EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN-DIOCESE OF ALABAMA
MINUTES* OF BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2010
ST. STEPHENS – BIRMINGHAM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gethryn Giles, Fiona Watts, Jill Whitten, Sallie Lowe, Marsha Hurt, Nancy Thompson, Jolai Jenkins, Marilyn Atkins, Linda George, Yolanda Seawright, Bethe Ensey, Lynn Reeves, Jane Wood, Sally Sinclair, Paula Bird, Alyce Daniel, Brenda Mayhall, Joanna Brooks

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dee Buzby, Valerie Burnes, Joan East, Judith Comer, Sally McLendon, Barbara Carpenter, Fran Lowe

ECW President, Gethryn Giles called the meeting to order at 10:35 A.M. She welcomed new board members. After board members introduced themselves, President Giles turned the meeting over to Marsha Hurt for the devotional. Mrs. Hurt used certain visuals aids as images of the ECW to describe who we are as women of God and the work we do. Continuing the theme of God's work and the mission of the ECW within our church, she quoted verses from Genesis, Isaiah, Ecclesiastes and the Book of Common Prayer. In closing, Mrs. Hurt read a prayer by John Bailey, " In thou will O Lord is my peace, in thy love, O Lord, is my rest, in thy service O Lord is my joy. Amen."

President Giles passed out a short guideline for our meetings entitled, While We Are Together. She emphasized the importance of starting and stopping all meetings on time. Pres. Giles requested that all reports be emailed to the board prior to our meetings. With the exception of giving information not in the written reports, there will be no need for board members to read their reports at the meetings. A green sheet was passed around for each board member present to make final corrections regarding their contact information

MINUTES: Fiona Watts moved that we accept the minutes of the October 8th, 2009 ECW Board meeting. The motion passed.
Copies of the minutes of the 120th Annual Conference were available to all who had not read them. It was moved that the minutes be accepted. The motion carried. Minutes of all ECW board meetings may be found on our website www.alabamaecw.org.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer, Jill Whitten reported a starting balance on 1/1/09 of $6,834,88. Income for 2009 was $15,420.61 and expenses were $14,725.31, leaving a final year-end balance of $7,530.18. The complete report may be found on the ECW website, www.alabamaecw.org.
All checks for the ECW should be sent to Carpenter House and should be designated ECW, Diocese of Alabama in the lower corner of the outside envelope. Jill Whitten is updating a form for use when sending checks to the ECW.
Convocation leaders were asked to pay close attention to the parish-giving reports and to make sure that their parishes send in their contribution. These contributions are necessary for operations of the ECW.
Assistant Treasurer, Sallie Lowe, made an announcement that Alleen Cater, made a contribution to the Scholarship Fund in honor of the Diocesan ECW Board. There have been donations received recently for the ECW Scholarship Fund in the amount of $4,800.

CALENDAR HANDBOOK: President Giles announced two errors in the Millennium Development Goals handbook. The correct date for the Diocesan Convention is February 11- 13. Women's Weekend is listed in the handbook, but is no longer sponsored by the ECW board.
President-Elect Fiona Watts announced that the theme of the 2011 handbook will be Missions and Ministries of the World. It will focus on outreach, ministries and mission trips taken by parishes throughout the Diocese.
Mrs. Watts announced that the Parish Leadership Training Event (PLTE) has been scheduled by the Diocese for Saturday, March 13th, at St. Stephens. Our workshop will be "Episcopal Church Women – The Heart of the Diocese." This will be an opportunity to have an informal discussion on the development of the ECW. It is open to anyone who would like to learn more about the ECW and how to inspire other women to participate. More information will be forthcoming.

CONVOCATION REPORTS

Birmingham: Alyce Daniel announced that the Birmingham Convocation met last Fall at Holy Cross in Trussville. New officers were installed. St. Michaels gave $600 for the ECW Scholarship Fund and $600 to Episcopal Place. The Spring Convocation will be held March 6th at St. Andrews. Bill Blackerby, from the UAB Campus Ministries, will be guest speaker. The Birmingham Convocation lost an ECW due to the closing of St. Michaels, Birmingham. St. Catherine's in Chelsea, has indicated an interest in starting an ECW. Plans are for the Fall 2010 Convocation to be at All Saints, Homewood.

Black Belt: Paula Bird announced that Demopolis restarted their ECW in January. St. Paul's, Greensboro, had a convocation meeting last Fall. Their rector had a wonderful morning prayer based on our theme, St Anne.

Cheaha: Jane Wood is the Convocation Coordinator. President Giles announced that Cheaha will host the Fall Conference.

East Alabama: Jolai Jenkins announced that their Spring Convocation will be held in March. St. James has expressed interest in reorganizing their ECW.

Montgomery: No report.

Mountain: Joanna Brooks announced that Calvary, Oneonta will host Mountain Convocation this Spring on April, 14th. More information can be found on their website, www.calvaryecw.webs.com. Other news in the Mountain Convocation includes the outreach and ministries of its parishes. The Church of the Epiphany, Guntersville, raised $1,000 to send a nurse with the Nativity Medical team to Haiti. St. Phillips, Fort Payne, started their outreach project, Beans and Rice, and is also participating in a community ministry called Bread for Life in which several churches in the community rotate in providing lunches. St. Luke's, Scottsboro raised money for their Moses' Baskets and raised funds for the Mirembe Girls Orphanage in Kenya, Africa.

Tennessee Valley: Convocation Coordinator, Joan East, was unable to attend the meeting. President Giles thanked Joan East and the Tennessee Valley Convocation for the wonderful job they did for the Fall Conference. President Giles also acknowledged Dee Buzby and thanked her for the great job she did as President for the last two years.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Concerns: President Giles asked that we keep the following people in our thoughts and prayers: Fran Lowe and her husband, Herb, Sally McClendon, Kathleen Banks and her husband, and Tana Branch.

REPORTS:

Archivist: President Giles announced that Valerie Burnes has been working toward moving our permanent records to the Birmingham Library where the Diocese keeps their records. This report may be read online at our website: www.alabamaecw.org.

Clergy Liaison and ECW/Clergy Spouse Project: Judith Comer, Clergy/ECW Liaison, was unable to attend the meeting today. President Giles has asked Reverend Comer to work with Becky Parsley, Bishop Parsley's wife, on the Haiti Lunch Project. The Millennium Development Goals is on the agenda for the Diocesan Convention with a workshop on the Haiti Lunch Project. More information on this is to follow.

CPC: Linda George gave a brief history on the founding of CPC. The second Sunday in May is designated as CPC Sunday. Last year, 11 parishes in our Diocese contributed a total of $2,271. These funds were divided between 11 seminarians in our Diocese for the purchase of textbooks. Brenda Mayhall, read a thank-you note from seminarian, Jeffrey Parker Evans, thanking the ECW for their support in providing these funds for textbooks.

Daughters of the King (DOK): Yolanda Seawright announced that the Diocese of Alabama has 46 Senior Chapters with over 600 members. There is one active Junior Chapter for girls, ages 8-18. The DOK has started a Diocesan service project with a goal of providing 50 prayer books to the Chapel of St. Francis at Camp McDowell. The DOK will also host a Prayer Room at the Diocesan Convention in February. The Diocesan Spring Retreat is planned for May 14-15 at Shocco Springs.

Devotional: Marsha Hurt will be giving devotionals at all ECW board meetings.

Nominating: Marilyn Atkins announced that the nominating committee had their first meeting at Fall Conference. She asked the board to please give her suggestions before the end of the meeting for the positions of President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and UTO Chair.

Marsha Hurt offered the blessing for today's lunch.

Missions and Ministries: No Report. Fran Lowe could not attend the meeting today due to her husband, Herb's, illness. President Giles asked board members to please take the Parish Mission and Ministries Report Forms (pink) back to their parish to use.

Events: No Report

Publicity: Lynn Edge Reeves reported that this year, President Giles would like a report from various committees in each edition of The Alabama Episcopalian. The Alabama Episcopalian is published six times a year. We have one page and need stories to fill up the page. Scholarship has submitted an article for the January/February issue. An article for CPC will be submitted for the March/April issue and UTO for the second ingathering, next Fall. Although February 1 is the stated deadline for the March/April, Lynn will accept articles up until February 20th.
It is suggested that we should have more human-interest stories. If you have a human-interest story or event at your parish with an action photo, please email it to the publicity chairman, Lynn Edge Reeves. Her address can be found in the calendar handbook or at our website. Other suggestions for publicity would be the community news sections in local papers and public and community service announcements. Because the dates of the Alabama Episcopalian are not definite, we should not depend on it for our calendar.

Scholarship: Bethe Ensey reported that she submitted an article for The Alabama Episcopalian through publicity chairman, Lynn Edge Reeves. Bethe will update all applications and send them to our web master, Sally Sinclair, who will make the change on our website. Bethe will ask her scholarship committee to attend their convocation meetings in order to speak and answer questions about the ECW Scholarship Fund. In the event that the scholarship committee members are not present at their convocations meetings, their representatives on the board should speak up about scholarships, UTO, or CPC, etcetera. Bethe presented a check from Grace Episcopal Woodlawn (outreach and ECW) for the Scholarship Fund in honor of Sara Ann White, a former teacher.

UTO: Brenda Mayhall reported that collections by UTO this year totaled $31,193.95. A total of $ 31,576.06 was submitted to the National UTO leaving a balance of $7,460.99. The UTO committee's first task is to meet by January 31st, to screen all grant applications that are sent to the Diocese at Carpenter House. The committee's task is to select one domestic grant and one companion diocese grant to submit to Bishop Parsley for review before he sends them to the National UTO for consideration for a grant award. Seven domestic grants were sent to Carpenter House. The committee met January 26 at Christ Church, Albertville and reviewed 7 applications. St. Peter's Day School in Talladega was selected. Their project was to construct a playground to benefit severely mobility challenged students in their day school. The companion diocese submission was from Haiti to expand St. Alban's

Church and School. Both grants were submitted through Bishop Parsley to the National UTO Committee for grant consideration.
Ingathering Sunday is scheduled for May and November. Individual parishes may select their own dates as long as they meet the deadline of the 15th of May and November.

Webmaster: Sally Sinclair stated the need to keep our webpage up to date. Each board member is responsible in getting their most current information to Sally. Please check your web pages for accurate information. You can send it by Word Document or in the body of an email. All board members should be receiving their ECW emails from: alabamaecwboard@googlegroups.com.
Any publicity for convocations or parishes may be sent to: publicity@alabamaecw.org and it will get sent to Publicity Chairman, Lynn Edge Reeves and Webmaster, Sally Sinclair. If you miss the publicity deadline, you may still put it on the website by sending it to this address.
Sally announced that the Diocesan ECW has provided Constant Contact service for the ECW board. Constant Contact allows the board to send mass emails out to anyone who subscribes. Currently, there are about 400 emails listed. Constant contact was used for the 2009 Fall Conference.
The Parish Information Sheet (blue sheet) is online and may be filled out online or completed and mailed.
Since October 18 parishes in the Diocese have signed up. A complete report from our web master, Sally Sinclair, may be found on the website: www.alabamaecw.org.

ACTS2: The ECW made a 5-year pledge to ACTS 2 of $65,000. After three years, the ECW has donated $52,276.42. The ECW needs to raise approximately $13,000 to complete their 5-year pledge. Fundraisers will be in Huntsville and Montgomery over the next two years. Any parish can send their donation for ACTS 2 directly to the ECW. President Giles announced that Grace Church in Cullman pledged $500 for 3 years. Any parish or individual can contribute to ACTS 2 through ECW.

Corporate Gift: President Giles referred to the minutes of the 120th Annual Conference in Madison when a motion was made to complete our pledge to ACTS II before resuming our annual Corporate Gift of $2,000.

Fall Conference: Jane Wood of the Cheaha convocation announced that planning for Fall Conference 2010 is ongoing. The date is set for October 7th and 8th. The board dinner will be on October 6th. The Rev. Margaret Rose will be our guest speaker.

2010 Diocesan Convention: President Giles announced that she would be giving a presentation at the Diocesan Convention held on February 11 -13. She will report activities of the 2009 ECW. ECW bookmarks and UTO boxes will be made available. There will be no official ECW display.

Province IV ECW Conference: The Province IV Conference is scheduled for June 7-9 at Kanuga, outside of Hendersonville, North Carolina. Deposit ($100) deadline is by the end of February. All registration forms should be sent to President Giles before the deadline. The theme is Believe in a Miracle: Come and See, Go and Tell.

Spring Board Meeting: Next board meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 16, 2010 at Carpenter House. Nanci Warner, Rob Morpeths's secretary, will arrange a lunch. Each board member will pay for their lunch.
President Giles thanked Fiona Watts for providing a delicious lunch at today's meeting.

Gethryn Giles adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m. Marsha Hurt gave a closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy S. Thompson
Recording Secretary
* This is a preliminary copy of the minutes for your review. A corrected /approved copy will be posted after the next board meeting.