



*Prayer and Service for the Spread of Christ's Kingdom*

A Joint Communication to the Daughters of the King  
Regarding the April 21, 2007 Meeting of the National Council with  
Three Past Presidents and Their Advisors

On April 21 the Executive Board of the Order, most of the National Council, and three past presidents and their advisors met at the Margaret Franklin Center National Office in Woodstock, Georgia. Everyone met in the Chapel for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The Rt. Rev. John W. Howe, National Chaplain and Bishop of the Diocese of Central Florida, presided and impressed on all of us Christ's commandment to love each other as He loves us.

The group then moved to the conference room for the meeting. All but six members of the National Council were present, along with the Chaplain and the Acting Advisor, Ethel Boyle Ripley (President of the Order from 1985-1988). Missy Denny, President of Province VII, sent as her representative, Diane Brown (Vice-President 1988-1991). Also present were Whitty Bohmer (Past National President 1988-1991), Elizabeth Hart-Mitchelson ( Past National President 1991-1994), Sue Schlanbusch (Past National President 1997-2000), Kathleen Nyhuis (Secretary, 1997-2000), Nancy Wyant (Treasurer, 1997-2000), and National Office Administrator Mary Fletcher.

The meeting was held at the request of Past Presidents Whitty Bohmer, Elizabeth Hart-Mitchelson, and Sue Schlanbusch. All introduced themselves around the table and joined in the Prayer for Unity of the Church (pg 818, BCP). It was agreed to create a "joint statement" from the session that both the visitors and the Executive Board could affirm and make it available to the DOK membership. The presence of the Lord was evident to all.

The three Past Presidents and their advisors gave a Power Point presentation of the areas they would like the Council to consider. The central theme of the presentation was to communicate their position regarding the 2003-2006 National Council's interpretation of Affiliate Bylaws—Article IV, Sec. 1-D and Article V, Sec. D—with subsequent action taken, which gave vote to Affiliate members of the Order. Clarifying questions were entertained and discussion ensued. There was an atmosphere of hospitality and an effort to really listen to one another.

- It was generally acknowledged that a lack of trust has developed in the Order, although various reasons were stated. Those present agreed that the Order needs to grow in finding healthy ways to deal with conflict and promote broad communication.
- It was agreed that there were differing interpretations of bylaws, policies, procedures, and history. Procedures and policies may shift to some extent with each administration, but Bylaw changes must be approved at Triennial. The three Past Presidents' group spoke of the importance of the historical "intent" at the writing of bylaws as the valid source for accurate interpretation, in addition to the text itself.
- It was agreed that the bylaws need to be completely revised, and that process has begun. The Past Presidents were invited by the Bylaws Chair, Lena Nealley, to submit ideas for the revised bylaws through their Province Presidents. The Bylaws Committee plans to make a complete draft of the revised bylaws available to the membership in the year prior to the Triennial (2008). This will ensure time for members to review and assimilate the changes and rationale being proposed.
- President Joan Dalrymple requested that the term "ecumenical organization" not be used, as "it indicates inclusion of all faiths" (or most churches), and the Order of the Daughters of the King functions only in churches which have maintained the historic episcopate or are in communion with The Episcopal Church.
- The Executive Board agreed to consider the possibility of the Three Presidents' Group meeting with them again to continue work together toward restoration of trust.
- It was agreed that there are diverse theological perspectives in the Order, but all saw the importance of building bridges, and of updating our bylaws so that all perspectives can be honored and respected. All seemed willing to work toward reconnecting.