



A Report from PEALL

An Overview of the Work of
Executive Council's Task Force
"Proclaiming Education for All"



The Seeds are Planted

- ➔ An interim group of educators gathered in New York during the summer of 2004 to discuss what a collaborative task force might be for education resolutions not funded at GC 2003
- ➔ From their work, a proposal to Executive Council was written, asking for a Constable Fund Grant that is specified for Christian Education in The Episcopal Church



How did PEALL come about?

- ➔ Executive Council appointed a Task Force in 2004 to address two 2003 General Convention resolutions that had been passed, but not funded:
 - A120 called for a six-year study of theological education
 - B024 requested a task force on Christian education and formation with a nine-year span



How PEALL was formed

- ➔ Constable Fund Grant with staff support:
 - Office for Ministry Development
 - Ministries with Young People Cluster
- ➔ Names submitted by stakeholders and appointed by George Werner
- ➔ Representing:
 - All levels of the Episcopal Church that are involved in Christian formation & theological education
 - Seminaries, dioceses and congregations
 - All levels of ministry (initially)



Initial Meeting

- ➔ An initial group of 20 appointed members gathered to meet one another when all Interim Bodies of General Convention met.
- ➔ The name “Proclaiming Education for All” was chosen. The sound of a bell “pealling” the importance of education!

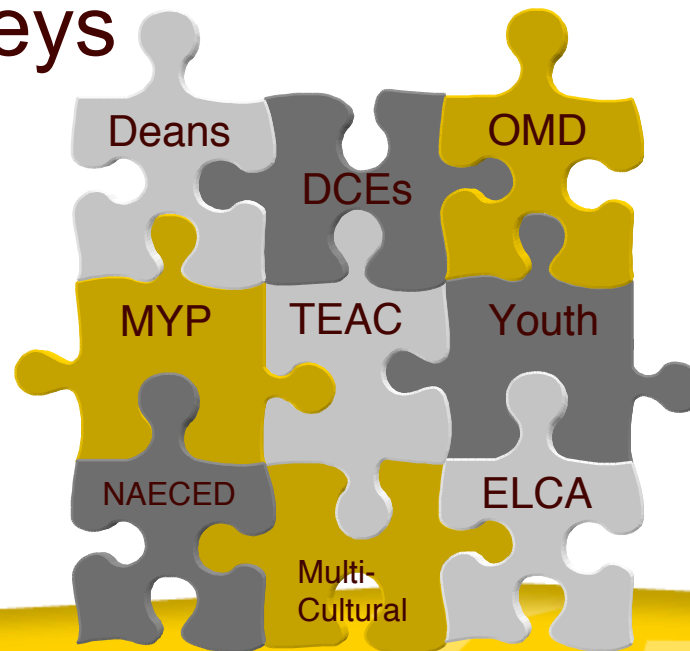


Purpose of PEALL

PEALL is charged by the Episcopal Church with looking at the big picture regarding education / formation and the mission of the church. Its aim is to proclaim a comprehensive, integrative and energizing vision for theological education, lifelong formation and other dimensions of the Church's educational ministries.

Gathering of Networks

- ➔ Meeting in different locations
- ➔ Hearing from various constituencies
- ➔ Research & surveys
- ➔ Bringing groups together
- ➔ Development of new resources





Members of PEALL

- ⇒ Kaileen Alston, Diocese of Newark - Diocesan Youth Ministry
- ⇒ Mahi Beimes, Diocese of Hawaii - Commission on Native Hawaiian Ministries
- ⇒ Carolyn Chilton, Diocese of Virginia - Diocesan Director of Program
- ⇒ Charles Cook, Seminary of the Southwest - Professor
- ⇒ Edward deBary, Diocese of Mississippi - founder of Education for Ministry (EfM)
- ⇒ Scott Evenbeck, Diocese of Indianapolis - General Convention Education Committee & College Professor
- ⇒ Roger Ferlo, Virginia Theological Seminary - Professor
- ⇒ James Kelsey, Diocese of Northern Michigan - Bishop & Ministry Developer
- ⇒ James Kodera, Diocese of Massachusetts - College Professor
- ⇒ Joanna Leiserson, Diocese of Southern Ohio - Cathedral Christian educator
- ⇒ Emily Morales, Diocese of Puerto Rico - Executive Council member
- ⇒ Donn Morgan, Church Divinity School of the Pacific - Dean
- ⇒ Sharon Pearson, Diocese of Connecticut - Diocesan Christian Educator
- ⇒ Phil Purser, Diocese of Upper South Carolina - Rector & former diocesan Christian educator
- ⇒ Isaias Rodriguez, Diocese of Atlanta - Hispanic Missioner
- ⇒ Janie Stevens, Diocese of Texas - Diocesan Christian Educator
- ⇒ Fredrica Harris Thompsett, Episcopal Divinity School - Professor & Ministry Developer
- ⇒ Suzanne Watson-Epting, Diocese of Iowa - Member of TEAC & Ministry Developer



Meeting #1 - Chicago (ELCA)

(April 2005)

- ➔ Development of possible affinity groups
- ➔ Compilation of networks in the Episcopal Church related to education (over 150 named)
- ➔ Proposed goals & objectives to fulfill task set forth in Constable Fund Grant



Meeting #2 - Virginia Seminary

(September 2005)

- ➔ Developed core values regarding education in the Episcopal Church
- ➔ Developed a glossary of terms for a “common language” and understanding
- ➔ Determined affinity groups
 - Youth, Young Adults & Higher Education
 - Theological Education
 - Lifelong formation in the context of family, community & daily life
 - Multi-cultural and prophetic



Wrestling with the Big Questions

Members of PEALL participated in a conference in Indianapolis in January 2006 sponsored by Office for Ministry Development, Council of Seminary Deans and Office of Children's Ministries & Christian Education. Parker Palmer led a process of small groups creating circles of trust to "wrestle with big questions." Over 300 attended from 90 dioceses. PEALL met post-conference to share learnings and insights.



Meeting #3 - Virginia Seminary

(Spring 2006)

- ➔ Affinity group work
- ➔ Cross-affinity group work
- ➔ Learnings from “Wrestling” consultation
- ➔ Determining next work and networks to collaborate with and join together



General Convention 2006

- ➔ Hosted a breakfast to present the work PEALL had so far accomplished and distributed a questionnaire for input. Advocated for education as a priority in the Church as well as a Standing Commission for Lifelong Learning when these initiatives arose in committees.



Meeting #4 - CDSP

(November 2006)

- ➔ Working groups
- ➔ New Standing Commission on Lifelong Learning
- ➔ Presentations received from:
 - Center for Anglican Leadership (CALL)
 - Lutheran Study on Theological Education
 - School for Deacons
 - Theological Education in the Anglican Communion (TEAC)



Meeting #5 - Northern Michigan

(April 2007)

- ➔ Sub-group work & reporting
- ➔ Presentations from:
 - *LifeCycles* writing team
 - Diocese of Northern Michigan
 - Ministry development teams, including visiting several congregations



Meeting #6 - Dominican Republic

(November 2007)

- ➔ Sub-group work & reporting
- ➔ Met with Standing Commission on Lifelong Learning & Christian Formation
- ➔ Presentations & visits:
 - Province IX curriculum writers
 - The Centro de Estudios Teologicos (CET)
 - Two Episcopal Day Schools
 - Bishop Julio Cesar Holguin



Meeting #7 - Chicago (ELCA)

(May 2008)

- ➔ Sub-group work & reporting
- ➔ Looking ahead:
 - What will our strategic vision include?
 - What activities need to be highlighted?
 - What resolutions can we recommend?



Meeting #8 - Atlanta

(September 2008)

- ➔ Final group reports
 - Legacies, Lessons & Lifelines
 - Surveys
 - Local formation & seminaries
- ➔ Charter for Lifelong Formation review
- ➔ Executive Council report
- ➔ Next steps
 - “Handing work off” to Standing Commissions
 - General Convention



Emergent Themes

- ➔ An overview of education since the *Ministry for Tomorrow* (aka *Pusey Report*) (1967) led to “Legacies, Lessons & Lifelines” document
- ➔ The weak relationship between residentially based education (ie: seminary) and the contextual education of local formation programs (ie: diocesan schools of ministry)
- ➔ Multi-cultural issues that were not being addressed educationally by the church



Surveys Conducted

- ➔ Christian educators via NAECED
- ➔ Youth & Young Adult ministry
 - Diocesan level
 - Congregational level
- ➔ Deacons via NAAD



New Connections Made

- ➔ Formation of a Diocesan Christian Educators Network with list-serv
 - Spurred the creation of a *Charter for Lifelong Formation* (aka: Adult Charter)
- ➔ Seminary Deans attended a Living Stones gathering
 - Two seminaries have joined this Ministry Development network
- ➔ Linkages between diocesan schools and seminaries



Learnings

- ➔ Our educational programs and systems need to reflect The Episcopal Church's baptismal ecclesiology
- ➔ Congregations look to their diocese to provide resources and support for education and training. Dioceses need to be more attentive and proactive to these needs



Suggestions for the Future

➔ Communication

- Sharing the learnings of PEALL with the greater Church
- TE for All website
- An avenue to share new initiatives on the local level with the greater Church is needed



Explicit Outcomes Discovered

- ➔ Growing awareness by the whole Church of the “big picture” of theological education and lifelong faith formation and its relationship to faith in daily life
- ➔ The need for a comprehensive, strategic vision for theological education for the Church and its implementation



Explicit Outcomes Discovered

- ➔ An improved system for delivering theological education, making it more accessible
- ➔ Creation of a curriculum for leadership in a multicultural context
- ➔ Partnerships can be effective for continuing education



Explicit Outcomes Discovered

- ➔ Cooperative and collaborative work is needed between programs, networks and resources for theological education
- ➔ We have much to learn from other denominations who place a high priority on education and formation
- ➔ A change in priorities and values will lead to change in how our resources are allocated



Explicit Outcomes Discovered

- ➔ There are many new ways and avenues of learning that needs to be disseminated better
- ➔ Diocesan schools and seminaries need to be encouraged to be in touch with one another intentionally
- ➔ Education, mission and ministry are closely linked to each other



Explicit Outcomes Discovered

- ➔ A strategic vision will involve the continuation of networking possibilities that PEALL began
- ➔ Deepening the Church's educational offerings and lifting up new scholars for the future is essential
- ➔ Education, mission and ministry are closely linked to each other



Suggestions for the Future

➔ Hold conferences regularly

- Such as 2003’s “Will Our Faith Have Children” and 2006’s “Wrestling with the Big Questions”
- Sponsored by the Congregational Vitality and Leadership and the Evangelism and Mission program groups
- Continue the collaboration between the various educational constituencies in the Episcopal Church



Suggestions for the Future

- ➔ Lift up the importance of diocesan structures and personnel
 - Emphasizing the importance of Christian formation for all ages
 - Finding and gathering the resources
 - Being a conduit for dialogue between the local and national level
 - Supporting those called to the ministry of Christian education and formation in congregations



Suggestions for the Future

- ➔ Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation
 - Modeled after *The Children's Charter for the Church*
 - Highlighting the importance of Adult education and formation
 - With support documents to help congregations in its implementation



Suggestions for the Future

- ➔ **Creation & Translation of Education Materials**
 - The need for contextual education materials for Province IX
 - Materials for theological education in Spanish that are current pedagogically
 - Translation of education materials for all ages



Resources Developed

- ⇒ *Legacies, Lessons & Lifelines: The Past, Present and Future of Theological Education & Christian Formation in the Episcopal Church (1967-2008)*
- ⇒ Time Line with accompanying narrative of ministry development, Christian formation, theological education, multi-cultural milestones, liturgical changes, and church & world events



Resources Developed

- ➔ Glossary of terms
- ➔ Listing of networks
- ➔ Survey results
- ➔ Process used by Province IX Curriculum Writers Group
- ➔ Case Statement for a Charter for Lifelong Learning



Resources Shared

- ➔ Curriculum overview charts for congregational learning
- ➔ Bibliografía of resources translated into Spanish
- ➔ Various articles



Suggestions for the Future

- ➔ Continuing the work begun by PEALL
 - PEALL members available to Standing Commissions (SCMD & SCLL) on a consulting basis
 - Church Center staff tap into PEALL members for insights and connections to networks
 - Distribution of PEALL documents to the greater church for discussion and further learnings
 - Highlight Education & Formation at General Convention as a means for the Church to “claim its identity”