

First meeting of newly-elected Board of Directors of UBCL

Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, Georgia

June 12, 1970

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 A.M. by the President, Fred Williams, who also led the group in prayer.

Officers present:

Fred Williams	-	President
Jesse Anderson, Jr.	-	First Vice President
Benzil A. Carty	-	Second Vice President
Austin R. Cooper, Sr.,	-	Recording Secretary
Walter Dennis	-	Corresponding Secretary

Other board members present: James Woodruff, Moran Weston, Lenora Abernathy, Lee Benefee, Anthony Macomme, Edward Rodman, James Edden, Warren Scott, Theodore R. Gibson and Robert Hunter.
Not the Hoppers.

Father Edden suggested that there be a description of the (1) role of the executive director, and (2) role of the Board of Directors. He also suggested that every member should be prepared to go on a note, if necessary, to enable the Union to operate during the summer months.

The Chair pointed out that the Board of Father Woodruff could draw up a job description.

Canon Dennis noted that the by-laws make no provision for an executive director and that this has to be worked out.

Canon Gibson stated that the executive director should have certain securities and that a committee should be appointed immediately to do this.

Canon Dennis felt that a job description and contract for the executive director should not be in the by-laws.

The Chair stated that the relationship of the executive director to the President should be in the by-laws; also that Father Woodruff was originally hired for six months and that December 31, 1969 ended this six-month period.

Canon Gibson stated that every man and woman on the Board of Directors should bring his or her membership up to date; also that every member of the Board should have in the hands of the treasurer by the end of July or August a committed sum of \$150.00. In this way the Board will be able to say that each Board member has paid a membership fee, as well as committed him or herself to paying an additional \$150.00.

Canon Gibson stated further that Board members had a responsibility to set the example. The Chair agreed that this example should be set by Board members. The Chair noted also that the Board members had earlier committed themselves to giving 1% of their salaries to UBCL, in addition to membership fee.

Canon Dennis stated that if all Board members would have their 1% pledge paid by October 31st, this would strengthen the Board's position with treasurers of metropolitan chapters.

Father Carty paid \$50.00 (check #1158) as payment on his pledge of 1% of salary. Mattie Hopkins gave a post-dated check in the amount of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars as payment of her pledge of 1% of salary.

Canon Gibson moved that the executive director's job run through December 31, 1970, with the full understanding that by the time of the Houston Convention a job description will have been written. Seconded and passed.

The Chair asked that Board members send their ideas to him, concerning a description of the executive director's job.

The executive director, Father Woodruff, brought up the matter of his secretary's salary and social security. The members of the Board agreed at once that her social security should be paid, regardless of the amount of salary earned.

The secretary to the executive director was asked to dismiss herself while a discussion of her salary took place. A motion was made by Canon Gibson that her salary be \$6,500.00. Seconded and passed. Father Edden moved that her hospitalization insurance should also be paid. Seconded and passed.

A discussion followed concerning an article in the Living Church, which article was signed by officer(s) of the bank where UBCL's checking account is held. The article in question is one by the Episcopal Organization (or Episcopalians and Others) For Responsible Social Action and attempts to undercut seriously the accomplishments of UBCL and other blacks in South Bend.

Canon Gibson suggested that both men be contacted, to ascertain what their opposition to UBCL is. If no reasonable explanation or retraction is made, then the Union's funds should be withdrawn from Freedom National Bank.

Dr. Weston said that he will speak to the men in question, since both are known to him. Father Woodruff will contact Alex Haley, a deputy responsible to Dennis, Weston and Wright. It was suggested that the executive director not be involved.

Canon Gibson moved that a committee of not less than three be appointed to confront the Living Church and that the Board should do what is necessary, by way of withdrawal of funds, if committee's efforts are not fruitful. Seconded and passed.

The Chair then read a letter from Bishop Burt of Ohio, Chairman of the Clergy Deployment Committee. The Board agreed that Father Primo should continue to serve on the Deployment Committee. The Chair also recommended to the Board for appointment Attorney Jean Williams. Moran Weston suggested that another knowledgeable clergyman should also serve. The Board voted that Attorney Williams and Father Carty, along with Father Primo, would be the representatives of UBCL on the Clergy Deployment Committee.

The Chair stated that a unique thing has occurred, in that the Union has the right to nominate two people to serve on the Executive Council through 1973.

Dr. Weston stated that more allies are needed by UBCL. He also wanted to know what UBCL's strategy for Houston would be. The answer given was that UBCL would attempt to go after control of urban resources.

Father Carty said that as UBCL grows, it needs to emphasize the training of people to do analyses; further, we need to know what programs affect black people and how do we gain control of those programs.

The Chair stated that Houston should be approached on an educational level; further, that if we can consolidate support among Black Episcopalians, an educational job can be done with and for the Church.

It was pointed out that the executive director is on the Strategy Committee for Houston, along with Weston, Gibson and Rodman.

It was also felt by Board members that all resources and those that affect us should be under the control of Blacks in the Episcopal Church. Several dioceses were singled out as places where UBCL needs to concentrate energies in this regard. (E.J., Cincinnati in the Diocese of Southern Ohio)...

The Chair stated that there needs to be a commitment to see that Black colleges get more operating funds.

Dr. Weston said that when approaching a group largely controlled by Whites, the UBCL should tell them that we are trying to save the Episcopal Church from disintegration.

The Chair suggested that two pressing items facing the Board were: (1) a decision concerning General Convention in Houston, and (2) our budget. Before proceeding to this, it was agreed that Father Carty, a member of the Program and Budget Committee of General Convention, would get a copy of the same to the Chair and Canon Dennis.

The Chair stated that a resolution affirming UBCL's action in South Bend has been talked about and considered.

A motion was made that the members of the UBCL Board of Directors pledge 1% of salary, plus renew membership, to enable Union to operate through summer. The following schedule was included in the motion: (a) payment by July 15th (b) one-half by August 15th, and (c) the balance paid by October 31st.

Dr. Weston objected to the payment of 1% of his salary as a requirement for a seat on the board and offered to submit his resignation forthwith. It was explained to Dr. Weston that payment of 1% of salary was not a prerequisite for being a board member; but that Board members had earlier pledged themselves to giving 1% of their salaries, and were simply doing the same sooner because of a shortage of funds that seemed imminent.

The motion that Board members pay 1% of salary was seconded and passed.

It was also moved, seconded and passed that members could sit in on meetings of the executive committee.

The Chair suggested that the sum of \$3,000 be allocated for pre-convention details, etc. The executive director is to submit a proposal of budgetary needs for Houston to the executive committee.

Jesse Anderson, Jr. stated that a booth for UBCL will be set up in the communications center in Houston. Jesse will be in charge of the same.

Dr. Weston suggested that a brochure on UBCL should be done simply and yet professionally for distribution in Houston.

The executive director stated that mailing is ready for all Black delegates.

Father Cooper inquired as to who would represent UBCL in Houston and for how many will UBCL be financially responsible. This had not been decided as of time of adjournment.

The Chair appointed a Finance Committee, comprised of: Jesse Anderson, Sr., chairman, Lambert L. Sands and Louis Alexander of Chicago.

It was felt by all that there should be Black representation on the Board of the Church Pension Fund. The following persons were nominated: Honorable Gerald Lamb, Warren Bacon, Louis Alexander, I. H. Burney, Theodore R. Gibson, Ed Robinson and Moran Weston. The name of I. H. Birney was dropped, after objection from Father Cooper who recalled that while serving as Rector of Mr. Birney's parish at time of organization of UBCL, Mr. Birney had objected to this move on the part of Black Priests, stating that energies should be directed in program of ESCRU.

Canon Gibson and Dr. Weston were chosen to be submitted as UBCL's representatives on Board of Church Pension Fund.

Dr. Weston moved that the executive committee should continue to process and come to a decision on the location of the 1971 conference of UBCL by September. Seconded and passed.

Several sites for the 1971 conference have been offered: All Saints', Saint Louis; Boston; Chicago, or to return to Atlanta.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Austin R. Cooper, Sr.
Recording Secretary