

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN – DIOCESE OF ALABAMA
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
CARPENTER HOUSE – APRIL 16, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gethryn Giles, Fiona Watts, Jill Whitten, Sallie Lowe, Nancy Thompson, Marsha Hurt, Judith Comer, Joan East, Barbara Carpenter, Marilyn Atkins, Linda George, Frances Lowe, Joanna Brooks, Brenda Mayhall, Jolai Jenkins and Jane Wood.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Valerie Burnes, Bethe Ensey, Alyce Daniel, Dee Buzby, Paula Bird, Lynn Edge Reeves, Yolanda Seawright, and Sally Sinclair

GUEST: Terry Christopher

ECW president, Gethryn, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and welcomed Terry Christopher, from St. Matthew's in Madison, AL. Terry is representing Yolanda Seawright for today's meeting.

Gethryn began the meeting with a reminder to board members that we need to share prayers of concern, thanksgiving or blessings between our meetings. These requests for prayers may be made by email to the ECW board or, if desired, privately, to our devotional chairman, Marsha Hurt. Gethryn stated the need for the board to keep each other informed about things that are happening with each other so they are not forgotten. A special prayer request was made for Betty Scroggins who continues her battle with cancer.

Marilyn Atkins passed a birthday card around for board members to sign expressing birthday blessings to former ECW board president, Alleen Cater.

Gethryn turned the meeting over to devotional chairman, Marsha Hurt.

Marsha began our devotional by displaying a crucifix as her mental image of the resurrected Christ. She led the board in a responsive reading, "Easter Day," from The New Zealand Prayer Book and followed by reading two quotations from Surprised by Hope by N.T. Wright. In continuance of the celebration and to "take notice of Easter", Marsha treated the board to champagne and flutes to toast the resurrected Christ.

In closing our devotional, Marsha led the board in prayers of healing and hope for Marilyn Atkin's daughter-in-law, Cathy Atkins, Betty Scroggins and Maggie Mookie.

MINUTES: Fiona Watts moved that the minutes of the January 30, 2010 ECW Board meeting be accepted as corrected. The motion carried. The minutes are posted on the ECW website www.alabamaecw.org.

TREASURER: Treasurer, Jill Whitten, reported that, as of 03/31/10, the Operating Fund had an ending balance of \$14,067.03. Jill reported that all treasury records are kept on Excel Workbook and, when downloading, board members could specify the numbered pages they want by using the printing window.

Regarding the Memorial Roll, Jill announced September 1 as the annual deadline to report women of our Diocese who have died in the last year. This will be helpful to insure that no deceased women members of the Diocese will be left out.

Jill plans to make available a simplified form for memorials/donations in the future. The complete treasurer's report is available on the ECW website: www.alabamaecw.org.

ASSISTANT TREASURER: No report

CALENDAR HANDBOOK: President-Elect, Fiona Watts reported that the 2011 calendar handbook will continue the theme "Serving Others in Christ: Mission and Ministries in the Diocese of Alabama." The 2011 calendar handbook will focus on mission trips taken by members of the Diocese. Fiona circulated a form for board members to list all mission trips taken by their parish and requested a contact person to be listed for additional information.

Fiona reported that 22 leaders of parishes in the Diocese attended the Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE). Positive feedback was received from the evaluation forms of those attending the event. Gethryn thanked Fiona on a job well done.

CONVOCATION REPORTS:

Birmingham: Gethryn, reporting for Alyce Daniel, stated that the Birmingham Convocation had their spring meeting at St. Andrews,

Trinity Commons on March 6, 2010. Trinity Commons is the campus ministry of UAB. The convocation is scheduled to be at All Saints on November 3, 2010.

Black Belt: Gethryn, reporting for Paula Bird, said that the Black Belt convocation is scheduled to meet on May 12 at St. Stephens, Eutaw, Alabama.

Cheaha: Jane Wood reported that the Cheaha Convocation met on February 26th for their initial Fall Conference planning (see Fall Conference report.) They met again for their spring meeting on April 15th at St. Michael's and All Angels in Anniston. The Reverend Michael Rich of St. Luke's, Jacksonville, Alabama spoke at the luncheon meeting on Sacred Harp Music. The alms collected at the meeting will go to Penny and Jerry Lucas, missionaries in Namibia. The parishes shared with one another their various fundraisers and outreach projects.

East Alabama: Jolai Jenkins reported that the East Alabama Convocation plans to meet June 12th at Holy Trinity, Auburn, Alabama. St. Andrew's, Tuskegee, Annual Pancake Supper was its usual success.

Montgomery: President Gethryn Giles announced that Convocation Coordinator, Sally McClendon has resigned. An organizational meeting was held in Montgomery on April 10, 2010 to assist in finding a new Convocation Coordinator. Past and present ECW Board members: Alleen Cater, Alice Tyson, Nancy Boston and Gethryn Giles attended the meeting to lend support. Gwendolyn Lipscomb has agreed to be chairman of the nominating committee. President Giles mentioned to those at the meeting that the Montgomery Convocation needs to go forward with their Acts II Fundraiser and is scheduled to host the Fall Conference in 2011. Gethryn stated that those convocation members present were enthusiastic in planning these future events.

Mountain: Joanna Brooks reported that she held an ECW President's meeting and tea for the Mountain Convocation in her Guntersville home on February 27th, 2010. Ten members representing all the parishes of the Mountain Convocation attended to discuss the year's plan and how they could lend support to one another. Fifty-five ECW members

participated at the spring meeting. The Fall Convocation meeting is scheduled for September 29th, 2010 at Resurrection in Rainbow City, Al. **Tennessee Valley:** Joan East had no report; the Tennessee Valley Convocation will meet at Trinity in Florence, Alabama on Wednesday, April 22, 2010.

REPORTS:

Archivist: In March, our archivist, Valerie Burnes was asked by Rob Morpeth to examine the ECW paper's of the of St. Michael's in Birmingham when it closed. Valerie determined that the papers provided more information on the life of the parish than on their ECW specifically. It was her suggestion that the papers concerning St. Michael's ECW should be retained in the larger collection of St. Michael's than in the collection of the Diocesan ECW Board. Valerie is working on archiving all ECW Board papers to be housed at the Birmingham Library.

Clergy Liaison: The Reverend Judith Comer reported that the "Krik? Krak!" lunch program for Haiti is ongoing, but has been delayed due to the earthquake. The "Krik? Krak!" program is sponsored by the clergy spouses of the Diocese and plans to raise \$13,000 annually in order to provide one lunch a week for the school children and teachers in Crochu, Haiti. The ECW Board contributed \$500 for 2010 and plans to continue its support to the project in the future. The Rev. Comer suggested that the ECW and the clergy spouses consider a joint fundraiser for "Krik? Krak!". Gethryn reminded board members to send any donations to the project through the ECW so the ECW gets credit.

The Rev. Comer will be attending the Bishop and Clergy Conference and plans to encourage all clergy spouses to attend their convocation meetings to learn about ECW projects.

Gethryn also mentioned that the Bishop would like the ECW of each parish to reach out to new clergy as they come into the Diocese. Gethryn and Rev. Comer will study ways that the ECW can do this for new clergy and, possibly, seminarians.

Church Periodical Club (CPC): Linda George reported that May 2, 2010 has been designated as CPC Sunday. If that Sunday is inconvenient for

some parishes, they may choose a different Sunday. All CPC checks should be submitted to the Diocese before Fall. CPC funds will be disbursed to the seminarians in early Fall. This year the Diocese has 11 seminarians eligible for funds.

Daughters of the King (DOK): Terry Christopher, 2nd Vice President for DOK, substituted for DOK chairman, Yolanda Seawright. Although DOK cannot fundraise, they continue their Prayer Book Drive for 50 prayer books for Camp McDowell. DOK are available as a support group for the ECW Board and will be happy to send out prayers on their behalf.

Devotions: No Report

Events: No Report

Missions and Ministry: Fran Lowe had no report and stated that she has not received any forms from the parishes of the Diocese.

Nominating: Marilyn Atkins reported that her committee has been hard at work, has made progress, and will have a slate ready at the September meeting. Marilyn thanked the board for all the suggestions and names given to the committee.

Publicity: Gethryn, reporting for Lynn Edge Reeves, said the schedule for submitting articles to The Alabama Episcopalian has changed. Because of this scheduling change, Gethryn stated that we can no longer depend on The Alabama Episcopalian for the publicity of ECW events.

Scholarship: No Report.

United Thank Offering /Face to Face: Brenda Mayhall reported that she waits to hear from Province IV to learn whether the Diocese will receive a UTO grant for either St. Peter's or for Haiti's expansion of the church and school in Crochu.

UTO collected approximately \$171 at the Diocesan Convention. There was a discussion on who should collect the boxes at the end of the convention so they will not be left behind.

Fiona Watts will attend Face to Face at Todd Hall, Edwardsville, Illinois on July 16- 18. Face to Face is the National UTO Training Session for the ECW.

Gethryn stressed that convocations need each committee person to give their reports at their meetings.

Webmaster: No Report

The board adjourned for lunch. The Reverend Comer blessed our lunch. Bishop Parsley joined the board for lunch. He thanked the board for all they do for the Diocese and discussed his plans to retire next year.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Acts2: Gethryn stated that ECW's commitment to Acts2 (Capital Campaign of the Diocese) began at Camp Mc Dowell during the ECW board retreat in January 2007. At that time the ECW board agreed to a pledge of \$65,000 over a five-year period. There has been one major fundraiser held by the middle district of the ECW. The middle district raised \$25,000 at a wine and cheese /art auction at All Saints in Birmingham.

Gethryn displayed a chart to explain what areas are covered under the Acts2. Funds from the Capital Campaign will go toward a new chapel at Camp McDowell (St. Francis), multi-cultural outreach, land acquisition, communications, campus ministry at Montevallo and a comprehensive lay certification program in the Diocese. Gethryn stated that the ECW needs to raise \$13,000 to complete its pledge. Dee Buzby and Lucy Ware are studying the possibility of a fundraiser for Acts2 in the northern district covering 32 parishes in 2010. Hopefully, the southern district fundraiser will be held in 2011.

Corporate Gift: No Report

Fall Conference: Jane Wood reported that she and her committee held a preliminary meeting on February 25, 2010. Fall Conference will begin on Wednesday, 6th of October in Anniston with the ECW Board dinner. The meeting will resume on Thursday morning with a Board meeting at St. Michaels. All efforts are being made to keep the cost of registration fee at \$30.00. Most of the events will be held at St. Michael's

and All Angels Anniston. Thursday night Wine and Cheese/Dinner will be held at Grace. The Friday meeting at St. Michael's and All Angels will be our annual business meeting with a preregistered and timed sharing session for our parishes.

Barbara Owen, Province IV ECW National Board Representative, and Jackie Robe, Province IV ECW President, will be guests at the Fall Conference and will attend the Thursday morning ECW board meeting/ There was additional discussion regarding online registration, hiring an interpreter and a raffle. Anyone from the board interested in coming to a meeting for the Fall Conference is invited on April 26 at Grace Anniston from 10:00 to noon with lunch.

ANNOUCEMENTS

Six members of the ECW will be attending the Province IV ECW Conference at Kanuga, NC on June 7-9. Jackie Robe, Province IV ECW President, has requested that the Alabama Diocese perform a short skit based on their Triennial experience. Reservations are still open for the conference if anyone would like to attend. Fran McKendree will be the music leader of the conference.

The will be a Liturgical Art Conference at Kanuga on August 22-27. Our Fall ECW Board Meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2010.

Closing Prayer: Marsha closed the meeting by reading the first stanza from e.e. cummings' poem, "i thank you God for most this amazing,"

i thank you God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy S. Thompson
Recording Secretary