

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN – DIOCESE OF ALABAMA

MINUTES OF BOARD RETREAT MEETING - JANUARY 6-7, 2006

CAMP McDOWELL - ADVENT HOUSE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alleen Cater, President; Dee Buzby, President Elect; Betty Scroggins, Recording Secretary; Lisa – Cade S. Gruner, Corresponding Secretary; Brenda Mayhall, Treasurer; Sallie Lowe, Assistant Treasurer; Tora Johnson, United Thank Offering Coordinator; Olivia Weingarten, Parliamentarian/Consultant; The Right Reverend Henry N. Parsley, Jr., Bishop of Alabama, Ex-Officio Member; The Reverend Deacon Cindi Park, Clergy Liaison – Committee Coordinators – Sally Sinclair, Communications; Andi Silberman, Daughters of the King; Adele Colvin, Devotionals; Ginger Buck, Events Coordinator; Anne Kimzey, Missions and Ministries; Joyce Dryden, Nominations; Nancy Thompson, Scholarships – Convocation Coordinators – Fiona Watts, Birmingham; Valerie Burnes, Black Belt; Sally Feuerlein, Cheaha; Tana Branch, East Alabama; Jane Dickson, Montgomery; Carol Jean Exby, Mountain; and Barbara Carpenter, Tennessee Valley.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gethryn Giles, Church Periodical Club, who mailed her report to all board members prior to the meeting, and Barbara Mitchell, Women at the Well Coordinator.

The Diocesan ECW Board met together on Friday evening to get acquainted. Alleen Cater, President, welcomed everyone and after an informal hospitality hour, had a sharing time. Everyone enjoyed sharing their families, church lives, and jobs. In this spirit, the group moved to the home of The Reverend Mark Johnston and his wife Maggie, for dinner and conversation with The Right Reverend Henry N. Parsley Jr., our Bishop.

After an excellent dinner and viewing of the Johnstons' unique home, Bishop Parsley's remarks ranged from his feelings about the ECW theme for the year, "I Have Called You Friends," epitomized by the painting on our calendar cover entitled *Christ in the House of Martha and Mary*; its application for our daily lives, [to have joy in every moment], and its larger application in the community, to the plans for developing our Haitian sisterhood. He reiterated his wholehearted support of the ECW, saying that a dialogue between us is very important. He asked us to stay close and share concerns. He also asked the ECW to pray for him in many areas, two of which were discernment and humor. . He recommended that we subscribe to *Episcopal Life* as an aid and source of information. He extended thanks for all of the efforts of the ECW in the 175th Anniversary celebration held at Camp McDowell, November 12, 2005.

With the closing prayer, everyone expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Johnstons and to Bishop Parsley as he would not be attending the Saturday business session. President Cater reminded everyone that breakfast would be at 8:00 a.m., in the Stough Lodge dining room, and that the Saturday business session would start at 9:00a.m., at Advent House.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2006 – 9:00 A.M.

President Cater called the meeting to order. Attendance remained the same as above with the exception of Bishop Parsley. She reiterated her thanks and appreciation to the members for their willingness to serve and their dedication. Prayer requests were filled out for the Prayer Basket. These requests are usually for very personal concerns that the members feel, need dedicated, concentrated, prayer.

Adele Colvin, Devotional Chairman, took the floor, opening her devotional time with prayer. She had a reading that paralleled the thrust of the story of Mary and Martha. She read a prayer by The Late Reverend John Claypool, and handed out copies so that it might be read by all at adjournment.

President Cater thanked Ms. Colvin for her words of inspiration and expressed her confidence in her ability to fill her position. She then asked all the members to listen to the requirements of their positions with goals in mind for their two-year term. She stated that the status quo may be good, but that there could be a need for further development or expansion, in a different way, of some or all of the committee responsibilities, and each convocation's coverage. She indicated that a time for feed-back would be made before adjournment.

HOUSEKEEPING

Particulars of camp fee payment were discussed. President Cater explained about sharing and preparing lunch at Advent House while continuing to work so that the 2:30 p.m., adjournment time can be honored.

MINUTES

The minutes of the 116th ECW Fall Conference held in Mentone, Alabama, on October 6-7, 2005, hosted by the Mountain Convocation, were read and on motion by Dee Buzby, duly seconded, were approved as read.

At this time, President Cater called on Lisa Gruner, Corresponding Secretary, to give her report. This is out of order as Ms. Gruner has to leave to make connections for a mission trip. She requested contact information for each parish with the goal being to establish better lines of communication. There will be forms to be returned by the parish presidents. Convocation coordinators are to see that all pertinent information is entered on the sign-in sheets used at every convocation meeting. Each president within each convocation is to be acquainted with these requests. They are also to be asked to establish a special place in their church or church offices for ECW correspondence. A discussion on the amount of dues/pledges and how calculated, called attention to the format on Page 7, of the calendar/workbook. The result was the appointment of Dee Buzby, Brenda Mayhall, Barbara Carpenter, and Carol Jean Exby to form an *ad hoc* committee to resolve the confusion.

It was reported that the Clergy Directory compiled at last year’s general conference was well received and needed to be updated. However, the costs were substantial and ways of cutting those costs ranged from publishing only updated sheets to posting updates on the web site to be downloaded by each parish. This method would also allow for continuous updating. To facilitate the update, Andi Silberman and Betty Scroggins volunteered to aid Ms. Gruner at the February conference. The issue of a place to conduct this was discussed and it was suggested that Sarah Sartain, Deputy for Youth Ministry/Christian Formation, be contacted. Olivia Weingarten and Tora Johnson offered to share the UTO table and said that the charge for a table in the exhibit area is \$50, so sharing would be of definite value. President Cater praised and thanked Ms. Gruner for all her work and offered all help possible. At this point, Ms. Gruner left the meeting with all good wishes for the safety and success for the mission trip.

While the calendar/workbooks were out, President Cater called attention to Pages 3 and 4, and asked if any changes or corrections needed to be made. These are as follows:

1. Treasurer Mayhall – change e-mail to mayhall@ckbusinesssolutions.net;
2. Scholarship – Nancy Thompson – change Area Code to (205);
3. Daughters of the King – Andi Silberman will be taking this position.
Andi Silberman, 95 Huckleberry Lane, Wetumpka, AL 36092
(334) 514-1189; andray7@msn.com;
4. Nomination – Joyce Dryden – change address to – 1392 Coleman Street;
5. ADD – Assistant Treasurer – Sallie Lowe, 4405 Linwood Drive,
Birmingham, AL 35202, (205)595-6298, sallielowe@aol.com;
6. Tennessee Valley Convocation – Barbara Carpenter – change address to 111
Silver Creek Circle;
7. Mountain Convocation – Carol Jean Exby – change address spelling to one
word “Riverbend”;
8. Recording Secretary – Betty Scroggins – change e-mail to
stjamesalexcity@bellsouth.net

TREASURER’S REPORT

Brenda Mayhall reported a balance of \$898.12 in the Operating Fund. The Segregated Account Balances are as follows:

CPC	\$885.48
(Note: Alabama Seminarians received	\$2,002.00)
UTO	\$10,854.23
(Note: UTO Funds sent to National	\$27,502.50)
Scholarship/Memorial	\$2,223.68
(Note: Scholarships Granted	\$8,600.00)
Communications	\$188.86
(Note: Clergy Directories Disbursement of	\$673.50)
Continuing Education	\$600.51
Corporate Gift Reserve	\$2,000.00
Women at the Well	\$6,972.99
<u>12/31/05 Balance</u>	<u>\$24,623.84</u>

The Triennial Account balance as of 12/31/05 was \$8,441.35. Treasurer Mayhall reported that she had been carrying some outstanding checks for a long period of time and that she has now voided them and redeposited the money. This is shown in the CPC Segregated Account tabulation. Querys about deposits drawing interest and others not, drew the suggestion that Hugh Neighbors, the Treasurer for the Diocese, be contacted for information and advice.

President Cater called attention to the Fall Conference funds and suggested that the present amount may need to be adjusted in order to get a notable speaker. The discussion was favorable to those circumstances. This was to be revisited at the Spring Board meeting when more information as to need should be available. No further discussion being raised, on motion by Tora Johnson, duly seconded and carried, the Treasurer's Report was filed as presented.

Assistant Treasurer Sallie Lowe, whose responsibility is to take care of ECW monies received at Carpenter House, had no formal report. Her primary responsibility concerns forwarding UTO monies to National. Tora Johnson as UTO Committee Coordinator, asked Ms. Lowe to write thank you notes and she agreed. Ms. Johnson reminded the Board that the UTO checks should be mailed to Carpenter House marked to the attention of Ms. Lowe.

CALENDAR WORKBOOK

Dee Buzby reported that there were a few calendars available at \$3.00 each. She stated that the theme for 2007 hasn't yet been decided, but that she is to meet with Bishop Parsley in April to decide. She asked for ideas for changes or additions to be passed to her before that time. Dee gave each board member a card which lists everyone's birthdays; the front of the cards show the Vermeer painting of Christ in the House of Martha and Mary. This is also on the cover of the 2006 Calendar Handbook.

UNITED THANK OFFERING

Tora Johnson declared her goal to be to get each and every parish giving to UTO whether or not they have an organized ECW. She is preparing a UTO hand-out for coordinators, listing every parish and the amount given.

President Cater asked about grant requests and was assured that there were three (3) to review today. The process calls for the recommendations reached today to be passed to Bishop Parsley who makes the final decision. Answers to two questions were, yes, the grant application can be re-submitted the next year if unsuccessful and yes, the applicants are told why they were unsuccessful. President Cater and Coordinator Johnson asked for some volunteers from the parishes or the Board, who would attend the Face to Face Conference to learn about writing grants. The convocation coordinators are to pass the information on to their churches.

COMMITTEE COORDINATORS' REPORTS

CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB

Gethryn Giles, Coordinator, reported that in late December a letter was sent to convocation coordinators urging them to begin working with their parishes in preparation for CPC Sunday, which is the first Sunday in May. She also sent much information. She plans to post information on the ECW web site and to publish an article in the *Apostle* in April.

CLERGY LIAISON

The Reverend Deacon Cindi Park shared the information that she is moving from Grace Church to The Church of the Holy Comforter and stated that her assistance is limited only by the degree of connectedness that can be maintained; therefore, call her anytime. She alluded to the school of thought that the ECW is an anachronism, that all of the ECW tasks have been assumed by other committees in the church and by greater acceptance of women in leadership roles, even the priesthood. But, this gender specific group is still the place where feelings straight from the heart respond to the homeless, the friendless and the ill, and can lead the way to extension of the church in foreign places. Most of all, ECW maintains that certain balance that the women before us worked very hard to achieve.

COMMUNICATIONS

Sally Sinclair opened with the declaration that she is ready to see that the ECW has its space in the *Apostle*. She asked for pictures and observance of the deadlines, since they are very strict, but if a deadline is missed, send the information and/or materials to Lisa Gruner to be posted to the web site. She called attention to Page 9 in the workbook—the President's Checklist. She pointed out *Apostle* articles should be sent directly to her to save time, e-mail of course.

At this time, questions arose as to terminology and the results were that the calendar is to be known as the Calendar Handbook, and money/dues/pledges as donations. Anne Kimzey asked about advertising the web site and President Cater replied that the Bishop's permission would have to be sought. If this is given, she suggested laminated bookmarks as a means to accomplish this.

HOLY EUCHARIST

Upon the arrival of the Reverend Mark Johnston to prepare and celebrate the Holy Eucharist, the business session was suspended. Michael Goldsmith, Summer Camp Coordinator, also joined the group at this time.

CAMP McDOWELL UPDATE

At the close of the service, The Reverend Johnston, who is also the Director of Camp McDowell, gave a short status report. He stated that the camp had been adversely affected by the national news, but had picked back up and was almost back to normal. He reported the acquisition of some 224 acres of long desired land for expansion. He extended thanks for extras provided by supporters that enhance the camp so much and would not be possible otherwise.

He included the efforts of the camp in environmental areas and commented on the thousands of school children who have benefited from demonstrations and classes held at the camp and by camp personnel visiting schools. He announced the huge fund raiser planned in March, (for which they had to get the Bishop's permission as it falls in Lent), in Birmingham at the B and A Warehouse. President Cater thanked him for celebrating the Eucharist with us and for his report. She sent our thanks and regards to his wife Maggie, for their hospitality on Friday night.

President Cater recognized Michael Goldsmith and he took the floor to ask for the ECW's help in publicizing the fund raiser named *HIGHER GROUND*. He named as entertainment the Birmingham Three Tenors, Three on a String and stated the possibility of others. This is being planned as an annual event with an ad firm in Birmingham donating the publicity work. The tickets are to be \$75.00 each. March 3 is the date. President Cater said she would take this request under advisement and let him know the role the ECW could play in this endeavor.

At this point, the Reverend Johnston and Coordinator Goldsmith left the meeting. Lunch was spread before the business session resumed.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Andi Silberman reported that they have two new chapters; one in Haiti and one in the Virgin Islands-thirty-six (36) total, and the first one for Spanish-speaking women at Grace Church. There are fifty-eight (58) Daughters –At-Large and a total of just under five hundred (500) members. They are currently working to develop Diocesan By-Laws and she was asked how many people were needed to form a chapter, and she replied-three, (3). She also excitedly announced that Lord Carey is coming to speak in the near future.

DEVOTIONALS

Adele Colvin had no report as this is a new position for her, but passed the Prayer Basket for the drawing of the previously prepared requests.

EVENTS COORDINATOR

Ginger Buck reported that she and Valerie Burnes are already working on the Fall Conference of 2006, and that the main meetings will be held at Canterbury and the wine and cheese party at Christ Church.

WOMENS' WEEKEND – ITEM THREE (3) OF AGENDA UNDER ON-GOING BUSINESS-----Agenda Item discussion moved as this also comes under Ms. Buck's responsibilities.

President Cater expressed her concerns about low attendance at Womens' Weekend whether due to crowded schedules, disinterest, or needed format changes. This low attendance in 2005 has left the finances in arrears; a matter which must be resolved. After much discussion, a motion was made by Tora Johnson that for 2006, there be a "No Agenda" weekend and that the requirement for the Board to attend be lifted. No second brought more discussion, from which an amended motion by Nancy Thompson, suggested skipping 2006 entirely, and using that energy for the Conference, then revisiting the question in 2007. This amended motion was duly seconded and carried. As to the 2005 arrears, President Cater, unwilling for any convocation to be penalized, also explained the situation concerning the "seed money. Seed money in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) had been traditionally handed from one convocation to another to facilitate arrangements before the revenues for the weekend were available. At some point, which due to incomplete financial reporting cannot be established, the seed money vanished. Discussion yielded the suggestion by Oliva Weingarten, to take from the line item Continuing Education, which shows a \$600.00 (six hundred dollars) balance, \$200 (two hundred dollars) to reimburse expenses in arrears to past East Alabama Coordinator Betty Scroggins, and use \$300, (three hundred dollars) to re-establish the seed money, with the understanding that this is a loan and MUST be available to the next host convocation. It SHALL NOT be used to make up any shortfall. Tora Johnson so moved, and being duly seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

President Cater stressed that anyone wanting to go to camp on that weekend should immediately make their personal reservations as that block of reserved time and space would be released as soon as the Camp is notified of this decision. She was especially concerned about the Decatur group and their long-standing arrangements at Stough Lodge. She also had these suggestions for the *ad hoc* committee to consider concerning all money matters at the convocation level:

1. The need to appoint a treasurer;
2. The need for a Vice Chair or Assistant Coordinator;
3. The need for updated deadlines for monies to be paid by the Parishes into the Convocations' Funds.

The terms of these offices would be determined by each convocation. Ms. Buck concurred with the referral to the *ad hoc* committee and indicated that this could clear much confusion.

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES

Anne Kimzey explained the link with Haiti that had been brought up on Friday night and talked about the proposed mission trip. She also mentioned other areas of emphasis such as the missionaries Blackwell in Syria and the Sis Levin project in Israel. She talked about the goals adopted by the National Church and will see that that information is distributed.

NOMINATIONS

Joyce Dryden reported that she has been in touch with the members of the committee and if anyone is interested in becoming President Elect to please notify her. The length of all terms of office were shortened to two years by a vote taken at the 2005 Fall Conference and the committee is hoping that this will encourage more women to take office.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Nancy Thompson stated that the deadline for applications would be in the *APOSTLE* and that she would like to have a kiosk for information at the February General Conference. It was suggested that she share the UTO table. In setting up her display, it was suggested by President Cater to use “thank you” notes and letters from previous recipients.

WOMEN AT THE WELL

Barbara Mitchell was absent but had been in touch with President Cater and through her reported that plans are not yet completed for their schedule but to look for information to arrive by mail.

CONVOCATION COORDINATORS

BIRMINGHAM---Fiona Watts’ report was somewhat disarranged, the decision to vacate Womens’ Weekend having just been made and it being Birmingham’s turn to sponsor, but she did report that the Spring Convocation meeting has been set for Trinity at Bessemer.

BLACK BELT---Valerie Burnes’ planning meeting for the 2006 Fall Conference has been planned for February, but it has already been decided that Canterbury and Christ Church will be the meeting locations. She and Events Coordinator Buck expressed much concern over the fact that budgeting for an interpreter for the ladies from St. John’s for the Deaf amounts to one-fourth of the entire budget. This has, historically, been a cause of concern for both diocesan-wide gatherings. Complicating the matter further is that St. John’s has final approval of the person chosen. At times, no one from St. John’s registers and it was agreed that a solution would be found if and when it is known if they will be participating. The speaker for the conference will be The Rev. Barbara Crafton and President Cater was asked if she would pick her up at the airport, but Ms. Weingarten said that from her experience that would not be feasible and

BLACK BELT CONTINUED

suggested that someone from the Birmingham Convocation be asked to do this. Further discussion on this matter will be held with Fiona Watts, Birmingham Convocation Coordinator. Ms. Burnes reported that the Spring meeting for her convocation would be at her home church.

CHEAHA CONVOCATION---Sally Feuerlein reported that she had contacted all her presidents and had set the first organizational meeting to schedule for Spring and Fall meetings. An answer to a question brought forth the information that while it is nice to have a Priest to celebrate the Eucharist, this is not a required part of the meeting. If no Priest is available it is perfectly in order to proceed with the meeting without the Eucharist.

EAST ALABAMA---Tana Branch stated that she had had contact with each of her ECWs earlier in the Fall and was in the process of setting up the Spring Convocation meeting and starting to work on the 2007 Fall Conference. The matter of football game weekends was discussed, together with other venues to be explored. If possible, the event will be the first or second weekend in October, 2007; however this may depend on the availability of the desired speaker. More investigation into Auburn's football schedule and hotel and motel capacities will be done by the Spring Board meeting.

MONTGOMERY CONVOCATION---Jane Dickson announced that her Spring Convocation Meeting would be held at Ascension on April 4th or 6th, 2006, with the Fall Meeting at St. Paul's in Lowndesboro on September 26th or 28th, 2006. She also commented very favorably on the reorganization of Ascension's unit and stated that St. John's in Montgomery will host the Convocation Meeting for Spring of 2007.

MOUNTAIN CONVOCATION---Carol Jean Exby reported a new formation with twenty-five members.

TENNESSEE VALLEY CONVOCATION---Barbara Carpenter reported that her Spring Convocation meeting will be at St. Bartholomew's in Florence in March or April. She stated that three of her churches do not have secretaries, so communication is challenged. Her goals are to meet and talk with every Rector and wife in her parishes, to work on pledges to be paid, and to have President Cater and President Elect Buzby attend as many of her meetings as possible.

ON-GOING BUSINESS

Item 1. CORPORATE GIFT: President Cater explained that there is now \$2,000.00 (two thousand dollars) on deposit from the 2004 Budget and when it was discovered that the costs would exceed this, an additional \$2,000.00 (two thousand dollars) was voted to be added from the 2005 Budget. It is believed that this \$4,000.00 (four thousand dollars) will cover all costs; however, placement and design are still being adjusted. (This is a memorial for The Right Reverend Furman "Bill" Stough, Bishop of Alabama.

Item 2. A letter of thanks was received from The Reverend William “Bill” King, Deputy for Ministry Development for the Diocese, for the ECW donation for Katrina relief.

Item 3. WOMENS’ WEEKEND: See EVENTS COORDINATOR FOR DISCUSSION, Page 7.

Item 4. FALL CONFERENCE: See BLACK BELT CONVOCATION FOR 2006 FALL CONFERENCE INFORMATION, Page 9.

- a. President Cater extended praise and thanks to the Mountain Convocation for the 2005 Conference. She stated that it was one of the most enjoyable ones that she had ever attended.
- b. She talked about the death of speaker Mary Earle’s son and a collection in the amount of \$300.00 (three hundred dollars) was taken to send to the hospice group, Vitas, in San Antonio, TX.
- c. The discussion on combining two convocations for large events was put on the Spring Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 1. BUDGET INCREASE FOR FALL CONFERENCE-SEE BLACK BELT CONVOCATION, Page 9.

Item 2. CONVOCATIONS:

- a. See individual Convocation Reports.
- b. See discussion under EVENTS COORDINATOR, subset, WOMENS’ WEEKEND.
- c. See CLERGY LIAISON, plus contact any officer or other Board member.,

Item 3. ECW HISTORY: Valerie Burnes will be acting historian and materials were passed to her at the meeting.

Item 4. DIOCESAN CONVENTION:

- a. Update of Clergy Directory is discussed under CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, Page 2.
- b. UTO DISPLAY- SEE UTO, Pages 3,4,and 5.
- c. SCHOLARSHIP/WEB SITE BOOKMARKS –SEE SCHOLARSHIP, Page 8.
- d. CANDIDATES

Item 5. PROVINCE IV ECW CONFERENCE – APRIL 24-26 – KANUGA, NC.
All are encouraged to attend and the web site link is www.kanuga.org.

Item 6. TRIENNIAL – JUNE 13-21, 2006, in Columbus, Ohio. All officers have Committed to attending. Part of their expenses will be paid by the Diocesan ECW.

Item 7. GOALS-SEE PRESIDENT CATER’S OPENING REMARKS DIRECTLY AFTER THE DEVOTIONAL ON SATURDAY MORNING.

REVIEW OF UTO GRANT APPLICATIONS

- A. Nativity in Huntsville's request breaks too many guide lines.
- B. St. Timothy's Spanish Preschool request hits the mission of the church-
APPROVED.
- C. Episcopal Place's request-APPROVED.

These judgments will be communicated to Bishop Parsley, who will make the final decision.

The Spring Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 19, 2006, from 10:00 a.m., to 2:00 p.m., at St. Thomas Church in Birmingham.

CLOSING PRAYER

Adele Colvin led the group in reading the prayer by The Late Reverend John Claypool.

With no further business, the board meeting was adjourned by President Cater.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty F. Scroggins
Recording Secretary