

A Plan to Establish the Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission

Version 4.0 — October 1999

Approved by the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, October 1999, as submitted by the EPGM Planners, a group convened to advise Executive Council on the implementation of Resolution A204s of the 1997 General Convention, on establishing the Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission

Executive Summary

The Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission is envisioned to be a working partnership among Executive Council, congregations, dioceses and voluntary agencies that enables all Episcopalians to participate in God's global mission through their membership in the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. It will intensify the contributions of the existing Episcopal Council for Global Mission by drawing diverse mission efforts into a recognized relationship with General Convention and Executive Council. Affirming a shared theology of mission, the partnership will implement tested covenants, carry out defined functions, foster crucial relationships in the Church and the Anglican Communion, and operate with a very modest budget.

Historical Background of the EPGM Proposal

This proposal offers a means to implement the 1997 General Convention's directive that Executive Council initiate development of an Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission (EPGM). Convention stated that the partnership's purpose would be "to strengthen the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and its work with other mission groups to increase churchwide participation and cooperation in the sending and receiving of missionaries on an international basis" (Resolution A204s).

The vision for EPGM arises out of the world mission community's experience of the Episcopal Council for Global Mission (ECGM), a group founded in 1990 to foster cooperation and mutual learning, rather than competition, among mission organizations. ECGM now has over 40 member organizations, which include voluntary societies, parishes, dioceses, and entities of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS) such as the Anglican and Global Relations Cluster, the United Thank Offering and the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief.

In response to a proposal that "missionary appointments will no longer be made and funded on a normative basis" by the DFMS, the 1994 General Convention called for a comprehensive theology, strategy and structure for the Church's international mission work (Resolution D016). The D016 Working Group, which included members of the Standing Commission on World Mission and ECGM, offered the 1997 General Convention a partnership model that was modified at convention to become A204s.

A group called the EPGM Planners has met to develop this proposal. It includes members of Executive Council (Ms. Diana Dillenberger-Frade and the Rev'd Dr. Sandye Wilson), the Episcopal Council for Global Mission (Ms. Beverley Allison, the Rev'd Dr. Ian Douglas and Ms. Judith Gillespie), the Anglican and Global Relations Cluster (the Rev'd Patrick Mauney), and the Standing Commission on World Mission (Ms. Janet Lewis-Andersen, Ms. Edwina Thomas, and the Rev'd Dr. Titus Presler, convenor).

EPGM Purpose Statement

The Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission is a working partnership among the Executive Council, congregations, dioceses, voluntary agencies, and networks that enables all Episcopalians to participate in God's global mission through their membership in the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Episcopal Church.

Theological Affirmations of EPGM

The theological foundation for mission vision and practical partnership among EPGM members is the theological statement developed by the D016 Working Group and affirmed by ECGM and by the 1997 General Convention as a basis for EPGM membership.

God has lovingly and joyfully created heaven and earth. Human beings, however, have become alienated from the Triune God, turning away from God and one another. God, in love, seeks to heal the divisions that drive us apart. In the incarnation, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God provides the way by which all creation can be reunited with our loving and merciful Creator. In dying for us, Jesus Christ redeems us to new life. In him the Reign of God is made real and accessible for all. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Body of Christ present in the world today proclaims and lives out Jesus' work of reconciliation and redemption. The mission of the church is thus to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ (*Catechism, Book of Common Prayer* p. 855). As God sent Jesus into the world, we too are sent into the world.

The history of salvation from creation to the present day demonstrates that God is a sender. The Holy Scriptures are the definitive chronicles of the work of the sending Triune God. They tell of prophets and apostles, women and men of faith, impelled to speak and act in God's mission. The truth of Scripture is that from the Triune God, Creator of all, God the Word is sent and made human to accomplish reconciliation and redemption, and God the Holy Spirit is sent to empower God's people to participate in and bear witness to God's reign.

God's mission of reconciliation and redemption is the work of the church. In mission God the Holy Trinity takes God's believing people as a partner. Commissioned in baptism, and enabled by the Holy Spirit, Christians are invited to be recipients and channels of God's transforming grace. We do this through: prayer and worship, repentance and forgiveness, the proclamation of

the Good News of God in Christ, loving service, and struggles for justice and peace (*Baptismal Covenant, Book of Common Prayer*, pp. 304-305)

God's mission carries us across frontiers to encounter the new and the unfamiliar in our own communities and beyond. Every Episcopalian is called to cross frontiers, local or global. Mission is both "domestic" and "foreign." We thus participate in God's mission in the Episcopal Church, in the United States, within the Anglican Communion, and beyond. As we are called to go, so are others called to come and bear witness to Christ among us. We are both givers and receivers in God's mission.

As missionaries, Christians are nourished by God's Word and sacraments, and sent into the world in God's name to bring hope, healing and justice to a sinful, divided and broken world. The God who is known in the Old and New Covenant works both through the established and through the surprising and unpredictable. The variable strategies and structures of the church have always been a response to new circumstances. As the world and its cultures change, so too should the vehicles by which God's people present the Gospel at home and to the ends of the earth.

EPGM Covenants

The four Covenants have been tested through a decade of experience in ECGM and are proposed as ongoing commitments of EPGM.

Partnership in Mission — In a spirit of respect and cooperation within the Body of Christ, we covenant to accept as a norm the receiving of appropriate invitation/permission from the relevant Anglican ecclesiastical authority, before engaging in a program or sending persons into an area where an Anglican body exists.

Theological Diversity — Desiring to avoid untested assumptions about one another, we will seek to understand our various mission theologies by committing time and resources to listen and talk together with honesty and mutual respect.

Unreached Peoples — We want to promote a vision throughout the Anglican Communion to work for the extension of the Church among groups where the Gospel of Christ is not known, both within Anglican dioceses and beyond Anglican dioceses.

Information Sharing — We covenant to share mission information on projects and procedures relative to recruiting, screening, selecting, training and placing missionaries. We further covenant to explore ways of coordinating our activities in order to encourage cooperation and discourage unhealthy competitive attitudes in the world mission field.

Functions of EPGM

1 Affirm, facilitate, and provide recognition to all Episcopalians serving as missionaries.

- 1.1 Executive Council will recognize individually, as Episcopal Church missionaries, all missionaries sent by member organizations of EPGM, provided that mutually agreed upon standards are met and that EPGM ensures that comprehensive liability insurance is carried by member organizations and by EPGM. _
- 1.2 EPGM will convene a consultative process to compare existing standards for qualifications, financial support, cross-cultural training, accountability, pastoral care, sexual misconduct prevention, health and liability insurance and re-entry, and from this process develop mutually agreed upon standards in these areas.
- 1.3 EPGM will oversee member organizations' compliance with such standards.
- 1.4 EPGM will convene consultations on guidelines for short-term mission ventures.

2 Assist and encourage the sending of missionaries to the Episcopal Church USA from the Anglican Communion and wider church.

- 2.1 EPGM will establish for the receiving of missionaries from other churches standards for invitation by episcopal authority, hospitality, financial support, itineration, cultural orientation, housing and insurance.
- 2.2 EPGM will coordinate networking among its organizations about missioners available for itineration in ECUSA.

3 Coordinate, publicize and promote mission education across the Episcopal Church.

- 3.1 EPGM will establish a Mission Education Working Group from member organizations.
- 3.2 EPGM will coordinate development of mission education resources.
- 3.3 EPGM will acknowledge, celebrate and advance ECUSA's unique and rich contributions to missiology (scholarship devoted to mission history, theology and practice).
- 3.4 EPGM will help the Church understand the new realities of Christianity's strength in the global South.

4 Convene those working in particular geographic areas or people groups in order to develop coherent long-range strategies.

- 4.1 EPGM will plan consultations with international partners.
- 4.2 EPGM will develop pockets of expertise in geographical areas and issues of concern.

5 Advance new missionary approaches.

- 5.1 EPGM will encourage missionary outreach that promotes the development of self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating churches that honor the various cultural expressions of historic Christianity.
- 5.2 EPGM will develop new strategies in cooperation with ECUSA's international partners, that are light in organization and responsive to needs.

5.3 EPGM will convene topical consultations in light of emerging needs, global developments, ecumenical conversations, and missiological thought.

6 Recognize that much of the global mission outreach of the Episcopal Church is carried out through congregations, dioceses and voluntary societies, and that the greatest opportunity for mission growth may be through such structures.

- 6.1 The EPGM story will be told through verbal presentations and written materials.
- 6.2 EPGM will establish a communication chain (such as a website) among EPGM member organizations, international partners and others to facilitate referrals and cooperation.
- 6.3 EPGM will establish a speakers bureau.

7 Be a resource for the Standing Commission on World Mission (SCWM) in its task of proposing world mission policy for the General Convention.

- 7.1 Joint meetings will be held of SCWM and EPGM at least once in each triennium.
- 7.2 SCWM will be a member of EPGM.
- 7.3 EPGM will suggest to General Convention's presiding officers candidates for SCWM membership.

8 Increase funding for global mission.

- 8.1 Increase funding within the General Convention Program Budget through a line item for EPGM in the AGR budget.
- 8.2 Seek funding beyond the General Convention Program Budget for agreed upon world mission projects across the Church.

9 Affirm ecumenical partnerships in the one world mission of Christ.

- 9.1 Publicize existing world mission partnerships as models for local ecumenical cooperation.
- 9.2 Encourage ecumenical partnerships and participation in ecumenical associations of mission agencies in such areas as training, education, in-field collaboration, mission teams and joint appointments.

Structure of EPGM

EPGM is a network of mission organizations, not individuals. An organization eligible for membership is one that sends missionaries, receives missionaries, educates for mission, advances mission strategies, or raises funds for international mission. Each organization subscribes to the EPGM Covenants. Each organization pays annual dues according to a sliding scale based on its operating budget, and membership entitles it to send two representatives to the EPGM annual meetings.

EPGM operates as a collaborative network. Major EPGM initiatives are developed through discussion at the EPGM annual meetings, but other initiatives arise through collaborations among members responding to emerging needs. EPGM leadership is non-hierarchical, and decision-making is by consensus rather than voting.

EPGM is guided by its Steering Committee, which is responsible for overseeing the network's operations and unity, ensuring the maintenance of standards, encouraging the member organizations and implementing new ventures decided by the membership. Eight Steering Committee members are chosen by lot among all member representatives at the EPGM Annual Meeting. They serve for two years, with half the members chosen each year. The Convenor and Co-Convenor are chosen by the Steering Committee from among their own members, and the Co-Convenor succeeds the Convenor in the following term. The Steering Committee may ask a former Convenor to serve as a consultant.

The Partnership is assisted by a paid Administrator, whose role is to implement the directives of the Steering Committee and Convenor, to whom the Administrator is accountable. EPGM continues the non-profit status of ECGM as an organization under Section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code. __

As a network, EPGM exercises accountability through mutual responsibility and interdependence in world mission in a number of central relationships:

- A. In its relationship with Executive Council, EPGM, as represented by the EPGM Steering Committee:
- is a voice for the Episcopal Church's world mission;
 - offers leadership and initiative in the world mission of the Episcopal Church;
 - includes in its annual meetings two liaison representatives from Executive Council, appointed jointly by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies, in consultation with Executive Council, for the purpose of reciprocal conversations between Executive Council and EPGM;
 - is accountable to Executive Council through regular reporting and council liaisons; and
 - accounts for the use of its funds.
- B. In the relationship between EPGM and its member organizations:
- members approve the theological affirmations for mission of EPGM first articulated in the SCWM's report to the 1997 General Convention;
 - members endorse the four Covenants;
 - members meet standards of fiduciary responsibility, including annual financial reports to EPGM;
 - EPGM maintains non-hierarchical and diverse shared leadership; and
 - EPGM accounts for the use of its funds.
- C. In the relationship between Executive Council and the Anglican Communion:
- EPGM complies with Partnership in Mission principles of the Anglican Communion.

EPGM's Relationship with the Anglican and Global Relations Cluster

The Anglican and Global Relations Cluster at the Episcopal Church Center is the program office through which the missionary-sending and -receiving initiatives of the Presiding Bishop and Executive Council are implemented on behalf of General Convention, and it is a focal center for inter-Anglican communication and action.

As in ECGM, the AGR Cluster will be a dues-paying member organization of EPGM. As a network, EPGM will exist through its members and will not be permanently centered in any particular location. The network will not be based at the Episcopal Church Center, for its activities will be guided by the geographically dispersed Steering Committee, Convenor and Administrator.

The AGR Cluster will continue to fulfill its special role of fostering mission in common with diverse groups through implementing mandates from General Convention, sharing information and facilitating cooperation in the Anglican Communion. EPGM will not replace AGR or any of its specific functions.

The Transition from ECGM to EPGM

ECGM is a remarkably successful mission network that has fostered mutual appreciation among organizations, catalyzed significant cooperation, and served as a model of mutual ministry amid the Episcopal Church's divisions about theology and ethics. Given this achievement, what is the rationale for moving from ECGM to EPGM?

EPGM will bring all member organizations into a recognized relationship with General Convention. Executive Council's recognition of member organizations' missionary appointments will overcome the present problematic distinction between "official" missionaries and "other" missionaries. On behalf of the entire Church, EPGM will embrace and promote the rich diversity of mission visions within the Church. This will offer greater coherence to the many global mission efforts within the Church, both for ECUSA's membership and for our international partners. These developments will empower the mission network to speak with greater authority and be more effective in enabling all Episcopalians to participate in God's global mission through their membership in the DFMS. Released will be greater energy, more personnel and more funding for world mission.

EPGM will be similar in many functions to ECGM. The shift to church-wide recognition and accountability will catalyze sharper focus and elicit deeper commitment to the tasks of EPGM. The transmuting of ECGM into EPGM will avoid the creation of additional bureaucracy. EPGM will be accountable to Executive Council, through adherence to established standards, but individual organizations will retain their autonomy. EPGM will preserve the network's present pattern of non-hierarchical and diverse leadership and oversight.

Proposed EPGM Budget for the 2001-2003 Triennium***Expenses***

Function 1 Recognize all missionaries sent by EPGM organizations	
1.2 Three consultations to establish standards	13,000
Function 2 Encourage sending of missionaries to ECUSA	
2.2 Coordinate networking among member organizations	4,000
Function 3 Coordinate mission education across the Church	
3.2 Develop resources in conjunction with 3 annual meetings of the Seminary Consultation on Mission	6,000
Function 4 Convene people working with specific regions and groups	
4.1 Two consultations with international partners	10,000
Function 5 Advance new missionary approaches	
5.1 One consultation with international partners	4,000
Function 6 Recognize the breadth of Episcopal global mission	
6.1 One consultation to develop materials to publicize EPGM	5,000
Function 7 Be a resource for the SCWM	
no expenses are anticipated for this triennium	0
Function 8 Increase funding for global mission	
no expenses are anticipated for this triennium	0
Function 9 Encourage ecumenical partnerships in mission	
no expenses are anticipated for this triennium	0
Total program expenses for Triennium 2000-2003	<hr/> 42,000
Steering Committee	12,000
Administration: 27,000 per year (materials, office, administrator)	81,000
Total Expenses for Triennium: 45,000 per year x 3	<hr/> \$135,000

Income

Annual dues of EPGM members: 20,000 x 3	\$60,000
General Convention Program Budget in AGR area: 25,000 x 3	75,000

Total Income for Triennium	\$135,000
----------------------------	-----------

Budget Notes for Triennium 2001-2003:

EPGM anticipates carrying out some functions in the first triennium, but not all.

Program support is be devoted primarily to project consultations.

It is anticipated that one part-time administrator will be needed.

EPGM members will offer in-kind support to projects in which they are participating.

EPGM membership dues will be increased to produce an income of \$20,000 per year beginning in the year 2000.

\$25,000 per year from General Convention Program Budget will express the Church's recognition of the network and EPGM's accountability to Executive Council; it will be through AGR.

EPGM may seek grants and may receive gifts as a tax-exempt organization with 501c3 status.

This budget is experimental and will need to be re-visited in 2003.

Evaluation

Modification of EPGM may be made by the EPGM Annual Meeting in consultation with Executive Council. An evaluation of EPGM will made through a consultative process involving EPGM member organizations, the Standing Commission on World Mission, and the Executive Council and will be reported to the 2003 General Convention.

EPGM Implementation

The EPGM Planners presented a complete draft of the EPGM Proposal to the ECGM 1999 Annual Meeting, held at Roslyn Conference Center, 13-15 April 1999, and to the Standing Commission on World Mission at its meeting at Roslyn, 12-15 April 1999. A number of revisions suggested by members of these groups meeting together in plenary session were incorporated into the proposal, and the revised text was then presented to the groups. The ECGM Annual Meeting approved the revised proposal by consensus on the morning of 15 April 1999. The Standing Commission on World Mission voted without dissent to approve the revised text (Version 2.0) on the afternoon of 15 April 1999.

In response to suggestions made by the International and National Concerns Committee of Executive Council in Appleton, Wisconsin, in June 1999, revisions have been made, resulting in Version 3.0. Major mission-sending agencies, the ECGM Steering Committee, the Seminary Consultation on Mission, and the Chancellor to the Presiding Bishop have been consulted in the revision process.

Executive Council is directed and empowered by Resolution A204s of the 1997 General Convention to establish EPGM. No additional Convention resolution is needed for this purpose, although Resolution A204s asks Executive Council to report to the 2000 General Convention on the formation of EPGM.

The EPGM Planners request that Executive Council review this proposal, initiate discussion of matters on which it would like clarification, and, when it is satisfied that the plan has been perfected, establish EPGM by council action. The EPGM Planners suggest to Executive Council that the ECGM Steering Committee be requested to undertake implementation, consulting with the EPGM Planners and the bodies they represent. It is further suggested that the effective date of EPGM's establishment be 25 April 2000, to coincide with the Annual Meeting of ECGM scheduled for 24-26 April 2000.

Budget support for the 2001-2003 triennium will require inclusion of an amount in the General Convention Program Budget for that period, as suggested above. If EPGM were to be established before the 2000 General Convention, the annual dues of its member organizations would be available for initial costs, with the possible addition of funds Executive Council may have at its discretion for the 1997-2000 triennium.

Attachments: Resolution A204s

List of members of the Episcopal Council for Global Mission (ECGM)