

SCE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
Saturday, January 9, 2010, 11:00AM – 12:30PM

Minutes

1. Meeting called to order by President Daniel Finn.
 - a. Christine Firer Hinze was appointed as Secretary pro-tem.
 - b. Jean Porter was appointed Parliamentarian.
2. **Minutes** of the Saturday, January 10, 2009 were approved by acclamation.
3. John Kelsay, chair of the **Nominating Committee**, thanked members of the committee (Warren Copeland, David Cloutier, Christine Firer Hinze, Marcia Riggs); and introduced nominees: For president, Doug Ottati, and the two nominees for vice-president, Barbara Hilker Andolsen and Stanley Hauerwas. It was moved and approved that nominations for vice-president be closed. Nominees for the Board were introduced: Gloria Albrecht, David Gushee, Jennifer Harvey, Hak Joon Lee, M. Therese Lysaught, and Darlene Fozard Weaver. It was moved, seconded and approved by acclamation that nominations for the Board be closed. Ballots were collected.
4. The following **deceased members were commemorated**: Frederick S. Carney by Charles Curran, Henry B. Clark by John Crossley, Paul K. Deats, Jr. by Phil Wogaman, Lewis Mudge by James Donahue, John R. Popiden by Roberto Dell'Oro, Richard R. Roach, S.J. by David Hollenbach, S.J.
5. **President's Report – Dan Finn**
 - a. The President acknowledged and welcomed the newly-created **Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics**, (the agreement between SCE and SSME was made available at registration desk). Sohail Hashmi responded on behalf of the SSME. Six years ago John Kelsay and other SCE members began the working group on Islamic ethics, and through this group's vision and leadership, SSME was born. Dr. Hashmi acknowledged and expressed appreciation for SCE's generous material, moral, and organizational support; the two organizations look forward to many years of fellowship.
 - b. Greetings from the **Society for the Study of Christian Ethics** – David Clough brought greetings from the SSCE in the United Kingdom. The relationship between our two societies is continuing to grow. About 15 SCE members attended the SSCE's 2009 meeting on Divine Law. The 2010 SSCE meeting will take place September 3-5, 2010, on the topic of climate change. A call for papers will come out in the spring; more information is available at the society's website: www.ssce.org.uk
 - c. Greetings from the **Societas Ethica** – Neil Messer announced that the 2010 meeting will take place Aug 19-22 in Arnoldshain (near Frankfurt), Germany, on the theme: "On Morals, Markets and Money: Economic and Business Ethics Revisited." Keynote speakers include SCE members Rebecca Todd Peters and Daniel Finn. More information available at the SE's website: www.societasethica.info
 - d. **New student members, full members, and life members** were received with applause. President Dan Finn reminded us of the recently-instituted **SCE Global Scholars** program for inviting presentations by scholars from the global south. The application process takes two years, in part to organize lectures and other events for the scholar at members' schools. This year, our plenary speaker, Rev. A. Orobator, S.J., from Nairobi Kenya, was the first scholar to be brought to the SCE under the new program.
 - e. President Dan Finn announced a new committee on **Global Research in Ethics**. Members include Mary Jo Iozzio, Bill Schweiker, Margaret Farley, Jim Keenan, Bill Schweiker, Max Stackhouse, and Glen Stassen. Last year there was an informal meeting with international scholars to discuss ways to increase SCE's international links. Two initial steps are being pursued: making the JSCE available electronically without charge to approximately 40 seminaries and other school libraries in the global south; and launching a quarterly report from the Society to announce international scholars who will be visiting U.S. campuses, as well as information about SCE members who will be overseas.
 - f. **Lifetime Achievement Award**: President Dan Finn thanked members of the ad-hoc committee on a SCE Lifetime Achievement Award: Harlan Beckley (chair), David Hollenbach, Gina Wolfe, Susan Ross, Robin Lovin, and Emilie Townes. The Lifetime Achievement Award, with a maximum of one award per annual meeting beginning in 2011, was approved by the board, and was presented to the membership. Approval was moved, seconded, and passed by acclamation.
 - g. **SCE/SBL cooperation**. In response to an invitation by the Society of Biblical Literature, the SCE board approved a two-year pilot of co-sponsored SCE/SBL sessions at the SBL annual meetings. The first sessions, planned by Brent Laytham, Diane Yeager and Michael Cartwright at the 2009 SBL meeting have had no apparent negative impact on SCE meeting attendance.
 - h. **Helpers**: The President and the members present extended hearty thanks to the students who have assisted at the registration desk: Lauren MacKinnon, Nahed Artoul Zehr, Shannon Dunn, Tommy Givens, Tom Bushlack, Matthew Gaudet, Coleman Fannin; especially Jeff Geis and Cosette Heigaard McGurran who worked full time at the desk; and most importantly to Linda Schreiber for her invaluable contributions as Associate Executive Director, and Stewart Herman for his tremendous work as Executive Director.
6. **Vice President's Report – Doug Ottati**
 - a. Vice President Ottati announced that the **2011 program** will feature two plenary speakers who will address the question: how is theological ethics theological: Professor Charles E. Curran, and Prof Susan Frank Parsons.
 - b. The Vice President announced the following new appointments:
 1. **Nominating Committee**: Rebecca Todd Peters (chair), Eric Gregory, Victor Anderson, Susan Ross, Gerald McKenny
 2. **Executive and Program Committee**: Doug Ottati, VP, Dan Finn, Mary Jo Iozzio, Patricia Beattie Jung, Maria Antonaccio, Jennifer Leath.
 - c. **Search for Executive Director**: Search Committee consists of Diane Yeager (chair), Darryl Trimiew, William Werpehowski, Gina Wolfe (Stewart Herman's term as Executive Director ends June 30, 2011).
 - d. **Search for JSCE editors**: will begin either 2011 or 2012.
7. **Executive Director's Report – Stewart Herman**.

- a. **Registration and membership statistics** were distributed. There is a decline in annual-meeting attendance this year, and a higher number of lapsed members. Suggestions from members about what we might do to help members remain in good standing are requested.
 - b. **Hotels for Annual Meetings.** J. Keenan noted from the floor that the SCE board decided several years ago not to hold meetings at “airport hotels” such as the Doubletree Inn San Jose, the site of this year’s meeting. This raises the larger question of ensuring that the ‘institutional/ethical’ memory of the society is accurately passed on over time. The Executive Director acknowledged this issue and noted that the next three meeting sites (2011 – Astor Crowne, New Orleans; 2012 – Grand Hyatt, Washington DC; 2013 – Chicago Hilton) are in downtowns. The Executive Director will work up a summary list of board actions to be bequeathed to the next Executive Director.

In response to a petition to the Board from two SCE members about Hyatt hotels regarding the summary **firing of housekeepers at Hyatts** in Boston, the Executive Director will write both to the management of the Washington Hyatt and to the Hyatt corporate office indicating our support for unionizing hotel workers.
 - c. **Updated SCE Website:** After a long, difficult process, the updated SCE website is almost ready for launch. Many thanks goes to consultant and member Maria McDowell. Feedback and suggestions for improvement are welcome and can be sent to Linda Schreiber or Stewart Herman, particularly for an SCE logo. A new committee for overseeing the website’s content, organization, etc. is being formed; anyone interested in serving, also please contact Linda or Stewart.
8. **Treasurer’s report --Brian Matz.** The Treasurer directed attention to distributed information on the finances and 2011 budget.
- a. In 2009, investment accounts recovered \$55,000 of monies lost in 2008. The SCE’s three socially- responsible investment funds currently total approximately \$192,000, still down from the \$213,000 originally invested.
 - b. Membership dues income is expected to increase in 2011-2012 as a dues increase goes into effect: \$10 for members now paying \$100 or more in dues, \$5 for members paying less than \$100 in dues. The increase will generate an anticipated \$6,000.
 - c. 21st Century Committee costs for 2011 and 2012 will be lower than in 2010, since the Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics is applying its entire start up budget (retained from its ten-year, \$10,000 working group budget) over 2009 and 2010. Office expenses are higher due to website work (\$16,000 in 2009, approximately \$10,000 more in 2010).
 - d. As a result, an operating deficit of about \$16,000 is projected for 2010. This deficit will be covered by savings. Our accountant judges us as breaking even in 2009. The current savings and checking accounts (minus hotel fees for this meeting) total about \$55,000.
- Stewart Herman added that rising meeting costs (especially food costs) continue to challenge the budget; members are asked to give suggestions for cost savings on the meeting evaluation forms. In addition, members are encouraged to contribute to the 21st Century Fund, other targeted opportunities, or the general fund. The annual budget is projected with conservative assumptions, and so we have been maintaining stability. Walk-in registration fees each year, and occasional windfalls (e.g. a \$60,000 fee received from a hotel cancellation two years ago) help make ends meet.
- Barbara Hilkert Andolsen expressed concern at the news that savings and checking monies have dipped to under \$60,000, violating an explicit resolution of the Board two years ago which mandated a reserve of no less than \$85,000 in liquid form in order to cover penalty fees in case of a meeting cancellation. Stewart Herman acknowledged that financial exigencies over the past year had made it impossible to keep \$85,000 in checking and savings. Given the discrepancy between the Board directive and the actual situation, this matter will be addressed at the Sunday Board meeting.
9. **Election Results.** For President: Douglas Ottati. For Vice President: Stanley Hauerwas. For the Board: Gloria Albrecht, David Gushee, M. Therese Lysaught. President Finn and the members thanked outgoing past President Darryl Trimiew, and outgoing Board members Diana Fritz Cates, Lauren McKinnon, Christine Pohl, and Miguel De La Torre for their service to the Society. Thanks were also extended to the unelected nominees for having agreed to stand.
10. **Report from Professional Conduct Committee.** Cristina Traina (chair through 2012) reported that no complaints were received this past year. Thanks are due to outgoing committee members Robin Lovin and Paulinus Odozor, particularly for helping rewrite the professional conduct code two years ago. VP Doug Ottati has appointed to the PCC James Keenan SJ (term ending 2013) and Cheryl Kirk-Duggan (2014); Rebekah Miles remains (2011). Cristie Traina emphasized that any SCE member should feel encouraged to approach any member of the PCC if a matter of concern arise. All such communications are held in strict confidence.
11. **Report from the *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* – Patricia Beattie Jung.**
The JSCE required subvention of only \$3.80 per member (out of dues) in 2009, which makes our journal a bargain. Thanks were given to outgoing editorial board members Linda Hogan, Traci West, Christopher Vogt. The Editors, Editorial Board, and about 80 volunteer reviewers per year make it possible for each paper submitted to the JSCE to receive written feedback within two months of submission based on reviews by four referees. Patti Jung expressed thanks to all those who serve as referees, and to the Society for its continued support of this important work.
12. **Official Transfer of Presidential Office.** The business of the meeting being complete, Dan Finn turned over the presidency to Doug Ottati.
13. **Adjournment.** In his first act as President, Doug Ottati entertained a motion to adjourn. Moved, seconded and approved by acclamation. The meeting concluded at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Firer Hinze