

SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ETHICS
Annual Business Meeting
Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport
January 11, 2003

1. Call to Order

President William May called the meeting to order at 10:41 a.m.

2. Appointment of the Secretary Pro-Tem

President May announced the appointment of William George as Secretary Pro-Tem

3. Appointment of the Parliamentarian

President May announced the appointment of Jean Porter as Parliamentarian

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the 2002 Business Meeting were approved as submitted.

5. Commemoration of Deceased Members

Warren Copeland read a commemoration for George Pickering. President May read a commemoration for Waldo Beach prepared by Eric Mount. President May announced the death of Lewis B. Smedes and noted that Glen Stasson would write a memorial for later insertion. Max Stackhouse spoke of the death of Gibson Winter and offered to ensure that a memorial was composed for later insertion.

6. New Members Recognition

President May announced that 52 student and 34 full members were accepted into membership by the Board and 15 transfers from student to full membership were approved. The names were listed in the handout in member packets. Those present were invited to stand and be recognized and welcomed by the membership.

7. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election.

President May acknowledged and thanked the members of the nominating committee: Cristina Traina, Chair; Riggins Earle, Jean Porter, Robin Lovin, and John Bowlin. Cristina Traina added her thanks and announced the candidates. There being no further nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

June E. O'Connor succeeded to President
John Langan, S.J., was elected Vice-President
Nigel John Biggar, Jennifer Herdt, and Mary Jo Iozzio were elected as new board members.

8. President's Report

President May announced:

a. the appointment of the new Nominating Committee for 2003: Maura Ryan, Chair; Emilie Townes, Frida Furman, Thomas Olgetree, and Glen Stasson.

b. that the following persons had been appointed to the Editorial Board of the *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*: James Nash, Liz Bounds, and Brian Stiltner.

c. that the Professional Conduct Committee reported to the Board that it had received no complaints during the year. President May recalled for the membership of the names of persons designated to receive any complaints of professional misconduct. All are members of the Professional Conduct Committee. He asked that they stand as he called their names so that the membership could identify them: Rebekah Miles, Dan McGee, Emilie Townes, Allen Verhey, and Eric Mount (with students overseas).

d. that the Board had approved as a pilot project the formation of a writers group based on the model of the University of Chicago Writers Group. This pilot will be monitored carefully as an expression of the Society's special concern for the mentoring of its junior members.

e. that the Society had been invited to submit an essay to the CSSR Bulletin and that Ed Long and Christine Gudorf had agreed to co-author the essay. Ed will provide an historical perspective and Christine will provide a vision of the Society's activities in the coming years.

f. that, in order to ensure that the current business meeting end in time for boarding buses for the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, groups normally providing oral reports had been asked to submit reports and announcements in writing. He noted that members had received in their packets two sheets, one with general announcements and one from the *Societas Ethica*.

9. Recommendations Proposed by the Board for Approval by the Membership.

a. President May announced that the Board had unanimously endorsed and recommended for membership approval the proposed agreement between the Society of Christian Ethics and the new Society of Jewish Ethics. The agreement is for the purposes of scholarly work in both fields and of encouraging dialogue between members of these two societies. President May reviewed the rationale for this agreement [included in packets distributed to the membership], emphasized that the vote of the membership was on the proposal itself and not on the rationale, and stated that Gina Wolfe, Paul Lauritzen and others were available to answer questions. Questions from the floor pertained to the size of the SJE and possible associations with other societies. With regard to the question of size, Lewis Newman of the SJE reported that the SJE presently has about 30 paid members and a mailing list of 85-90, with 12-14 present at the 2003 meeting of the SCE.

He did not foresee the membership growing beyond 100 in the next few years. One SCE member informed the assembly of an informal gathering of Chinese ethicists, with no plans of yet for possible affiliation with the SCE, and another discussed briefly the College Society's association with Baptist ministers' association and noted the importance of spelling out any pertinent financial arrangements between societies considering some kind of association. The proposal passed unanimously by voice vote of the membership.

b. President May announced that the Board had unanimously approved, and was bringing forth for the membership's ratification, two proposed by-law changes. Texts of the proposals, along with background information, were included in members' packets [and are attached to these minutes].

i. The proposal regarding requisite changes in the by-laws (Article VI. Board of Directors; Article VII. Archivist; Article IX. Publications) to agree with the name change from *Annual of the Society of Christian Ethics* to the *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* passed unanimously by voice and without discussion.

ii. The proposal to change, in Article V. Sec. 3, "audit" to "assessment" and to add the phrase "at the level of the accounting service deemed appropriate by the Board" passed unanimously by voice vote after some discussion. In the discussion, Gina Wolfe emphasized that under Dennis McCann's directorship the annual review of finances conducted by the Society's accountant had been unquestionably meticulous and thorough. Technically, however, the kind of review or compilation undertaken did not qualify as an "audit"—a procedurally different and more expensive process. President May explained that the proposed change would align language with actual practice and at the same time give the Board the flexibility to call for a formal audit should this be required, for instance as a condition for reception of a grant.

10. Report from the Co-Editors of the *Journal*.

Christine Gudorf reminded the membership of the forthcoming Spring issue of the *Journal*. She also discussed certain difficulties and points of confusion regarding the submission and refereeing of papers, and thus asked presenters and referees to be mindful of e-mail communications, deadlines, and procedures.

11. Executive Director's Report.

a. Financial Report: The Society's accountants have made changes in the manner in which they present the Society's financial condition. Previously they did not make a distinction between earned and unearned revenue, i.e., dues. Beginning with FY02 they decided it would be more appropriate to make that distinction. As a result the dues paid for calendar year 2002 were divided approximately in half between earned income and unearned income. This is reflected in the Statement of Financial Position included in the packets distributed to members in attendance.

In response to a question whether the discrepancy between the fiscal year and the “dues year” would persist, Gina explained that the Board was considering possible changes with the hope that at some point the two would coincide. The Statement of Activities for FY02 also reflects the change in accounting procedures.

b. Membership update.

Total active membership is 1046

750 Full
165 Student
108 Retired
23 Life

c. Future venues:

- i. 2004 - Chicago
- ii. 2005 - Miami
- iii. 2006 - Phoenix

d. The membership was reminded of the policy announced last year that, beginning in 2003, proposals sent in response to the Call for Papers will not be accepted from members whose dues payment is not current as of March 1st.

12. There was no old business.

13. There was no new business.

14. President May expressed gratitude to all and closed the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William P. George
Secretary Pro-Tem 2003