

Annual Business Meeting
Society of Christian Ethics
San Francisco Hyatt Regency Airport Hotel
Burlingame, CA, January 9, 1999

1. Call to Order.

President Ronald Green called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

2. Appointment of Secretary Pro-Tem and Parliamentarian.

President Green announced the appointment of Theresa Moser as secretary pro-tem. In John Boyle's absence, Stephen Mott agreed to serve as parliamentarian.

3. Commemoration of Deceased Members.

President Green asked for the names of members of the Society of Christian Ethics who had died during the past year. Apparently, there were none.

4. Memorial for John Howard Yoder.

Stanley Hauerwas introduced the festschrift which has been prepared as a memorial for John Howard Yoder. Michael Baxter and Maura Ryan formally received it on behalf of the University of Notre Dame.

5. Report of the Nominating Committee/Elections.

President Green read the list of candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee.

There being no other nominations from the floor, it was moved and seconded that nominations be closed.

* Robin Lovin was unanimously elected President

* For the office of Vice President, those nominated were:

Harlan R. Beckley (90 votes) Elected Vice President

Stanley Samuel Harakas (58 votes)

* Three new Board members were chosen. Those nominated were:

Simeon Olusegun Ilesanmi (92 votes) Elected to the Board

Stephen E. Lammers (67 votes)

Rebekah Linn Miles (83 votes) Elected to the Board

Christine D. Pohl . (54 votes)

Susan A. Ross (76 votes) Elected to the Board

Todd David Whitmore (49 votes)

* President Green announced the members of next year's Nominations Committee: Alan Verhey (Chair), Paul Jersild, Michael Baxter, Christine Gudorf, Peter Paris.

6. Announcements.

President Green made several announcements:

* Appointment of Grievance Policy Committee and Explanation of the Process.

Lois Livezey chairs the committee. Other members are Judith Webb Kay, Daniel Magee, Peter Paris (and Karen Lebacz?) The task of the committee is to determine if there should be a Grievance Policy, and if so, when it would

take effect. The Committee is to submit proposals or recommendations to the Board. The Report would then go to the Annual Business Meeting for a membership vote.

* In the meantime, the Committee for Professional Conduct will continue to operate as an interim committee to handle infractions or complaints until January 2000. Patricia Beattie Jung chairs this committee.

* Appointment of the committee for the 21st Century and Explanation

President Green described in broad strokes the task of this committee as to study "where we are and where we are going." The committee will look at 1) the mission of the society; 2) its self-description; 3) its structure; 4) the annual meeting; 5) its current publications and possibility of other forms of outreach such as a web page and/or other forms of electronic publication. June O'Connor chairs the committee. Other members are: Joseph Allen, Frieda Furman, Christine Gudorf, Tim Jackson, Simeon Olusegun Ilesanmi, John Langan, Gene Outka, William Schweiker, Ruth Smith, Christina Traina, Darryl Trimiew, Emily Townes, Sumner Twiss, Allen Verhey, Louke Van Wensween, Sandra Wheeler. Dennis McCann and Ronald Green are non-voting members. In response to a question from the floor, President Green agreed that the committee could possibly include additional non-university/seminary persons as members or by consultation. The committee will have a budget of \$10,000 for each of the two years of its work.

7. Executive Director's Report.

* Dennis McCann thanked his wife Leslie and the graduate students from Northwestern (names?) for their help in organizing the meeting. He also reminded the members to complete and return the evaluation forms, assuring them that their remarks would be "cherished."

* Dennis reported that there are 411 persons registered for this 40th annual Meeting, the largest yet for a West Coast meeting. There are also 24 spouses present. Membership in the Society is growing about 5% per year-- there are currently about 950 members.

* New Members Roll Call: Dennis read the list of new student members (19) and new full members (33). There are two new life members, Terrence Anderson and Joe Allen.

* Dennis then presented the Treasurer's Report. He mentioned that he is in conversation with the Society's accountants to see if it would be possible to change to a July 1-June 30th fiscal year, which would allow for more realistic budgeting recommendations. John Langan reminded the group that the Board had approved a Financial Planning Advisory Committee to deal with such matters. In response to a question from the floor (Barbara Andolsen) about the cost of registration for the Annual Meeting, Dennis explained that budgeting three years in advance is very difficult as there are many unknowns in planning for a meeting in a hotel. In addition to such costs as catering, the society must sign a contract guaranteeing payment for a certain number of hotel rooms, but it is difficult to predict how many will actually register, whether weather or other factors will force cancellation of a meeting, etc.

8. Discussion and Approval of the Final Report of the Task Force on Professional Standards.

* William Everett introduced the Report and proposed acceptance. President Green explained that the Board had received and approved the Report at its meeting yesterday, but a vote of the membership is required for approval. One member (name?) proposed a coda to be added to the first sentence in paragraph #2. The slightly revised text would read:

As scholars in the field of ethics we hold ourselves to a standard of free, rigorous, and intellectually honest inquiry aiming to advance moral understanding, especially in regard to theologically informed perspectives.

The motion to include this additional text was approved by voice vote.
The Final Report was then approved by voice vote.

9. Report on the SCE Annual

* John Kelsey presented the Report. He thanked all who had contributed to the 1998 Annual and presented the names of the new members of the Editorial Board, Cheryl Kirk-Duggan, Paul Lauritzen, and Bill O'Neill. (Please note that I am not sure whether these are for the Annual or for the JRE...).

10. Report on the JRE.

* Diane Yeager presented the Report. She noted that the cost of subscription had gone up because the JRE has a new contract with Blackwell Publishers. Among other changes, the JRE will be published three times a year instead of two.

11. Report on the Journal of Law and Religion.

* Howard Vogel, Managing Editor, presented the Report. The Journal is published twice a year. The Editorial offices are at Hamline University.

12. Report on the CSSR.

* Dennis McCann presented the Report. The CSSR has relocated to Valparaiso University and is now poised to flourish.

* Dennis McCann also announced the dates and locations of future meetings:
2000 Hyatt Crystal City, Washington, D.C. January 7-9
2001 Marriott? Salt Lake City, Utah January 12-14
2002 Chicago January 11-13

13. New Business.

* James Keenan presented a proposal to the Board from the Education for Aids Interest Group. He asked that the Board present a proposal to endorse needle exchange programs for approval at next year's Annual Business Meeting.

14. President Ronald Green closed the meeting at approximately 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Moser, RSCJ
Secretary Pro-Tem