



Province II of the Episcopal Church  
Provincial Council Minutes  
October 6, 2011  
Diocesan House, Newark, NJ

The fall meeting of the Provincial Council of the Second Province of the Episcopal Church was called to order by the Honorable Michael Rehill, President, at 9:05 a.m. on Friday, October 6, 2011. The meeting convened at Diocesan House of the Diocese of Newark in Newark, New Jersey. The opening prayer was offered by the Reverend Dahn Gandell

- The following members of the Council were present, constituting a quorum:
- The Honorable Michael Rehill, President (Diocese of Newark)
- The Right Reverend Lawrence Provenzano, Vice President (Bishop of Long Island)
- The Reverend Jerry Keucher, Treasurer (Diocese of Long Island)
- Ms. Martha Gardner, Province II Lay Representative to TEC Executive Council (Diocese of Newark)
- Attorney Rosalie Simmonds-Ballentine, Province II House of Deputies Lay Representative to Provincial Council ( Diocese of the Virgin Islands)
- The Reverend Dahn Gandell, Province II House of Deputies Clergy Representative to Provincial Council (Diocese of Rochester)
- Ms. Jan Paxton, Province II Representative to ENS-Advisory Council (Diocese of NJ)
- Mr. Charles Perfater, Executive Coordinator of Province II (Diocese of NJ)

Attending by Telephone:

- Attorney Dorothy-Jane Porpeggia, Chancellor (Diocese of Albany)
- The Reverend Sandye Wilson, Province II Clergy Representative to TEC Executive Council (Diocese of Newark)

The **Agenda** was presented by Chuck Perfater and accepted.

In the absence of the Secretary for the province, The Reverend Edward Thompson, Jan Paxton agreed to keep minutes for the meeting.

The **Minutes** of the February 2011 meeting were presented and approved. They will be sent to the webmaster for posting on the website.

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Treasurer, Jerry Keucher. This included the January – June 2011 income and expenses and revised budget 2011 and 2012, the listing of 2011 Diocesan assessments and payments, and the report of the asking for the triennium from the 2009 Provincial Synod.



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The numbers on the report were not a surprise, but there was an extended discussion of what factors are contributing to the large deficit and what might be done to reduce the size of that deficit.

Jerry reported that the Six Month reports have been prepared so that the province can get the funds from 815.

A key factor is that right now the province is \$8,000 in the red in terms of receiving diocesan assessments. Some have been promised, but it still appears that there will still be \$2,000-\$3,000 outstanding at the end of the year.

The 2012 budget was drafted with a shortfall projection, but it now appears that there will be only about \$65,000 to work with, which is only about 80% of what was budgeted. The program budget can probably be reduced by about \$5,000, which will not be nearly enough. The only other line that can be cut is Chuck's salary.

Bishop Provenzano suggested asking for commitments from each diocese now rather than assuming what the income will be based on past history.

Michael commented that this year is complicated because we have no idea what will happen at General Convention. He suggested that we plan to operate with the budget that we have and make changes in May or at a special meeting. There will also be room for changes at the February meeting.

Martha said that the budget really needs some narration to show that the 67% labeled Administration is actually mission.

Chuck pointed out that Bishop Saul's call for reorganization will possibly have an impact on provinces.

Chuck is planning for a Province Night at General Convention. Bishop Provenzano spoke encouraging that to happen as a valuable venue for networking.

Michael summarized the sense of the discussion: We need to do nothing now for 2012 except the letter suggested by Bishop Provenzano – over his name and Michael's. In February plan to craft a triennial budget (as per the ordinances and canons) with the caveat that things may change.

Martha committed to supporting the budget commitments at Executive Council.

It was reported that Louise Baietto (Diocese of Long Island) has agreed to do the audit.

Martha moved that the financial reports be accepted and filed for audit. The motion was seconded by Sandye and passed.

#### **Synod Planning Report**

Chuck reported that the planning committee has met and has gone through the logistics with the hotel.



Province II of the Episcopal Church  
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He agreed to work on getting representatives onto the committee from the off-shore dioceses now that the hotel arrangements have been made.

The keynoter is to be Terri Mathes on Rebuilding Haiti. Martha suggested that it would be good to also hear from some Haitians, since there will likely be representation at the synod.

Bishop Provenzano and Michael were concerned that the Title IV workshop include conversations about coming changes and the practicality of the current canon. They categorized it as “a train wreck”.

Sandy Wilson will be one of the presenters in the Same Sex Blessing plenary.

There was a long discussion about the need to include conversation about Bishop Saul’s call for restructuring, possibly with someone from his office. Several suggestions were made about how to accomplish this in the time frame of the synod so that everyone would be able to hear whatever is said.

The bottom line is that Chuck and the planning committee will need to revisit the plans for plenary sessions and workshops.

Dorothy Jane arranged for copies of the Ordinances of the Second Province (revised 2011), the Ordinances adopted in 1987 and amended through 2000, and a comparison chart of the changes, with explanations, to be distributed to the council. She needs **feedback** on them by **December 15, 2011** so that notices can go out by mid January for the final drafts to be ready for the February council meeting.

Michael announced that he will appoint a nominating committee of Bishop Councell, Martha Gardner, Holly Eden, and himself to nominate people to fill the positions which will be open. The committee will report to the council in February. **Chuck listed the positions.**

#### **House of Bishops Report by Bishop Provenzano**

*The council moved on to the HOB report at this point because everything seems to be affected by Bishop Saul’s recommendations for restructuring and it seemed to be derailing every discussion.*

Since 2003 the House of Bishops has changed dramatically. There is a shift in the bishops’ focus on generation of local ministry. This is coming up against the reality of how ineffectual General Convention actually is. The purpose of the Church is to be the Church, not an advocacy group. The new COO has said, “The structure is not working. Can we have a conversation?” and has suggested that the HOB call for a special convention to do this. There are 78 standing committees, but what is the actual product of all the money spent? This will be handled by a new group of people, since the suggestion is to have it in 2015, right before the scheduled GC, so the attendees will be the newly elected deputies. What the HOB wants to do cannot happen in the present structure because there are too many vested parties. If Bishop Saul’s proposal goes forward it will enshrine the provinces.

Bishop Provenzano’s remarks were followed by a lively discussion.



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Since the previous discussions had occupied so much time, the decision was made to review Chuck's contract and then go to lunch, planning to finish the agenda with the network chairs present.

**Review of Chuck's Contract**

The consensus was that Chuck has continued to do an excellent job with the province. Long term, the role of Executive Coordinator will need to change. Chuck should stay on as long as he can be financed, given the budget problems. The new president of the council will need to convene a search committee, should the position still exist.

Martha proposed that we have a contract with Chuck through GC (July 2012) with an option to renew it at some level as finances permit. The new coordinator will need a new job description and a lower salary. Dorothy Jane reminded everyone that this discussion will have to wait until after GC.

Jerry expressed his concern that he will be left as the only one continuing on council and with all of the resources of the province exhausted. He was not happy.

Martha's suggestion was moved by Bishop Provenzano, seconded by Dorothy Jane and passed.

We broke for a delicious luncheon and were joined by many of the network coordinators.

**Executive Coordinator's Report**

Chuck gave his report (and passed out copies). He gave the details surrounding the Radical Welcome conference and the financial loss involved. He also spoke to the canceled stewardship workshop. He does not anticipate any problems with the coming synod meeting because each diocese will need to send at least one of its deputies. Also, the committee was able to negotiate a much more favorable contract with the Wolf Road Holiday Inn than we had with the Syracuse hotel.

Chuck additionally handed out the lists of the current network chairs and a chart of the current status of the networks. There are several networks that need coordinators.

**Executive Council Report**

Martha gave a brief report. The last meeting was in June in Maryland and the next one will be in October in Salt Lake City, UT. Martha and Rosalie spoke about the PB&F budgeting process and the reorganization.

**Network Reports**

Networks represented in person: Jay Phillipi coordinator for Youth Ministry (WNY), Greg Bezilla coordinator for Higher Ed Ministry (NJ), Judith Mason coordinator for Aids Ministries (LI), Christina van Liew for Brenda Overfield with the Congregational Development Network (LI), Caren Miles for the Christian Formation Network (NY), Lois Johnson-Rodney for the UTO



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Most of the networks sent written reports, which appeared in Chuck's report. In addition, we were given written reports from HIV/AIDS, Higher Ed, ECW, Congregational Development and UTO.

The Communications report was the latest issue of the *In Prov 2*.

**ERD:** Martha reported that Kim Rossi convenes the meetings of the diocesan ERD coordinators. The focus at present is the Nets for Life program. There are new curricula on the ERD website.

<http://www.er-d.org/>

**Youth:** Jay Phillipi reported that there was a group from Province II at EYE this summer, but it was a small group because the regents were still going on in NY when the conference began. He said that he has tried to make the point that scheduling youth programs for June disenfranchises the northeast – Province I and II – because of the school calendars. The network met twice this year, 7 people representing 6 dioceses. They would like to add a professional development piece to their meeting. The next meeting will be in April of 2012 in Rochester.

**Higher Education:** Greg Bezilla reported that the network had been unable to find meeting time this year, but were hoping to get together, perhaps during Epiphany. They're looking toward a workshop and some fundraising. Collegiality is the key component of the network.

**UTO:** Lois Johnson-Rodney reported that the UTO will soon have its new focus for its work – all the studies have been done and the report has been written. It has been sent to Executive Council and then we'll find out what the new focus will be. The next grant deadline is January 15, 2012.

The latest grants for Province II are:

- Diocese of NJ – Sunday Community Feeding Program at St. John's, Elizabeth to help provide a fire suppression system for the stove and oven. \$23,100
- Diocese of Newark – Learning Through Literacy, St. Paul's, Paterson afterschool and summer camp. \$7,547
- Diocese of Albany – New Counseling Services – Hope, Help, Healing, reaching those in need of counseling. \$12,000
- Diocese of Rochester – Liturgia Rural Workers Education Center, Rural and migrant workers Episcopal ministry in Lyons. \$16,500

**Congregational Development:** Christina van Liew suggested that people look at "When People Care Enough to Act", a program being used in the Diocese of Long Island and see what can be done to develop congregations. The Radical Welcome Conference lost \$10,000, although it was a good event and very worthwhile for the people who attended.



Province II of the Episcopal Church  
Provincial Council Minutes  
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**Christian Formation:** Caren Miles reported that since she came on in the summer she has been able to contact all of the dioceses. She will try to encourage dioceses to gather parish level support groups of the people doing Christian Formation work. She will then try to do a “P2 Comes 2 U” in each diocese, where she will go to meet with each diocese’s group and see where they should go from that point. She hopes to have that done by 2013.

**HIV/AIDS:** Judith Mason said that she is still trying to find the active programs. The ones that were active are no longer all still in place.

**Communication:** Jan reported that she is trying to keep the In Prov 2 coming out frequently. She is also open to providing links and material on the website for any network that wants something up. Higher Education has a page of links to the known campus ministry programs and there is a new page of camp and conference centers.

**Next Meeting**

The last item of business was the scheduling of the next Council meeting. The original plan was to have an electronic meeting on Friday, February 3, 2012. Since there seems to be so much business that needs to come before the council at that meeting and it is likely to be fairly complicated, the suggestion was made that the meeting be a face-to-face meeting. Ed Thompson would not be able to be present on Feb. 3. Rosalie will be here for the Executive Council meeting January 27-29 and would not be able to return.

**The next meeting was set for Tuesday, January 31, 2012, as a face-to-face meeting, possibly in Newark.**

The closing prayer was offered by the Rev. Christina van Liew. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jan Paxton*

Communications Officer for Province II