

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN - DIOCESE OF ALABAMA
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
CARPENTER HOUSE-SEPTEMBER 1, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dee Buzby, Gethryn Giles, Marilyn Atkins, Carolyn Woodson, Barbara Carpenter, Nancy Thompson, Sallie Lowe, Alleen Cater, Tana Branch, Alyce Smith, Sally Sinclair, Liz Ensey, Joan East, Tora Johnson, Sally McLendon, Valerie Burnes, Brenda Mayhall, Bea Strong, and the Rev. Deacon Katy Smith.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anne Kimzey, Fiona Watts, Cathy Blackney, Lisa Gruner, Jane Dickson, Dr. Yolanda Seawright, Cheri Blair, Linda George, and Frances Lowe.

GUEST ATTENDING: Jill Whitten

Dee Buzby, Diocesan ECW President, called the Board meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Dee welcomed all and introduced Sally McLendon of Ascension, Montgomery who is the new Montgomery Convocation Coordinator taking over for Lisa Taylor. Dee also introduced Jill Whitten of St. Joseph's, Mentone, a guest, who will serve on the Board in 2010-11. Dee thanked Sally Sinclair for setting up the blog from Triennial. She also thanked Alleen Cater, Gethryn Giles and Fiona Watts for their good work on the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. Dee announced that Alleen Cater was selected at Triennial as the "Most honored women from the Diocese of Alabama." Dee also shared concerns of several board members (Fran Lowe, Liz Ensey, and Jane Dickson) and asked that we keep them in our prayers.

Anne Kimzey sent a devotional by Phyllis Tickle that was read by several board members, closing with *The Lord's Prayer*.

MINUTES: The minutes of the April 21, 2009 Board meeting were approved as amended on a motion by Bea Strong. The minutes are posted on the ECW website www.alabamaecw.org

TREASURER'S REPORT: Carolyn Woodson, Treasurer, reported that the Operating Fund has an ending balance of \$10,574.08. There was discussion

about the Triennial account needing more money built up for 2012. Carolyn called attention to the 2010 ECW proposed budget. Gethryn Giles pointed out that under Disbursements the \$700.00 for Miscellaneous Gifts (President's Pin) is not needed in 2010. Gethryn moved the \$700.00 be deleted and \$300.00 be added to the Triennial Account Transfer to make that amount \$2,600.00. Gethryn further moved that a line item of Women's Weekend seed money be added in the amount of \$400.00. The motion was defeated.*

Dee Buzby said there were some mistakes made in handling the Women's Weekend finances in 2009; participants were undercharged and there was low attendance. The Treasurer, Carolyn Woodson, stated that the Women's Weekend separate bank account was set up January 26, 2009 with \$518.05 and the ending balance as of August 24, 2009 is \$183.80. This shortfall led to a review of Women's Weekend concerns that led to the Board's action at the January, 2006 Board Retreat: Alleen Cater said in 2006 there was no Women's Weekend; the Board reimbursed the East Alabama convocation for expenses not covered by the 2005 Women's Weekend; it reestablished the seed money for Women's Weekend by making a one-time loan of \$300.00, with the understanding that the organization of the event would be restructured, and with the further understanding that the Board will not continue to fund Women's Weekend. The shortfall in 2009 makes the third time in nine years that Women's Weekend has not been financially solvent. Sally Sinclair noted that while only 44 people attended in 2009, Women's Weekend was very important to that group. It was suggested by Alleen Cater that Women's Weekend could consider continuing with the \$183.80 if that seems feasible.

After much thoughtful discussion Nancy Thompson moved the ECW Diocesan Board cease responsibility and financial support for Women's Weekend. It was seconded. Barbara Carpenter amended the motion. Revised motion states that Women's Weekend will no longer be an ECW sponsored event. Amended motion passed. Carolyn Woodson moved the balance of \$183.80 in the Women's Weekend account be transferred to the ECW College Scholarship Fund. The full amount is to be paid out for scholarships. Motion carried.

Regarding the 2010 Budget, Gethryn Giles moved that the Miscellaneous Gifts (President's Pin) \$700.00 be changed to \$400.00 and the Triennial Account Transfer be changed from \$2,300.00 to \$2,600.00. Motion carried. Carolyn Woodson moved the 2010 ECW Budget be approved as amended. Motion carried. The Treasurer's Report is posted the ECW website www.alabamaecw.org

CALENDAR HANDBOOK: Gethryn Giles said the 2010 Calendar/Handbook theme is *Serving Others in Christ: Mission and Ministries in the Diocese of Alabama*. The updated Constitution and By-Laws have been printed in the new Calendar with a note saying they will be ratified at the 2009 Fall Conference. New 2010 Parish ECW Information Sheets were distributed as well as lists of the 2010-2011 ECW Board. The President-Elect report is attached and on the website.

UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO): Barbara Carpenter said she was very pleased to present a check for \$108,705.46 to the Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop, at Triennial during the UTO Ingathering Eucharist Service. This check represented the total UTO Ingathering for the Diocese of Alabama for 2006, 2007 and 2008.

The National UTO Committee awarded a partial grant of \$15,000.00 to the Diocese of Alabama for one-half the cost of a 12 passenger van for the Boys and Girls Club of Morgan and Lawrence Counties and Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Decatur to use for transporting children and adults.

There were 63 grants totaling \$2,065,472.43 that were approved by the UTO Committee. 51 went to dioceses in the United States, seven to Africa, two to Asia, two to Latin America and one to a diocese in the Middle East. There were also 10 grants awarded to companion dioceses in Africa and one companion diocese in the Asia/Pacific area. Information for grant applications will be available October 1, 2009 on the National UTO website. The UTO report is on the ECW website www.alabamaecw.org

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: In the absence of Lisa Gruner, Dee Buzby reported that Lisa has sent another update for the Clergy Pictorial Directory.

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Alleen Cater, Chairman, said the Constitution and By-Laws Revision Committee (Dee Buzby, Gethryn Giles and Fiona Watts) worked hard in May and June to propose a revised document. Dee Buzby presented the proposed document to the Board electronically and asked for a vote. A majority of the Board responded with affirmative votes. Dee notified the parishes of the proposed changes and the vote will be ratified at Fall Conference. The committee members suggest periodic review of such documents as a way to insure adherence to the organization's mission and to maintain its viability. This report is on the website.

President Dee Buzby said due to the lack of a quorum at the April 21, 2009 Board meeting, a vote was taken electronically, following the meeting, on the motion made by Barbara Carpenter that the Board of Directors of the ECW designate \$500.00 from Miscellaneous Receipts in the Operating Fund to go toward scholarships on a one-time basis. A majority of the Board responded with affirmative votes.

ARCHIVIST: Valerie Burnes said any ECW materials still remaining at Carpenter House will be picked up today, filed together with the things she already has and taken to the Birmingham Public Library to be added to the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama papers. The papers will be open to researchers. Valerie will make photocopies of what appears to be the most important papers and keep them on hand to answer questions.

The notebooks that the secretary creates will stay with the archivist for three years, after which time they will be taken to the Birmingham Public Library to be added to the ECW collection. Report is on website.

CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB (CPC): Brenda Mayhall reported that as of August 24, 2009, \$1,702.00 had been collected from nine parishes across the diocese for CPC. This represents about 10% of the total parishes in the diocese. Brenda will oversee the distribution of \$2,485.02 to the seminarians for 2009. The Diocese of Alabama contributed \$84.00 for 84 chances to win the beautiful quilt in the National CPC Quilt give away at Triennial. Report is on website.

DAUGHTER'S OF THE KING (DOK): Dee reported that Dr. Yolanda Seawright is the successor to Andi Silberman as President of DOK. Yolanda is from Tuskegee and plans to be active on the ECW Board.

HOSPITALITY: Alyce Smith asked each board member to put their name in the hat for a drawing for some of her homemade goodies. Alyce prepared and served the lunch today for a cost of \$7.00 each.

MISSION AND MINISTRIES: Fran Lowe's report is on the website.

PUBLICITY: In the absence of Fiona Watts, Dee asked that any information or pictures for the November-December *Alabama Episcopalian* be sent to Fiona.

SCHOLARSHIP: Nancy Thompson said the Scholarship committee met May 11, 2009 awarding \$10,400 in scholarships to 21 applicants who all met the criteria set by the ECW Scholarship Committee. The applicants represented 17 different parishes in the diocese. This report is on the website www.alabamaecw.org

Dee Buzby said there were only three websites entered into the Website and Newsletter competition at Triennial; all received special recognition. The Alabama delegates reported that other delegates gave high accolades for our webmaster, Sally Sinclair and the outstanding Alabama website. Dee thanked Sally for a job well done.

PAYPAL ACCOUNT: Dee Buzby addressed the concerns about using PayPal as an option to pay for registration for events, such as Fall Conference. The Board reviewed the minutes of the April 8, 2008 Board meeting which show that the use of PayPal was authorized beginning with the 2008 Fall Conference and its use will continue for all ECW sponsored events which require paid registration fees.

Following discussion it was agreed that the ECW Diocesan Treasurer will handle the PayPal portion of registration for all events. She is the one that receives notification from PayPal that a payment has been made. She will then notify the person in charge of registration for the event via email. Within a few days after the registration deadline, the Treasurer will

electronically transfer the money from the PayPal account directly into the host Convocation's checking account.

For 2009, the registration fee will be \$30.00 for everyone. In the future consideration will be given to charging PayPal users an additional small amount of money to cover the fee charged by PayPal. Sally Sinclair volunteered to write up this procedure and copies will be placed in the ECW Notebooks of the president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer, Fall Conference coordinator, Events coordinator and all convocation coordinators.

Katy Smith offered the blessing for today's lunch.

President Dee Buzby called the meeting to order at 1:25 p.m. following a break for lunch.

WEBMASTER: Sally Sinclair's Website Report is posted on the ECW website www.alabamaecw.org

WOMEN'S WEEKEND: Cathy Blackney's report is on the website.

WOMEN AT THE WELL: Katy Smith said she and Fiona Watts will consult with Joy Phipps to better understand her vision for where this money might be spent.

CONVOCATION REPORTS

Birmingham: Liz Ensey - Fall Convocation meeting will be held September 19, 2009, at Holy Cross in Trussville. Report is on the website.

Black Belt: Bea Strong announced the Fall Convocation meeting will be at St. Paul's in Greensboro on November 12, 2009. The program will be the Anglican Rosary. Report is on the website.

Cheaha: Linda George - Fall Convocation meeting will be at Messiah in Heflin, October 15, 2009. The speaker will be the Rev. Roger Allen who was rector of the Chapel of the Holy Comforter in New Orleans at the time of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Report is on the website.

East Alabama: Tana Branch announced that Jolai Jenkins will be the new Convocation Coordinator. Fall Convocation meeting will be at St. Dunstan's early in December.

Montgomery: Sally McLendon was welcomed as the new Montgomery Convocation Coordinator. Fall meeting to be announced.

Mountain: Cheri Blair - Fall Convocation meeting will be October 1, 2009, at St. Luke's in Scottsboro. Report is on the website www.alabamaecw.org

Tennessee Valley: Joan East - Fall Convocation meeting will be held November 5, 2009, at St. Timothy's in Athens. Report is on the website.

ON GOING BUSINESS:

Carolyn Woodson announced the ACTS2 Fund has now reached \$50,000.00.

Fall Conference: Joan East said plans are being finalized for the Fall Conference to be held at St. Matthew's in Madison October 8 & 9, 2009. Bishop Sloan will join the Board for dinner on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. Bishop Parsley will be the Celebrant for the Holy Eucharist Installation Service. Sally Sinclair offered to use the website to encourage attendance and possibly send a letter out using Constant Contact.

Corporate Gift for 2010: Gethryn Giles moved the Corporate Gift of \$2,000.00 go to ACTS2. Motion carried.

New Business:

Support for our missionaries to Namibia: Dee Buzby mentioned the possibility of the ECW supporting Jeremy and Penny Lucas, missionaries to Namibia through a donation from the alms at Fall Conference. More information will be available at the next board meeting.

Resolution honoring The Rev. William P. McLemore: Dee Buzby would like to recognize Bill McLemore for having done so many cartoons for the ECW Calendar/Handbook for several years. She will prepare something to present at Fall Conference and then mail to Rev. McLemore.

Alleen Cater who is retiring from the board after ten years of service asked to say a few words: "I compliment each of you on your dedication. You have produced fine fruits. When I agreed to lead ECW, it was clear that we needed better communications. Everything had to have paper and a stamp. A diocesan wide vote could easily take a year. It was fine for then, but not for now. I didn't have the skills to reshape communications, so I asked skilled people to help. Sally Sinclair set up our website. Lisa Gruner compiled a database of parish contacts. Lisa and Sally worked together to change the way we do things. At times they probably wanted to scream, but they got us light years ahead of where we had been. The scholarship program, UTO and CPC have been strengthened. We now have PayPal, a neat tool. We work together and we use each other's talents. Remember that we all come to this as volunteers. We could pick ECW up and put it down as we want to. Our love of the Lord and our wish to serve Him keeps us here. Our love, respect and friendship for each other keep us here. I look forward to my last Fall Conference as a board member. I'm sure it will be the best one ever. You are a great group. I am in awe."

Triennial Report: Dee Buzby, Gethryn Giles and Barbara Carpenter reported on the highlights of the Triennial meeting in Anaheim, CA. One highlight was the UTO Holy Eucharist Service which, unlike other services, was open to the public. About 8,000 attended. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams was there. The Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, as well as the two former presiding bishops, Edmond Browning and Frank Griswold all served together at the altar. There were 144 lay Eucharistic ministers serving and it only took about 15 minutes to distribute the bread and wine to the large crowd. The Rev. Deacon Louise R. Thibodaux also served during the Eucharist and Dee Buzby and Barbara Carpenter assisted with distribution of the wine. Bishop Parsley was very gracious to invite all the delegates along with the deputies to come to a hospitality room every night to talk about what took place during the day and what to expect the next day. All our delegates expressed sincere gratitude for the wonderful educational and spiritual experience of being at Triennial.

Province IV ECW Conference at Kanuga, NC: Dee Buzby, Gethryn Giles, and Tora Johnson attended this meeting in June. Jackie Robe of the Diocese of Southwest Florida is the new Province IV President and will be at our Fall Conference.

Next Board Meeting: October 8, 2009 at St. Matthew's, Madison 9:00 a.m

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m. with Dee Buzby leading the Closing ECW Prayer in 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 .

Treasurer's Report (1-1-09 to 8-24-09) - Carolyn Woodson
President-Elect Report - Gethryn Giles
UTO Report - Barbara Carpenter
Parliamentarian's Report - Alleen Cater
Archivist's Report - Valerie Burnes
Church Periodical Club (CPC) - Brenda Mayhall
Missions and Ministries Report - Fran Lowe
Scholarship Report - Nancy Thompson
Webmaster's Report - Sally Sinclair
Women's Weekend Report - Cathy Blackney
Birmingham Convocation Report - Liz Ensey
Black Belt Convocation Report - Bea Strong
Chesham Convocation Report - Linda George
Mountain Convocation Report - Cheri Blair
TN Valley Convocation Report - Joan East
Fall Conference Report - Joan East

* After Gethryn Giles made this motion, the general Women's Weekend discussion/decision went forward at that time, rather than being put off until the board reports were made.