

Forward Movement Publications

A. MEMBERSHIP

Forward Movement Publications is an agency of the General Convention, under the direction of the Presiding Bishop. Its mandate has been renewed by each Convention since 1934. The governing body is an Executive Committee composed of the Rt. Rev. John M. Krumm, *Chairman*, the Rt. Rev. Edward B. Jones, *Vice-Chairman*, the Rev. Charles H. Long, *Secretary*, Mr. Glenn A. Biggs, *Treasurer*, Mr. Paul D. Myers, Mr. Charles Powers and Mr. N. Beverley Tucker.

On July 1, 1982 Mr. Tucker will succeed Mr. Biggs in the office of Treasurer. Mr. Biggs first 'set up the books' of the Forward Movement in 1936 and has served as Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer ever since—a record probably unmatched by any other layman in voluntary service to a national agency of this Church. During much of this time he also carried with equal faithfulness major responsibilities in his home parish and diocese.

B. STAFF

The Executive Committee has met three or four times a year to review business affairs and general policy. In 1981 it organized an informal consultation of twenty Episcopal communicators to help plan for the future. Day-to-day operations are the responsibility of the Rev. Charles H. Long, Director and Editor, Mrs. Jean Scott, Business Manager, and ten other full-time employees in the business and shipping departments. Office space is generously provided by the Diocese of Southern Ohio.

The Forward Movement staff has been strengthened in the past triennium by several part-time assistants and consultants. For the first time we have our own warehouse and shipping facilities and are not dependent on the services of a single printer. Mr. Scott Zoller has made possible considerable economies in these areas by his service as printing broker and manager of distribution services. Mr. John Dalzell has been a great help as an editorial assistant, Ms. Colleen Dowling as advertising and business manager of *The Review of Books and Religion*, and Mrs. Marge Bowden as assistant to Dr. Long with special responsibility for *Partners in Prayer*. Dr. Kendig Brubaker Cully is the part-time editor of *The Review* and Mr. Barron Krody is the artist who designs the cover of *Forward Day by Day* and other FM publications. Most of these people have other employment responsibilities but give priority to the work of the Forward Movement and make together an excellent and cooperative team.

C. THE PAST TRIENNIUM

The enlarged staff has made possible an enlarged program of publication — ninety-seven new titles in three years, plus the quarterly *Day by Day* and now the monthly *Review of Books and Religion*. We have been kept very busy and are grateful for the continual flow of good though unsolicited manuscripts and suggestions for new booklets to meet the ever changing needs of the Church.

Despite increasing costs of production and the pressure on parish budgets, the volume of sales has continued at a high level, increasing 18% in the last year alone. We estimate that *Forward Day by Day* reaches half-a-million persons. A recent readership survey indicates that 30% of our subscribers are outside the Episcopal Church, many of them in institutions, the armed forces, or in isolated places beyond the normal ministrations of any church. While the average age of subscribers is on the high side, an encouraging note is that 20% have become new readers of *Day by Day* in the last five years. Subscribers to the large print edition have doubled during the triennium, a cassette edition has begun with the help of Christ Church, Red Hook, N.Y., and a Braille edition continues to be sent free of charge to any blind person requesting it.

With the help of special donations from many individuals and parishes, the Forward Movement was able to produce in 1981 a complete Braille edition of the new *Prayer Book*—in thirteen volumes! A start has also been made in the translation and printing of Forward Movement literature in Spanish, for the Church's expanding ministry to Hispanic people in the U.S.A.

It has been our policy to collaborate wherever possible with agencies of the General Convention and the staff of the Executive Council in the distribution of information and study materials throughout the Church at the lowest possible cost. Many new titles in the last triennium reflect that cooperation, including the official reports of the ecumenical dialogues with the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran Churches; *CLUES*, a new series of papers on renewal and evangelism; the report of the Standing Commission on World Mission, *Mission in Global Perspective*; a widely used study of ethical issues in the nuclear arms race, *Countdown to Disaster*; and other booklets in support of theological seminaries, stewardship, ministry to refugees, etc.

Such topical materials have a short life but often a significant impact. Other Forward Movement publications have a longer usefulness, especially those which provide resources for lay ministry, the development of devotional life, and help in times of personal crisis. Our all-time best seller, *Prayers New and Old*, first published in 1937, has now passed the 1,400,000 mark.

D. FINANCES

The Forward Movement has not in the past received any subsidy from the General Convention or Program Budget and does not request one now. The support of the Church is in the form of the purchase and use of the resources we have been directed to prepare. That support has enabled the Forward Movement to end each year of the last triennium in the black. Audited annual reports are submitted to the Presiding Bishop and Treasurer of the Executive Council.

E. GOALS

In May, 1980 the founder of the Forward Movement, Henry Wise Hobson, retired Bishop of Southern Ohio, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his consecration, and in 1982 we published a memoir of his remarkable life. Those of us who work at 412 Sycamore Street in Cincinnati are grateful for the heritage and traditions in which we stand. The support and encouragement of so many persons throughout the world is a humbling experience, but we are also aware of how much still needs to be done, the

THE BLUE BOOK

familiar booklets that need revision, new pastoral and educational resources that somehow have to be provided, to strengthen the unity, faith, and witness of the people of God.

Resolution #A—57.

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the Presiding Bishop be authorized to continue Forward Movement Publications under his supervision, and to appoint such staff members and committees as may be required to maintain its work.

The Rev. Dr. Charles H. Long
Director and Editor