



Minutes of the Standing Committee meeting held at the Gold Coast Hotel, Hong Kong, 27 April 2019

Present:

President

The Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby

Chair

The Most Revd Dr Paul Kwong

Vice Chair

Canon Margaret Swinson

Elected by the Primates' Meeting

The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke

The Most Revd Suheil Dawani

The Most Revd Dr Philip Freier

The Most Revd Dr Thabo Makgoba

The Most Revd Julio Murray Thompson

The Church of Ireland

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East

The Anglican Church of Australia

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

Representing the ACC

The Rt Revd Jane Alexander

The Rt Revd Eraste Bigirimana

Mr Alistair Dinnie

Mr Jeroham Melendez

Ms Louisa Mojela

The Rt Revd Joel Waweru Mwangi

The Anglican Church of Canada

The Anglican Church of Burundi

The Scottish Episcopal Church

Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

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)

Chief Operating Officer

Executive Officer & Information Manager to the Instruments of Communion

Legal advisor

Mr Darren Oliver

1. Opening prayer and welcome

The Most Revd Dr Paul Kwong opened in prayer and welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Register of Interests

Attention was drawn to the Register of Interests and members were requested to update the Register as applicable. It was noted that The Rt Revd Jane Alexander was now a trustee of the Compass Rose Society.

3. Code of Conduct Policy

SC/2019-3/02

The Code of Conduct Policy was noted.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held – 22 March 2019

SC/2019-3/03

The Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved by the Committee.

5. Matters arising from previous meeting

SC/2019-3/04

Personal Emergencies Fund

It was reported that discussions concerning the future of the Personal Emergencies Fund (PEF) were ongoing. The PEF Reference Panel had a strong preference for the work of the Fund to be continued. Consideration was being given as to whether the Fund could be housed at Lambeth Palace with a view to a final decision being made in the next three months.

Benchmarking

Canon Margaret Swinson and Mr Michael Hart were taking the remaining work on salary benchmarking forward following the recusal of the Secretary General and Chief Operating Officer.

Safeguarding

Work to develop a safeguarding policy for the Anglican Communion Office (ACO) was ongoing with completion planned for the end of June 2019.

Actions:

- Ongoing discussions regarding the future of the PEF with a view to a decision being made within three months. **Action: Mr David White in consultation with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Secretary General, Chair of the ACC, and PEF Reference Panel. Date: end July 2019.**
- Action on salary benchmarking to be taken forward. **Action: Canon Maggie Swinson and Mr Michael Hart.**
- Safeguarding policy for the ACO to be produced. **Action: Mr David White and Canon Maggie Swinson. Date: end June 2019.**

6. ACC Articles of Association: Youth Members

SC/2019-3/05

The Standing Committee received a paper setting out how resolution 16.35 on youth representation on the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) was proposed to be enacted. A new working paragraph within the Schedule appended to the Articles of Association was proposed. The legal advisor reported that Standing Committee members had the power to make changes to the Schedule and if approved this would enable appointed youth members to attend as full members of the ACC commencing at the forthcoming 17th session of the Council. The legal advisor recommended that the revision to the Schedule should not include a specific requirement to gender balance as the Articles of Association already contained general provision to have regard to the need for “balanced representation”. Mr Alistair Dinnie expressed a desire for the intended meaning of the term balanced representation to be more clearly explored in the future but was content for the Schedule to be amended as proposed. The legal advisor advised that any proposed alteration to the Articles would need to be taken to a plenary session of the ACC.

The Standing Committee approved the revision to the Schedule.

Action:

- Revised Schedule to be published on the ACC17 microsite and the Anglican Communion website, and records to be updated accordingly. **Action: Mrs Stephanie Taylor. Date: April 2019.**

7. IAFAC report

SC/2019-3/06

The Standing Committee received the report of the Inter-Anglican Finance and Administration Committee (IAFAC).

Management Accounts – results for 2018

Canon Swinson reported that the difference between expectations and outcome in the ACC accounts results for 2018 represented some level of concern but that work was underway to improve income resilience. The improved position of the Anglican Alliance financial results and controls had been noted by the Finance Committee.

It was expected that audited accounts would be available for approval at the September 2019 meetings of the Finance and Standing Committees.

Management Accounts – to 31 March 2019

Canon Swinson reported that this period was the first for which a phased budget had been presented and therefore adjustment to this new approach was ongoing. The Committee were informed that two movements had resulted in an adverse effect on the current full year forecast for 2019: the discovery of an historic restricted fund for the Lambeth Conference from the Anglican Church of Canada; and a potential overspend on ACC17 created by an earlier accounting error. However it was noted that the latter was a worst-case scenario and unlikely to materialise.

Mr White reported on ACC resolution 16.32 which called for the use of electronic meetings in place of face to face meetings and for the financial savings made to be directed toward the Anglican Alliance. It was estimated that savings from replacing one face to face meeting were in the region of £10k and proposed that this sum was be

transferred to the Anglican Alliance within the existing support arrangements from the ACC.

The Standing Committee discussed the undesirability of resolutions for which the financial consequences had not been fully considered. It was also considered that there may be other potential appropriate recipients of the carbon offset funding such as the Networks of the Anglican Communion. It was clarified that under the proposal made by the Finance Committee there was a neutral financial affect to the ACC. The proposal was agreed by the Committee.

Bank Mandates

It was necessary to approve new bank signatories owing to recent staff turnover. The following signatories were proposed:

For Royal Bank of Scotland any two of the following to authorise payments: Michaela Southworth, David White, Gavin Drake, Louise Redfern, Lucy Cowpland, Rachael Fraser; the following to prepare payments and view balances: Dee Marriott and Julie Woodhouse; and the following as correspondents: Michaela Southworth, Dee Marriott and Julie Woodhouse.

For CCLA any two of the following to authorise withdrawals and sales: Michaela Southworth, David White, Gavin Drake, Josiah Idowu-Fearon; the following as correspondent: Michaela Southworth.

For Western Union Global Pay any two of the following to authorise payments: Michaela Southworth, David White, Gavin Drake, Louise Redfern, Lucy Cowpland, Rachael Fraser; the following to prepare payments and view balances: Dee Marriott and Julie Woodhouse; the following as correspondents: Michaela Southworth, Dee Marriott, and Julie Woodhouse.

The proposed signatories were approved.

It was agreed that a schedule of delegation setting out expenditure authorisation limits was to be prepared for the Standing Committee meeting in September 2019.

Action:

- Approved change in signatories to be actioned. **Action: Mrs Michaela Southworth. Date: report to Standing Committee in September 2019.**
- Schedule of delegation to be prepared. **Action: Mrs Michaela Southworth. Date: report to Standing Committee in September 2019.**

8. Requests for consideration for provincial status

SC/2019-3/07 To consider correspondence from Jerusalem and the Middle East

The Standing Committee received papers and correspondence concerning the Province of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East, and in particular a request from the Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa (Diocese of Egypt) to leave the province and become an autonomous province of the Anglican Communion.

The Most Revd Suheil Dawani reported that discussions had been ongoing since 2001, and at that time the Diocese of Jerusalem was given special status. However, the Diocese of Egypt was facing many pressures, and there was difficulty in particular with

regards government recognition of the structures within the province. The Diocese of Iran was unsustainable without any clergy and Christians faced intolerance. Property in Iran had been confiscated. The Archbishop of Canterbury spoke in support of Archbishop Dawani's analysis of the challenges faced by the province recognising the complex situation in Jerusalem and Palestine in particular and the risk of serious conflict following recent elections. The Diocese of Egypt had expanded within the Horn of Africa and through good planning had significant assets. The situation of immense diversity and conflict within the region covered by the province presented a complex and unsustainable future in the present structure. Archbishop Dawani concluded that 'a new map' was needed to replace the province's outdated structure.

The Standing Committee discussed the challenges faced by the province and potential ways forward. The current legal difficulties faced by the Diocese of Egypt were noted. The provincial synod was to take place in May 2019 and it was agreed that it would be helpful for a future exploration committee to be aware of the province's view as to what would happen to the remainder of the province in the event of the Diocese of Egypt's departure. The Committee were assured by Archbishop Dawani that he was confident that the departure of the Diocese of Egypt was for the good of the whole province.

The Committee requested that an exploratory committee be formed to consider both the departure of the Diocese of Egypt and its desire to become an autonomous province of the Anglican Communion, and the future of the existing province as a whole.

The Committee discussed the potential composition of the exploratory committee and suggested the following persons: The Most Revd Dr Paul Kwong, Mr John Casson, former ambassador to Egypt; Ms Hanan Ashwari; The Most Revd Ezekiel Kondo; The Rt Revd Guli Francis-Dehqani, The Most Revd Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon and Mr David White.

Resolution:

The Standing Committee:

- notes that consent of the provincial synod of Jerusalem and the Middle East for the Diocese of Egypt to withdraw from the province is expected at the forthcoming provincial synod;
- confirms that the status of Jerusalem and the Middle East as an autonomous province of the Anglican Communion will continue unaffected by the withdrawal of the Diocese of Egypt or any subsequent withdrawal of a diocese from the Province;
- appoints an exploratory committee potentially consisting of The Most Revd Dr Paul Kwong; Mr John Casson; Ms Hanan Ashwari; The Most Revd Ezekiel Kondo; The Rt Revd Guli Francis-Dehqani, The Most Revd Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon and Mr David White, to consider and make recommendations on the desire of the Diocese of Egypt to become an autonomous province; and to advise Standing Committee on the structure and ministry prospects of the remaining dioceses of the province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

Proposed by Archbishop Philip Freier. Agreed.

SC/2019-3/08 To note the status and ambition of the Church of Ceylon

The Standing Committee received papers and correspondence concerning the Church of Ceylon and its desire to become an autonomous province of the Anglican Communion.

The Archbishop of Canterbury provided an historical overview of the Church of Ceylon which was currently Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury. The current challenges and complexities were also noted including the presence within Sri Lanka of the Diocese of Jaffna which was part of the Church of South India. The Most Revd Dr Philip Freier cited the strength of the Church of Ceylon in resisting fragmentation during the 30 year Sri Lankan civil war. There were strong signs of reconciliation, he added, arguing that any fragmentation of the Diocese of Colombo would risk fragmentation along ethnic lines. Therefore the existing rules for provinces to require more than two dioceses risked harm to the local church.

Following a discussion the Standing Committee agreed to acknowledge the desire of the Church of Ceylon to become an autonomous province. The Standing Committee was to appoint an exploration committee to consider the request. The terms of reference for the appointed exploration committee would include: 1) the stipulation not to be constrained by the existing requirements concerning the number of dioceses in order to be granted provincial status but rather to be minded toward flexibility in this respect; 2) suggesting the creation of a mentoring group of primates to support the Church of Ceylon in the event of its establishment as an autonomous province; and 3) to take the lead in developing terms of reference for the operation of the mentoring group.

The Committee discussed the potential composition of the exploratory committee and suggested the following persons: Canon Maggie Swinson; The Most Revd Philip Freier; The Rt Revd Joel Waweru Mwangi; Mr Alwan Masih, General Secretary of the Church of North India; The Rt Revd Jane Alexander; The Most Revd Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon and Mr David White.

Action:

- Exploration committees to be formed for the respective consideration of requests for provincial status for the Diocese of Egypt, and the Church of Ceylon.

Action: Mr David White. Date: June 2019.

9. Anglican Centre in Rome

SC/2019-3/09

The Standing Committee received a paper reporting developments for the Anglican Centre in Rome (ACR). Governance changes had been recommended and accepted by the governors following a review, and formal changes to the Articles of Association were expected to be agreed at its meeting in May 2019.

Standing Committee were recommended to welcome the changes and to appoint two governors to represent the ACC. As Archbishop Kwong was currently a governor and under consideration to be appointed as one of the ACC representatives, Canon Swinson assumed the Chair for the discussion of the agenda item.

The Committee welcomed the changes in governance and repositioning of the ACR within the Anglican Communion, with a primary identification with the ACC.

The Committee appointed The Most Revd Dr Paul Kwong (currently an ACR Governor) to act as one of the ACC appointed representatives. The Committee agreed to consider a

second appointment preferably a woman from the global South with a view to making its decision at the Standing Committee meeting held at the close of ACC in May 2019.

Action:

- To make a final decision on the appointment of a woman from the global South to act as representative on the ACR Board of Governors (alongside Archbishop Kwong). **Action: Standing Committee. Date: May 2019.**

10. Church Planting Network

SC/2019-3/10

The Standing Committee received a paper on the Church Planting Network proposing its designation as an Authorised Network of the Anglican Communion. The Standing Committee welcomed the support of the Archbishop of Canterbury and ACO, and the work in progress led by The Rt Revd Ric Thorpe, and The Most Revd Hector 'Tito' Zavala Muñoz.

The Standing Committee approved the Church Planting Network as an Authorised Network of the Anglican Communion.

11. ACC17

SC/2019-3/11

The ACC17 Chaplaincy team were introduced led by Brother Christopher John, Minister General of the First Order Brothers of the Anglican Society of St Francis. The Chaplaincy team were to lead Bible studies and Compline, and offer pastoral care during ACC17.

Mr White outlined the timetable for ACC17 and briefed Standing Committee members on their role during the 17th session of the Council.

12. Standing Committee report to ACC17

SC/2019-3/12

The Draft Standing Committee Report to the Anglican Consultative Council was approved for publication and presentation to ACC17.

13. AOB

Mr White circulated an email received from The Revd Dr Andrew Atherstone, ACC member for the Church of England suggesting the scheduling during ACC17 of a discussion on intra-Anglican relationships. The Committee considered the request. The Archbishop of Canterbury suggested and offered to take part in an informal question and answer session not restricted to the subject area requested by Dr Atherstone but during which a range of questions could be put. The session was agreed and scheduled for the evening of Wednesday 1st May 2019.

14. Close of meeting and thanks

It was noted that The Rt Revd Eraste Bigirimana and Ms Louisa Mojela were completing their terms at ACC17. Archbishop Kwong gave thanks for their service and presented gifts on behalf of the ACC.