

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN - DIOCESE OF ALABAMA  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING  
CARPENTER HOUSE - SEPTEMBER 4, 2007**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alleen Cater, Adele Colvin, Sally Sinclair, Gethryn Giles, Sallie Lowe, Sally Feuerlein, Olivia Weingarten, Barbara Carpenter, Valerie Burnes, Fiona Watts, Andi Silberman, Brenda Mayhall, Nancy Thompson, Carol Jean Exby, Tana Branch, Tora Johnson, Carolyn Woodson, Dee Buzby, Lisa Gruner, Marilyn Atkins and The Right Rev. Henry N. Parsley, Jr.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** The Rev. Deacon Carolyn Foster, Joyce Dryden, Anne Kimzey, and Jane Dickson.

President Alleen Cater called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., beginning with an ECW Prayer. She introduced and welcomed Carolyn Woodson, Treasurer-Elect.

Adele Colvin gave the devotional from the book, Up From Slavery, by Booker T. Washington.

**MINUTES:** Gethryn Giles moved that the minutes of the February 27, 2007 meeting be accepted as corrected. The motion carried. The corrected minutes will be posted on the ECW website.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Brenda Mayhall reported that the Operating Fund has total Receipts of \$8,665.08, total Disbursements of \$3,200.00, leaving a Balance of \$4,985.54 as of 8/31/07. With the Conference coming up and Speaker expenses the ECW expects to spend about \$9,900.00 which is about \$5,000.00 short of breaking even. Some Parishes provide their annual giving toward the end of the year and that could enable the ECW to offset some of the expenses. The Checking Account (includes Operating Fund + Segregated Accounts) has a balance of \$17,172.64 and the Triennial Account has a balance of \$3,973.24. The Treasurer's Report will be available on the ECW website.

Effective ways to show parish leadership how the ECW spends their money were discussed. Nancy Thompson suggested that the ECW have a workshop at the Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE) held annually. Gethryn Giles spoke with Sarah Sartain about this. Alleen appointed Sally Sinclair, Lisa Gruner and Brenda Mayhall to develop two presentations for the Fall Conference. One presentation will be of the Treasurer's Report, what the parishes gave, how the ECW spends its money, the importance of funneling UTO and Acts2 money through the ECW for credit and encouraging all to give. The second presentation will be how to operate the website and get information about the ECW.

The Rev. Rob Morpeth notified Alleen that there is still \$1,725 of memorial contributions for Bishop Stough in a fund to pay for the cross in memory of Bishop Stough. Since the ECW already has paid for the cross, Bishop Parsley said the money should be reimbursed to the ECW. Lisa Gruner moved that we apply the \$1,725 to our Acts 2 Commitment. Motion carried.

**ASSISTANT TREASURER'S REPORT:** Sallie Lowe stated that the total income for the Scholarship fund is \$5,345 and listed the donors' names. Sallie acknowledged each of these gifts.

Adele Colvin passed around a sheet requesting we list any specific prayer requests. She will email all the requests to the Board.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Rev. Rob Morpeth talked with the Board about how the ECW money is handled. ECW money is not co-mingled with Diocesan funds. Sallie Lowe makes the deposits and writes the checks. The Scholarship fund money is co-invested with other Diocesan funds to get a better return. Last year it earned 10.9% and this year it is earning about 5%. It is invested in a combination of stocks and bonds. Alleen thanked Rev. Morpeth for his assistance with the ECW funds.

**WOMEN AT THE WELL** - Gethryn Giles, as a representative of the Women at the Well ministry, read a report that the group has disbanded and will no longer be holding retreats. There is about \$6,000 remaining in an ECW account. The Women at the Well Board recommends that a separate Scholarship Fund be established for women--clergy or lay, to go to spiritual

retreats. Alleen appointed The Rev. Deacon Katie Smith, Clergy Liaison for 2008-09, with Fiona Watts and Adele Colvin to serve on a committee to review the purpose, the name and to refine the criteria for use of this scholarship fund. Gethryn will act as liaison to the Women at the Well Board. A scrapbook and other items were given to Valerie Burnes, Archivist, to become a part of the ECW permanent records. The Women at the Well movement was created by The Rev. Joy Phipps. Gethryn Giles moved that the ECW Board pass a resolution (attached) in thanksgiving for Joy Phipps' dedication to this ministry. Motion carried. All references to Women at the Well and Barbara Mitchell as a Board member will be removed from the website and calendar.

Bishop Parsley joined us for informal conversation. He thanked us for our Acts2 contribution, for our support and prayers and asked that we pray intentionally for all the Bishop Suffragan nominees and their families, that we'll be led to the one that God would have us elect. We shared our works in progress with him and appreciated his insightful comments.

#### **ONGOING BUSINESS:**

Nancy Thompson reported that the Scholarship Committee gave 20 Scholarships this year totaling \$12,750 ranging from \$1,000 to \$300. The criteria used to rank applicants were: need, 40%; church involvement 40%; merit, 20%. Bishop Parsley approved the process and list of recipients. Nancy and Alleen met with The Rev. Rob Morpeth and Ms. Maibeth Porter and brought to the Board a list of recommended changes in our policy regarding donations and awards of scholarships. Fiona Watts moved that we adopt the recommendations for policy changes, as amended. Motion carried. Gethryn Giles called to amend the name of the fund to the ECW College Scholarship Fund as it appears in items number 2, 3, and 7 A. Brenda Mayhall called for an amendment in number 3 clarifying one half of the "undesignated" donations received in each year will be transferred to the principal of the ECW College Scholarship Fund. The policy changes, as amended, are:

1. Establishing a new named fund will require a minimum initial principal gift of \$10,000.
2. Gifts of less than \$10,000 will be added to the ECW College

## Scholarship Fund.

3. Recognizing the need to increase the principal of the funds, one-half of the undesignated donations received in each year will be transferred to the principal of the ECW College Scholarship Fund. The balance will be awarded as scholarships that year.
4. Exceptions to these provisions will require approval of the Diocesan ECW Board.
5. Copies of the documents establishing the named scholarship funds will be placed in the notebook of the Diocesan ECW President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Scholarship Chairman. Copies of those documents are available to everyone else via email or hard copy.
6. The Scholarship Committee will determine the number of scholarships to be awarded, the amount of each award and the criteria for making awards, i.e. ratings with regard to need, merit, parish involvement, etc. (It has generally been the case that each named scholarship award is greater than the interest generated by that fund alone; thus our general scholarship funds are used to enhance the named awards, as well as providing the additional awards. This will most likely continue to be the case.)
7. By way of background, in 1991 a Continuing Education Trust Fund ("CETF") was established by the then-current ECW Board, as a way to fund opportunities for ECW members to attend educational/inspirational retreats and conferences. In 1998 that policy was reviewed and carried forward with only slight changes. This fund, however, has been only partially understood by most of the Board members who have served in the years following 1998. One important provision of that policy is that a review can and should be made at some point at least five years after 1998 (2003 forward). Such review was done and the decision made to keep funding for ECW members limited to a pool of \$600, and to use the CETF principal to help fund the ECW College Scholarship program. In 2006, the ECW borrowed from that \$600 pool to provide

reimbursement to the East Alabama Convocation for its shortfall on Women's Weekend 2005; the ECW hopes to be reimbursed with proceeds from Women's Weekend 2007. Searches have yielded no more recent mention of official review/revision of the CETF, thus the following revision is provided to make our review/revision of the 1991 and 1998 policies complete and official with the following changes:

- A. The Continuing Education Trust Fund will henceforth be part of the ECW College Scholarship Fund.
- B. All principal and interest from that fund will be used for the ECW College Scholarship Program.

**ACTS2 UPDATE** - Olivia Weingarten and Fiona Watts brought some Acts2 fundraising ideas to the Board and asked for help with a name, date and other ideas for an art auction. St. Luke's, Birmingham has offered their church as the location. Fiona agreed to call St. Luke's and try to get a Thursday night in April, 2008 for the date. Olivia suggested the committee be expanded to include a representative from each of the Convocations. The idea of having three big fundraising events over the five year period was discussed, the first in Birmingham and possibly one in the northern area in 2009 and one in the southern area in 2010. Everyone in the Diocese would be invited to all events. Olivia has an item to be raffled at the Fall Conference in Auburn.

**WOMEN'S WEEKEND** - Barbara Carpenter reported Women's Weekend (WW) 2007 was very successful with 96 attendees. The financial report is attached. Barbara pointed out that after all bills were paid, \$455.21 was left to be forwarded to the Diocesan ECW treasury. The WW committee requests \$200.00 go back in the Continuing Ed. Fund to pay back the shortfall of 2005 Women's Weekend and the remaining \$255.21 go to Acts2.

Discussion followed on what is the best way to build on this success. Sally Feuerlein moved that as a trial for one year, we change the responsibility for planning Women's Weekend; remove Women's Weekend from convocation rotation; appoint a Women's Weekend Coordinator, who will organize a committee of women from the entire diocese to oversee Women's Weekend 2008. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Sally Sinclair announced she is setting up individual email addresses for certain board members so communications can be automatically forwarded. Anyone wanting an account, let Sally know. Fiona Watts will be the new contact person for The Apostle.

**FALL CONFERENCE OCT. 11 & 12 UPDATE:** Tana Branch asked Board members to sign up for the Wednesday night, October 10 dinner which will include new Board members and past presidents and will be held at Holy Trinity Church in Auburn. Beautiful hand knit scarves will be the gift for each attendee at the Conference. Thursday morning Old Board/New Board meets where notebooks will be exchanged.

**PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES:** Notices have been sent to parishes in accordance with Article XVI of ECW Constitution.

**OTHER BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS:**

**Calendar Handbook:** Dee Buzby - Calendar Handbook deadline is this Friday, September 7.

**UTO:** Tora Johnson - No UTO grant applications are in the works. Please encourage your parishes to see if there is some organization in your area that would qualify. It must have an Episcopal presence. Applications will be out in October and must be returned by Dec. 15.

**CPC:** Gethryn Giles - CPC checks sent to the 13 seminarians were \$214.00 each. This totals \$2,782.00.

**MOUNTAIN CONVOCATION:** Carol Jean Exby - will meet Sept. 12, 10 a.m. at Christ Church, Albertville. Speaker will be The Rev. Jennifer Riddle, Assistant Rector at The Church of the Epiphany in Guntersville.

**BLACK BELT CONVOCATION:** Valerie Burnes thanked everyone for their prayers during her preparation for her doctorate. The Black Belt Convocation will meet in November, introducing the new coordinator, Bea Strong of Christ Church, Tuscaloosa. Kitty Rugg of Greensboro will continue as Treasurer.

**CHEAHA CONVOCATION:** Sally Feuerlein - will meet October 25, 10 a.m. at St. Peter's, Talladega. The Rev. Bob Blackwell and wife Kay Blackwell will speak on their missionary experiences in Syria. Linda George of St. Luke's, Jacksonville will be the new coordinator.

**BIRMINGHAM CONVOCATION:** Fiona Watts - will meet October 24, at St. Michaels in Huffman. Plans are underway to host the 2008 Fall Conference, October 9 and 10.

Alleen Cater, President, adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m. with everyone reciting the Closing Prayer on page 44 of the Calendar Handbook.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn D. Atkins  
Recording Secretary

**Paper copies of reports are attached to the hardcopy files of the minutes held by the President, Secretary and Historian. Electronic versions of the attachments are available online at [www.alabamaecw.org](http://www.alabamaecw.org) A hard copy of each individual report is on file with the separate board members responsible for creating them.**

Treasurer's Report - Brenda Mayhall  
Assistant Treasurer's Report - Sallie Lowe  
CPC Report - Gethryn Giles  
Women At The Well Report and Resolution honoring The Rev. Joy Phipps.  
Scholarship Committee Report - Nancy Thompson  
Tennessee Valley Convocation Report/Women's Weekend Report and  
Financial Statement - Barbara Carpenter  
Communications Report - Sally Sinclair  
Mountain Convocation Fall Meeting Flyer - Carol Jean Exby  
Black Belt Convocation Report - Valerie Burnes  
Cheaha Convocation Report - Sally Feuerlein  
Birmingham Convocation Report - Fiona Watts  
Missions and Ministries Report - Anne Kimzey  
DOK Report - Andi Silberman  
East Alabama Convocation Report - Tana Branch  
Montgomery Convocation Report - Jane Dickson