

PROVINCE II OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Minutes of Provincial Council Regular Meeting
Via Zoom Conference
Wednesday, October, 2023, 9:00 a.m. Eastern

Present (via Zoom): The Right Reverend Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe, President; the Reverend Jimmie Sue Deppe, Secretary; Ms. Yvonne O'Neal, Lay Representative to the Provincial Council; Mr. Thomas K. Chu, Esq., Chair of Synod Planning Committee, Lay Representative to Executive Council; Ms. Martha Berry, Esq., Province II Chancellor; the Venerable Dr. Walter Baer, Vice-President; the Reverend Lillian Davis-Wilson, Dcn., Clergy Provincial Representative to the Executive Council; the Rev. Yamily Bass-Choate; Province II Representative to Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism; the Right Reverend Carlye J. Hughes, Bishop Representative to Provincial Council.

Also present: Ms. Neva Rae Fox, Provincial Coordinator; Ms. Janice Paxton, Webmaster and Editor of InProv2; Carolyn Belvin (ECW); Jennifer Kenna (ECW), Arlette Benoit Joseph (Province II CPG Representative).

Absent: the Rev. Canon Johnnie Ross, Clergy Representative to the Provincial Council; Canon Phyllis Jones, Treasurer; Lis Jacobs, Assistant Treasurer; Rev. Allen Wakabayashi (Provincial Coordinator for Young Adults); Karen Patterson.

This is a Regular Meeting of the Provincial Council called by President the Right Reverend Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe by notice sent by email by Provincial Coordinator Neva Rae Fox on September 27, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by President Duncan-Probe with prayer. The meeting proceeded in accordance with the Agenda sent by Ms. Fox on the morning of October 4.

Approval of the March 1, 2023 Minutes

Motion to approve Yvonne made the motion and Lillian (1st) and Yvonne (2nd). –Unanimous.

Report from the President

Bishop Duncan-Probe gave her report:

Sabbatical – Was restorative and the theme was walking with God; walking 5 miles every day, and a “In the footsteps of Paul pilgrimage,” and a Walking pilgrimage in England. Saw a lot of loneliness, isolation, poverty as global issues, came back with a fire about faith in economic racial justice and mutuality and importance of relationships.

HOB Meeting – Prayers for the Presiding Bishop, unsettled times. Desire to take stock and learn new things. Province II Bishops met and had good conversations.

Report from the Treasurer

Ms. Phyllis Jones/Ms. Lis Jacobs gave the report: No Treasurer's Report was given.

Report from the Executive Council Members

Executive Council Member Mr. Thomas Chu, Esq. gave his report:

Joint reporting of data gathering in thinking about was very important. Asking for direct access to this data to the Dioceses/Leadership Groups so that more levels of discernment can occur. Over half of the clergy are part-time/yoked/hold church and non-church positions.

\$5.2 million surplus – Executive Council set aside these funds and how best to use these funds. \$2 million to be used on research/fact finding on Indigenosness Schools. Rest of the funds for strategic work on restructuring during new Presiding Bishop transition period. Possible distribution of remainder of funds to Dioceses.

Season of taking stock. Some discussion around the Archives. Next Meeting will be held via Zoom for same set of time.

Executive Council Member The Rev. Lillian Davis gave her report:

Last meeting in June, called to embody love and action in the community, need to be in the community, concern for lack of clergy in the churches. Molly James (Parochial Report), the Rev. Megan Frohlich (Transition Ministry) Matthew Price (Church Pension Group) on decline of church memberships; however, there is a hope for transformation and the number of people and the changes in our church; Important statics shared about the state/trends of clergy in the church.

July there was the "It's All About Love" Conference – it was excellent all around!

Be the model for the whole church; take Safe Church training, Anti-Bullying, Healthy Boundaries.

Mr. Thomas Chu will confirm that it was received: Province II Report to Governance Committee.

Report on the Archives

Ms. Neva Rae gave her report:

Activities – 9 Provinces that meet Quarterly via Zoom. Provinces are supposed to provide information to the Archives. Province II Coordinators past and present a collection of materials were gathered and set to the Archives by Ms. Neva Rae.

Province II will do this annually. Twenty years of materials sent and we are in compliance.

General Convention Official Youth Presence 2024

Ms. Yvonne O'Neal gave her report:

Email came out from the Office of Public Affairs for an official Youth Presence at General Convention. Two persons per Province. Question what process do we want to use to ask among the Dioceses with one from outside of the United States?

Mr. Thomas Chu, Esq. responded: There is a process and the application is due by November 17th. Encourage people to apply at:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/youth-ministries/general-convention-official-youth-presence-2/>

Break the Silence Sunday

Ms. Yvonne O'Neal gave her report:

Last General Convention Break the Silence Sunday resolution from our Province was passed. In 2022 there was not a Break the Silence service created. So this year that we will. The Diocese of New York is taking the lead and Toolkit will be disseminated to the Provinces/Dioceses.

One in Three Women are victims of Violence and the deep need for the Church to recognize the abuses against women. Also, need to be aware of the issue of Child Brides. We need to end gender based violence!

A packet is being created for distribution to the churches. First Sunday closest to November 25th is when to hold the Break the Silence Sunday.

Report on Slave Trade Lament and Repentance event on Ash Wednesday, 2024

The Rev. Yamily Bass-Choate gave her report:

Service we are planning for February 14th (Ash Wednesday): Slave Trade Lament. It will be the Stations of the Cross from the Book of Occasional Services; what is important that every Province to take the message to our Dioceses.

Each Province will be assigned a Station of the Cross with specific prayers and theological statements. Acknowledgement of what has happened in the past and continues into the present.

Task Force meeting next week with the goal to having as much as possible completed.

2024 Synod

Ms. Neva Rea Fox gave her report: May 9, 2024 is the date of our 2024 Synod and it will be held online. Asking that deputations to gather together to watch. Need to look at the new Budget process for clarifications.

Offices to be filled presented by Ms. Martha Berry, Esq., Province II Chancellor:

Terms are Three Year in length. At the 2021 Synod, officers were elected. Who is not eligible for re-election: Ms. Phyllis Jones (Treasurer) because she has served within term limits. the Reverend Lillian Davis-Wilson, Dcn., Clergy Provincial Representative to the Executive Council shared that she is in the last year of her final term thus creating an opening that will need to be filled.

Action Item: Bishop Duncan-Probe needs to select a Nominating Committee for Synod 2024.

Other Business

Bishop Duncan-Probe asked that we please pray for our Church and its needs and mission in the World.

Venerable Dr. Walter Baer asked: Status of Provinces in the National Church? Bishop Duncan-Probe replied that since 2018 Provinces are in a middle space, and continues to do its work. If status of Provinces change, then we will adjust as needed.

Venerable Dr. Walter Baer shared: Diocese of Haiti in a bad spot at the moment until a Bishop can be placed. But moving towards a better space.

Next Steps

Task Force meeting next week Ash Wed.

Next Meeting

TBD.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned on consent at 10:03a.m. with prayer by Bishop Duncan-Probe.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe, Secretary