

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
THE SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ETHICS**

**HYATT REGENCY ALBUQUERQUE
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
JANUARY 6, 1996**

1. **Call to order.** The annual business meeting was called to order by President David Hollenbach at 3:40 p.m.
2. **Secretary pro tem.** President Hollenbach named John Boyle secretary pro tem.
3. **New Members.** Executive Director John Cartwright then introduced those present whose applications for membership had been approved by the Board of Directors [A list with some addenda is attached.]

Life Member. In addition, it was announced that Robert W. Blaney of the University of the Pacific had been named a Life Member of the Society. Executive Director Cartwright reviewed the criteria set out in the bylaws for designation as a Life Member. The bylaw appears on p. 147 of the 1996 Membership Directory of the Society.

4. **Nominating Committee/Elections.** The report of the Nominating Committee (Christine Hinze [chair], Timothy Jackson, Peter Paris, William Schweiker, Alan Verhey), which had been mailed to the membership, was then presented.

The nominee for president was Charles Reynolds.

There being no other nominations from the floor, the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Charles Reynolds, electing him president.

Nominees for vice president were Lisa Sowle Cahill and Gilbert Meilander. There were no nominations from the floor. In the balloting which followed, Lisa Sowle Cahill was elected vice president.

Nominees for the Board of Directors were Vigen Guroian, John Langan, S.J., Charles M. Swezey, William Werpehowski, and Sondra Ely Wheeler. In the balloting which followed, John Langan, Sondra Ely Wheeler, and William Werpehowski were elected to the Board of Directors for four-year terms.

5. **Treasurer's Report.** John Cartwright then presented his report as Treasurer of the Society. The report, including the projected budget for 1996-97, had earlier been approved by the Board of Directors. Treasurer Cartwright noted that the report for the fiscal year 1994-95 had been audited. [A copy of the report is attached.]
6. **Endowment Fund.** Treasurer Cartwright also presented a report on the endowment fund, which was approved at an earlier meeting. A committee to advise the Board of Directors on the fund, for which the Board retains responsibility, has been named and given its charge by the Board: Dennis McCann, chair ex officio), June O'Connor, Robin Lovin, John Cartwright.

The committee submitted the following report:

The Endowment Committee discussed purposes to which the endowment funds might be put in the future, once sufficient monies are in place.

The Committee identified two purposes: 1. research fellowships for younger scholars; 2. honoraria and/or travel expenses for scholars we might invite to our annual meeting from other countries who are members of ethics societies engaged in work similar to the SCE's.

The Committee is receptive to additional suggestions from the Society's members.

/s/ June O'Connor
January 5, 1996

7. **Executive Director's Report.** John Cartwright, who retires as Executive Director with the 1996 meeting, then presented his final report. The Executive Director noted a series of goals he had set when he assumed that office in 1991 and which have been realized. He indicated that attendance at annual meeting rose from 408 in Philadelphia in 1992 to 550 in Chicago in 1994, and to a high of 567 at Crystal City in 1995 and was 422 in Albuquerque in 1996. Membership in the Society grew from 688 in 1992 to 872 in 1996. The ending balance in the Society's accounts is projected to reach \$92,000 at the end of the 1995-96 fiscal year. [The full text of the report is attached.]

Resolution of thanks. At the conclusion of Dr. Cartwright's report, President Hollenbach proposed a resolution of thanks to him on behalf of the members of the Society for his service as Executive Director. The resolution was adopted by acclamation.

In addition, resolutions were adopted to thank Dean Robert Neville of the Boston University School of Theology for his support of Dr. Cartwright's work for the Society and to thank Merrill Kohlhofer for his service as Dr. Cartwright's assistant.

Transition. Executive Director Cartwright also described the steps that would be taken to transfer the offices of the Society to DePaul University in Chicago when the Executive Director-designate, Dennis McCann of DePaul, assumes office at the conclusion of the 1996 annual meeting. Dr. Cartwright will continue to act as Treasurer of the Society through March 31, 1996, the close of the Society's current fiscal year. He will also prepare the final report for 1995-96. A letter will shortly be mailed to the membership with the new address and phone number of the Society's office in Chicago.

8. **Editorship of the Annual.** Harlan Beckley, editor of the Annual of the SCE, reported that three members of the editorial board were retiring upon the completion of their terms. President Hollenbach has appointed three new members to the editorial board: Martin Cook, Emilie Townes, and Allen Verhey.

President Hollenbach also announced that because Editor Harlan Beckley's term will expire with the publication of the 1996 Annual, a search committee was appointed: Charles Curran (chair), Robert Franklin; Diane Yaeger and Patricia Jung, to seek a new editor.

The Search Committee nominated two persons to act as co-editors of The Annual, each of whom was fully qualified and would have appropriate institutional support. The nominees were Sumner Twiss of Brown University and John Kelsay of Florida State University.

Sumner Twiss and John Kelsay have been appointed co-editors by the Board of Directors, effective with the publication of the 1996 Annual edited by Harlan Beckley. However, Article IX/3 of the Bylaws requires that the membership confirm the Board's appointment. A motion to confirm the appointment was passed without dissent.

9. **Sexual Harassment and Professional Responsibility.** President Hollenbach then presented a report from the Board of Directors mandated by the membership and regarding sexual harassment.

The Executive Committee of the Board discussed the matter at its Spring 1995 meeting. Two issues emerged: 1. possible sanctions against offending members of the Society; 2. a draft bylaw broader in scope but including sexual harassment. The Committee determined that the proposal originally made was contrary to existing bylaws governing membership in the Society.

President Hollenbach presented as information to the meeting a resolution passed by the Board of Directors on January 5, 1996 [Text attached]. The resolution acknowledges receipt of the report of the Committee on Sexual Harassment and directs the president to appoint a committee of the board to consider further issues raised by the Committee's report. It further directs the new committee to present its report to the Board of Directors in advance of the 1997 meeting. The Board will convene one day prior to the 1997 meeting to consider the report and the Board directs the Program Committee to provide time for discussion by the membership in advance of the 1997 business meeting. The information from the Board required no action by the business meeting. The names of the committee members were announced later in the meeting.

Proposed amendment to the bylaws. President Hollenbach then introduced a proposed amendment to Article III of the bylaws dealing with membership in the Society. The amendment would add a new section 3 to Article

III and, pursuant to Article XI of the bylaws, was approved by the two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors for consideration by the members present at the 1996 annual business meeting.

The text of the proposed amendment follows and it was amended as indicated before being voted on.

Section 3. Conduct of Members in the Internal Scholarly and Organizational Activities of the Society

The Society will conduct all its business in a manner appropriate to its purposes (see Article II), and expects members to conduct themselves within the Society in a manner appropriate to the purposes of the Society Achievement of those purposes--the formation of a community of discourse, debate, and research which engages in scholarly work in and teaching of Christian ethics in relation to social, economic, political, and cultural [problems--requires members to respect both the basic human dignity of all persons and the recognized social and political rights of individuals which proceed from that dignity. Society members, agents, or employees acting within the Society will therefore refrain from any form of harassment or unjust discrimination, in deed or word, based in race, sex, age, nationality, ethnicity, religious community, sexual orientation, or physical condition. Respect for the work and property of others will exclude plagiarism, copyright infringement, and unacknowledged use of the research of others.

In the lively discussion which followed, the draft amendment was itself amended as indicated.

The question was then moved and by a two-thirds vote of the meeting discussion was ended. The meeting then voted on the proposed bylaw amendment as amended and the proposal was adopted with 77 voting yes and 26 voting no.

President-elect Charles Reynolds then announced his intention to appoint the following committee of the Board as directed by the January 5 Board resolution: Jean Porter (chair), Patricia Jung, Timothy Sedgwick, and Dennis McCann, ex officio.

10. **Archivist.** President Hollenbach then announced that the Archivist of the Society, Edward LeRoy Long, did not desire to be reappointed and had asked that his successor be named so that a transition could take place. Pursuant to Article VII of the Bylaws, the Board of Directors appointed Stephen Crocco of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary as Archivist of the Society, subject to confirmation of the appointment by members at the annual business meeting. The President presented the appointment for confirmation and it was confirmed by voice vote.

The Executive Director, John Cartwright, summarized for the members the accomplishments of Edward LeRoy Long as historian and Archivist of the Society from 1988 to 1996.

A motion was then made to name Edward LeRoy Long, Jr. Archivist Emeritus of the Society of Christian Ethics. The motion was approved by the members' standing ovation.

11. **Announcements.** President-elect Charles Reynolds then announced his intention to name to the Nominating Committee for 1997 William Schweiker (chair), Diana Cates, Bruce Grelle, and Susan Ross. William Schweiker urged the members to make suggestions to the committee of possible nominees as officers and directors of the Society.
12. **Adjournment.** The agenda of the Annual Business being completed, President Hollenbach declared the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Boyle
Secretary pro tem.

Attachments: 1/SCE New Members 1996
2/SCE Nominating Committee: 1996 Slate of Nominees
3/ Financial Report, 1996 SCE Annual Meeting
4/ 1996 SCE Annual Meeting: Final Report of the Executive Director
5/Resolution Passed by the Board of Directors, January, 1996 and Draft Bylaw Revision Regarding
the Conduct of SCE Members.

Corrected to January 30, 1996