



Minutes of the Standing Committee meeting held by conference call, 21 May 2018

Present:

Chair

The Most Revd Dr Paul Kwong

Vice Chair

Canon Margaret Swinson

Representing the Primates

The Most Revd Dr Philip Freier

The Anglican Church of Australia

The Most Revd Dr Thabo Makgoba

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Representing the ACC

Mr Alistair Dinnie

The Scottish Episcopal Church

Mr Jeroham Melendez

Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

Ms Louisa Mojela

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

The Rt Revd Joel Waweru Mwangi

The Anglican Church of Kenya

Secretary General

The Most Revd Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon

ACO staff in attendance

Mr David White

Mrs Stephanie Taylor, minutes

The Revd Canon Dr Stephen Spencer

Apologies:

The Rt Revd Jane Alexander

The Anglican Church of Canada

The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke

The Church of Ireland

Absent:

The Rt Revd Eraste Bigirimana

The Anglican Church of Burundi

The Most Revd Francisco De Assis Da Silva having completed his term as Primate of Brazil earlier this month was no longer a member of the Primates' Standing Committee

1. Opening Prayer and Welcome

Archbishop Paul Kwong opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Register of Interests

To note and record any changes to the interests of members notified since the meeting held in January 2018 and confirm how these will be handled within the meeting.

Mr White drew attention to the Register of Interests and of the need to formally record member interests each year. There were no changes.

3. Code of Conduct Policy

SC/2018-2/2

Mr White drew attention to the Code of Conduct Policy for all members to note and be aware.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 26 January 2018

SC/2018-2/3

To consider and adopt the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee.

The Minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and adopted.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

SC/2018-2/4

To consider a report on matters arising from the previous meeting of the Committee, including noting ongoing work.

Mr David White presented a report on matters arising from the previous meeting and ongoing work. He provided a status report on co-opted members to the ACC. Standing Committee has the power to appoint up to six co-opted members and had agreed that this power was to be exercised by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Chair of the ACC, and the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion. A conference call had taken place on 16 March and subsequently one invitation to represent the Lusitanian Church, and four invitations to primates to nominate a person preferably young and/or female had been issued. Some nominations had been received; others were awaited and would be pursued. The Rt Revd José Jorge De Pina Cabral had accepted the invitation to represent the Lusitanian Church.

Mr White presented a progress report on implementation of resolutions from ACC-16.

All matters reported were for information or would arise in the agenda of the meeting separately.

6. Governance

SC/2018-2/5

Mr White presented a report on governance matters which provided an update on membership. Archbishop John Holder had now retired, and therefore as alternate, Archbishop

Francisco De Assis Da Silva was now member of the Primates' Standing Committee representing the Americas. Mr White confirmed that there was no member of Primates' Standing Committee representing the Middle East and Asia. In both regions, the Anglican Communion Office had attempted to facilitate the election of primate members without success. It was now proposed that these elections would take place at the corresponding regional meetings of primates to take place in November 2018 for the Americas, and February 2019 for the Middle East and Asia. Archbishop Holder was also a member of the Inter-Anglican Finance and Administration Committee (IAFAC). Standing Committee were invited to nominate a replacement primate member to the IAFAC but declined and chose to delay election until ACC-17. Bishop Joel Waweru Mwangi had agreed to take Archbishop Holder's place as Chair of the Resolutions Committee.

The Revd Nigel Pope, ACC member for the Church of North India and elected to Standing Committee at ACC-16, had now moved to a new ministry role in Australia and therefore could no longer represent the Church of North India. The Standing Committee could choose to co-opt a member to replace Mr Pope but this was not recommended by the ACO as there would only be one face-to-face, and one virtual meeting prior to ACC-17. It was recommended to delay election to fill the vacancy until the full meeting of the ACC in April 2019.

Mr White provided a list of Standing Committee members with special interest in specific work streams at the ACO. In response to a question by Archbishop Philip Freier, Mr White confirmed that there were some vacancies for a Committee member to work in the areas of mission, and theological education. However there was not an urgency to fill these vacancies and the matter would be revisited at Standing Committee in September.

7. IAFAC Report

SC/2018-2/6

The IAFAC met on Thursday 10 May and report for Standing Committee.

Canon Margaret Swinson, Chair of the Inter-Anglican Finance and Administration Committee (IAFAC) presented its report to Standing Committee following the meeting by conference call on 10 May 2018.

Archbishop Richard Clarke had submitted contributions in absentia and had enquired as to the scale of disparity identified in the salary benchmarking exercise. Mr White outlined the two areas of disparity and it was agreed to address one area as a matter of priority. In response to a question by Ms Louisa Mojela, Mr White confirmed that current benchmarking was against the National Church Institutions of the Church of England but an alternative would be the UK not-for-profit sector.

There were no other comments on the IAFAC report.

8. Risk

SC/2018-2/7

To consider and review risks faced by the Communion and steps in place and to be taken to mitigate these (as discussed and recommended by the IAFAC).

Mr White presented a paper on risk noting that as trustees under UK charity law, members had a duty to consider risk and identify mitigating actions required to reduce risk. ACO senior management had contributed to the development of a Risk Register which was not limited to the operation of the ACO but covered broader risks to the Anglican Communion. The Risk Register had been considered in detail by the IAFAC at its meeting on 10 May and points raised by the Finance Committee had been incorporated into the revised Risk Register. Standing Committee were invited to comment and asked to consider the adoption of the Risk Register. Archbishop Kwong asked Mr White to explain the mechanism by which risk was calculated. Mr White explained that this involved identifying the risk, the consequence of the risk, any mitigating measures, and the remaining residual risk.

The Standing Committee adopted the Risk Register. The Register was to be reviewed and reported on a six monthly basis.

9. Anglican Communion Networks

SC/2018-2/8

The Secretary General and Mr White, having been unable to attend for this agenda item at Standing Committee in September 2017 had been tasked with presenting a status report on Anglican Communion Networks. Mr White presented the report to the Committee. It was proposed to revise the Guidelines for the Networks of the Anglican Communion.

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba referring to the table of ACO liaison arrangements under point 4 of the report requested that the designated Standing Committee member be noted within the table for each Network accordingly. Mr White was to revise the table for the September meeting.

Archbishop Makgoba requested a table outlining mission agencies within the Anglican Communion. It was acknowledged that this was for information and relational purposes only, and it was made clear that the mission agencies were not responsible to the ACO. It was suggested that mission agency representatives be invited to engage with the Standing Committee at a face-to-face meeting. Options would be considered for future engagement opportunities.

10. Working Party Update

SC/2018-2/9

To consider a report from Canon Margaret Swinson on the working party established to consider ACC membership, provincial contributions and further developing the process for consideration of requests for new independent and autonomous provinces.

Canon Swinson presented a report from the Working Party and appendices received from Canon John Rees, the ACC's legal adviser, for information including the Draft Revised Guidelines on Restructuring Provinces and Churches of the Anglican Communion. Canon Swinson invited Committee members to submit any comments related to the questions raised on page 2 of the report via email to the ACO. It was envisaged that a set of proposals would be submitted to the Standing Committee meeting in September. Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon strongly recommended that the report be disseminated to the primates and their input invited. He welcomed the proposal but warned that context required due consideration. Canon

Swinson agreed to the recommendation and additionally noted that it was intended that primates undertake the nomination of youth representatives. Archbishop Makgoba requested that the Working Party proposals be the first order of business at ACC-17. Mr White suggested that Canon Swinson and the Secretary General meet separately to take forward.

Mr White presented comment received in absentia from Archbishop Richard Clarke querying whether the Scrutiny Committee was involved at too late a stage in the process with particular reference to the desire of the Diocese of Chile to become an independent and autonomous province in the Anglican Communion. Archbishop Idowu-Fearon referred the Committee to previous Minutes and provided an overview of the process so far with reference to Chile. He welcomed growth in the Communion. Canon Swinson agreed that guidelines should not be drafted in such a way as to restrict the number of provinces coming forward from the Global South relative to the Global North. She welcomed Archbishop Clarke's recommendation that the Scrutiny Committee be involved at an earlier stage. Archbishop Makgoba acknowledged Archbishop Idowu-Fearon's passion in this area and requested that the current guidelines be amended to reflect the point made, and taken to ACC-17 for approval.

Mr White presented a further comment received from Archbishop Clarke in absentia, noting that there was no intrinsic reason why a province might not comprise more than one country. He had given examples of provinces comprised of more than one country and how they had benefited from the richness of cultures. It was important to note, Mr White said, that Archbishop Clarke's comments were not advocating restriction of growth. Archbishop Idowu-Fearon shared that in his visits around the Communion he was aware that situations varied. Archbishop Kwong shared that when Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui became a province it had been offered the option of forming with Malaysia but the differences in language, culture, and geographical distance were felt not to be conducive to forming one province together. The Chair thanked Archbishop Clarke for his contributions made in absentia.

Archbishop Idowu-Fearon referring to the section of the report titled Financial Contribution Review be amended to mention other provinces than the Church of England. Canon Swinson agreed and noted that the report was not intended to preclude other provinces and merely reflected the fact that she had already undertaken a discussion with the Church of England. It was acknowledged that conversations and consultation needed to take place to ensure that as many primates and provinces joined the process as possible.

11. ACC-17

SC/2018-2/10

To consider a report on planning ACC-17.

Mr White presented a report on planning for ACC-17. He praised the contribution of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui as a blessing to the Communion. Mr White reported that further work needed to be undertaken on developing the theme. He reminded the Committee that ACC-17 would be shorter than previous ACC meetings, and that arrangements were being made for the provincial secretaries to join part of the meeting and hold their own conference after at the same venue. Mr White also advised that consideration should be given to where to host ACC-18.

Archbishop Makgoba commended the planning and work undertaken thus far as impressive and thanked Mr White and Archbishop Kwong for their efforts.

12. Lambeth Conference 2020

SC/2018-2/11

To consider a report on planning the Lambeth Conference 2020.

A written report was presented from Mr Phil George, Chief Executive of the Lambeth Conference, who was unable to attend the meeting of Standing Committee.

Archbishop Makgoba thanked the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Secretary General for putting together such an able and dedicated team to support Mr George. As Chair of the Lambeth Conference Design Group, he said he was comfortable with the level of planning undertaken thus far. He added a desire for one or two persons to look at process. He also expressed his pleasure that the Risk Register had included the Lambeth Conference. Archbishop Makgoba asked that the Lambeth Conference and its planning be 'soaked in prayer'.

Archbishop Kwong thanked Archbishop Makgoba for his work as Chair of the Design Group.

13. Anglican Communion Representation to the United Nations Institutions

SC/2018-2/12

To consider a strategy paper proposing amendment to the representation of the Communion and the Archbishop of Canterbury to the United Nations Institutions in Geneva and New York.

Mr Jack Palmer-White, Anglican Communion Representative to the United Nations, joined the meeting to present a strategy paper. He thanked the Committee for the opportunity to report, and shared his vision of the time being opportune to maximise resources and effectiveness in this area of the Communion's work by bringing the Geneva and New York teams together. Archbishop Idowu-Fearon commended Mr Palmer-White's strategy paper and argued that the proposals would benefit the provinces of the Anglican Communion most effectively. Archbishop Kwong invited comment from the Committee.

In absentia endorsement from Archbishop Clarke was noted. As Committee member with an interest in the United Nations (UN), Archbishop Makgoba thanked and commended Mr Palmer-White for the paper. He also suggested that it was important to look at interfaith collaboration on issues of the UN. Archbishop Makgoba offered to talk further with Mr Palmer-White. Mr Palmer-White thanked Archbishop Makgoba for his contributions. He reported that there had been 'teething problems' with the umbrella body concerned with interfaith collaboration at the UN but agreed that it was an important group to engage with.

Archbishop Makgoba moved to adopt the strategy paper. All members were in favour and the strategy was thus adopted.

Mr Palmer-White was thanked for his work.

14. Theological Education for Mission in the Anglican Communion

SC/2018-2/13

To consider a proposal to host a refashioned Mission Theology project within the Anglican Communion Office.

Mr White introduced The Revd Canon Dr Stephen Spencer, Director for Theological Education. Canon Spencer reported that the ACO had been offered the opportunity to take on the Mission Theology in the Anglican Communion project. Canon Spencer had considered the offer and reported that provided the profile was adjusted he agreed that it was appropriate for the project to come under the auspices of his department. As part of this, the opportunity was offered to employ Dr Muthuraj Swamy in a consultancy role for one day per week. Existing project funding would move to the ACO and Dr Swamy's role was to be funded from these funds. Canon Spencer and Archbishop Idowu-Fearon were due to meet with Dr Swamy to discuss the role which would entail collating, editing, and producing the remaining three volumes of the Mission Theology project. Dr Swamy would report under the direct supervision of Canon Spencer who would also provide editorial input. The ACO offered a way forward for the completion of the project and a distribution network, Canon Spencer concluded. He had consulted with colleagues within the ACO and Lambeth Conference who were supportive of the proposal. Mr White drew attention to paragraphs 3 and 6 of the paper which addressed input from Global South theologians, and noted that this was particularly relevant in the building of the Lambeth Conference 2020.

Archbishop Idowu-Fearon queried the requirement for a consultant. Canon Spencer responded that prior to the production of the final volume a conference consultation was necessary to bring the Mission Theology project to completion, and therefore there was a wider organisational role for the consultant. The role would be time limited for a period of no more than three years and would focus specifically on the completion of the existing Mission Theology project. It was agreed that the books would not to be published under the auspices of the Lambeth Conference 2020 but rather be offered for the education of the Anglican Communion. Part of Canon Spencer's work on Theological Education in the Anglican Communion was mapping resources for theological education within the Anglican Communion, it was noted that in bringing this paper, Canon Spencer had identified one such area of work and was proposing to bring in as part of his work. In response to a request for Canon Spencer to share his plan for Theological Education in the Anglican Communion, it was noted that Canon Spencer was only in year one of a five year work programme, and was due to present a full report to Standing Committee in September.

Canon Spencer was thanked for his paper. Subject to the satisfaction of the Secretary General and Canon Spencer following their meeting with Dr Swamy the proposal was approved in principal. Canon Spencer would provide a full report in September.

15. Anglican World

SC/2018-2/14

To consider a proposal to replace Anglican World with an Annual Report in magazine format.

A written report was received from Mr Adrian Butcher, Director for Communications, who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr White spoke to the report, informing the Committee that Anglican World magazine did not work financially. Efforts had been made to increase subscriptions but without success. Mr Butcher was advocating an increase in news available online which was now how most people accessed information from the Anglican Communion

News Service. In order to maintain a print presence to enable physical distribution of information, it was proposed that the existing quarterly magazine move to an annual report and magazine and prevent draining financial and time resource.

Archbishop Kwong commended the proposal as very sensible given current reading habits, and resource implications. Archbishop Freier enquired of the net financial turnaround. Mr White drew attention to paragraph 12 reporting that the magazine ran at a small loss despite heavy donation, and excluding staff time. Archbishop Freier enquired as to whether annual production would alter the financial situation. Mr White confirmed it was intended that annual production would not be loss making.

The proposal was approved.

16. AOB

Interfaith Commission

Archbishop Idowu-Fearon enquired of Ms Mojela regarding her presence at the Interfaith Commission. Ms Mojela confirmed that she had not received the information in time to attend or give apologies. Archbishop Idowu-Fearon was to ensure Ms Mojela's response was noted by the Commission.

ACC-18

The Secretary General had received a letter of invitation from the Church of Ireland to host ACC-18. The Secretary General recommended that the Committee note and acknowledge the Church of Ireland's kind invitation. It was not necessary to make a decision at this stage, and the Secretary General suggested that the invitation, along with any others received, be considered at the meeting in September with a view to the final decision being made at the Committee's meeting immediately prior to ACC-17 in April 2019. This proposal was seconded by Archbishop Kwong and agreed by the Committee.

17. Close of meeting

Archbishop Kwong expressed his thanks to all involved, and closed the meeting.