

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN-DIOCESE OF ALABAMA
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
April 12, 2011 – CARPENTER HOUSE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gethryn Giles, Fiona Watts, Jill Whitten, Sallie Lowe, Marsha Hurt, Jolai Jenkins, Marilyn Atkins, Brenda Mayhall, Jane Wood, Joan East, Dee Buzby, Fran Lowe, Linda George, Lynn Edge Reeves, Bethe Ensey, Sally Sinclair, Joanna Brooks, Alyce Daniel and Mitzi Waldo.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nancy Thompson, Paula Bird, Barbara Carpenter, Valerie Burnes, Judith Comer and Yolanda Seawright.

GUESTS: The Right Rev. Henry N. Parsley, Jr., Diane Weatherford and Terry Christopher.

Gethryn Giles, Diocesan ECW President, called the Board meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. with words of welcome and appreciation for so many attending.

DEVOTIONAL: Marsha Hurt gave a devotional on being thankful. She reminded us to give thanks for everything, in good times and difficult times. She encouraged each of us to write down the gifts for which we are thankful. She closed by reading Psalm 65 which tells about the goodness of God.

MINUTES: Dee Buzby moved that the minutes of the January 7-8, 2011, ECW Board Retreat at Camp McDowell be accepted. The motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer, Jill Whitten reported an ending balance of \$7,655.36 in the Operating Budget as of 3/31/2011. There is \$10,263.83 available now for Scholarships and that amount is expected to grow by the date the committee meets to decide on the Scholarships. The Treasurer's Report is posted on the ECW website www.alabamaecw.org.

CALENDAR HANDBOOK: President-Elect, Fiona Watts, has selected the theme, "Welcoming the Stranger", for the 2012 Calendar Handbook. The theme is very appropriate as we will also be welcoming a new bishop. Fiona encouraged convocation coordinators to share their parish's "welcoming" ministries for the calendar. The information is due in June.

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Fiona Watts announced that she is in the process of filling the ECW Board positions and committee members for the 2012-13 term. She would like to incorporate new people who would like to be more involved with ECW. Suggestions of names are appreciated.

Important upcoming dates are:

April 25 - Bishop Nominees will be announced

June 25 - Walkabout for Bishop Nominees at St. Luke's, Birmingham

July 16 - Election of bishop; voting at Cathedral Church of the Advent

Fiona has requested the new bishop be the speaker for the 2012 ECW Fall Conference. She is thinking of changing the format a little by having only two talks by the speaker plus Celebrating Eucharist which would allow more time for Parish Sharing on Friday morning. Following supportive comments by Board members, Fiona said she would make this change for 2012.

PARISH LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENT (PLTE): PLTE was held April 2, 2011, at All Saints, Birmingham. Sixteen people gathered to discuss ways to get younger women involved in ECW and the need to change in order to grow. Fiona Watts led this spirited discussion and the evaluations showed that people believe we can accomplish this.

ON-GOING BUSINESS

ACTS2 - Dee Buzby reported that the ECW needs \$3,284.58 to complete the \$65,000.00 ECW pledge to ACTS2 for the sacristy in the new chapel at Camp McDowell. Dee attended the Fall Conference planning meeting in Montgomery and shared that plans are underway for a silent auction fundraiser to benefit ACTS2. Alyce Daniel announced that the Birmingham Convocation gave another \$100.00 to ACTS2 at their Spring meeting and challenged parishes in the Birmingham Convocation to each give an additional \$100.00. That would bring in \$1800.00. The enthusiasm quickly spread. Other convocation coordinators planned to do the same.

BISHOP'S GIFT: Dee Buzby announced that work has begun on Bishop Parsley's retirement gift. It will be a lap quilt that will be presented at Fall Conference.

PROVINCE IV NOMINATIONS: Dee Buzby is chairman of the Province IV ECW Nominations Committee. She will present a slate of officers to be voted on at Kanuga in June, 2011. She asked for volunteers to serve.

2011 FALL CONFERENCE: Mitzi Waldo said they had 23 attend the planning meeting in February. The registration fee will be raised to \$35.00. The Wine and Cheese will be held at the Montgomery Area Council on Aging. (MACOA) There will be music and a Silent Art Auction. There was discussion about extending the time to 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the Wine and Cheese Social and the art auction. The banquet and Compline will be held at St. John's. The speaker will give only two talks, Thursday afternoon and Friday morning.

CONVOCATION REPORTS

BIRMINGHAM: Alyce Daniel announced the new officers elected for the Birmingham Convocation. President – Diane Weatherford, St. Luke's; President-Elect - Pam Stone, St. Mary's on-the-Highland; Secretary-Treasurer - Susan Waller, St. Stephens. They will be installed at the Nov. 3, meeting at St. Mary's on-the-Highland.

BLACK BELT: Gethryn Giles announced for Paula Bird who could not be present that St. Michael's in Fayette will host the Black Belt Convocation Spring meeting on April 16th. Becky Parsley will be the speaker and will talk on "Krik? Krak!", the school lunch program in Crochu, Haiti.

CHEAHA: Gethryn Giles announced that since the Cheaha Convocation was unable to come up with a new coordinator, Jane Wood has agreed to continue for another term. The By-Laws allow for a coordinator "to succeed herself provided she has first made a good-faith effort to secure a successor, but that effort has been unsuccessful." Jane Wood reported that Cindi Lusk, St. Luke's, Jacksonville has accepted nomination for secretary.

EAST ALABAMA: Jolai Jenkins announced that the East Alabama Spring meeting was held at St. James, Alexander City, on April 9th. The guest speaker was Mary B. Sullivan who talked about her new book, "*Living Alive*". The new Convocation Coordinator will be Andrea Peacock and the Treasurer will be Nancy Granger. Both are members of St. James, Alexander City.

Bishop Parsley joined the board for an informal visit.

MONTGOMERY: Mitzi Waldo announced the next convocation meeting will be at Ascension, Montgomery. A slate of new officers is being prepared.

MOUNTAIN: Joanna Brooks announced the Spring Convocation meeting will be Saturday, April 30, at Church of the Epiphany, Guntersville. Maggie Johnston will speak about “Krik?Krak!” and will show slides from Crochu, Haiti. Pat Clanton, Calvary, Oneonta has accepted nomination for Convocation Coordinator and Jean Sanderson, Calvary, Oneonta for Secretary-Treasurer.

TENNESSEE VALLEY: Joan East reported that the Spring meeting is scheduled for May 3rd, at St. Matthews in Madison. The Rev. Bill Winters will speak on “Gospel Hospitality”. A slate of new officers is ready and will be presented.

LUNCH BREAK: Marsha Hurt asked the blessing.

Gethryn Giles, Diocesan ECW President called the meeting to resume at 12:27 p.m.

REPORTS:

PUBLICITY: Lynn Edge Reeves reminded everyone that all information and pictures for publicity may be sent to her directly and her email address is in the Calendar. The deadline is the first of the month prior to the date the issue comes out.

ARCHIVIST: Jill Whitten reported for Valerie Burnes who was absent, but sent a written report stating she would need \$373.16 to purchase archival materials if the ECW wishes her to get started processing ECW papers to be stored at the Birmingham Public Library.

Valerie also offered another option - to simply make a donation of perhaps \$400.00 to the Birmingham Public Library. Valerie found out that the Diocese does not provide funding for the processing of their materials when they donate them to the Library. This does not seem appropriate to her. She would prefer the ECW not follow the lead of the Diocese in this, and that the ECW at least contribute something to cover the cost of materials if we do not send the items in archival folders and boxes. Either way, Valerie would like to process the items before they are turned over to the Library, which will save the Library some much needed money.

Jill Whitten moved that the ECW Board allow Valerie the initial expenditure of \$373.16 with a maximum of \$500.00 for the year so she will be able to purchase more paper later and handle it. The motion was seconded. Gethryn called for discussion. A question of where the money would come from was raised. Jill said, she revised the budget, and added \$600.00 for archival supplies which is more than Valerie should need since we are already into April of this year. Gethryn called for the vote. The motion carried. The complete Archivist's Report is on the website www.alabamaecw.org

CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB (CPC): Linda George called attention to the Treasurer's Report showing there is \$1,165.20 in the CPC account which is larger than normal due to donations coming in after the checks were written last year. Linda said that CPC checks to seminarians are written in October so any money that comes in this year, before October may be used for the seminarians. There will be 14 seminarians this year which is the largest number in nearly ten years. Linda encouraged all convocation coordinators to stress to their parishes the importance of donating to CPC to help our seminarians.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING (DOK): Terry Christopher announced the DOK Spring Retreat will be May 13 – 15, 2011, at Camp McDowell. The theme is Sharing and Caring. The speaker will be The Rev. John Wesley, St. Andrew's, Montevallo.

MISSIONS AND MINISTRY: Fran Lowe reminded everyone of the need to share their parish mission work and ideas by filling out a form and returning it to her. Sally Sinclair will put the form on the website.

Jackie Robe, ECW Province IV President, has asked each diocese to write-up their outstanding mission project and present it at Kanuga, in June. There was discussion about possibly choosing "Krik? Krak!", the school lunch program in Crochu, Haiti which was originated by the clergy spouses, but is now, also being supported and promoted by the ECW. Gethryn and Fran will speak with Becky Parsley about the possibility of "Krik? Krak!" being the ECW mission project presented at Kanuga .

NOMINATING: Marilyn Atkins reported that her committee will present the slate of delegates and alternates for Triennial, 2012, at the September board meeting.

Welcome Bags for six new priests were presented at the Diocesan convention in February. Marilyn thanked the many Episcopal Church Women all over the diocese who generously gave lovely gifts to go in the bags. Notes of appreciation from the priests described the Welcome Bags as “bottomless, amazing, wonderful, an enormous blessing, filled with treasures and delights, truly an expression of *Gospel Hospitality*” and one note closed with, “Thank you so much for such a generous and warm welcome in the name of Jesus”.

Our next assignment is to prepare welcome bags for the Bishop nominees invited to the Walkabout June 25, 2011, so that the ECW might share, *Gospel Hospitality* with them.

SCHOLARSHIP: Bethel Ensey said the committee met in February to reactivate the Women at the Well Scholarship Fund at Gethryn Giles request. Bethel has established an application form along with guidelines for applicants. Any woman, clergy or lay, seeking spiritual renewal is welcome to apply. Bethel announced that she does not plan to continue on the board but will remain on the Scholarship committee responsible for Women at the Well which will allow the new Scholarship chairman to deal primarily with College Scholarships. Right now, Women at the Well has \$6,800.00 available. Bethel plans to write an article for “*The Alabama Episcopalian*” announcing guidelines for Women at the Well Scholarships and also publicizing every six months those who have given to the Scholarship fund and in honor of whom. This will bring attention to the Scholarship fund and remind people to donate.

The College Scholarship committee plans to meet early in June at St. Stephen’s, Birmingham.

UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO): Brenda Mayhall reported that UTO presently has a balance of \$19,405.00 and with 2011 Ingathering’s added to that we will hopefully have a substantial amount to present to National UTO.

There were only two UTO domestic grant applications submitted this year and none from our Companion Diocese, Haiti. The committee, via email, chose Renaissance Re-entry Program, Montgomery which was endorsed by Bishop Parsley. The Renaissance Re-entry Program is a half-way house for men when they get out of prison. It teaches its’ residents marketable skills to use once they leave Renaissance House and re-enter the work force. Renaissance completed the electronic filing and submitted it to National UTO with an attachment of Bishop Parsley’s endorsement. National will announce grant recipients by the end of May.

Linda Kennedy, incoming UTO Diocesan Coordinator, will be attending the UTO, Face to Face Conference in July in Richmond, VA.

Due to the changeover to electronic filing of grant applications Brenda will rewrite the UTO information for the calendar and also update the website.

WEBMASTER: Sally Sinclair said nine parishes have updated their annual Parish Information Sheet this year. She would like to hear from each parish once a year with their status.

Constant Contact is our email marketing vehicle and is an online service that costs the ECW \$400.00 annually. Sally said, it is not cost effective if we only use it for Fall Conference. She encouraged convocation coordinators to use it to promote their meetings. She will be happy to teach anyone who needs help. She proposed doing an E-newsletter about Scholarships or whatever project needs publicizing.

Sally reminded the board that anything they want placed on the website must be sent to her electronically. Sally's complete report is on the website www.alabamaecw.org.

PRESIDENT'S PIN: Fiona Watts reported for the committee (Gethryn Giles, Dee Buzby, Alleen Cater, Brenda Mayhall and herself) who were charged by the president to come up with an acceptable resolution concerning the President's Pin. Several months ago, Alleen Cater brought the idea that instead of purchasing a pin every two years, the ECW might have past presidents donate their pins or bequeath their pin back to the ECW so it could be passed on, after their death. It was proposed that at the end of Gethryn's presidency, she will be given a Past President's Pin by Dee Buzby. Gethryn would wear that pin for two years and at the end of those two years, she will pass the pin to her successor. Another proposal was that the outgoing president be given a cross and chain which they would keep and the budget contain a line item of \$100.00 to \$200.00 instead of the \$760.00 that a 14k pin costs today.

Gethryn asked Fiona to put this proposal into a motion. Fiona moved that instead of purchasing a Past President's Pin every two years that the following exchange take place. Beginning in October, 2011, at the end of the Diocesan ECW President's term, she be presented with a Past President's Pin. She shall wear this pin for two years. At that time she shall pass this pin on to her successor. She will then be presented with an engraved cross and chain. Fiona also moved that the engraved cross/chain be gold or silver as the

recipient chooses. The motion was seconded by Dee Buzby. Gethryn called for the vote by a show of hands. The motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Province IV ECW Conference: Gethryn Giles, Dee Buzby, Joan East and Brenda Mayhall will attend the ECW Conference to be held at Kanuga, on June 6-8, 2011.

Next Board Meeting: September 6, 2011 at Carpenter House, 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m. with Marsha Hurt closing with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn D. Atkins
Acting 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.