resolutions A087 Amend Article II, Sec. 1 of the Constitution

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Article II, Sec. 1 of the
- 2 Constitution of the General Convention be amended to read:
- 3 In every Diocese the Bishop or the Bishop Coadjutor shall be chosen agree-
- 4 ably to rules prescribed by the Convention of that Diocese, provided that, in
- 5 every election of a Bishop Coadjutor a date certain for the retirement of the
- 6 Bishop be stated in the call of the Diocese for electing a coadjutor, which date
- 7 shall be not more than twenty-four months after consecration of the Bishop
- 8 Coadjutor. Bishops of Missionary Dioceses shall be chosen in accordance with
- 9 the Canons of the General Convention.

Other work included the completion and distribution of a manual for dioceses in the episcopal search process; continued support of New Bishops/Spouse Conference; College for Bishops; Publication of Front Row/Back Row and a pre-retirement conference; spouses conference; and CREDO.

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT / HOUSE OF BISHOPS

The Committee believes that, with the exception of meeting with our counterparts at the ELCA, the goals set for this triennium have been met.

The Committee wishes to thank the Rt. Rev. Harold "Hoppy" and Nancy Hopkins for their thoughtful and caring ministry during Hoppy's years as Executive Director, Office of Pastoral Development. The Committee also thanks Dr. Timothy Sedgwick for his sage advice and council throughout of conversations leading to the development of norms for the House of Bishops. We also are grateful for the ministry of Clay Matthews, first as a Committee member and now in his new role as Executive Director of the Office of Pastoral development. He is setting new directions and developing new initiatives in partnership with the Committee on Pastoral Development to support bishops throughout their episcopate.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1997-1999

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | TOTAL |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Income | \$14,000 | \$14,000 | \$14,000 | \$42,000 |
| Expenses | \$12,623 | \$9,331 | \$1,513* | \$23,467 |

*This total does not include any expenses from the November 1999 meeting.

OBJECTIVE AND GOALS FOR THE COMING TRIENNIUM

In the next triennium, the Committee on Pastoral Development's goals are to:

- explore the feasibility of training for interim bishops;
- find more creative ways for bishops and spouses to get the support they need during difficult times;
- work with the Pension Fund to provide financial stability for the surviving spouse when a bishop dies;
- assure that surviving spouses receive invitations to House and spouse gatherings;
- expand the Committee's work to focus on pastoral needs of the House;
- emphasis on College of Bishops as more of an umbrella for many of the educational events for bishops throughout their episcopate.

BUDGET APPROPRIATION

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | TOTAL |
|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Income | \$14,000 | \$14,000 | \$14,000 | \$42,000 |

Resolution A088 House of Bishops Committee on Pastoral Development Budget Appropriation

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That there be appropriated
- 2 from the Budget of General convention, the sum of \$42,000 for the expenses of
- 3 the Committee on Pastoral Development for the triennium.