

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN - DIOCESE OF ALABAMA  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING  
CARPENTER HOUSE-SEPTEMBER 2, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dee Buzby, Gethryn Giles, Marilyn Atkins, Carolyn Woodson, The Rev. Deacon Katy Smith, Alyce Smith, Linda George, Tana Branch, Fiona Watts, Sallie Lowe, Liz Ensey, Alleen Cater, Sally Sinclair, Cathy Blackney, Tora Johnson, and Joan East.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Barbara Carpenter, Andi Silberman, Valerie Burnes, Lisa Gruner, Anne Kimzey, Nancy Thompson, Cheri Blair, Jane Dickson, Lisa Parrish, Brenda Mayhall, Bea Strong, Fran Lowe and the Right Rev. Henry N. Parsley, Jr., Ex Officio.

**GUEST:** The Right Rev. John McKee Sloan

**Dee Buzby, President**, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and welcomed our Bishop Suffragan, the Right Rev. John McKee Sloan. Following Bishop Sloan's prayer, he greeted everyone and told us he was filling in for Bishop Parsley who is now on Sabbatical for three months. He welcomed the Board and said, *I'm glad you're here and let us know if there is anything we can do for you while you're doing our work here.*

Dee began the meeting with a sad note that Barbara Carpenter's daughter, Tammy Williams, died unexpectedly in the night in Texas. In lieu of the planned devotional, a time of silence was held to pray for Barbara and the family. Then all prayed together, *The Lord's Prayer*.

Dee thanked everyone for coming to the meeting on the day after Labor Day. Joan East, new TN Valley Convocation Coordinator, was welcomed. Dee thanked convocation coordinators and others for their efforts in stimulating parish contributions. She called attention to the expanded coverage of ECW events in *The Apostle*. Dee thanked Sally Sinclair and Carolyn Woodson for getting PayPal on board for Fall Conference. She reminded the Board to send their fall reports to Sally Sinclair so she can post them on the website.

**Minutes:** Fiona Watts moved the minutes of the April 8, 2008 board meeting be accepted as recorded. Motion passed. The minutes are posted on the ECW website [www.alabamaecw.org](http://www.alabamaecw.org)

**Treasurer's Report:** Carolyn Woodson, Treasurer, reported that the Operating Fund has an ending balance of \$11,023.44. Total receipts for the period ending 8-22-08 were \$17,090.52. Total disbursements were \$7,875.00. The ACTS2 donations total is \$42,272.17. The 2009 budget was discussed. Gethryn Giles moved we accept the budget for 2009 as presented. Motion carried. The complete Treasurer's Report is posted on the website.

**Calendar Handbooks:** Gethryn Giles reported the 2009 ECW Calendar/Handbook, *St. Anne, Grandmother of our Savior*, will be picked up from the printer September 11 and the cost is under budget. In preparation for discussion at the October Board meeting at Fall Conference Gethryn asked the Board to think about how each board member uses her calendar, either the paper one or the one online. She showed new calendar format possibilities. A decision must be made by the January Board retreat.

In 2010, Gethryn is considering the theme, *Missions and Ministries of the Parish ECW in the Diocese of Alabama*. Each ECW president will get a "Parish Mission Activity" report form in the calendar to be filled out and turned in at Fall Conference. From these reports, the missions and ministries that we will focus on will be selected and thought is being given to tying them to the millennium development goals in the Episcopal Church. The Rev. Margaret Rose, director of the Mission Leadership Center at the Episcopal Church Center in New York has agreed to be the speaker for the 2010 Fall Conference. This report is on the website.

**UTO:** Barbara Carpenter attended the Province IV Conference at Kanuga this past June and participated in the UTO workshop. In 2008, the Diocese of Alabama received two UTO grants which were awarded to the following: Bakers on Wheels, Moody, AL, \$5,500.00 and Shoals Family Success Center, \$23,000.00. Barbara will present a certificate from the National UTO Committee to a representative of each organization at Fall Conference. In 2009, each diocese will be allowed only one application for a regular grant and one application from a companion diocese, which for us would be Haiti.

All applications must be in to Carpenter House by mid December. This report is on the website.

Gethryn Giles reported that she attended the Face to Face training workshop in Illinois this past August, sponsored by the National UTO Committee. In February, 2009, the Face to Face meeting will be held at Camp McDowell.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Lisa Gruner sent an email that she was unable to be present. She has a handful of new updates to be included in our Officer Database.

**CPC:** In the absence of Brenda Mayhall, Gethryn Giles informed the board that \$2,215.27 of CPC funds were given to nine seminarians, each receiving \$246.14.

**DOK:** Andi Silberman's report is attached.

**Hospitality:** Alyce Smith requested each board member pay a one time fee of \$2.00 for paper products for the year. Lunch will continue to be \$5.00.

**Nominations:** Jane Dickson sent a report announcing Fiona Watts has accepted the nomination for President-Elect. The nominating committee has not completed its work on the other offices to be selected.

**Publicity:** Fiona Watts announced the deadline for the next *Apostle* issue (combined September/October) is September 3. She thanked Sally Sinclair for the great job publicizing things on the website.

**Scholarship:** Nancy Thompson's report stated that this year the committee awarded 15 students \$900.00 each for an overall total of \$13,500.00. There was discussion about the process of getting the funds to the colleges in a timely manner.

**Webmaster:** Sally Sinclair reported that website statistics are good. Many are using the website to register and pay for events as well as to submit their Parish Info Sheet. There is concern that the Clergy Pictorial Directory has not been updated since April, 2007, and that it is frequently

viewed. The mailserv mailing list for master forwarding to all the board members is working well. Parish events, fundraisers, photographs, items for sale, etc. need to be sent to [publicity@alabamaecw.org](mailto:publicity@alabamaecw.org) Please check Sally's report which is on the website [www.alabamaecw.org](http://www.alabamaecw.org) for pertinent recommendations to Convocation Coordinators and ECW Board Members.

A question arose whether there is any place that board meetings are listed showing time and location. Sally said it is possible to list them on the website. Dee announced that the Board retreat at Camp McDowell will be January 9 & 10, 2009.

Katy Smith, Clergy Liaison asked the blessing for the lunch prepared and served by Alyce Smith. Following lunch, ECW President, Dee Buzby called the meeting to order at 12:38 p.m. She introduced Cathy Blackney as Women's Weekend Coordinator.

**Women's Weekend:** Cathy Blackney reported that Women's Weekend 2008 ended with a financial gain of slightly over \$500.00. The first planning meeting for 2009 was held July 22 and the speakers are in place; the theme will be *St. Anne, Grandmother of our Savior*. The dates will be May 15-17. There will be an ice cream social in place of the wine and unwind. The committee plans to generate interest at Fall Conference.

Dee Buzby asked the Board to ratify the online vote, taken May 25-30, 2008 concerning Women's Weekend. As stated in the calendar-The 2007 ECW Board approved the appointment of a Women's Weekend Coordinator to the ECW Board for a one-year trial period of reorganization. She will gather a diocesan-wide committee of women to host Women's Weekend 2008. If this method builds continued success for the event, a vote will be taken at the 2008 annual meeting to amend the by-laws accordingly. Dee asked the Board to extend the one-year trial period to a two-year trial period. This would give the ECW Board another year to fairly judge the success of Women's Weekend by committee. The Board ratified the unanimous online vote.

The Women's Weekend planning committee suggested that a separate bank checking account for Women's Weekend be opened. This would allow Women's Weekend to be self sufficient and not have to run funds through a convocation's checking account.

Dee asked Carolyn Woodson to explain how this might be accomplished with the Diocesan ECW having ultimate control. Carolyn said, *I think we need to open an account that has branches all over the area - Regions may be the one. The Treasurer would co-sign with the coordinator on the checks. The bank statements would go directly to the ECW Diocesan Treasurer. The coordinator would approve checks and the Treasurer will write them. At the end of the month, all check supporting evidence and approval of disbursements will be sent to the Diocesan Treasurer so she could balance the account and retain the information.*

Dee said the account would be opened with the \$518.05 overage from WW 2008 (not the seed money that is in the budget). This money could be seed money and if the committee uses it they can replace it. Dee asked for questions. All bookkeeping will be done by the Diocesan Treasurer and it will be audited. Regions Bank has no minimum balance and no charge for monthly checking.

Carolyn Woodson moved we set up a separate bank account at Regions Bank for Women's Weekend with the Coordinator and Treasurer as co-signers on checks. The Coordinator will approve invoices before payment is made. ECW Diocesan Treasurer will receive the bank statements. The deposit slips and paid bills with supporting documents will be sent to the ECW Diocesan Treasurer on a monthly basis. Motion was seconded and carried.

### **CONVOCATION REPORTS**

**Birmingham:** Liz Ensey reported that the Birmingham Convocation has been busy planning the Fall Conference October 9 and 10 at St. Stephen's with the Rev. Dr. Jo Bailey Wells as speaker. The ECW Board will meet on the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup> for dinner at 6:00 p.m. at The Club. This is a 'Dutch' dinner. An email will be sent to board members outlining details of how to pay for this meal. The speaker will be joining us and Bishop Sloan and his wife are also invited. The fall convocation meeting will be November 3 at St. Luke's in Birmingham. This report is attached.

**Blackbelt:** Bea Strong sent word she was ill and was sorry to miss the meeting. She is in the process of seeking a fall host site.

**Cheaha:** Linda George reported the spring meeting was held March 27 at Grace Church in Anniston. The Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis gave the program on mission work in Haiti. The fall meeting will be at St. Luke's, Jacksonville with the Rev. Mark Johnston, Director of Camp McDowell speaking on, "Why we as Christians should be concerned with Protecting our Environment." This report is attached.

**East Alabama:** Tana Branch announced the group had a delightful meeting at St. Barnabas this past spring. The fall meeting will be at St. Stephen's in Phenix City. Date and time to be announced.

**Montgomery:** Lisa Parrish sent word that she could not be with us and would send the fall meeting date as soon as available.

**Mountain:** Cheri Blair sent word that the fall meeting will be in Mentone at St. Joseph's on the Mountain, September 17, with the Rev. Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones and her husband, Butch, as the speakers. They will share their experiences during the Hurricane Katrina recovery. Cheri participated in the online chat for the planning of the 2009 Women's Weekend. Cheri would like to thank everyone for their prayers on behalf of her husband, Bryce who is doing very well following surgery. She requested prayers for her mother who is having many difficulties. This report is attached.

**Tennessee Valley:** Joan East reported that the spring meeting was at Church of the Nativity in Huntsville on April 24 with the Rev. Richmond Webster as speaker. Joan was commissioned as the Convocation Coordinator. The fall meeting will be at St. Barnabas', Hartselle on November 15. This report is attached.

### **ON-GOING BUSINESS**

**ACTS2:** Fiona Watts said the final amount received from the Wine and Cheese Art Auction held April 17 was \$25,021.12. It was a huge success. Fiona and Sally Sinclair described their exciting win of a simply divine dinner and a spectacular evening for eight in the home of Bishop and Becky Parsley. Alleen Cater described the event as not only financially very successful but also a happy gathering that provided great fellowship for the people from all

over Birmingham and the diocese. All three bishops were present and thrilled to see people enjoying themselves while raising money for the diocese. It was estimated there were over 300 people present and more than 350 items auctioned. Alleen and Fiona have agreed to do a one time planning session with the Montgomery committee to share helpful things that they learned. Dee thanked Fiona, Alleen, Olivia and all the board for a fantastic first fundraising event for ACTS2. Next year the Montgomery Convocation will be in charge of the fundraiser and in 2010 St. Stephen's in Huntsville has offered to host an event.

**St. Claire's needle arts guild:** Alleen Cater said the group is still seeking someone to organize it and get an information/data base ready to be posted on the ECW website. It was designed to be an 'eguild', a resource for people who knit and do needle point, a place to find out what projects need helping hands and who is available to teach. Carolyn Woodson brought some bears that need clothes. Her church has been doing this project for many years. They try to dress 300 bears a year to distribute through Urban Ministries to give to underprivileged children and to nursing home people who have no family. They also do lap blankets 3' X 3' for people in wheel chairs. Carolyn brought patterns for anyone interested and said they need lots of help! Consideration will be given to doing a needle arts workshop at Fall Conference. Alleen will look into this. This report is attached.

**Women at the Well Scholarship:** Katy Smith had to leave the meeting early, but said the committee is working on the scholarship details and will have a report at Fall Conference.

**Kanuga:** Tora Johnson said a group of six board members went to Kanuga in June and it was delightful as always. They have workshops for UTO and CPC as well as a good speaker. The new president of Province IV is Jackie Robe. Tora encouraged more people to attend next year.

**UTO Face to Face meeting:** The National UTO Board pays up to \$600.00 for transportation for up to two people from each diocese to attend. Room and board are also covered. When the meeting is held at Camp McDowell February 13-15, 2009, the Diocese of AL, ECW has been asked to provide transportation from the airport to Camp McDowell and back for the 20-25 participants. UTO will pay \$.50 per mile for use of vehicles to do this.

Approximately 17-18 National UTO committee members will arrive February 12 and stay until February 16.

**Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE):** Gethryn Giles asked the board if they wanted to do another PLTE workshop in 2009 and if so should it be all day or  $\frac{1}{2}$  day. There were many favorable comments supporting participation and looking into holding the workshop all day. Comments from the evaluations last year were positive toward an all day workshop. Gethryn said she would be happy to head it up again in 2009 and she suggested mini workshops. She asked the Board to be thinking about what kind of workshops we should do and to bring those ideas to the October Board meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Dee received a letter from the Province IV ECW President, Margie Williams, requesting prayers and monetary support for a mission trip she will be taking to the Ukraine October 9-19. Dee plans to send a donation from her president's fund.

Dee thanked Alyce Smith for the delicious lunch.

Dee told the board she will be out of town October 22 - November 9 and November 21 - November 29.

The meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m. Together we said the Closing Prayer on page 44 of the Calendar/Handbook.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn D. Atkins  
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)

Treasurer's Report (1-1-08 to 8-22-08) - Carolyn Woodson  
President-Elect's Report - Gethryn Giles  
UTO Report - Barbara Carpenter  
Corresponding Secretary - Lisa Gruner  
DOK - Andi Silberman  
Nominating Committee Report - Jane Dickson  
Publicity - Fionna Watts  
Scholarship Report - Nancy Thompson  
Webmaster's Report - Sally Sinclair  
Women's Weekend Financial Report - Barbara Carpenter, Acting Treasurer  
Birmingham Convocation Report - Liz Ensey  
Blackbelt Convocation Report - Bea Strong  
Cheaha Convocation Report - Linda George  
Mountain Convocation Report - Cheri Blair  
Tennessee Valley Convocation Report - Joan East  
St. Claire's needle arts guild - Alleen Cater