

**41st Annual Meeting, Society of Christian Ethics
Hyatt Regency Crystal City
Arlington, Va.
Minutes, January 8, 2000**

1. The meeting was called to order by President Robin Lovin
2. President Lovin appointed Marilyn Martone as recording secretary for the meeting and Bill Evert as parliamentarian.
3. A commemoration of deceased members: Roger Badin, Paul Elman, Maynard Strafford, Jay Bachon, and Ellie Hayne followed.
4. Allen Vehey reported for the nominating committee. After thanking the nominating committee for their work, he placed the slate of candidates in nomination. There were no nominations from the floor and the slate was voted upon. The results of the vote were: Harlan Beckley, president; Gene Outka, vice-president; Jim Childs, Lois Daly, and Maura Ryan, board members.
5. President Lovin announced the nominating committee for next year. He also informed the society of the existence of two search committees. The search committee for the editor of the Annual is chaired by Martin Cook, and the search committee for the executive director is chaired by Joe Allen. It was also reported that the Professional Conduct Policy Committee has asked for another year to develop its report to the board.
6. The executive director, Dennis McCann, then gave his report. Director McCann reminded attendees to fill out the evaluation forms and apologized for the delay at the breakfast. He announced that 457 people attended the conference and that perhaps this set a record for attendance. The membership rolls are now at 911. He then introduced the new full members and student members to the society. Director McCann also thanked the staff of Agnes Scott College for their help with the conference. The treasurer's report was given next and it was proposed that the society have a dues increase. This increase would only affect those members earning over \$40,000. The budget and the dues increase were voted on and both were approved. There was also mention that the board was considering shifting the fiscal year to June 30/July 1 and accepting charge account payments.
7. Jim Keenan then reported on the resolution on the needle exchange program. He stated that the resolution was not controversial and read the proposal:

"Whereas studies of needle exchange programs around the world and in the United States have demonstrated that
--needle exchange programs do not increase drug use among addicts, and
--do not lead to injection behavior in non-addicts, and
--save lives by decreasing HIV infections, and
--provide a bridge to general medical care, detoxification and drug recovery programs; and

Whereas the Christian tradition is concerned for the preservation of human life and dignity"

"Be it resolved that the Society of Christian Ethics publicly endorses and encourages the development of needle exchange programs in the United States which

--are established with the support of local communities
--are one-for-one exchange programs which do not increase the number of needles in circulation,
--provide linkages to medical care, detoxification and drug treatment."

Keenan also stated that there was some precedent within the society in regard to taking public stands on issues, although this was done infrequently and only when there were urgent and compelling grounds. He stressed that the society's silence on such an issue would also send a message.

President Lovin opened the issue for discussion. An amendment was proposed and accepted that the society contribute \$1,000 to a needle exchange program in a particular city to be chosen by the AIDS education group. A friendly amendment was proposed to replace this amendment which advocated a free-will donation from the society members rather than a direct contribution from the society. The proposers of the resolution accepted this amendment, which replaced the former amendment.

Some discussion on the amendment followed and it was recommended to change the line, "whereas the Christian tradition is concerned with the preservation of life" to "whereas most major religions, including the Christian tradition, are concerned with the preservation of life." A vote on the motion pursued and it was overwhelmingly accepted with the two amendments. A collection of funds from society members then followed, which resulted in a \$1,000 donation.

8. June O'Connor reported for the committee on the 21st century. The twenty-one members of the committee met in September and formed brainstorming groups. Their work centered on four areas: 1. The current question 2. What has the society done well and what does it want to do in the future 3. Linkages, connections, and relations to other formal societies 4. Methods to poll the committee. O'Connor also invited the members to participate by filling out the questionnaire they had been provided and attending the working session of this committee on the following day.

9. Barney Twist reported on the SCE Annual. He thanked the authors and reviewers and outgoing members, then welcomed the new members.

10. There was no report on JRE.

11. It was reported that the Journal of Law and Religion had received a grant from the Lilly Foundation.

12. There was no report from the CSSR.

13. Director McCann announced that next year's meeting would take place in Chicago and the meeting in 2002 would take place in Vancouver.

14. Under new business, it was recommended that the board come up with a process that would guide the consideration of future propositions.

15. The meeting adjourned at 5:55p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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