

A BRIEF HISTORY OF  
**THE WORLD MISSION EFFORT OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

by James E. Teets, BSG

[In 1894 the Church Missions House was constructed at 281 Fourth Avenue – eventually renamed Park Avenue South – to house The Episcopal Church's Board of Missions (consisting of 30 members divided into two separate committees which oversaw domestic and foreign missionary work). The 1919 General Convention reorganized the governmental structure of the church and of the position of Presiding Bishop, and created the National Council of The Episcopal Church. The position of Presiding Bishop had heretofore been accorded to the senior member (in consecration number) of the House of Bishops; however, that convention ruled that the position of Presiding Bishop would become an elected position from among the diocesans of that house. The first such election took place at the 1925 General Convention and the first elected Presiding Bishop (the Rt. Rev. John Gardner Murray, Bishop of Maryland) took office as Presiding Bishop on January 1, 1926.]

1920 to 1932

**Dr. John L. Wood**, who had been Foreign Secretary, became **Executive Secretary of the Department of Missions and Church Extension**.

1932 to 1940

**Dr. Wood** continued as **Executive Secretary of the Department of Foreign Missions**.

[The 1940 General Convention adopted a recommendation from the Bishop of Virginia, Henry St George Tucker, who was elected Presiding Bishop in 1937, suggesting that the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul – also known as the Washington National Cathedral – was the suitable seat for the Presiding Bishop. Tucker was thus seated in 1941, as have all succeeding Presiding Bishops.]

1940 to 1947

**The Rev. Dr. James Thayer Addison** became Vice President of the National Council and **Director of the Overseas Department**.

[The 1943 General Convention changed the canons to henceforth require that the Presiding Bishop, once elected, must relinquish his diocesan jurisdiction. Prior to 1943, the canons required that the Presiding Bishop be elected from among those members of the House of Bishops with jurisdiction (meaning diocesan bishops only) *and* that his term as Presiding Bishop be served concurrently with his tenure as diocesan.]

1948 to 1964

**The Rt. Rev. John B. Bentley** became Vice President of the National Council and **Director of the Overseas Department**.

[The Episcopal Church Center at 815 Second Avenue was opened on March 1, 1963 and the entire staff moved from the Church Missions House at that time. The 1964 General Convention revised the preamble to the church's constitution to indicate that the church's name is the "Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, *otherwise known as The Episcopal Church*," and that convention also changed the name of the National Council to the Executive Council.]

1964 to 1968

**The Rt. Rev. Stephen F. Bayne, Jr.** became Vice President of the Executive Council (1964 to 1970) and **Director of the Overseas Department**.

1968 to 1970

**The Rt. Rev. J. Brooke Mosley** became **Deputy to the Presiding Bishop for Overseas Relations**.

1971

**Mr. Paul A. Tate** became **Deputy for Overseas Relations**.

1972

**Mr. Tate** became **Deputy for Jurisdictions**. The Rev. Samuel Van Culin became Deputy for Africa and the Middle East.

1973 to 1974

**Mrs. Carman Hunter** became **Deputy for Jurisdictions**. Her staff continued as above.

1975 to 1977

**The Rt. Rev. Edmond Lee Browning** became **Executive for Missions**. His staff continued as above. Ms. Judith M. Gillespie became Coordinator of the United Thank Offering in 1977.

1978 to 1979

**The Rev. Canon Samuel Van Culin** became **Executive for National and World Mission**. His staff continued as above.

1980 to 1983

**Canon Van Culin** became **Executive for World Mission in Church and Society**. The Rev. J. Patrick Mauney became Coordinator of Overseas Ministries in 1982, and Ms. Gillespie continued as above.

1983 to 1985

**The Rt. Rev. George Edward Haynsworth** became **Executive for World Mission in Church and Society**. Ms. Gillespie became Deputy to the Executive for World Mission in 1983, and Fr. Mauney continued as above.

1986 to 1991

**Ms. Judith M. Gillespie** became **Executive for World Mission in Church and Society**. Fr. Mauney became Deputy to the Executive for World Mission and Partnership Officer for Asia and the Pacific in 1987; in 1989 he became Deputy to the Presiding Bishop for Anglican Relations.

1991 through 2004

**The Rev. J. Patrick Mauney** became **Interim Executive for World Mission in Church and Society** in August of 1991. In October of that year the organizational structure of the Episcopal Church Center was overhauled and Fr. Mauney became **Executive for Partnerships**. This newly-formed program unit (Partnerships) was created by combining World Mission in Church and Society with the Women in Mission and Ministry unit. Fr. Mauney was installed as an Honorary Canon of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic in February of 1993. In July of 1994, resulting from a further restructuring of the Church Center, Canon Mauney became **Director of Anglican and Global Relations**. This restructuring removed the Women in Mission and Ministry Office as well as the United Thank Offering and the Ecumenical Offices from the overseas cluster, leaving only the Director, the Associate Director, the Mission Personnel Officer and the Manager of Partnership Services to comprise the Office of Anglican and Global Relations. The following years saw the return of the United Thank Offering Office as an integral part of Anglican and Global Relations, and an expansion of the department resulted in the creation of the Office of World Mission Interpretation and Networks. Mrs. Margaret S. Larom, who had originally been appointed Staff Officer for World Mission Information to succeed the Rev. Onell A. Soto when he was elected Bishop of Venezuela in 1987 and who had been released during the staff downsizing of 1991, was re-appointed as a staff officer to head this reconstituted office in 1995. When the Rev. Canon Ricardo T. Potter-Norman retired in November of 2000, the office title of Associate Director of Anglican and Global Relations retired with him. Many of Canon Potter-Norman's responsibilities were redefined and the new creation was titled International Partnerships Officer, and in 2001 the Rev. Canon Juan I. Marquez was appointed to that office. A further expansion in 2002 resulted in the reinstatement of the position of Partnership Office for Africa, which was filled by the Rev. Canon Benjamin

Musoke-Lubega, plus the creation of a new consultancy entitled Chaplaincy to Africa Expatriates, filled by the Rev. Canon Gordon Okunsanya, which was intended to eventually become a funded staff position; that did not come to fruition and the Africa Chaplaincy Office was disbanded at the close of 2004. After 22 years of service, Canon Mauney retired on December 31, 2004.

2005 through 2007

**Mrs. Margaret S. Larom** became **Director of Anglican and Global Relations** on January 1, 2005. Mrs. Larom was installed as an Honorary Canon of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic on February 12, 2006. With the advent of the new Presiding Bishop's administration on November 4, 2006 came new interest in reorganization of the staff of the Episcopal Church Center, together with the opening of a number of new field offices to be situated in Los Angeles, Seattle, Omaha and Atlanta. This reorganization went into effect on January 2, 2008 and brought with it the conflation of the nine existing Program Offices into four new Mission Centers, with the Office of Anglican and Global Relations being absorbed into the newly-created Partnerships Center, together with the Ecumenical and Interfaith Ministries Office and a brand new department entitled Diocesan Services. And, for the first time in the history of the mission effort of The Episcopal Church, the Mission Personnel Office (the missionary programs) was moved to a separate cluster called the Mission Leadership Center.

2008 to the present

On January 18, 2008, as a part of the reorganization of the Episcopal Church Center, Canon Margaret Larom was transferred to the Mission Advocacy Center and **Ms. Antoinette Daniels** became **Director of the Partnerships Center**. At the same time, **the Rev. Margaret Rose** became **Director of the Mission Leadership Center** into which the church's missionary programs were moved.